

Open letter to the community of Clearwater and the N. Thompson:

The YEA has recently met over concerns regarding the proposed Yellowhead Mine in our area. Our mission as stated here on our website remains: To promote an awareness of the interconnectedness of our ecological and human community. To help develop and promote an ethics of care within the community towards a healthy and balanced ecological and social environment. To help protect and contribute to the welfare of the human family and all forms of life. To encourage discussion, research and direct action on issues of local, regional and global concern.

To this end we are seeking to extend the deadline for submissions for funding from the Federal Government. The deadline came before the information session that Yellowhead Mining recently held here in Clearwater and possible participants in the Federal process did not have information from this meeting for their submissions. This funding will be used for research and observation of the process as this mine continues its planning.

We agree that this mine is important for the future of this area, to diversify our economic base and allow us to continue as a sustainable community with employment closer to homes and the schools where our children live and learn. However, we continue to have grave concerns for the welfare of the environment, particularly watersheds and wildlife in the area. There are many unanswered questions coming from the information session recently held here and too many issues glossed over to accept outright the mining company's view of their operations. For example, the property lies directly beside the area that was at the center of the concerns that brought about the banning of uranium mining and exploration in B.C. Also, the plans for tailings ponds and water diversion will adversely affect several watersheds and lakes along with wildlife corridors and habitats (mountain goats to name only one).

As this company does not have a demonstrable history in developing and operating a mine in the interior temperate rainforest ecosystem of British Columbia, which has high hydrological values within the North Thompson watershed, there are outstanding concerns with the long term management of tailings and waste water.

The YEA is mandated to provide third party oversight to ensure that local resource development including the development, operation and decommissioning of any mine is not deleterious to the ecological integrity of our watersheds.

Your Local YEA