

## **Resolution 14A**

### **STRICTER REGULATIONS FOR PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION (C&D) SITES (PASSED)**

⇒ County of Pictou

**WHEREAS** there are 22 Construction and Demolition (C & D) Sites in the province of Nova Scotia; and

**WHEREAS** since 1995, the province of Nova Scotia has allowed private C & D sites to operate; and

**WHEREAS** private C & D sites are only subject to guidelines, rather than the strict regulations that municipally-owned C & D sites must abide by;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the UNSM request the Minister of Environment to adopt stricter regulations for private C & D sites across the province, that reflect the regulations already in place for municipally-owned C & D sites, in order to ensure adequate inspection and safety of the private sites.

### **Background:**

The importance of this resolution was demonstrated by an event that took place in Broadway, Pictou County on August 5, 2010. A fire broke out at a private C & D site, for which a permit was issued by the Department of Environment in 2007. The site had a stockpile of debris estimated to be in excess of 7 stories high. Between August 5 and August 16, 2010, local volunteer fire departments were called to the scene of the ongoing fire every day. Eleven fire departments were involved, and in this time period 2 million gallons of water was pumped onto the massive pile. The fire is speculated to have been caused by spontaneous combustion, demonstrating the risk of the stockpiling practices.

Local residents, including 3 young children with asthma and a 96-year old woman, were all adversely affected by the poor air quality from the toxic billowing smoke surrounding homes in a 1.5km radius from the private C & D site.

Although the site complied with the provincial “guidelines” it certainly did not meet the stricter regulations that the municipally-owned sites must abide by. This prompted a call from local residents and Municipal Council to see these regulations adopted by the province for private C&D sites.

Forwarded to:

*Minister of the Department of Environment*

### **RESPONSE:**

*Thank you for your letter dated November 16, 2010 regarding environmental resolutions passed at UNSM's annual conference in October 2010. Nova Scotia Environment has carefully reviewed and considered each resolution and can offer the following response [to 14A]:*

*Regardless of who operates any of the C&D debris disposal sites in Nova Scotia, a private or municipal operator, Section 31(2)(a) of the Solid Waste-Resource Management Regulations requires that they have an approval from Nova Scotia Environment.*

*All facility operators must adhere to conditions set out in their approvals and described in the Construction and Demolition Debris Disposal Site Guidelines.*

*The Honourable Sterling Belliveau  
Minister*

*January 3, 2011*