

# Letters to the Editor



## Yes, leave it in the ground!

Marion Moore's article on uranium mining (Autumn 2008) struck home. In another lifetime I lived in Elliot Lake, then the boomtown of uranium mining in northern Ontario, and left seven years later when the bottom fell out of the industry.

The Ontario government of that time had promised to clean up the radioactive tailings that had been dumped outside town, but had obviously never done so. After all, where would they put them? Used uranium has a half-life of thousands of years. Wonderful as some of its uses are, we opened Pandora's Box when we dug this mineral from the ground. Indeed, as Marion Moore so cogently argues: Leave it in the ground.

*Eva Davis*  
Brampton, Ontario

## Nuclear can be good

I was dismayed by articles about nuclear energy and the related technologies in the recent Autumn 2008 issue of *Canadian Perspectives*.

CANDU reactors are designed to be able to burn plutonium (as derived from decommissioned nuclear weapons) and the CANDU design meets international certification requirements to provide solid safeguards against their use for production of plutonium.

I also believe the legacy of toxic waste from uranium mining is a direct result of our ignorance and 1950s attitudes. The "leave it in the ground" and "it's too dangerous for us wimpy humans to ever handle safely" attitudes are counter-productive and useless in this debate, and just plain wrong – as wrong as those that created this toxic legacy in the first place.

There may even be clean and inexpensive nuclear fusion technologies possible in far closer proximity to today than ever imagined before.

*Greg Woods*  
North York, Ontario

## Health care not bail-outs

I have to say that it is all I can do to contain my rage! I am a nurse (and recently joined a local Council chapter) who lives in Brighton, Ontario. I work for Quinte Health care at the Trenton Hospital Site. The Local Health Integrated Network (LHIN) for Southeast Ontario has demanded our corporate hospital make dramatic cuts to their operating budget. One of the options being considered is a closure of one of the hospital sites. The provincial government even thinking about a "bail-out" for the Big Three auto manufacturers is disgusting when they (governments) keep saying we can't afford our public health care system. Well, we cannot afford not to have a public health care system.

*Randy dos Santos*  
Brighton, Ontario

## Where are our MPs on energy?

I'm continually amazed at the solid work that Maude Barlow does for all Canadians. Too bad that so many of the facts put forward are ignored by Canadians, including so many of our

**More than 200 people rallied at the Alberta legislature November 1 calling for no new approvals in the tar sands and a Canadian Energy Strategy that focuses on renewable energy sources and sustainable energy development.**

members of Parliament, to their detriment.

I read a few months ago an article explicitly detailing the fact that our natural gas availability will be seriously jeopardized in the next few years because the oil barons in Alberta are taking huge quantities of the gas for their production in making oil available to the U.S. All well and good for Alberta, but it could seriously impact the availability of heating for many Canadians. I'm constantly worried that the available gas reserves are being depleted very quickly, with nary a word from our MPs in Ottawa. Why do they ignore and put aside any matters pertaining to energy? This could be a very serious problem in the near future.

*Clive Mason*  
Toronto, Ontario