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Subject: Canada's Radioactive Waste Policy Review

Dear Sir/Madam,

In September 2019, under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), an international group of nuclear experts visited Ottawa to review Canada's radioactive waste policy, which they found to be inadequate. Their subsequent report recommended that the Government of Canada improve its radioactive waste management policy and develop a strategy for implementing it. The Government accepted this recommendation and has launched a process to review and modernize Canada's Radioactive Waste Policy, with the stated intention "to meet international practices".

Among these international practices is the IAEA stipulation that the credibility of the regulatory body depends on its "being independent from the organization it regulates, as well as independent from other government agencies or industry groups that promote nuclear technologies". (IAEA General Safety Guide No. GSG-12, Organization, Management and Staffing of the Regulatory Body for Safety, 2.3)

This IAEA requirement:

- makes it unacceptable for the Nuclear Waste Management Organization, an association of companies that produce radioactive waste, to play any role in the development of a strategy for implementing radioactive waste policy; and
- necessitates the establishment of an independent Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning Agency separate from the nuclear industry.

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NDG-Westmount Federal Liberal Riding Association Policy Committee.

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