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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

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Cree Nation Government
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

G. C. C. E. I.
40th Anniversary
1974 - 2014

C. N. G.
G. N. C.
est. 1978

August 25, 2014

Re: Letter of support for the International Uranium Symposium, Quebec City (Canada), April 2015

To whom it may concern,

I am the Grand Chief of the James Bay Cree Nation. Our territory, Eeyou Istchee, is located in Northern Quebec, Canada, on the eastern side of James Bay and southern Hudson Bay. The Grand Council of the Crees is the political body that represents the Cree Nation, the Eeyouch.

As Grand Chief, I have advocated on behalf of the James Bay Crees for the aboriginal, treaty and other human rights of indigenous peoples in Canada and internationally. We Crees have successfully mounted national and international campaigns to assert and protect our rights, and to maintain the integrity of our land and our way-of-life for generations to come.

Our territory of Eeyou Istchee is blessed with many riches, including significant natural resources. In recent years, significant uranium exploration activities have occurred in our territory. These activities, and in particular the application by Strateco Resources to commence an advanced exploration project in our territory, have spurred the Cree Nation to take a position on uranium. In August 2012, we imposed a moratorium on uranium exploration, mining and waste emplacement in our territory. Our position is clear: uranium development is not welcome in Eeyou Istchee.

The Cree Nation is in favour of responsible and equitable development activities in our territory. We oppose uranium mining because the environmental risks and health risks posed by uranium mining and uranium waste are too high. We oppose uranium mining because it will place a burden on future generations that we are not prepared to assume.

While Canada is the second largest uranium producer in the world, there are to date no uranium mines in Quebec. In March 2013 the Quebec government implemented a temporary moratorium on uranium mining in the province, until it has completed a study and public consultation regarding the industry. The Cree Nation is committed to working with likeminded allies to ensure that our territory, and province of Quebec as a whole, remain free of uranium.

In April 2015, an International Uranium Symposium will be held in Quebec City, organized by Physicians for Global Survival and Nature Québec. The Grand Council of the Crees supports this significant conference, and we intend to participate actively in it. We are confident that, once the truth about uranium mining is known, Quebecers and people the world over will stand with us against uranium development. I strongly encourage you to support and take part in this important event.

Sincerely,

Dr. Matthew Coon Come
Grand Chief

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