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Pull plug on fur farms before water unusable, advocates say

Recent report shows water pollution above safety levels near NS mink farms

HALIFAX - A damning water-quality report commissioned by the Nova Scotia Department of Environment is all that's needed to shut down fur farms, a national advocacy group is saying.

The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (APFA) is asking residents to get in touch with their elected officials and request the same after the report indicated that surface water levels around mink farms in western Nova Scotia are above safety thresholds for potable and recreational water.

"Environmental and animal welfare groups have been saying that the run off and environmental degradation from mink farms is harmful," says Michael Howie, spokesperson for APFA. "And now the government, for the first time, has done their own study to confirm it. Yet the mink farms are still in operation, still forcing harmful pollutants into the waterways and still acting like nothing is wrong. It's time for our elected officials to take action."

Nova Scotia is home to the largest contingent of mink farms in Canada – which also means it is home to the largest number of mink, all of whom produce copious amounts of fecal matter and urine daily.

"Nova Scotia is one of the most beautiful parts of our great country," adds Howie. "But unless the government acts, all those wonderful waterways, cottages and growing agricultural industries like the wineries will be worse than useless. Is this the reputation that Nova Scotia wants for its residents: 'we may have ruined the water, but we made a few bucks along the way.'"

Residents are urged to learn the truth about fur farms at FurBearerDefenders.com, where they can also find out how to contact their elected officials.

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Interviews available upon request. Aerial photos and footage of fur farms in Nova Scotia is also available. Please see attached Facts Sheet for more information on fur farming and environmental damages.
