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Ms Charlene Johnson  
Minister of Environment and Conservation  
P.O Box 8709  
St. John's N.L  
AIB 4J6

Dear Ms Johnson:

What is legal these days? If no one complains about an incident, does it mean that it's perfectly legal? We have a serious problem in our society with double standards and double meanings. You can throw your soft drink can and garbage out of your car window, and get a fine. Yet your next door neighbor can pile garbage and car wrecks up to his bloody neck and nothing is ever done. Is it because no one takes environment serious? Is there a political agenda that I am not aware of? Like foreign over fishing. Newfoundlanders for instance, can only fish a specific time of the year, yet foreign fishing trawlers can pillage and rape the Grand Banks at will. Where is the conservation here? It's these incidents, and environmental infractions, that got our Cod Fishery in the mess it is in today. What is the hidden political agenda here? "I'm as curious as hell about that logic". The same goes for our no smoking by law that was implemented recently. Government decided first to have a smoking and none smoking area in every public place. They soon found out that the smokers were poisoning everyone else in the building. Henceforth, no one smokes in any public place, including the Danny Cleary Stanley Cup Celebrations, in Harbour Grace field. Now that's amazing!!!!

Let's take the number of incidents and environmental infractions on the North Shore of Conception Bay over the years. This lackadaisical approach to environmental issues is horrendous to say the least. Is it because no one really seems

interested, or no sense of community, that these incidents and infractions are construed as perfectly legal? With this mind set how can government issue more cabin permits to places like Cliffty Pond, when they should be spending their time and money on programs educating folks on conservation and outdoor etiquette. Let's face it! What ever you do, you are. In most work environments right across Canada all incidents and infractions on the job have to be reported immediately to your supervisor. It is believed by reporting all incidents and infractions, it would help stave off a disaster. It's because of prompt action that safety is not compromised.

So where's the prompt action in this provinces wild areas? Given the number of incidents and infractions I have witnessed my self, if my community and wild area were a job site, the place would be shut down immediately. If folks want cabins and the 21<sup>st</sup> century garbage that comes along with it, folks should build cabins in places that can't compromise the safety of every wild area. Designate an area like Western Bay Line for cabin development where 21<sup>st</sup> century garbage can be picked up by the proper garbage disposal, and the area can be monitored on a regular basis. Don't open more remote wild areas to indiscriminate dumping, where 21<sup>st</sup> century garbage is packed in and never packed out. In Western Bay line the damage is already done. It's obvious through urbanization that folks have become desensitized from their environmental legacy and obligation. Cliffty Pond and other wild areas are no different then the no smoking by law. You can't have half clean air and half clean water, or half of Cliffty pond cabins and the other half a protected area. There is no striking a balance here considering the number of incidents and infractions involved. The writing is on the wall; all you have to do is read it. In the long run future generations would be glad that we left wild places like Cliffty Pond alone. Justice and common sense will have to prevail like it did with the no smoking by law, or we are in big trouble. In Conclusion Ms Johnson and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador are we going to protect our water and wild areas from human garbage. Or are we going to let it fester like so many governments and citizens have done in the past. Hoping someone else would take care of this mess. Just look back at hurricane Katrina and the devastation it cost the people of Louisiana. They couldn't buy a drop of drinking water. By the time they finally got water many had died. We shouldn't have a water problem here if extreme weather were to come our way. That to me is good enough reason to leave our wild areas alone. In fact, all you read about these days in the newspaper and on television is a society and environment under great stress. Just cut the supply lines between Newfoundland and the mainland and you will finally see the consequences of environmental degradation. In the end it's this uncomfortably thin veil that separates us from survival living and modern living we should be careful about. The next time our citizens and government leaders decide to look the other way when it comes to environmental incidents and infractions, just ask yourself this question, "is this perfectly legal"? Would I want my family and friends to live and work in a degraded environment? Unless your brain dead you'll only want the best. In the future, environmental stewardship will be far more important and safer than a bunch of shacks dumped off in the woods. Like I said, what's perfectly legal? Let's get with the program!!!!

Considering the number of incidents and environmental infractions to date ( What's the problem? ) Just look at the pics on my web site. A picture is worth a thousand words.  
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Yours in conservation Tony O'Leary

CC: Prime Minister Stephen Harper  
Premier Danny Williams  
Mr. Shane Mahoney  
The Compass  
The Evening Telegram  
Newfoundland Sportsman magazine