



RCE REGIONAL CENTRE
OF EXPERTISE
ON EDUCATION
FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
SASKATCHEWAN



September 9, 2016

The Right Honourable Justin P. J. Trudeau

Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

Re. Need for Federal Environmental Assessment of Proposed Yancoal Potash Mine Near Southey, Saskatchewan

We are sending you a short video presentation (attached and available at <http://www.saskrce.ca/node/2583>) that summarizes the current situation Saskatchewan citizens near the community of Southey are facing with the proposed solution potash mine by Yancoal, a wholly owned company of the Government of China. The video has been prepared with the participation of the local community (*you had indicated you would be willing to watch a short video to one of its members earlier in the year*) in collaboration with RCE Saskatchewan, a UN University acknowledged research unit focusing on education for sustainable development. We have documented the many flaws of the provincial environmental assessment process to date and the problematic engagement of Yancoal with the local community, especially those of Havelock in the Rural Municipality of Longlaketon, Saskatchewan whose agricultural livelihoods are directly impacted by the proposed mine.

We have made a formal request of your Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Hon. Catherine McKenna, to apply the Federal Environmental Impact Assessment Act to this project. Her Ministry has been very supportive to date, and we are awaiting her decision. A project of this magnitude and type would have been subject to such a review prior to Stephen Harper's changes to the Act in 2012; in our view this project requires a cumulative impact assessment given its substantive water use in a prairie ecosystem subject to extreme climate change and other environmental impacts.

A ruling by the Federal Government is urgent given the conditional approval the project was given by the Province of Saskatchewan's Ministry of Environment on August 9, 2016, despite many outstanding issues and noted conflicts of interest. These concerns have been documented and shared with your Minister and all RCE Saskatchewan documentation is available at <http://www.saskrce.ca/node/2581>. We also hope that the difficulties encountered by the local community in the failure of due process in this case and lack of impartial assessment will help inform the Federal Government's work in amending its own Environmental Impact Assessment legislation and, more generally, its commitment to sustainable development and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

We would be pleased to respond to any further questions or concerns from your office.

Sincerely,



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cc. Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness