

O'Hara, Meredith

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: September 17, 2019 10:08 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: I support Boat Harbour Closure - 31 January 2020

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Amanda van Veen** <pictoueastamanda@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Sep 9, 2019 at 1:30 PM
Subject: Re: I support Boat Harbour Closure - 31 January 2020
To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thank you for reaching out concerning this very important issue.

The Northern Pulp file is one that I am deeply concerned about. The future of Northern Pulp and its impact on the province is an issue that has many people tossing and turning at night.

I completely sympathize with all those who are worried about the impact the Mill's future will have on their own. Whether employed directly or indirectly by the Mill, or the fishery or a concerned citizen, people are anxious.

I share this concern and anxiety.

However things unfold, whatever decision the government makes, we can never compromise our environmental standards; and in the case of Northern Pulp I will not support any such compromise. No lowering of the bar, no exceptions. I believe I have made this clear in my stance that the project should be subject to a Class 2 environmental assessment, as opposed to the current Class 1.

I'm constantly interested in solutions that protect the environment, protect our fishing and forestry industries, our overall economy, and honour the First Nations.

As the deadline looms, the ball is in the Mill's court to meet the standards. I can see the effort mounting to exert pressure on the politicians to "extend" the deadline but from where I stand that pressure is better applied to the Mill. They are the ones that must meet the standard.

There are those that say that mill should be "given" more time. Nothing should just be given, it should be earned, and it hasn't been.

I've tried my best to be a positive voice on this file over the last few years but my suggestions have always been dismissed.

- I asked that the Bill include timelines at the outset to hold the Mill accountable and allow people to monitor progress. Instead government failed to properly monitor the Mill's progress and has let all of us, particularly foresters across the province down.
- I asked that any proposal be held to a higher level of scrutiny from the start. That standard wasn't imposed and this eroded public confidence - few people trust this government to properly do its job.

This is all in the past, but highlights how poorly the government has managed the file and is the very reason that you right to question their ability to manage it going forward.

I will continue to ask questions of this government and challenge them for answers that you have the right to expect.

Yours truly,

Tim Houston,

Leader of the Progressive Conservative

Party of Nova Scotia

On Thu, Sep 5, 2019 at 10:52 AM Friends of the Northumberland Strait <info@friendsofthenorthumberlandstrait.ca> wrote:

Dear Premier McNeil,

I recognize that pressure from sectors of the forest industry for an extension to the Boat Harbour Act is increasing as the Boat Harbour closure date draws closer.

I want you and all MLAs to know that I support the closure of Boat Harbour to pulp effluent on 31 January, 2020.

Why?

- I know the history of broken promises to Pictou Landing First Nation. To break another promise would be adding to past wrong doings and would continue Nova Scotia's legacy of environmental racism.
- I know that Northern Pulp was aware they had a tight deadline, but did not begin designing a new effluent treatment facility for several years.
- I know that when Northern Pulp submitted their project for environmental assessment in January 2019, the company did not provide many essential studies and information requested by government departments, leading to further delay.
- I know that Northern Pulp is a long way from having a viable plan that will not harm the ecosystem or fisheries of the Northumberland Strait that are crucial to our province's economy.
- I believe the forestry experts who say that the forestry industry in Nova Scotia has a good future, even if Boat Harbour closes on schedule and Northern Pulp leaves the province.

You said it yourself, Premier McNeil, Northern Pulp is responsible for the decisions they have made over the past 5 years.

Pictou Landing First Nation is not to blame for Northern Pulp being so far from meeting the deadline. The community should not pay the price.

Premier McNeil, please continue to Honour the Boat Harbour Act you put forward in good faith almost five years ago, an Act that was unanimously adopted in the Legislature.

It was the right thing to do then. It is still the right thing to do now.

[REDACTED]

Halifax
Nova Scotia
B3K 3V7

[REDACTED]