



July 5, 2016

The Honourable Ralph Goodale, PC, MP
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
House of Commons, Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Goodale,

On behalf of the National Council of Women of Canada, I again extend our thanks and appreciation for your presence at our 123rd Annual General Meeting in Saskatoon on June 11th, where we were able to direct questions to you on some of our important concerns. Your answers were very informative and helpful to our members, as we look forward to our continued advocacy on behalf of women, families, and society in the year ahead.

In this regard, the dangers posed by all facets of the nuclear cycle have been the subject of NCWC policies and actions dating back to 1955, and continue today. A question regarding a very immediate threat was raised by NCWC's Environment Convenor Gracia Janes, who asked if your Ministry was aware of the concerns of those who live and work along a potential route for the precedent-setting road transport of highly dangerous, extremely long-lasting liquid nuclear waste, containing highly enriched uranium (HEU), from Chalk River to South Carolina, through communities, prime farm land, tender fruit land, and, very likely, over the Niagara River.

Ms. Janes also noted two recent nuclear transport events, i.e., a dry spill in Saskatchewan where staff from Chalk River had to deal with the clean-up, and a very serious incident where the bottom fell out of a container similar to the one planned for the transport of high-level liquid nuclear waste. A container failure in the case of such liquid waste could quickly spill into streams, rivers and ground water, well before any qualified first responders from Ottawa could be on the scene. This would pose a significant and long-lasting threat to urban and farm communities, and in Niagara to the tender fruit, grape and wine and tourism industries.

As Minister of Public Safety, your concern over this very serious issue was gratifying. I have attached further background materials provided by Ms. Janes for your use when contacting the Ministers of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Transportation whom you indicated would benefit from the information.

Sincerely,

Karen Monnon Dempsey

National Council of Women of Canada

Karen Monnon Dempsey, President

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cc: Hon. Jim Carr, Minister of Natural Resources

Hon. Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport

Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

Attachments:

Background re Liquid Nuclear Waste Shipment - Dr. Gordon Edwards

CNSC notice of Nuclear Spill in Saskatchewan

CNSC report re Component Failure during preparation of spent NRX fuel rods at CN lab

Provincial Council Women of Ontario letter to CNSC re container for shipments of liquid nuclear waste