

## **Canadian Yearly Meeting minute (2011) on Uranium and Nuclear Issues**

Based on a variety of peace, environmental and health concerns, and with our testimonies of Simplicity, Peace, Equality, Community, Integrity and Earth Stewardship in mind, we advocate and are called to work for a phase-out of (1) the use of nuclear fission-based energy, (2) the mining, refining and exporting of uranium, and (3) the exporting of fission-based nuclear power reactor technology and fissionable materials.

A phase-out of nuclear fission energy could feasibly occur in Canada over a period of fifteen to twenty years, and, internationally, over some twenty to thirty years. During the phase-out period, no new nuclear reactors would be built, existing reactors would be shut down as they reach the end of their operational lifespans, energy conservation technologies would be employed in all energy sectors, and renewable energy sources would be encouraged to continue to expand. Reliable studies show that such a phase-out is compatible with a parallel phase-out of coal, and a reduced and more efficient use of oil and natural gas in the context of climate change concerns. (See references below.)

During the phase-out process, we affirm the right of affected workers to a just and reasonable transition process during which they may be retrained for work that is more ecologically sound.

We do not oppose the use of nuclear science in the field of medicine, acknowledging that nuclear medicine does not require the use of nuclear fission reactors for electricity production, and that there is enough uranium already mined to provide the small amount of uranium needed in nuclear medicine for an estimated two hundred years.

We ask Canadian Friends Service Committee to work with other Quaker, faith-based and secular organizations, both in Canada and internationally, toward the goal of a phase-out of nuclear fission-based energy and of greater accountability and honesty around the health, environmental and peace concerns related to nuclear fission.

We recognize that we must change our own lifestyles in accordance with these objectives. We shall continue to advocate for greater energy efficiency and a shift to renewable energy alternatives, and to encourage ecologically sound energy practices in our own lives.

### References:

Pembina Institute. Several publications, for example: August 2010, Renewable is Doable, Ontario's Green Energy Plan 2.0. [www.pembina.org/re](http://www.pembina.org/re)

Lester Brown, World on the Edge: How to Prevent Environmental and Economic Collapse (2011). Earth Policy Institute.

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