

May 6, 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,

This letter pertains to the review of hydraulic fracturing by the NL panel and the proposed related activities around Gros Morne National Park. As visitors from Ontario to Newfoundland, my wife and I, along with another couple, attended the Trails, Tales and Tunes festival, Norris Point (Gros Morne) in May of 2012 and again in 2013. We were totally impressed with our experience. We enjoyed all aspects of the festival, its community-based atmosphere as well as the park. The Mayor, town officials and volunteers should be proud to have such festival among its many tourism features.

That said, we were shocked and very disappointed to learn that exploration licenses for oil, using the controversial method of hydraulic fracturing, better known as fracking, might be issued in the future in the community of Sally's Cove (and others) close to the park as well as in the Port au Port peninsula.

May I point out that, independent studies (mainly from the US) are linking the risks from fracking, such as surface spills of oil and toxic liquids, underground water contamination, increased tanker-truck transportation on highways and air quality issues affecting the neighboring communities, to serious health issues.

As an out of province tourist, I am of the opinion that, the presence of well drilling sites and industrial settings, will not only damage the beauty of Gros Morne and its outport communities, but will discourage our small group from returning to Newfoundland. In actual fact, the reasons we travel to the Gros Morne area and encourage our friends to do so, are to see a national park and experience the culture through activities such as the Trails, Tales and Tunes Festival.

Should this oil exploration (with hydraulic fracturing) be allowed at your doorstep, we will have no choice but to spend our discretionary dollar elsewhere. Actually, we will probably stay at home where hydraulic fracturing is not allowed. I urge the members of the NL Independent Panel on Hydraulic Fracturing, the Department of Tourism of NL, the Town of Norris Point and Parks Canada to work together in order to avoid such mistake.

Yours truly,