

*Inter-Church Sign on Opportunity: A letter to four Premiers with questions about their commitment to developing Small Modular Nuclear Reactors*

---

Dear friends & colleagues,

There are not so quiet whisperings and rumblings about an up-coming federal election. Environment and climate change will be an issue. It's time we raise our voices before the election about the issue of Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMRs) and their deflection, delay, and distraction from the real issues of climate change and renewable energy. As the CBC reports the New Brunswick Energy Minister says the province cannot meet the 2030 deadline for coal phaseout because that does not provide enough time to install alternatives like SMRs. So much for reaching Canada's emissions-reductions goal of 40 to 45 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.

It is obvious that the four premiers that signed the Memorandum of Understanding regarding SMRs had an inadequate understanding of how to address climate change and neglected to do due diligence on a fantastical proposal for which there is not even an approved design or working prototype. These governments have been duped by the surreal claims and lobbying efforts of the nuclear power companies.

We have serious concerns about pursuing this technology and have questions we would like the premiers to address. In particular, has there been any independent, expert review of these SMR proposals; should this not be a matter for rigorous parliamentary debate; have the economic, health, safety, security, and decommissioning risks and costs been considered; given they will use enriched uranium (plutonium) are we not creating material for the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Most citizens of these provinces, and, indeed, Canada, have not yet even been made aware of this MoU and its far-ranging implications. At the very least, Canadians must be given notice of this proposal, have some basic questions answered, and be given opportunities to participate. To do otherwise is unreasonable. and unacceptable.

Please consider joining your fellow concerned organizations and individuals in sending a clear message to these premiers about our questions and concerns. The letter is attached. Please respond by indicating you will sign on to our joint letter.

Thank you for joining us,  
Michael Poellet, President

Inter-Church Uranium Committee Educational Cooperative

[icucec.sk@gmail.com](mailto:icucec.sk@gmail.com)

(See Letter below)

---



September 1, 2021

Dear Premier;

Re: Small Modular Nuclear  
Reactors (SMNRs)

## **ICUCEC**

**Inter-Church Uranium Committee  
Educational Co-operative  
Box 7724 – Saskatoon, SK Canada S7K 4R4  
[www.icucec.org](http://www.icucec.org)  
email: [icucec.sk@gmail.com](mailto:icucec.sk@gmail.com)**

This letter is coming to you from a number of organizations and individuals with knowledge of the due diligence that should be required before authorizing, or investing in, a fleet of new nuclear reactors.

1. We have seen no evidence that an independent peer review has been conducted of the plans for the SMNR technologies you are promoting. Do you have such evidence?
2. Has your legislature, with adequate parliamentary debate, addressed the sanity of building new nuclear reactors when there are no approved long-term storage facilities anywhere in Canada for the radioactive waste from existing reactors?
3. Has your government considered the risks involved in using “advanced”-nuclear fuels? Both the use of plutonium and enriched uranium as fuels will require new levels of safety and security beyond those required for existing CANDU reactors.
4. Given plans to sell these new reactors abroad, has sufficient consideration been given to the danger of nuclear weapons proliferation with the use of plutonium-based fuels?
5. The industry and supporting governments anticipate “recycling” of existing used nuclear fuel to extract plutonium through reprocessing or pyro-processing technology. Has your government investigated the extraordinary costs and difficulties in dealing with the radioactive waste streams resulting from such activities in the USA, UK, France, and Russia?

We urge your government to take the time to learn about the economic disadvantages as well as the advantages of these proposed new nuclear reactor designs. These new reactors may well turn out to be unviable, like the two Maple reactors that were built at Chalk River, Ontario, the Slowpoke District Heating reactor that was built in Pinawa,

Manitoba, or the Superphénix reactor that was built in France. Such mistakes in the nuclear field can result in very expensive long-term liabilities that far exceed any benefits that may have been expected.

If we can be of help by providing resource materials or suggesting experts to consult, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

The Inter-Church Uranium Committee Educational Cooperative

ORGANIZATIONS

[insert names]

INDIVIDUALS

[insert names]