



NEWS RELEASE For Immediate Release

THE SALE OF THE BELLEDUNE INCINERATOR IS AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF BENNETT'S FAILURE

Bay-of-Chaleurs, July 7th, 2008 – The sale of the Bennett Environmental incinerator is an acknowledgement of the company's failure. The construction of the facility is estimated to have cost around 30 millions dollars and yet the company is going to get a mere 2.9 millions dollars. It's a total business failure.

When we also know that the test burns carried out by the company demonstrated many deficiencies that the minister of the Environment, Roland Haché, and his government were quick to accept as valid, it just shows how this project was really badly managed by both conservative and liberal governments as well as by the company itself.

“Recent scientific results also demonstrated that the Bennett's incinerator in Saint-Ambroise is contaminating the food chain with furans. This latest twist clearly indicates that incineration poses a significant danger to citizens, the environment and the fishing industry of the Bay of Chaleurs. The new buyer and the governments will have to take these new facts in consideration and respect the will of the citizens not to start up the Belledune incinerator.” said Luc Potvin of the Return to Sender Coalition.

The main question is now to know the identity of the new buyer and what they want to do with their incinerator. The new federal law on the elimination of PCBs and the adoption by the Belledune Municipal Council of their new rural plan permitting the incineration of PCBs, dioxins and furans to the conditions described in the draft permit to operate certainly demonstrate that political institutions are more interested at protecting the economic interests of business instead of protecting the health of the citizens, the environment and the fishing industry of the Bay of Chaleurs.

The managers of Bennett Environmental Inc. have said that they want to protect their incineration market by not allowing competition in their business sector. If it is the case, it means the new buyer will either want to burn other toxic substances or garbage or use the incinerator for other activities.

“We will wait to know the identity and the intentions of the next owners before taking the appropriate actions to protect the health of the citizens, the environment and the fishing industry.

If minister Haché and his liberal government wants to protect the economic interests of the new buyer, as has been done in the past, we will act to make sure that protecting the health of the citizens, protecting the environment and protecting the fishing industry are at the top of their political agenda.” concluded Florian Levesque of Environnement Vie.

For more information on the campaign to stop Bennett’s incinerator project, please go to:
www.baiedeschaleurs.net

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