



Inter-Church Uranium Committee Educational Co-operative Home Page

Saskatchewan update: February 28, 2006

As many already know, the nuclear wizards are on the march globally, nationally and locally. They are promoting a global nuclear renaissance as the answer to climate change issues and how to cut down on CO2 emissions.

[Drs R. Bertell & A. Yablokov "I've Heard this Song Before"](#)

[DR. BILL ADAMSON: CLIMATE CHANGE AND NUCLEAR POWER](#)

[DR HELEN CALDICOTT, NUCLEAR POWER IS THE PROBLEM NOT THE SOLUTION](#)

[CANADA'S FEDERAL GOV'T IS WRONG: NUCLEAR POWER IS NOT A "SOLUTION" TO CLIMATE CHANGE!](#)

[SIERRA CLUB OF CANADA](#)

[LINKS TO NEW INTERNATIONALIST NUCLEAR CARTOONS](#)

What is happening in Saskatchewan?

First, there is a push to have Saskatchewan become responsible for managing spent nuclear fuel. In Canada, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization [NWMO] set up by the Liberal Federal Government, but consisting exclusively of industry members, has submitted its final report that now must be dealt with by the new Conservative Federal Government. The main recommendation is a staged plan for the management of spent nuclear fuel, "so-called "high level nuclear waste. The report can be accessed on the NWMO website. The subtext of the report is twofold:

One is to recommend locations for management. Northern Saskatchewan is identified as one such location. The argument is simply that since Saskatchewan has benefited from the sale of uranium then the province has to assume its responsibility for its end uses, one of which is managing the waste. Two, by claiming that a plan is purported to exist for managing spent

nuclear fuel, the nuclear industry will have a rationale for moving ahead with new nuclear reactors.

[Bill Adamson, A Critique of Documents Issued by the NWMO](#)

[CCGS LETTER TO PREMIER CALVERT AND THE PROVINCIAL CABINET ON NWMO](#)

[DR GORDON EDWARDS, FOLLOWING THE PATH BACKWARDS: A RESPOSE TO NWMO REPORT](#)

[ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS: FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO NWMO SEPT 30 2005.PDF](#)

Second, in Saskatchewan the business community under the impetus of the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce, February, 2005 passed a resolution supporting "the environmentally sound development and expansion of value added processing Saskatchewan's mined and grown raw resources." They state that "these resources include uranium, potash, other mined materials, oil natural gas, as well as agricultural and forestry products."

In their newsletter, "*Business View*", dated September, 2005, there is an article entitled "The moral argument for Uranium Processing in Saskatchewan." They state, "*much of our business community wants to further value add our remarkable uranium resources.*" According to the article:

"Further uranium value adding activity includes: refining, processing, conversion, enrichment, fuel fabrication, medical application, power generation, spent fuel management, reprocessing, and hydrogen generation. Securing these activities in Saskatchewan would help keep our kids here and could result in several billions of dollars of economic opportunity. The lack of clear policy support for uranium processing in Saskatchewan has resulted in low levels of value added uranium activity in Saskatchewan."

Given the demise of the paper and pulp industry, especially in Prince Albert, there will undoubtedly be added pressure by many to locate a Uranium refinery somewhere in northern Saskatchewan.

[GREATER SASKATOON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: MORAL ARGUMENT](#)

[THE FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN BY ALEXANDRA MCKEE-BENNETT](#)

[ALL LEVELS OF RADIATION ARE DANGEROUS](#)

[DO YOU REALLY WANT A REPROCESSING PLANT IN SASKATCHEWAN?](#)

[Plutonium In Children's Teeth!](#)

Third, the nuclear corporations in the province, Cameco and Areva, "formerly Cogema which was itself formerly Amok", have been pushing their nuclear agenda in the province. For example, it needs to be noted that a member of the executive of the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce is Mr. Jamie McIntyre. He is with Cameco Corporation. Cameco, one of the world's largest uranium companies in the world has made its presence felt in Saskatoon and Saskatchewan with unprecedented public relations and community involvement from major charitable donations to quietly working behind the scenes such as membership on the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce. One thing the nuclear corporation pushers do not do is engage in open public debate or discussions on nuclear issues. They strategically avoid any real public debate on nuclear matters and are interested only in pure nuclear propaganda by ingratiating themselves through a positive public image and engaging in what amounts to a conspiracy of silence on the real dangers surrounding the nuclear industrial-military chain . What the people do not know will allow the corporations to continue exploiting the province and endangering the earth and its inhabitants.

[Dr. Bill Adamson: Selective Inattention to Nuclear Details](#)

[Dr. Graham Simpson : Letter submitted to the Star Phoenix but was not published](#)

A fourth nuclear push in the Province has been the SUMA/SARM/University of Regina Forum Conference "Exploring Saskatchewan's Nuclear Future" held January 16, 17, 18, 2006 at the Regina Inn and Conference Centre. According to some reports the conference did not turn out to be a resounding endorsement of a nuclear future for Saskatchewan. Nevertheless, in terms of public relations, the fact of such a conference being held gives the aura of a march towards a nuclear future for Saskatchewan. The strategy seems to have been to keep the nuclear agenda in the public eye. This was done by the publication before the conference in Regina of opinions in major Saskatchewan daily newspapers by some of the key pro-nuclear presenters at the conference. The biased reporting and pro-nuclear stance of some of the province's major newspapers all contribute and continue to contribute to promoting a wider nuclear agenda for the Province.

[Lingenfelter CBC Report](#)

The fifth and quietly emerging, "some would say, sinister," nuclear push in the Province has been the Provincial NDP government. Just as they published their Saskatchewan action plan for the economy in September the NDP Government announced its favorable disposition towards a nuclear refinery in the province. The action plan, purported to be a green action plan, in fact turned out to be a plan to propose further nuclear development under the umbrella of a green agenda for Saskatchewan.

Subsequent events such as Dwain Lingenfelter, a former NDP Cabinet Minister now working and residing in Alberta, coming to the Province to promote even a nuclear reactor in the province kept the nuclear ball rolling in the province. Although criticized by Cabinet Minister Clay Serby as outside interference, some cynics would say this was nothing but an NDP ploy to influence and gauge public opinion in the province. This was followed up with further announcements about the openness of the Government for a possible uranium refinery in the province. A new Cabinet, which saw Minister Peter Prebble resigning from Cabinet, was introduced by Premier Calvert with glowing terms about the new Green agenda for the Province. This however was followed with the announcement by the Premier that he and Minister of Industry Eric Cline would be traveling to Washington to meet with vice-president Cheney to encourage USA investment in Saskatchewan's nuclear industry and particularly in a uranium refinery.

[The Tricks of the Trade: The advertising world can turn anything green including nuclear power](#)

[2003 ECCR ECCR.pdf](#)

[Rosalee Burtell Gulf War Syndrome](#)

Finally, the sad state of affairs in the province is that even the Saskatchewan Party and the Liberal party are supportive of expanding the nuclear industry in Saskatchewan. The only party not in favor remains the Green Party. Many members of the NDP who oppose the provincial nuclear agenda were effectively put on the sidelines when the NDP at its party Convention late last fall, 2005 voted against an anti-nuclear resolution brought forward by the NDP youth caucus.

[Rocky Mountain Institute: Renewables Wallop Nukes](#)

In 2006, the nuclear disaster of Chernobyl, Ukraine, will have its 20th anniversary. On April 26, 1996, a chain reaction and explosion caused the radioactive contamination of broad regions across Europe. Even today, many areas are heavily affected, and some foods, such as mushrooms and deer, are still contaminated.

Recently, nuclear energy is increasingly mentioned in the debate about how to combat climate change. Around the world, advocates of nuclear energy try to win support as a "clean" energy which could replace fossil fuels for energy production to achieve necessary emission reductions.

The risks involved with nuclear energy do not weigh into the envisioned benefits of increased usage of nuclear power: Nuclear power plants cannot be considered to be safe; in times of global terrorism, there is no guarantee that enriched uranium from nuclear power plants may end up in dangerous hands; and thirdly, nuclear power remains expensive and not profitable; public

investments will rather direct crucial financial support from innovation and deployment of renewable energy technologies, such as wind, solar, or biomass.

To counter the advocacy for nuclear energy in the fight against climate change, the Heinrich Böll Foundation publishes a series of issue papers on critical questions of nuclear energy (Nuclear Safety, Nuclear Fuel Cycle, Nuclear and Proliferation, Nuclear Economics, Nuclear and Climate Change) and a summary for policy makers.

The issue papers will give a state of the art overview on recent issues and debates on the use of nuclear power in the energy sector but also include some reflections on the history of nuclear power during the last four decades.

[Chernobyl Remembrance](#)