

Greetings to you and the other members of the Newfoundland-Labrador Hydraulic Fracturing Review Panel.

I understand November 9 (today) is the deadline for submitting presentations given at the hearings but not submitted before the panel held hearings.

I submitted my main comments to the panel by email on September 14 at 3:42 p.m. It was a creative submission called "The Clotheslines and the Bee". I trust you have that.

Before I read "The Clotheslines and the Bee", I read the final three sentences of the third edition of the "Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking"

You can find the document at [http://concerned healthy.org](http://concernedhealthy.org). The part I read in Port au Port follows.

"All together, findings to date from scientific, medical, and journalistic investigations combine to demonstrate that fracking poses significant threats to air, water, health, public safety, climate stability, seismic stability, community cohesion, and long-term economic vitality. Emerging data from a rapidly expanding body of evidence continue to reveal a plethora of recurring problems and harms that cannot be averted or cannot be sufficiently averted through regulatory frameworks. In the words of esteemed pediatrician Jerome Paulson, MD, there is "no evidence that...fracking can operate without risks to human healthAny claims of safety are based on wishful thinking."

I also addressed Peter Fenwick who claimed in his presentation that fracking would in no way cause harm to the tourism being developed in his neck of the woods. I told him that I understood where he was coming from, i.e. his "Inn At The Cape" would have good-paying guests all year round for the short span of time fracking would be happening were it approved. I reminded him that tourism was a renewable resource, represented 1.1 billion dollars a year in revenue province-wide including \$230 million per year for the west coast. The point I was making was that it didn't make economic sense to abort the ever-expanding, renewable, sustainable income-generating industry of tourism on the west coast by introducing the short-term, environmentally destructive, water-depleting practice of fracking which even Mr. Fenwick knows would put an end to tourism.

I then read my main submission.

THE CLOTHESLINES

AND THE BEE

Every clothesline on the west coast waves "No Fracking" banners as the review panel members drive by on the narrow, twisting roads that wind their way through the small, quiet communities of Western Newfoundland.

Every snow-white bed sheet, every billowing pillow case, every rainbow-coloured assortment of family clothes flaps its message with a vigour the men driving by cannot ignore: "We are washed in clean chemical-free ground water!", the flying shirts and pants and t-shirts shout. "We are drying in pollution-free air! The humans who hung us out to dry today will bury their faces in us to absorb the fragrance of the fresh sea air that will cling to us when they bring us in this evening. The land holding the poles of this clothesline holds no fracking waste water. Not a bit of it! The blue berries growing over by our far pole are safe to eat and it is safe for the children to crawl on the ground as the older people pick the nourishing fruit."

The people who own the clotheslines are not thinking of the panel and its task when they take a break from hanging clothes and raise their arms above their heads to breathe in the life-giving air and to feel the warmth of August sunshine undimmed by the dust of fracking trucks. They hear the sound of the waves on the nearby beach, the call of the gulls, the chirp of migrating birds visiting their feeders, unaware that what they are hearing is the absence of the noise of thousands of fracking trucks with their loads of chemicals, salt, sand, water, waste water, and equipment. The chirp of a chickadee as someone comes to the clothesline to retrieve a tea towel has no competition from the 24-7 cacophony of fracking.

The people do not know that, by simply following a centuries-old tradition of putting freshly-washed clothes on a line to dry in clean, fresh air, they are sending the most convincing of all "NO FRACKING" messages to the panel members who drive by.

The panel members, used to receiving messages on a computer, do not know the clotheslines' message is imprinted on the psyches.

Perhaps a member of the hydraulic fracturing review panel rolls down the car window to breathe in the salty air. Perhaps a bee sails into the car on the fresh sea air and someone rolls up a sheet of paper full of calculations about the economic benefits of fracking to swat the unwelcome guest. Perhaps another panel member cries "NO!" and reminds his colleagues that Newfoundland has the last healthy population of bees on the planet. "We have to protect them," he explains. "The world needs the bees of Newfoundland."

The men may try to return to the economics of fracking or not frackijng in the confines of their offices. The clotheslines and the bee, however, have suggested another curruncy to their psyches.

Thank you for considering the point of view in my submission.

Best wishes!

Original Submission:

<http://nlhfrp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Letters-from-M.-McCormack.pdf>