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To: Nunavut Water Board
Gjoa Haven, Nunavut

Via Email

Dear Water Board Members:

Re: Request to Amend Iqaluit Water Licence

Please accept the following comments with regards to the City of Iqaluit's request to amend their exiting water licence.

I am very concerned that the City of Iqaluit may be considering open burning of the garbage that has been accumulating during the strike of the municipal workers. The amount of accumulated garbage is very large and the resulting pollution from an open burn will contaminate the waters (as well as the land, animals and people) in the vicinity of Iqaluit. I am sure I need not remind the Water Board that open pit burning of household garbage which typically contains up to 80% plastic results in the production of toxic products such as dioxins and furans. I urge the Nunavut Water Board to keep to the current licence which does not allow the burning of plastics after June 1, 2001. Burning must not be seen as a possible solution to deal with the accumulated garbage.

I also take issue with the City of Iqaluit's contention that the City has embarked on an 'aggressive' recycling program. As a resident of the City of Iqaluit, I am not aware of any new recycling initiatives. I ask that the Water Board direct the City of Iqaluit to immediately inform the Water Board and the residents of Iqaluit of the particulars of this 'aggressive' recycling program.

I am very concerned about the lack of containment of solid waste during the strike. Garbage has been left in a number of un-contained areas and is subject to being dispersed by ravens, dogs, and particularly the wind. Once again much of this garbage is plastic and it is being blown into the waters around Iqaluit. I ask that the Water Board direct the City of Iqaluit to contain the garbage that has accumulated within City limits so as to ensure that it does not affect the waters around Iqaluit.

I am, of course, aware of the difficulties created by the current labour dispute in Iqaluit. This dispute should not endanger our waters or our health. I urge the Water Board to ensure that the City lives up to their responsibilities.

Yours truly,

Paul Crowley