

Baker Lake wants Kiggavik abandoned

**Judy Shuttleworth
NEWS/NORTH**

The Baker Lake municipal council is asking that the proposed Kiggavik uranium mine be shelved after residents voted against it in a March

plebiscite. The council wrote an open letter to Urangeseelschaft executive vice-president Mick Stuart asking him to abandon the Kiggavik project.

"We are asking you to

abandon the Kiggavik project," Mayor Garry Smith writes.

Baker Lake, N.W.T.

"On different occasions you have publicly stated that if the people of Baker

Citizens committee at heart of opposition to uranium

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Opposition to the Kiggavik uranium mine has the Baker Lake Concerned Citizens Committee at its center.

The group got its start in 1988 after local resident Joan Scottie organized a petition against the proposed mine and got about 300 people to sign. She heard about the mine through a newspaper article.

Baker Lake, N.W.T.

"No one understood what was happening," she says.

"I thought what about all those people who don't read the papers?"

Scottie and other Baker Lake residents felt Urangeseelschaft Canada was only explaining the



Joan Scottie helped organize the Baker Lake Concerned Citizens Committee

economic benefits of the proposed mine and none of the drawbacks.

"Our role is seeing to it that what the mining company proposes is understood," says committee member Fred Ford.

The committee's tiny office at a local hotel is full of books and photocopied

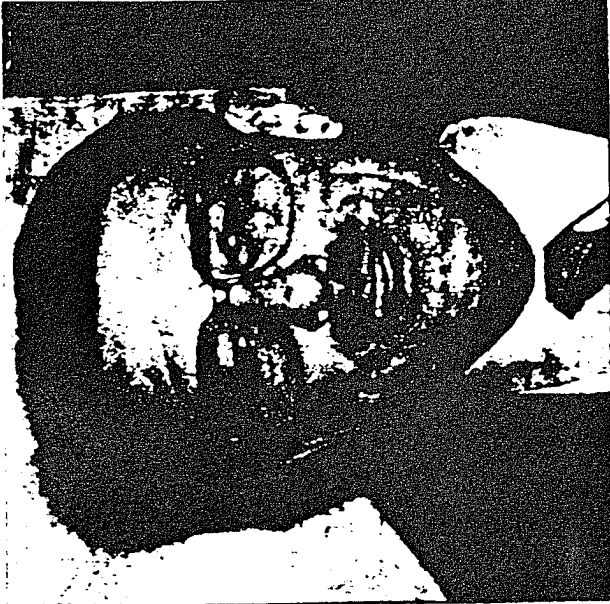
Lake did not want this proposed uranium mine to go ahead then your company would not proceed."

Seventy per cent of eligible voters cast ballots in the March 26 plebiscite. Ninety per cent of those voted against the uranium project.

Stuart says the idea "is not the sort of thing you consider lightly."

"We certainly are taking into consideration the results of the vote — which were disappointing to us — and we're considering the views of the hamlet council," Stuart said from his Toronto office last Wednesday.

The proposed open pit mine would be located 75 km west of Baker Lake. The company expects the ore to last about 10 years.



Mick Stuart, executive vice-president of Urangeseelschaft Canada Ltd., says his company is "considering the views of the hamlet council."

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