

April 20, 2015

Dr. Ray Gosine  
Chair, Hydraulic Fracturing Review Panel  
c/o Office of Associate Vice-President (Research)  
Bruneau Centre for Research and Innovation IIC-3067  
Memorial University of Newfoundland  
St John's, NL A1C 5S7

Dear Dr. Gosine,

Submission to the panel on hydraulic fracturing ( Socio-economic impacts)

The direct financial contribution from the province to the tourism industry in Newfoundland & Labrador proves the commitment of the government to its short and long-term vision and to the confidence the government has in the future development of Gros Morne National Park.

The introduction of hydraulic fracturing into the tourism conversation might just be the reason for stopping people from choosing Gros Morne as their vacation destination. Right or wrong, the perception related to fracking / oil exploration activities alone, will have a detrimental effect on the local economy and the reputation of Gros Morne being a "pristine location". The co-existence of oil exploration and sustainable tourism along the west coast of Newfoundland seems contrary to a sound government investment practice.

In addition, I understand that the NL Department of Tourism has embarked on a growth tourism strategy through its *2020 Vision Uncommon Potential*. I can't understand how burning flares, increased commercial traffic on the highways and visual pollution can fit into the picture to attract more tourists.

Government surveys indicate clearly that 96% of the visitors come to Gros Morne for its pristine beauty and 43% for the fact that it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site,

The questions then to be asked and answered, from both a business and a taxpayer's perspective are:

- 1) Why put at risk a growing industry?
- 2) Why nullify government's investment in the Gros Morne region?
- 3) Why jeopardize, on the international level, Gros Morne's UNESCO status?

Regardless of how one might examine this proposition, this exploration project is not viable, nor wise. The risks outweigh the perceived benefits.

As a person who owns a summer home on the west coast of Newfoundland, I trust that your panel will recommend to the NL government to exempt Gros

Morne National Park and its enclave communities from oil exploration by establishing a protective area around the park. This is a solution that would be applauded nation-wide and would protect this provincial, national and international icon.

Sincerely yours,

B Gallas