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--- For Immediate Release ---

Andy Kuczynski and Mark Miller Recommit their Stand with Citizens to Protect our Precious Water Resources in Springfield on World Water Day

www.un.org/en/observances/water-day

Water is the earth's most precious resource. Despite the apparent abundance of water, only 3% of all water on our planet is fresh water. There are irrevocable consequences if water is contaminated.

The United Nations has recognized access to clean water as a human right. It is part of the International Sustainable Development Goals. The UN Water Conference is being held this week in New York, with local Member of Parliament and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, The Hon. Terry Duguid, representing Canadians.

Other jurisdictions including the European Parliament, and our own Provincial Government have emphasized the importance of water. Manitoba's Water Strategy was released in late 2022.

Kuczynski and Miller will Fight to Protect our Aquifer and Water Rights for Springfield

The Clean Environment Commission (CEC) held hearings in March 2023 in part to consider public input towards an Environment License for the proposed SIO Silica Sand Extraction Project proposed near Vivian, Manitoba.

The general public, non-government organizations and SIO Silica presented hydrogeological data and related project details.

By far, a vast majority of presenters were opposed or had concerns with the proposed project. Kuczynski and Miller led efforts to have the RM of Springfield present an official statement on the proposal ensuring all concerns are addressed and that the Papadopulos & Associates (January 10, 2023) Report, particularly Section 5: Summary of Peer Review Findings (pg 35-36 seen below) was made available to the CEC which highlighted many deficiencies in the initiative.

- Hydrogeology and Geochemistry Assessment Report does not alleviate concerns that the site investigations have adequately characterized potential impacts to groundwater resources in the RM.
- In the absence of data, it may be more appropriate to assume that the operations will result in a mass of loose sand with the potential for progressive, large-scale collapse of the overlying strata.
- Request a formal report on the first year of performance in order to assess the impacts of mining and the annual rehabilitation prior to full scale-up of operations
- If the proposal is approved, a detailed monitoring program will have to include an early-warning system that will halt operations if widespread collapse does occur and propagates to the ground surface.

- Monitoring program of groundwater levels and detailed geotechnical ground movement
- Proper sealing of wells that are no longer in operation via a continuous abandonment program

Miller and Kuczynski continue to uphold their election promise to protect our water and stand with residents who elected them 5 months ago. We are concerned about technically unproven corporate mining interests who have also undertaken an intensive “green” publicity campaign. The potential risks, the unforeseen potential to harm our precious water aquifer and the strong public opposition to this project are evident.

CONTACT NOTE:

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