



**Written submission from
Ken Coates**

**Mémoire de
Ken Coates**

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 21, 2021

Senior Tribunal Officer, Secretariat
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the relicensing of Cameco's Cigar Lake mine in Saskatchewan. I know that the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission will be reviewing a broad cross-section of thoughts and contributions on the license application. As a public policy specialist with a strong professional interest in natural resource development, Northern policy and sub-Arctic and Arctic innovation. I have, for many years, been deeply impressed with Cameco's work in the North. I am not a technical specialist and cannot speak to the scientific and technical aspects of the mine operations. As a long-time observer of northern resource development, I can speak to the company's outreach with Indigenous and northern communities and to the firm's overall contribution to Northern Saskatchewan.

First Nations, Metis and non-Indigenous peoples have worked effectively with Cameco and its northern representatives for decades. While the company continues to work on expanding Indigenous and northern employment and business development, and community engagement, Cameco has a strong track record. There are many dozens of northern workers employed within the firm, strong community partnerships, and ongoing support for positive and constructive northern development. Cameco has been investigating a full range of technological innovations, with a continuing interest in ensuring ever more effective environmental protection.

Through collaboration with northern and Indigenous communities at properties like Cigar Lake, Cameco and other Canadian mining companies have transformed the relationship between community members and the mining sector. Transparent and extended consultations with the people of Northern Saskatchewan have helped the company and the region through the financial and employment difficulties of the past few years. These have been difficult years in the uranium business and Cameco has worked closely with community leaders and organizations to mitigate the dislocations. When the market rebounds, the company and Northern Saskatchewan should be well-placed to capitalize on the improvements.

Mining, particularly of uranium ore, has become increasingly difficult due to the need to accommodate Indigenous concerns, rapid technological change, unpredictable global markets, and the specific challenges of extracting uranium ore in a safe and socially-responsible manner. In all of these areas, Cameco remains a world leader. Equally, the First Nations, Metis and non-Indigenous peoples of Northern Saskatchewan, through active but careful collaboration with Cameco, are truly

impressive in their ability and willingness to work with the company and the broader uranium mining industry. Cameco's Cigar Lake mine is crucial to the economic and social well-being of Northern Saskatchewan. For these reasons, I hope that the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission will license the Cigar Lake mine.

Yours truly,



Dr. Ken Coates
Canada Research Chair in Regional Innovation
Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy
Room 181 -- 101 Diefenbaker Place
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7N 5B8

1 306 966 5136 (office)
1 306 341 0545 (cell)

Website: www.kencoates.com

kennethcoates@gmail.com
Ken.Coates@usask.ca