

Presentation at the BAPE hearing, June 12, 2007 regarding the proposed landfill at Danford Lake

Dear Mme Presidente, M. Chairman,

My name is Anne Cheng and I am the president of Sphynx Creation Inc. who has recently purchased 200 acres near Danford Lake village, only about 8km away from the current proposed landfill site on which I plan to operate a campground. I have been asking questions, I have done my own research and have attended one of your information sessions. This is my opinion on the proposal brought forth by LDC:

Whereas M. Rouleau, the person in charge of LDC has said that he had 50% of the community of Danford in support of his project, however, the coalition of Danford Lake has in it's possession the amount of people who signed the petition against the proposed landfill in which a clear majority of people are opposed to it, the exact details of which will be presented later by the president. Also, out of 189 letters written to the minister requesting a BAPE hearing, 99% were opposed to the Landfill. Therefore M. Rouleau's information does not appear to be based on fact. *Referendum*

Whereas the promoter of the project promised 22-37 full-time jobs in his insert in the Lowdown printed last year and now that number has dwindled down to 4-6 full time jobs, it is clear that this is a large inconsistency, especially for a project that has not even started yet. It also demonstrates that creating employment is not high on the priority list of LDC.

Whereas the promoter has said there would be only an 8% increase in truck traffic on the road to the proposed site and he was corrected by M. Chairman that it was actually a 75% increase in truck traffic, I have reason to doubt the promoter's accuracy in the collection of statistical information. It is understandable to err by a few percentage points but there is a big difference between 8% and 75%. Even my son knows that.

Given that a Watchdog Committee was formed last year before it was even supposed to exist and at least one of the promoter's personal friends was a member of it with whom I spoke to and who clearly stated he was in favor of the project, I consider this to be evidence that the promoter is disregarding proper rules and regulations set out by the government for the creation of the Watchdog Committee and hence may disregard other rules and regulations in the future. It also brings into question the efficacy of a watchdog committee that has members in favor of the project.

I want to thank the promoter for putting his personal experience in waste management before the public on the BAPE website at my request for I had no idea what his credentials were, they were not listed in any of his promotional material.

However, I am not convinced that M. Rouleau will not sell the landfill once all the approvals are in place. It is common knowledge that landfills are bought and sold because this is a highly lucrative business. A company that could purchase the landfill once it is approved may not have any intention of maintaining promises set forth by LDC and may adhere to a bare minimum of government regulations to operate the landfill. Therefore I

have no confidence in the promoter's ability to keep his commitments in the future and am strongly opposed to the idea that this company be in charge of a project of such magnitude.

About the site of the landfill, it is clear that Danford Lake is an inappropriate location for such a project. This area is teeming with wild life, the proposed site is close to wetlands and tributaries to rivers such as the Picanoc and the Kazabazua that flow into the Ottawa River. This could mean disaster in the event of a large tearing in the liners. It has also been openly admitted by the ministry of the environment that liners do eventually leak and therefore this is not so much a possibility but more like a *probability*.

Any amount of toxic chemicals, even in the so-called "treated" leachate will destroy micro-organisms that will eventually destroy the life of the Picanoc and other rivers that it flows into, including the Gatineau and the Ottawa river. The landfill will attract mice and rats who will become diseased from consuming poisonous substances. These in turn will probably be eaten by other wildlife further down the food chain that will become diseased as a result. A large quantity of birds will also spread diseases over vast distances. We may not know exactly how much pollution it takes to destroy the environment of Danford Lake but it seems to me that an amount like eight million metric tons could certainly do it, even if there are no major leakages. All parts of an ecosystem are connected therefore whatever goes into the earth gets into the water eventually and what gets into the water gets into the air. Human beings are also inextricably linked to the food chain and their health and safety will be at risk as a result.

Based on the lack of reliability of the promoter, the potential environmental impact, the fact that the majority of residents and taxpayers oppose the project and the potential for danger to public health and safety, I believe it is irrational to approve such a project.

There are other solutions to burying garbage. In Toronto right now for example, not only do all households recycle paper, plastic, metal and glass but they also compost biodegradable garbage. They even compost disposable diapers. If a city the size of Toronto can compost disposable diapers, Gatineau can certainly do it, too. A composting program that is presently a pilot project will be implemented in Ottawa in 2008 where all residents will be given a plastic compost receptacle to place vegetable scraps, meat, bones and pizza boxes. The Trail Road landfill is presently selling compost to the public. All these initiatives are in place right now. There are also technologies that eliminate completely the need for a large landfill. For example; plasma gasification that is being tested at the Trail Road landfill site in Ottawa and incineration such as Eco Waste incinerators that have been verified by Environment Canada. These are real, long-term solutions and they exist right now. If Ontario can do it, why not Quebec? If we want Quebec to remain "La Belle Province" we will surely have to take steps to preserving the environment for the future.

We have the solutions, all we need is the will to use them. Why create a problem that will have to be solved by our children? We do not need to pass on our garbage to our children, we can do them the favor of taking responsibility for it ourselves. Yours Truly,

Anne Cheng

My name is Lee Reck. I am eight years old. My father died when I was five. With the money from my father's accident, my mother bought 200 acres in Danford. She wanted me to grow up where there is clean air and clean water. Where I can see wild animals and learn to appreciate Nature. Now somebody wants to build a Megadump there.

At school the teacher tells us not to litter. We learn to recycle and compost peels. We learn about wild animals. I am learning about the Great Grey Owl. I know that the Great Grey Owl eats mice. If a Great Grey Owl eats a mouse that has eaten poison from the Mega-Dump, it will die. It is the same story for all the animals. Nature is fragile. I am speaking for the animals because animals can't talk. I am speaking for the Moose, the Beaver, the wolf, the otter, the salamander, the deer, the Bald Eagle, the Falcon and for the Great Grey Owl. All these animals have been seen, heard or left their traces on our land in Danford. Children care about animals. When we find out that some animals are extinct or in danger, we feel sad. When we find out that somebody is cutting down the rainforest, we feel sad. Children care, but it is the grown-ups that make decisions about what will happen. Now it is time for grown ups to prove they care and to realize that even with all the money in the world, you won't be able to buy back the Great Grey Owl when it is gone forever.

We have to stop making so much garbage, that is the only way to solve the problem. We already know how to compost and recycle, why not just do more? We have to make things that don't poison the Earth. We can do it, if we all work together. We can create a better future for the children of today and tomorrow. We don't have to make the future into a Mega-Dump. I don't want this landfill. It's a bad idea.

I also think it's not fair to take a huge pile of garbage and dump it in some poor person's back yard. Why don't people take care of their own garbage? If the minister accepts this project, my future will be thrown away, and so will the future of the other kids who live there and the future of the animals who live there too.

Thank you