

some aboriginal communities did not know what was being mined near their reserve. Former uranium miners were often not aware of what they were mining or its eventual uses. Harding blames this treatment of aboriginal communities on the “workings of the colonialist, corporate and ‘scientific’ propaganda at the heart of the nuclear struggle” (14). Using statistics and videos, government and corporate officials minimized the potential risks of uranium, and failed to address community concerns.

Saskatchewan uranium plays a key role in “the deadly global nuclear system” (262). Canada may have signed treaties that uranium not be used in the production of nuclear weapons, but these treaties are not enforceable. Once the uranium leaves the country other countries can do whatever they want to do with it.

Much of Canadian uranium ends up being used in depleted uranium munitions (DU). DU weapons were used in the 1991 Gulf War, in the Balkans and Kosovo, in Afghanistan, and in Iraq. “Childhood leukemia and some other cancer rates are already five-fold what they were in Iraq before the Gulf War ... In one survey (of Iraqi children) birth defects such as no limbs or eyes or other deformities are up eighteen-fold in 2001 over 1990” (255). Many Canadians might oppose the invasion of Iraq, but few know the role of Canadian uranium in this invasion, or in the other wars mentioned above. Canadian readers, who are appalled at the eventual uses of Canadian uranium, need to take a good look at how our various levels of government use our tax dollars to promote uranium on the world market. These readers should also check carefully to see if they are profiting from the uranium industry through their pension funds and private investments.

Hardy served as a consultant to the film *Uranium*. This film cites a very helpful report published by the British Columbia Medical Association (BCMA). The BCMA report documents the failure of Canadian uranium mining regulations to meet the high standards of other western countries. Both the film and the report raise questions about the ability of a government or regulatory body with a vested interest in uranium mining to adequately protect workers, the public and the environment.

Harding’s intent is to awaken Canadians from our collective ignorance or memory loss about the role of Canadian uranium in the global arms trade, and in the contamination of the earth. Hopeful signs reveal that some Canadians are attuned to this. Nova Scotia and British Columbia have imposed moratoriums on uranium exploration. In April 2008, the Nunatsiavut Government, in Newfoundland and Labrador, imposed a three-year moratorium on uranium mining. And in Alberta, there is an active anti-nuclear movement opposing the proposal to use nuclear energy to extract Alberta’s tar sand oil that already has a dirty reputation throughout the world.

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