

**Statement by Carol Ferguson,
on behalf of SuNNS (Sustainable Northern Nova Scotia Society)**

I am speaking today in support of John Perkins on behalf of SuNNS, the Sustainable Northern Nova Scotia Society, of which he is a member. SuNNS members are deeply disturbed by the brutal actions of the RCMP which caused serious physical and emotional harm to Mr. Perkins during a public information meeting sponsored by Atlantic Gold in Sherbrooke, Nova Scotia on May 23, 2019. Further, we are greatly concerned that the RCMP action was initiated in response to a request by Atlantic Gold to remove Mr. Perkins after he asked probing questions during the first session of the public meeting. We view this action as an attempt to suppress open civil discourse and engagement by members of the public in a public process, an action which is unacceptable in a democratic society.

SuNNS members know Mr. Perkins as an informed, respectful, law-abiding citizen who is deeply concerned about open-pit gold mining in Nova Scotia, which is why he was present at the Atlantic Gold-sponsored information meeting. We have encouraged him in holding both the RCMP and Atlantic Gold accountable and will continue to support him.