

May 12, 2015

Dr Ray Gosine,
Chair, Hydraulic Fracturing Review Panel
c/o Office of Associate Vice President
Bruneau Centre for Research and Innovation
Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. Johns, NL
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Dr. Gosine,

I am a member of the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band. I grew up in Felix Cove on the Port au Port Peninsula and now live in Kippens, on the west coast of Newfoundland. I chose to remain in Newfoundland to live, work and raise my family. I did so because of everything this life has to offer, a safe place for my children to grow up in, peace, quiet, lots of space, hunting, berry picking, fishing, less pollution than other places and most importantly of all, it is home.

I very strongly believe that the land here must be protected, that our water must be protected and that our air must be protected. Without healthy land, safe drinking water and fresh, clean air we do not have what we need to live a healthy life. Fracking would change all that. My grown up daughters also chose to live here in Newfoundland. There's a reason for that, they love it here too. They deserve the chance to raise their children under the same conditions they were fortunate enough to grow up in. Their children deserve that chance.

I appreciate the fresh clean air here, the safe water supply and soil that is safe to grow our vegetables in. Do you think for one minute I would ever want to have to use fracking wastewater to water my garden like farmers in California have to do now? Do you think I would want to breathe the toxic air that people downwind and near fracking operations in fracked areas in Alberta, Pennsylvania, or other fracked communities have no choice but to breathe? Do you think our communities want to have the crazy amounts of wastewater or produced water held in holding tanks or ponds, like in Nova Scotia, not knowing where it will end up or what they will do with it? Do you think we want the increased heavy traffic, noise and fumes on our narrow winding, hilly roads? There's one road to the peninsula and it's busy enough now. It passes through many communities. Do you think we want the risk of toxic spills or accidents anywhere along that route? No. I've learned enough to know that I don't want those risks to my community, anywhere on the west coast, or anywhere in our province for that matter. I don't want to see what we have here destroyed by any oil company coming in, fracking and leaving the mess behind for us to deal with and live with long after they and any fracked oil are gone. It should never be allowed. This is my home and I have a duty to speak up for the west coast, to let you know why I do not want fracking here. I hope you understand. Fracking? NO. NO. NO.

Sincerely,

J Marche

Please listen to the devastating experiences of the Alberta families who have been very negatively affected by fracking.

<http://albertavoices.ca/>

Irrigating farm land with fracked wastewater :

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2015/05/08/3656499/california-lawsuit-seeks-to-stop-polluting-clean-water/>

<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-drought-oil-water-20150503-story.html#page=1>

Nova Scotia is still trying to deal with wastewater from two exploratory wells. They don't want it to end up in the Bay of Fundy. Here on the west coast, I would not want wastewater ending up in our bays either. Nova Scotia's problem with wastewater is one we would have here too. It is a huge problem that is not easy to solve. The only solution to keep our environment and health safe is to say no to fracking.

<http://savethebayoffundy.ca/stop-lafarge-using-fracking-wastewater/>