

Dear Legislators with the House of Commons Standing Committee on Science and Research Study on Small Modular Nuclear Reactors

It is with great horror that I have watched the [videos of your proceedings](#).¹ You seem to have left reason at the door, and are willingly engaging in a love-fest for new nuclear. Are you lobbyists or legislators?

Please remember that until 2015 our nation's nuclear agenda, secrets and materials were controlled by the Crown. Since 2015 these have been controlled by SNC-Lavalin, under the guise of the misnamed Canadian National Energy Alliance and a perilously misunderstood 'Go-Co' model. SNC-Lavalin's partners in the Canadian National Energy Alliance are Fluor, and Jacobs: nuclear weapons producing private companies.²

In 2019, the Attorney General agreed with the Department of Justice to pursue investigation into SNC-Lavalin. In response, the Trudeau Liberals gutted the independence of our nation's Attorney General's office, a key requirement for our nation's adherence to democracy not autocracy. If you cannot connect the dots to SNC-Lavalin's control of Canada's nuclear regime, you are not looking close enough.

Please refuse to allow the word "recycling" into your vocabulary when talking about the liquefaction of used CANDU fuel for plutonium extraction. This process creates at least seven new waste streams, for which there is no solution.³

Canada was responsible for initiating a middle-powers nuclear arms race when India attained the bomb in the '70's. Pierre Elliot Trudeau and Jimmy Carter placed a global moratorium on reprocessing technology. Monitoring this is supposed to be the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) job, yet they have become little more than a lobby group for SMRs.

If SMRs continue to be approved, funded by Canadian taxpayers, and tested on Canadian soil, you will be responsible for having opened the Pandora's box of weapons-grade nuclear material proliferation worldwide.⁴

Do not let Canada be responsible for allowing the shipping mini plutonium-extraction factories to every nation in the world via these dangerous 'SMR' experiments. Our taxpayers have already granted United Kingdom private corporation-controlled Moltex (experiment planned for the Bay of Fundy)⁵, SNC-Lavalin at Chalk on the headwaters of the Ottawa River (currently responsible for Tritium and Strontium90 in Ottawa citizen's drinking water)⁶, Terrestrial in Oakville (Stephen Harper is a director), OPG in Darlington, BWXT (the USA's largest nuclear

¹ <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Committees/en/SRSR/StudyActivity?studyActivityId=11584398>

² <https://youtu.be/lbju4ibalb4>

³ <https://anchor.fm/sarah-gabrielle-baron/episodes/Chalk-River-e1685p4/a-a6cvv0m>

⁴ <https://nbmediacoop.org/2021/06/14/scientists-say-nbs-plutonium-plan-is-undermining-the-global-nuclear-weapons-non-proliferation-regime/>

⁵ <https://anchor.fm/sarah-gabrielle-baron/episodes/Askomiw-Sanaqok-forever-dangerous-to-life-e1cgict/a-a76fu98>

⁶ <https://anchor.fm/sarah-gabrielle-baron/episodes/Chalk-River-e1685p4/a-a6cvv0m>

weapons producer) via a derelict factory in the middle of a Peterborough neighbourhood⁷, "micro-reactor" tech proposed to pepper our hinterland, and Westinghouse experimental labs (Mark Carney is a director) in Burlington, over \$100 million dollars and CNSC approval in the past two years alone. All with zero public discourse.

Canadians are woefully uninformed.

The movement of radioactive materials will be facilitated by a 'sorting' station by privately-owned OPG and partners via Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) at Bruce Nuclear Power station, directly on the shores of Lake Huron. Why is any of this okay when we still have no safe plan for existing waste?

Please inform yourself of statements on the care of nuclear waste made by the Anishinabek Nation and Iroquois Caucus, in 2017. This five-point plan is solid, smart, and do-able. Please consider this as your starting point, and take on the Anishinabek Nation and Iroquois Caucus as your equal partners in creating a path to intelligent, wise, 700 000 generation planning for the nuclear waste these past seven decades have produced.⁸

Please put a pause on all NWMO activities. An independent civilian-led body must be in charge of planning for the care of our nuclear waste. Money-making must not be the goal in this arena.

To quote chief Dan Michano, an Anishinabek Nation chief upon whose traditional territory this government is planning to permanently dump High Level Nuclear Waste (HLW), as he answered questions at another parliamentary review panel, "stop making it, then we'll talk".⁹

Your job is to ensure the nuclear waste problem is being attended to properly. Don't do this in a pro-nuke industry silo. Nuclear energy is not "clean", it is not "green", and it is certainly not "non-emitting". To use these labels is to lie to Canadians.

The International Joint Commission (IJC) released their study on radioactive waste in the Great Lakes. They told us that as far as they could find, the last time a comprehensive study on the bioaccumulative effects of radionuclides in our water, soil and air was completed was in the 1980's.¹⁰

Health Canada has no jurisdiction over the nuclear industry in our country.

⁷ <https://anchor.fm/sarah-gabrielle-baron/episodes/Are-kids-in-danger-in-Peterborough-e100mnk/a-a5ebchr>

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<https://www.anishinabek.ca/2017/05/02/joint-declaration-between-the-anishinabek-nation-and-the-iroquois-caucus-on-the-transport-and-abandonment-of-radioactive-waste/>

⁹ <https://parlvu.parl.gc.ca/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2?fk=11523095>

¹⁰ <https://vimeo.com/705567925>

Nuclear waste begins at the uranium mine tailings lakes (a million year radioactive legacy covering all of northern Saskatchewan¹¹, and in my riding of Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing¹²), includes incinerators and abandoned dumps, includes all refining, processing and handling facilities, includes all nuclear power and nuclear medical installations, and will include all new waste streams - for which there is no solution - via these SMR experiments. Canada's nuclear waste legacy includes potential for all of these regions and facilities to be used as captured locations for armed conflict and 'dirty bombs' like what we have seen at Chernobyl and Zaporizhzhia in Ukraine.

Please enact a moratorium on new nuclear development. In concert with the Assembly of First Nations which called for a moratorium in 2018.¹³

Please hold an inquiry into the activities of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). That body is "corporate captured" and is ignoring multiple safety and security hazards within the nuclear industry, particularly around approval of SMR experiments. In 2018 the CNSC lobbied for SMRs under 300 mW to be exempt from environmental impact assessment. Successfully. This fact alone should be cause for a moratorium on SMR development.¹⁴

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission actively argued against Indigenous leaders at an intervention in November 2021. Duty to Consult was invoked when a plan to ship waste to my riding for incineration was approved by the CNSC. Duty to Consult was invoked when Cameco applied to increase operations by more than double at one of the world's largest uranium processing facilities, just 2 km from the Mississaugi First Nations on the North shore of Lake Huron. UNDRIP was invoked when an Indigenous Elder recounted how her ancestors' bodies and artifacts were stolen in 1982, and demanded assistance in repatriation. The CNSC commissioners argue against and ignore Indigenous officials and Elders. Do not believe them when they say they conduct good outreach to First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples.¹⁵

Last week I met Setsuko Thurlow, Nobel Peace prize laureate in nuclear disarmament. A survivor of the world's last nuclear weapons war-time detonation at Hiroshima. We talked about the dual track of documents at the United Nations: the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) which NATO nations and other nuclear-weapons-possessing nations desperately need to renew, and the **Treaty on the Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons** (TPNW), by which nations are declaring their territory to be Nuclear-Weapons-Free zones. While Canada is a NATO member, we appear to be incapable of supporting or signing either.

¹¹ <https://anchor.fm/sarah-gabrielle-baron/episodes/Saskatchewan-e1d4sj0/a-a798msh>

¹² <https://youtu.be/xBWDx6HXa2Y>

¹³ https://www.afn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Combined-Final-2018-December-SCA-Resolutions_EN.pdf

¹⁴ Stensil, 2018, Greenpeace. *Re. Greenpeace comments on REGDOC-1.1.5: Licence Application Guide: Small Modular Reactor Facilities* https://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/pdfs/REGDOC_comments-received/Comments-REGDOC-1-1-5-PC-Greenpeace.pdf

¹⁵ http://download.isiglobal.ca/cnsc/2021-11-23_24_25/2021-11-24-4H.mp4

Submission to the Standing Committee on Science and Research looking into SMRs
Submission by Sarah Gabrielle Baron, candidate for leader of the Green Party of Canada, 2022
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If this SMR madness continues, Canada will be seen globally as ground zero for a new nuclear weapons arms race. The stakes are on par with the climate crisis in terms of human and planetary survival. This responsibility lies on your shoulders.

The goal of private corporations is to use Canada as the guinea pig, then market their 'SMRs' to smaller nations worldwide.

Canada is the epicentre of a new global nuclear weapons arms race. Again.

The question now is, what will today's legislators do? At the very least, Canadians deserve to be informed.

~ Sarah Gabrielle Baron
candidate for leader of the Green Party of Canada, 2022