CMD 21-H2.16

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Written submission from the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce

Mémoire de la Chambre de commerce de la Saskatchewan

In the Matter of the

À l'égard de

Cameco Corporation, **Cigar Lake Operation**  Cameco Corporation, établissement de Cigar Lake

Application for the renewal of Cameco's uranium mine licence for the Cigar Lake Operation

Demande de renouvellement du permis de mine d'uranium de Cameco pour l'établissement de Cigar Lake

**Commission Public Hearing** 

Audience publique de la Commission

**April 28-29, 2021** 

28 et 29 avril 2021



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March 19, 2021

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Senior Tribunal Officer, Secretariat Email: cnsc.interventions.ccsn@canada.ca

## Re: The renewal application for Cameco's Uranium Mine License for the Cigar Lake Operation

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written submission to the review of Cameco's request for a renewal of its Uranium Mine License for the Cigar Lake Operation. The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce is supportive of the renewal of Cameco's Uranium Mine License for the Cigar Lake Operation for a 10-year period.

Cameco has consistently remained in good standing with the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce (SCC). The SCC represents a broad spectrum of Saskatchewan businesses, and Cameco has continually acted as a leading corporate citizen in our province. Cameco performs strongly in areas such as worker safety, radiation protection and environmental excellence, and through its corporate citizenship. For example, in partnership with the SCC, Cameco has supported Saskatchewan's Achievement in Business Excellence Awards for several years, with a specific focus on youth entrepreneurship. Cameco's operations are a benefit to Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce sees significant potential for the uranium industry in Saskatchewan. The future of emissions free, reliable energy for our province will likely include a nuclear component, which is a source our province has not utilized to date. As a leading corporate citizen, we see a role for Cameco in this future. The uranium from Cigar Lake is used to generate clean, reliable, carbon-free nuclear energy in many countries around the world, helping them to significantly reduce their carbon emissions and provide their citizens with affordable baseload electricity. Therefore, the ongoing operation of this mine will provide Saskatchewan with the same opportunity and allow our province to embrace and be home to all aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle.

The Indigenous population in Saskatchewan is crucial to the future success of our province, as it will continue to represent a larger percentage of the Saskatchewan workforce. However, this segment of the population has historically been underdeveloped and underutilized. Cameco has a well-earned reputation in Saskatchewan, and across the world, as a model for how to construct positive, progressive partnerships between resource companies and traditional/ Indigenous rights holders. Building on this strength and reputation, Cameco has partnered with the SCC to bolster other companies in the province. Cameco was one of the first companies in Saskatchewan to become a signatory to, and an investor in, the SCC's Indigenous Engagement Charter. The Charter serves as a roadmap to provide businesses with the tools to achieve engagement and assists the business community in demonstrating the role it must play in



reconciliation. As a Charter investor, Cameco supports the delivery of training and resources to other companies to help strengthen Indigenous engagement across Saskatchewan.

While Cameco has had a significant impact on the province of Saskatchewan as a whole, the company's impact on the north has been profound and far reaching. Typically, over 70% of the goods and services Cameco uses at its northern operations are procured from northern/ Indigenous-owned businesses; in 2020, it was 81%. Through its policy of preferring northern contractors, Cameco has not just provided northern residents with employment but has also encouraged entrepreneurship and the acquisition of new skills that northern businesses are offering to other mining companies.

Cameco's operation of the Cigar Lake Mine has been an asset to northern Saskatchewan, particularly during the pandemic. In addition to not laying off any of its employees while suspending production at Cigar Lake during the uncertainty of the pandemic, Cameco's COVID-19 Relief Fund has provided \$1 million to dozens of charities and local groups in Saskatchewan to help them deliver important services to people in need in our communities. Cameco has also supplied significant quantities of PPE to northern communities and First Nations struggling to access them.

Over the last 30 years, Cameco has had a positive impact on Saskatchewan's economy and employment. Furthermore, through its initiatives and activities, the company has shown their commitment to worker safety, environmental protection, and the safety of the surrounding communities. The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce is confident that Cameco will continue its operations in a similar manner, thereby positively contributing to our province.

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce recommends that the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission renew Cameco's Uranium Mine License for the Cigar Lake Operation for a 10-year period. This letter will serve as the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce's submission to the Commission, unless additional comments are requested. Please contact Steve McLellan, CEO, Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce at <a href="mailto:smclellan@saskchamber.com">smclellan@saskchamber.com</a> or 306-352-2671 for any follow up.

Sincerely,

Steve McLellan, CEO

Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce