

B L Morrison
Postville

Presents

Energy to Change the World

Cast

Adam	Shane Gear
Jacob	Gregory Jacque
Tiffany	Gillian Gear
Speaker 1	Grant Gear
Citizen 1	Bronson Jacque
Citizen 2	Jessica Sheppard
Citizen 3	Heather Edmunds
Natalie	Heather Edmunds
Nunatsiavut Rep 1	Bronson Jacque
Nunatsiavut Rep 2	Jessica Sheppard
Nunatsiavut Rep 3	Heather Edmunds

Props: overhead projector, 6 chairs, table

Being confronted with the fact that a moratorium may be taking place, different people have many different views on the subject, whether it is Aurora workers, Nunatsiavut representatives or local town members. The decision for the moratorium goes ahead, for better or for worse.

Workers of Aurora Energy inc. are arriving back in Postville (on chopper) after a two-week shift in camp. Chopper noise is heard. The 3 workers take off their headphones, exit the "chopper".

Scene 1

- Jacob:** Thanks for the lift. (*chopper takes off – recording of chopper*)
- Adam:** Wow, it's great to be back home in Postville.
- Tiffany:** Your family will be glad to have you back for this two-week turnaround.
- Jacob:** Yeah, you're lucky to live in such a great spot and only have to leave home for a couple of weeks at a time. Poor Tiffany and me, we spend 3 months at a time before we get a chance to go home to our families in Vancouver.
- Adam:** Yeah, I'm lucky alright. The pay is great, even if it is really hard work.
- Tiffany:** Any plans for your break, Adam? Will you be taking the wife and kids to the cabin, or maybe doing a little fishing?
- Adam:** Oh for sure. But first we have to think about that public meeting that's going on tonight at the community centre.
- Jacob:** Yes, we'll all be there to give William Wayland some support. It's his job as liaison officer for Aurora to hear the concerns of the community and take them back to the Company to get some answers.
- Tiffany:** You're kind of caught in the middle, aren't you, Adam? I mean you must have family members and friends who want the Nunatsiavut Government to stop the mine. So many people are afraid of uranium because of the effects of radiation.
- Adam:** That's right. The Company has had experts come in and tell the people that this deposit of uranium is very low grade, and the effects of its radiation are no worse than things like using a microwave oven or sitting at a computer all day. But some people don't believe that.
- Tiffany:** If Nunatsiavut does impose a 3-year moratorium on the mine, Jacob and I will just be sent to work at other projects of Aurora Energy in other places, but what effect will it have on you, Adam?
- Adam:** Well, for one thing, there are certainly no other jobs around here that pay the salary I'm getting now. My wife will have to go back to work, if she can get back

on as a clerk in the store. And as for me, I may have to try for a job with Voisey's Bay, or even on the island for their new project at Hebron. Then I'll be like you guys -- away from home for maybe 3 months at a time.

Tiffany: That will be hard on your wife and kids.

Jacob: Look on the bright side, you two! Maybe the moratorium will be voted down and the mine will go ahead right on schedule.

Adam: I guess the meeting tonight will help our representatives make up their minds which way to vote. I'll see you both there. *(Starts to leave)*

Jacob: Yeah, later, Adam. I'll meet you around the refreshment table! *(Jacob and Tiffany exit opposite)*

Lights down

Scene 2

Adam's wife, Natalie is cooking supper. Adam enters and Natalie throws her arms around his neck, smiling.

Natalie: Adam! It's so good to see you!

Adam: You too! Two weeks in, two weeks out, I really can't complain, but I hope the 2 weeks home lasts longer! *(Adam takes a sniff of his house)* Something smells really good. What are you cooking?

Natalie: That would be your favourite meal, caribou stir-fry.

Adam: *(Licking his lips)* Yummmmm, lets dig in. Kids! I'm home...hey where is everybody?

Natalie: They're gone to the gym. So it's just the two of us! A chance to get caught up on all the news. *(They begin eating; after a short while she continues, disappointedly)* Adam, I've been hearing things around town ...

Adam: *(surprised)* Yeah, like what, Natalie?

Natalie: Well, I don't know if this is true or not but there have been some people talking about the Nunatsiavut Government holding a vote something about stopping the mine. If this moratorium is put in place, what will we do? Torngat Fisheries

closed our fish plant last year, and there haven't been any homes built in Postville by Torngat Housing in the last couple of years. Where will you find a job? What's really going on? You work for Aurora, you must know.

Adam: Yes, it's true, the Nunatsiavut representatives will be voting to see if they want to impose a moratorium to temporarily stop the mine or not. There's a public meeting tonight at the community centre for people to ask questions, and for our representatives to get a feeling of how the people want them to vote. What really bugs me is that the mine affects Postville more than any other community, but all the communities will have representatives voting. Postville is only one of five communities voting, and I'm not sure that the other towns see the project the same way we do.

Natalie: Yeah, I guess you're right Adam. And if our own town is split on both sides of this issue, how can we expect the other communities to agree? I'm afraid the vote will be pretty close, but I hope the moratorium doesn't pass. *(Awkward silence)*

Adam: This supper is really good I must say. *(Looks at Natalie, smiling)*

Natalie: Thanks...but thinking about all of our bills, and the new skidoo we were going to buy this fall, I'm not hungry anymore... *(she gets up and leaves the dinner table, leaving Adam by himself)*

Lights down.

Scene 3

A public meeting being held at the local recreation hall, where an Aurora speaker is standing, addressing the crowd of local citizens.

Speaker: Good evening everyone; I know that you all have many questions that you want to ask, which is why we are having this public meeting. By way of introduction, my name is William Wayland and many of you already know me. Nunatsiavut Government has been in support of Aurora's mining activities in the early stages of exploration, and even has allowed drilling for core samples of uranium ore. We are now at the point where we need further commitment to begin an open-pit mine and actually extract the product from the ground. So if we could get started, and ask questions one at a time, I'm sure I will try to answer to the best of my ability.

Citizen 1: *(stands)* How will this mine benefit our community, and Labrador? *(sits)*

- Speaker:** That's a great question. If the mine is allowed to go ahead, it will benefit Labrador as a whole by getting itself noticed as a source of uranium worldwide. As you are aware, Aurora does its best to try and help each community; donations are usually given moments after the request. In addition to that, we are committed to hiring local people, and training those who are willing to learn. It will be a great career for many local residents. *(sits)*
- Citizen 2:** *(stands)* I understand that the market never stays in one spot; it's always going higher or lower. I'm just wondering with the price of uranium going down and you selling it for maybe \$40.00 a pound, would this be enough to break even with finances? *(sits)*
- Speaker:** With the great amount of low radiation uranium we have found, each pound costs \$43.00, however, we will not sell it at that price because we know that different companies are competing to get uranium for electricity, to replace hydro, and they will even sign contracts to buy uranium before it's even processed, therefore, we know we have it, and they want it so badly we will more than likely sell it for about 20 to 30 dollars more than the cost price. *(sits)*
- Citizen 3:** *(stands)* What about the environment? There's a lot of talk about tailings that have to be disposed of somehow. What about the water and the wildlife? And what about the open-pit mine when the uranium is all gone? Will you just leave the land with giant holes in it?
- Speaker:** We are dedicated to make sure that we have the highest standards of workplace safety, health, and environmental protection. The process that we have underlined was to cover back in those holes, making sure that the land can recover its beauty. If we make a mess, we will clean it up. We also are looking at ways of dealing with the tailings and we will present some choices to the people later on. *(sits)*
- Citizen 1:** *(stands)* I don't know why everybody's so negative about radio-activity! We only have one radio station here, and I for one think it could use a whole lot more activity!
- Citizen 2:** Oh sit down, Hank. *(Others laugh and whisper)*
- Speaker:** *(laughing)* I would like to thank each and everyone of you for your questions and concerns, there are refreshments over there next to Tiffany, (points to Tiffany) and if you think of anything other questions, just look me afterwards and I will gladly hear you out.

Lights down.

Scene 4

Nunatsiavut government representatives are sitting around the table, dressed in traditional dickies, with their hands folded.

Rep 1: *(Stands)* You all know why we are here; we have a very important decision to make about our land. This decision regards the moratorium, should we put a stop to Aurora's plans for an open pit mine or let them go ahead with their mining?
(Sits)

Rep 2: *(Stands)* I believe we should all vote yes to the moratorium. Look at all of the different health concerns uranium can and will cause, look at the damage it will do to habitats, the land itself, the wildlife, the fish, the water. And what about the tailings that are supposed to be so dangerous? A moratorium will give the Nunatsiavut Government time to put some guidelines in place to control Aurora's activities, and it will give them time to come up with a suitable plan to dispose of the tailings. *(Sits)*

Rep 3: *Sstands)* To every situation there are negative effects, but let's look at the positives for a moment. Aurora has stated that they have the highest standards of environmental safety, as well as health safety. They have told us that they will find a way to contain the tailings, and get rid of the material. They are in the process of figuring that out. What if we stop them now, and they end up pulling out altogether and getting their uranium from somewhere else? We need the mine for employment. What else do we have? *(Sits)*

Rep 2: *(Stands)* If they do not know how to get rid of these tailings as of yet, my vote remains the same. *(Sits)*

Rep 3: I have been speaking to some of the elders and they say we need to consider the young people. Living off the land was fine in their day, but nobody can survive or raise a family that way today. Our young men and women need jobs. In their day there was barely enough money to survive and almost everybody in Labrador was poor, but now we have the chance to make good money and have a standard of living that was never possible before. I know how I am going to vote.

Rep 1: *(Stands)* Thanks to everyone who put in some interesting points, now we have to get down to business. All in favour the moratorium raise your hand. *(Four of seven hands are raised – Postville's two reps do not raise their hands)* Then it's final, the moratorium will be imposed on Aurora for three years. Their drilling

operations must stop immediately and cannot resume until the moratorium is lifted. Meeting adjourned.

Lights down

Scene 5

The news of the moratorium being put in place over Aurora had spread fast throughout the coast of Labrador. Tiffany and Jacob are having a small discussion over a cup of coffee on their last day.

Tiffany: You know Jacob, I'm sure gonna miss this place. *(Drinking her coffee)*

Jacob: Yeah, but look on the bright side. We may be back here in three years! *(Jacob cracks a grin and Tiffany shares a laugh)*

Tiffany: *(quietly)* I guess so, but 3 years is very long time, and I may find something else.

Jacob: Well I know that I'll be back, Aurora is the best company I have worked for yet, and Labrador is a beautiful place with some really great people. *(Drinks)*

Tiffany: No doubt, but it sure seems as all of this went by so fast. *(Tiffany stares around)* I have many memories and friends that I will never forget. Like Adam and his wife, Natalie. *(Tiffany wipes her eyes; Adam enters)*

Adam: Hey Jacob, Hi Tiffany. I just dropped by to say goodbye.

Jacob: Hey, man, it's only temporary. Your ugly mug is the first thing I want to see when we get back to Postville after this moratorium is over. After that it will be smooth sailing all the way!

Tiffany: Promise you'll stay in touch, Adam. I don't want to lose my friends; that is something that no government or moratorium can take away from me.

Adam: Sure thing, Tiffany. There's always Facebook, right? *(Tiffany smiles)*

Jacob: Of course, Tiffany! We should be happy about everything we shared. It has been unforgettable. Between the beautiful scenery, the beautiful facilities, and the beautiful Labrador women *(looks at crowd with smile)* I was beginning to get spoiled.

Tiffany: Adam, what are you and Natalie going to do now?

- Adam:** I don't know yet. I'll draw EI for the winter. I mean playing Guitar Hero and watching hockey never gets boring right, and we'll see what happens next spring. My people have survived here on the coast of Labrador for thousands of years, and we have always found a way.
- Tiffany:** That's right, Adam. Not all of Labrador's energy is in the ground, eh? Most of it is in its people!
- Jacob:** Right on! *(Lifts his coffee cup)* Here's to Labrador Energy!

Scene 6

Each student one at a time comes out on stage, saying one word of the phrase, "Labrador - Enough energy to change the world!" written on large cards