

**MEDIA RELEASE**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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**Public Money Should not be Sunk into Donkin Mine**

*Halifax* - Xstrata Coal Donkin Management announced last week that they have received approval to mine coal in Cape Breton.

Donkin coal has high sulfur and mercury content and contains too much pollution to be used in power plants in Nova Scotia. The Xstrata and Erdene proposal is to produce about 2.75 million tonnes of washed, export-grade coking coal per year. It will likely be sold to markets in Europe, South America, India and China.

“This is a good example of shipping our pollution overseas, said Cheryl Ratchford, EAC Energy Coordinator, “Out of sight, out of mind.”

We have somewhere from 5 to 10 years to dramatically reduce our carbon footprint, transform our economy to a sustainable one, and create green jobs before it is too late. Coal mining results in dangerous and irreversible environmental, economic and health impacts. It is unsustainable.

The Ecology Action Centre is not aware that the provincial government is providing subsidy to this project at this point, but urges the government not to support this industry with public money in the future. “The history of subsidizing the fossil fuel industry in NS is proof that it cannot result in stable long term employment.” said Ratchford.

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