

## **Marie Lake drilling plan raises concerns**

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Page: A19

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Re: "OSUM stands by plan to drill under cottage-country lake: Residents 'don't want that mine under the lake'," The Journal, July 12.

The process of approval of auction of lands beneath Marie Lake has triggered substantial and appropriate concerns and questions about industrial development in Alberta today.

Is there any area apart from designated parks that is safe from development?

What is the plan for Alberta lands where an array of competing interests continue to press their agenda? What science is applied to establish the limits or "carrying capacity" of ecosystems, especially the watersheds in this time of declining resources?

Is a closed-door process for selling subsurface mineral rights in the public interest?

And finally, what role should citizens living and owning property in a region have in deciding the land use?

These are important and reasonable questions particularly in relation to this beautiful area valued for its animal and plant habitat, recreation and tourism assets.

The market, on which this government bases virtually all development decisions, is not a sufficient basis on which to plan our future. Good governance consists in ensuring sound science, public interest and sustainability must have priority over the market.

Marie Lake is a symbol for growing numbers of Albertans that a radical change in the pace and scope of development in this province is needed, based on a transparent plan. We demand that this government abandon its blind faith in the market and honour citizens and science in making decisions that serve our children and all future generations.

David Swann, MLA,

Calgary-Mountain View,

Liberal environment critic