

Backgrounder to Sandy Pond Alliance to Protect Canadian Waters

In May of 2009, the local Chapter of the Council of Canadians organized a Sandy Pond Picnic to bring attention to the issue of the intended destruction of Sandy Pond by the Brazilian mining company Vale Inco as part of their Long Harbour Nickel Processing Plant development. On Friday, May 8, 2009, nearly 20 people visited Long Harbour and trekked into Sandy Pond. After that event several of those individuals and some others decided to come together to discuss the imminent destruction of this pristine lake and possible ways to prevent that from happening. Many of these individuals had had a keen interest in this matter from the beginning and had written letters to various officials expressing their concern

The group met for several months and eventually deciding that they would explore the idea of a legal challenge. It engaged the help and support of several national organizations such as the Council of Canadians, Mining Watch Canada and Sierra Club of Canada as well as that of the provincial Natural History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador. It also sought legal advice and decided to incorporate the group.

Sandy Pond Alliance to Protect Canadian Waters was incorporated as a non-profit corporation on November 5, 2009 under the Corporations Act of Newfoundland and Labrador. It adopted the following aims and objectives:

1. To protect and conserve Canadian waters and their ecosystems; and
2. To take appropriate actions to assist the Alliance in fulfilling its purpose, including promoting and recommending laws and policies, and informing and engaging the public; and
3. To join and/or co-operate with other organizations or institutions with similar purposes.

Contact with the organization can be made by e-mail or by regular mail. The contact information is indicated below.

savesandypond@gmail.com

P.O. Box
354 Water Street
St. John's, NL
A1C 1C0