

## **Canada Day Special: Nova Scotia's coastline for Sale?**

Posted Monday, July 9, 2007 by [eacadmin](#)

Ecology Action Centre urges province to reject Digby Neck quarry and develop provincial strategy to protect our coastal heritage

The Ecology Action Centre feels the proposed basalt quarry on Digby Neck poses unacceptable ecological, social, and economic risks to the natural and cultural heritage of Nova Scotia. A decision to allow this quarry sets a dangerous precedent and sends the message that Nova Scotia's coastline is for sale and for export to US aggregate markets.

Nova Scotia's coasts are a prime target for large scale resource extraction industries like quarries because the province lacks an overarching coastal strategy to protect coastal areas.

"We are one of the few jurisdictions in North America without any kind of coastal plan or regulations. A project that involves blasting near sensitive marine habitat and productive coastal fishing areas would not be allowed to proceed in most other jurisdictions" says Jennifer Graham, Coastal Coordinator at the Ecology Action Centre. "If we had a coastal strategy, we would not be sitting through this drawn out environmental assessment process. A coastal strategy provides a framework for managing the use of coastal areas in a coordinated and integrated manner. The local community could decide the kinds of development that are appropriate and sustainable for their area and reject proposals such as this quarry which do not fit into their vision for the area."

According to Gretchen Fitzgerald, who represents the EAC during the White Point Environmental Assessment Hearings, "Approving this quarry is like playing ecological roulette with our coastal waters. The Bay of Fundy is a productive marine ecosystem of national and international significance. Boats carrying basalt between Nova Scotia and New Jersey will exchange basalt water containing potentially toxic bio-invasers. These toxic algae may put our fisheries at risk and cause millions of dollars in damage".

Public Hearings about the proposed quarry close on June 30th. The Joint provincial – federal panel will then make recommendations about whether the quarry should be approved. The Ecology Action Centre hopes the Panel will reject the proposed quarry and instead call for the province to take a lead role in the development of a provincial coastal strategy.

For more information:

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