



July 1 2009

To: Ministry of Northern Development and Mines

Comments on the Environmental Registry Posting 010-6559
Re: Proposed Changes to the Mining Act

Since 1974, the Four Mile Lake Association has represented the broad interests of full-time and seasonal residents on Four Mile Lake, located in the City of Kawartha Lakes. Our association represents well over 400 FML residents who pay annual dues to support our efforts.

The proposed changes to the Mining Act will ease the minds of many Southern and Northern Ontario landowners, in particular those who only own the surface rights to their properties. The proposed changes will allow Southern Ontario landowners who own their surface rights but not their mining rights by automatically withdrawing these lands from mineral staking. In northern Ontario, landowners of such lands will be able to apply to have their lands withdrawn from staking. This means that Four Mile Lake Association cottage owners will no longer need to worry about the potential for mining activity to occur on their own properties.

However, the proposed amendments do not address the risk of having mining activity occur in very close proximity to cottages and residential properties, i.e. on crown lands. Municipal plans do not apply to the crown lands within their municipalities. The City of Kawartha Lakes municipal plan should have governance over the use of lands – including crown lands - in its municipality. **The final amendments to the Mining Act should also include bringing all crown lands, at least in Southern Ontario, under the Planning Act to ensure that municipal plans and zoning will apply to these lands and that residents will have the same land use protections they have with respect to developments on private lands;** or else this issue should be addressed in other federal or provincial legislation that is more relevant to the governance over use of land.

As well, any future mining activity is currently not subject to the Environmental Assessment Act (EAA). This is not consistent with the application of the EAA to other use of lands, and yet given the destructive nature of mining, in particular uranium mining, it is important that we protect our land and local water systems such that we do not create a negative long-term environmental impact. **Therefore, the requirement for all mineral exploration activities to be subject to serious environmental review and that all mine development be brought under the EEA should also be included in the final amendments to the Mining Act.**

The additional amendments indicated above will make the resulting situation a more balanced and consistent one that is reflective of the respect we have for all Ontario landowners, our beautiful province, and for future generations.

Yours truly,

Four Mile Lake Association