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Dry Stack Tailings for Future Yukon Mines: de Jong

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Mine tailings no longer need to be stored behind dams or sent as slurry into oceans, rivers or streams. A Green Party government would require that tailings be dewatered using evaporation, vacuum or pressure filters and stacked under non-permeable membranes.

“A Mount Polley-type environmental disaster must never happen here,” said Frank de Jong, Green Party Leader. **“A failure of the proposed Casino mine dam would cause catastrophic damage to the Yukon river.”**

More and more mines are choosing to filter press and dry stack tailings. Filtering tailings reduces water consumption and limits seepage from tailings. Dry stacked tailings are not subject to slope failure or flow.

Furthermore, royalties from Yukon mines should stay in Yukon, injecting new revenue into our local economies, creating multiplier effects.

“Mining should be a bonanza for local communities, not for distant shareholders,” continued de Jong, **“Yukon’s resources belong to Yukoners.”**

Presently $\frac{2}{3}$ of hard rock mining jobs go to outsiders. A Green government would slow down extraction by throttling access to load bearing ore to ensure Yukon’s non-renewable resources provide many generations of local employment and royalties.

The Yukon Government receives almost no royalties from hard rock companies, with the exception is the Minto mine which pays significant smelter return royalties to Selkirk FN. Placer mining pays a paltry \$0.17 per ounce of gold.

A Green government would collect a 5% royalty on placer mining, raising placer royalties to about \$60/ounce of gold, and collect smelter return royalties (similar to the Minto mine) on hard rock mining--a system which disallows deductions for mine operating costs.

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