

April 29, 2015

Dr. Ray Gosine  
Chair, Hydraulic Fracturing Review Panel  
c/o Office of Associate Vice-President  
Bruneau Centre for Research and Innovation IIC-3067  
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Dr. Gosine and panel members:

This refers to the issue of oil exploration in the communities next to Gros Morne national park. As a fervent supporter of Parks Canada's mandate and a yearly visitor to Gros Morne National Park from Ontario, I was very disappointed to read in the media that hydraulic fracturing is planned as the method of extracting oil in communities next to the park.

As you are probably aware, oil exploration and extraction via hydraulic fracturing has been linked to groundwater, surface water, and seawater contamination, threats to fisheries, spills from drilling sites as well as with the risks related to the transportation (through communities) of chemical waste involved, not to mention the negative effects on tourism. In Quebec, the final report (December 15, 2014) of the Bureau d'Audiences Publiques sur l'Environnement) indicated that the "incapacity of the industry to guarantee long-term integrity of gas wells" and that it would NOT be beneficial for that province.

In addition, although the oil and gas industry claims that this method has greatly improved over the years, the fact remains that this method, and the inclusion of oil exploration that close to the park will tarnish park's image, reputation and will, without a doubt, place a challenge, if not a high risk, on the provincial

tourism industry. Mining and oil exploration close to a national park might be somehow tolerated in other parts of the country, but will certainly face some serious objections from the international community where oil exploration (fracking) is "just across the road" from a national park such as Gros Morne.

I trust that your recommendations will reflect the voice of the Gros Morne's supporters from urban centers and across Canada to prohibit oil exploration/exploitation in such proximity to a national and international treasure. The creation of a protective zone around the park will be well received.

Yours,