



November 16, 2009

To all Ontario MPPs,

I urge you to vote for Bill 32- the Waste Disposal Site 41 in the Township of Tiny Act, at its second reading on November 19. This act will protect forever the Alliston aquifer and the purest groundwater ever tested, which lies beneath the proposed dump at Site 41. This act is needed because the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) has failed to fulfil its responsibility to protect water sources in Ontario over the last twenty-six years and through the mandates of all three parties that have governed during that period.

From the very beginning, the community around Site 41 questioned the safety of the proposed dump. Indeed, they are still waiting to see the evidence upon which the MOE based their approval of the dumpsite years ago. We recently learned that this evidence-the computer modelling data- has never been reviewed by the MOE. They approved Site 41 based on little more than their confidence in the "professionalism" of a private engineering firm recently purchased by one of the world's largest landfill corporations.

This abrogation of responsibility by the MOE left the community with few options this spring when construction of the dump began. They stopped it with their bodies and seventeen people are now facing criminal charges because they lost faith in the motivation, competence and impartiality of the Ministry. The mass demonstrations spurred the County of Simcoe to vote against building the dump but without this Act, the purest groundwater ever tested is still at the mercy of the Certificate of Approval issued by the MOE which would allow the dump to be built if the County were to sell the land or change its mind.

Groundwater sources across Ontario are already under intense pressure from urban sprawl, mining and leaky landfills. Environment Canada warns that climate change will further reduce groundwater levels in the province. The MOE has talented and motivated staff and the powers it requires to protect our water but it is failing at the highest levels of management to act prudently or with any real consideration for the needs of future generations so MPPs must stand up and protect the water by voting for Bill 32.

Sincerely,

Maude Barlow  
Chairperson for the Council of Canadians