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**Written Submission from
Courtney McColm**

**Mémoire de
Courtney McColm**

In the matter of

À l'égard de

Cameco Corporation

Application to renew the Class IB nuclear fuel facility operating licence for the Port Hope Conversion Facility for a period of 20 years

Cameco Corporation

Demande visant à renouveler, pour une période de 20 ans, le permis d'exploitation d'une installation de combustible nucléaire de catégorie IB pour l'installation de conversion de Port Hope

Commission Public Hearing

Audience publique de la Commission

November 2026

Novembre 2026

Public Intervention in Support of Cameco's Port Hope Conversion Facility Licence Renewal

I am writing in support of Cameco Corporation's application to renew the operating licence for its Port Hope Conversion Facility (PHCF) for an additional 20 years.

As a student in the Radiation Safety program at Loyalist College in Port Hope, I am developing an understanding of radiation protection, nuclear safety, and the important role Canada's nuclear industry plays in our communities and our country. I recently had the opportunity to tour Cameco's Port Hope Conversion Facility with my classmates. That experience gave me a firsthand perspective on the facility, the people who work there, and the important work being carried out in Port Hope. After what I have learned through my education and what I personally experienced during my visit, I strongly support the proposed 20-year licence renewal.

My previous experience in healthcare has also influenced the way I view the importance of Canada's nuclear industry. Through my healthcare education and experience, I saw firsthand how important medical technologies involving radiation are to patient care. Entering the Radiation Safety program has allowed me to see another side of that connection. Radiation and nuclear science are not limited to energy production; they also contribute to medical imaging, diagnosis, treatment, and improved patient outcomes. This has given me an even greater appreciation for the importance of maintaining a strong and responsible nuclear industry in Canada.

Cameco's Port Hope Conversion Facility plays an important role in Canada's nuclear fuel cycle. The facility processes uranium trioxide into uranium dioxide and uranium hexafluoride. Uranium dioxide is used in the production of fuel for CANDU reactors, while uranium hexafluoride is exported for further processing and eventual use in fuel for light-water reactors. The CNSC identifies the PHCF as a Class IB nuclear fuel facility, and Cameco describes it as the only uranium conversion facility in Canada.

The importance of the facility extends beyond Port Hope. It is part of a larger nuclear supply chain that supports Canada's nuclear industry and contributes to the production of nuclear fuel used in Canada and internationally. Maintaining a reliable nuclear fuel supply chain is important as Canada continues to rely on nuclear energy and considers the future expansion of nuclear power. Continued operation of the PHCF therefore contributes to the strength and reliability of Canada's nuclear sector.

The facility also provides important employment opportunities in the local community. Cameco reports that hundreds of people work at the Port Hope Conversion Facility. These jobs support employees and their families while contributing to the local economy. A long-term licence would provide stability for current employees while helping maintain opportunities for skilled workers

entering the nuclear industry. As a student preparing for a career in radiation safety, I see the value in having strong, established nuclear facilities where the next generation of workers can learn, train, and build their careers.

My personal experience visiting the facility is one of the main reasons I support the renewal. Cameco opened its doors to our Radiation Safety class and gave us the opportunity to see what happens inside a nuclear facility. We were able to learn directly from employees and management and gain a better understanding of the responsibilities involved in operating a nuclear facility safely. This experience was extremely valuable to me because it allowed me to connect what I am learning in the classroom with the real-world responsibilities of working in the nuclear industry.

One of the things that stood out to me most during the visit was the emphasis placed on employee safety and radiation protection. We learned about the monitoring of employee radiation exposure and the resources available to support worker health. We also learned about emergency preparedness and the emergency response capabilities available at the site. As a student studying Radiation Safety, these topics were particularly meaningful to me. They demonstrated that radiation protection is not simply a set of regulations or procedures, but an important part of the workplace culture and day-to-day operation of the facility.

I was also impressed by Cameco's willingness to communicate with and educate students and members of the public. The opportunity to ask questions and learn directly from employees and management gave me a much better understanding of the facility and the work being performed there. Public communication and education are important because they help the surrounding community understand what takes place at a nuclear facility and the measures used to protect workers and the public.

Another part of the visit that left a lasting impression on me was hearing about Cameco's continued growth and its role in the global nuclear industry. Before entering the Radiation Safety program, I knew that the nuclear industry was important, but I did not fully understand how many different careers, skills, and areas of expertise were involved. Seeing the facility firsthand helped me understand the opportunities available within the industry and made me even more excited about the career path I have chosen.

For me, this licence renewal is therefore personal. When I started the Radiation Safety program at Loyalist College, I knew I wanted to build a career in the nuclear industry, but I was still learning what that career could look like. Being given the opportunity to walk through the Port Hope Conversion Facility and see the work firsthand made the industry feel real to me. I saw the people behind the operations, learned about the importance placed on radiation protection and employee safety, and spoke with individuals who have built careers in the field I am now preparing to enter.

I did not feel like I was simply being shown a facility. I felt that Cameco was making an effort to educate and encourage the next generation of people entering the nuclear industry. As a student, that meant a great deal to me. It gave me a better understanding of where my education could take me and strengthened my desire to contribute to Canada's nuclear industry in the future.

I recognize that operating a nuclear facility comes with significant responsibilities. Supporting a licence renewal should not mean overlooking those responsibilities. I believe continued operation should occur with strong regulatory oversight, accountability, and a continued commitment to safety. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission plays an important role in ensuring that Cameco operates within the requirements of its licence and applicable regulatory standards. I support the renewal with the understanding that this independent regulatory oversight will continue.

I believe a 20-year renewal would provide Cameco and its employees with the stability needed to continue investing in the facility, developing its workforce, supporting the local community, and contributing to Canada's nuclear supply chain. It would also allow students and future workers like myself to continue seeing opportunities within an industry that I believe will play an important role in Canada's future.

My support for this renewal is not based solely on the economic importance of Cameco or the role it plays in the nuclear fuel cycle. It is also based on what I personally experienced when Cameco opened its doors to my class. As someone who has come from a healthcare background and is now preparing for a career in radiation safety, I have developed an appreciation for the many ways radiation and nuclear science contribute to society. My visit to PHCF gave me an even greater appreciation for the people, knowledge, safety culture, and opportunities behind Canada's nuclear industry.

For these reasons, I respectfully support Cameco Corporation's application for a 20-year renewal of the Port Hope Conversion Facility's operating licence. Based on what I have learned through my Radiation Safety education and what I personally observed during my visit to the facility, I believe Cameco has demonstrated a strong commitment to safety, its employees, the community, and Canada's nuclear industry. I believe the continued operation of the Port Hope Conversion Facility, subject to the ongoing requirements and independent oversight of the CNSC, will provide significant benefits to Port Hope and to Canada's nuclear sector.

I hope that, one day, I can be one of the people contributing to that industry myself.

Thank you for considering my perspective as a Radiation Safety student, a member of the Port Hope community, and someone preparing to contribute to Canada's nuclear industry.