



August 8, 2008

Nova Scotia Environment
Protected Areas Branch
Box 442
5151 Terminal Road
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2P8

Re: Shelburne River Candidate Wilderness Area

I am pleased to submit comments with regard to the Shelburne River Candidate Wilderness Area on behalf of the Mining Association of Nova Scotia (MANS). We are a provincial organization representing over 100 members – companies and individuals - in all areas of mining - exploration, discovery, development, production and reclamation as well as consultants and suppliers to the industry.

In terms of economics, our industry is directly and indirectly responsible for some 6300 jobs – mostly in rural Nova Scotia – and about \$490M of our provincial Gross Domestic Product (GDP). What is of particular interest to many is that our average weekly wage (over \$1000 per week) is number one among the resource sectors. The industry's total payroll is \$96M per year and we pay some \$1.9M in municipal taxes per year.

At this time, I would like to reiterate that MANS is committed to working with government and other stakeholders to ensure that we meet the provincial goal of ensuring that 12% of the total land mass of the province is legally protected. We look forward to continued dialogue as we all move toward this target.

In terms of Shelburne River, we note that the Minerals Branch of the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (NSDNR) has compiled a geology and mineral resources evaluation. It is critical to note that this evaluation was not done through direct observation of the candidate area. MANS maintains that a full mineral evaluation (boot and hammer on the ground) of all candidate wilderness areas should be undertaken through the consultative process. We realize that this is labour intensive but feel that it is critical to ensuring that all economic factors are taken into consideration before designating any area as protected. We also look forward to continued discussion on how best to move forward with this concept.



The proposed candidate wilderness area in Shelburne River does have good potential for a number of minerals as outlined in the Minerals Branch report. As well, we remind regulators that the issue of uranium exploration continues to be one of concern for MANS as we continue to protect land in Nova Scotia. As with our previous submission, we ask that once the moratorium on uranium exploration is lifted, there be some mechanism to evaluate this area for uranium. This of course, would be done in a most respectful manner to the other uses of the protected area. Again, we are asking for this consideration so that all Nova Scotians can benefit from all of the natural resources of our province.

All of that being said, we note that there are no active claims in the candidate area which leads us to conclude that this is not a priority for mineral development in Nova Scotia.

In conclusion, MANS supports the designation of Shelburne River as a wilderness area but we request that in the future, a boot and hammer evaluation would be undertaken as part of the consultative process. We do so recognizing that Nova Scotians are sacrificing future economic development.

I trust that these comments will prove helpful as we move forward with the designation of this candidate wilderness area. We, an organization, look forward to the announcement some time this fall.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Landreville
Executive Director