



Bassin versant du Lac Heney Watershed

Refusal to Allow Mining Exploration on Your Property

Background

At our July 2024 AGM, the Brunswick Exploration Inc. mining project was introduced and the Quebec government legislation concerning mining exploration and exploitation was reviewed. The presentation highlighted the disastrous consequences the approval of a mine could have on the health of our watershed.

As members of the community residing in the Lac Heney watershed, we are deeply concerned about the potential long-term environmental and economic impacts deriving from mining activities in our area.

The growing demand for strategic minerals for battery manufacturing, particularly graphite and lithium, has led to an increase in mining claims. Mining activities threaten our lakes and the ecosystems they support. Mining operations pose significant risks, particularly toxic chemical pollution caused by substances such as sulphuric acid, cyanide, and heavy metals. The consequences of flooding, rainwater runoff, leakages from tailing ponds, and other events would affect not only our local lakes and waterways but could also infiltrate the groundwater reserves that constitute a vital source of drinking water for our community.

Our concerns are twofold: first, there is no river feed in the watershed, so any contaminants that get into our watershed will be there for a very long time (Heney's changeover is more than 6 years), and secondly, anything that contaminates the Heney watershed will flow through the Gatineau River system and into the Ottawa River.

Furthermore, we are alarmed by the industrial nature of mining operations, which generate excessive noise and disrupt our peaceful environment. This would affect our property values. The long-term effects on our health, quality of life, and on flora and fauna, are all unacceptable.

Mining companies have received much media attention and in the past few months there has been a lot of reaction from the citizens in the Laurentian regions. The current and outdated mining law does not offer much protection to residents. Its provisions favour mining companies over citizens' rights.

You can do something about it

The mining company, in this case, Brunswick Exploration Inc., must first obtain the written permission of the owner/ leaseholder before accessing your land to take ore samples.

You have the right to refuse mining companies access to your property by withholding your written permission. To help you exercise your rights and prevent, as much as possible, any mining activity in our sector, the Bassin versant du Lac Heney Watershed Association is informing its members of the existence of the current mining claims. We strongly encourage you to write to *Brunswick Exploration Inc.* to formally voice your disagreement with mining exploration in our environmentally sensitive region. By formally sending them a notice, Brunswick Exploration Inc. will have to respect your rights before proceeding and taking ore samples from your land.

Mining exploration often leads to exploitation. Denying them access to your property in writing is one of the few actions that residents can take.

The two maps below show the mining claims, and the third map shows the overlap with the western side of the Lac Heney watershed. You will find attached the template of a Refusal Letter, and instructions for completing and sending it to the people concerned. We strongly encourage you to join other owners in sending as many letters as possible. Even if your property is not included in the claim, the impact of a mine would affect the whole region surrounding the Lac Heney Watershed.

In closing, we thank Mr. Claude Bouffard of the Coalition QLAIM (Quebec Coalition of Lakes Incompatible with Mining Activity) for his support and for helping us prepare this initiative.

Thank you for protecting the quality of the Lac Heney watershed,
Bassin versant du Lac Heney Watershed Association



