

I am a geographer, earth scientist, and rural planner. I am well educated on the pros and cons of fracking. Yes, the practice CAN be done safely; as tankers of oil CAN be shipped safely across the country. However, the risks simply do not outweigh the potential economic benefits in this case. Job creation from this project will be minimal at best; the few engineering jobs etc. will likely occur in other provinces or even countries. Construction jobs and associated benefits will be a blip on the radar. Some economic activity may occur in St. John's at the potential risk of the residents of western Newfoundland. This 'little to gain' economic development push should not be used to justify the potential disturbance of such a naturally beautiful area.

The NL government needs to start managing itself in a fiscally responsible manner; not using a 'best case' oil projection. Even NB, at its most desperate time, is reluctant to go this route; a province with no offshore reserves and a ballooning deficit.

This is short-term in the worst place possible.