



Keeping the “Know” in Nova Scotia:
The facts about uranium exploration & mining

- Exploration and mining for uranium had been legally banned in Nova Scotia, until March 2025 when Premier Tim Houston removed the ban.
- The ban had originally been instituted after extensive public consultation in the early 1980s on the topic of uranium. Individuals and organizations made strong arguments and presented evidence on the risks of uranium to human and environmental health. The Premier at the time put in place a moratorium on further uranium exploration.
- The current, renewed interest in uranium by the provincial government and the mining industry lobby is being framed as helping with climate change through uranium’s potential use in so-called “clean” energy nuclear power plants. This could include small modular nuclear reactors. There are no nuclear power plants in Nova Scotia.
- Uranium was added to the list of so-called “critical minerals” in May 2025. Also in May, the Province announced that 3 areas in Nova Scotia would be made available for exploration licences for uranium through a competitive process.
- Uranium mining, like many other forms of mining, comes at a high cost to the environment and high risk to human health. Uranium exploration and mining pose the additional risk of exposure to radiation, which increases cancer risks.
- The techniques used to mine uranium use large amounts of water, which is contaminated by the mining and milling processes, and must be remediated (made safer) after mining.
- An additional risk of uranium mining is that the mine tailings (the rock left over after mine processing) are radioactive and remain so for thousands of years. Canada already has a problem with its existing waste from uranium mining.

For the full fact sheet and reference list please visit:
ecologyaction.ca/Keeping-theKnow-in-NS

