

Letters from K. Marche:

### **Letter 1**

<http://newszoom.com/life/oil-spill-may-island-disappear-2-years/>

Please see the above video to understand why I feel any risk of an oil spill, blowout or uncontrollable leak with fracking at Shoal Point is too great and a good reason not to allow fracking until it is, beyond any reasonable doubt, proven safe. It's happened with Cat Island, Louisiana. An uncontrollable bitumen leak destroyed muskeg after 60,000 litres escaped in Primrose, Cold Lake, Alberta. A year later, it was still leaking. Such an accident at Shoal Point or anywhere along the west coast / Gulf of St. Lawrence would be devastating.

### **Letter 2**

Please accept these two photos and my commentary as part of my submission to the panel.

While I am totally appreciative of the fact that the Department of Natural Resources has dutifully taken the time, energy and due care to protect the "low northern rockcress" that grows on the limestone hills of Pine Tree, Port au Port East, with this alert that was erected several years ago AND a hefty fine or imprisonment for offenders caught, the **glaring irony** of the juxtaposition of this message against the backdrop of Shoal Point in Port au Port Bay never ceases to amaze me. There is something horribly amiss, something critical that seems to be ignored... our bays, coastlines, air, water, wildlife, land, health, social well-being, fisheries, tourism, ALL require due care and protection. Potential offenders who may destroy the rockcress pale in comparison to what potential harm and devastation hydraulic fracturing would do to the habitat of this endangered flower, to Shoal Point, to Port au Port Bay and every place else along the entire west coast.

# ALERT

## Endangered Species



The **Low Northern Rockcress**, an **endangered plant**, occurs here in the limestone (gravel) soils of the exposed slopes and mountain ridges. This **small plant** is very difficult to see and is not found anywhere else in the province. Gravel removal, vehicle traffic, and trampling are just a few activities that can harm or kill this plant.

It is an **offence** under the Endangered Species act of Newfoundland & Labrador **to disturb or harm** an endangered species or their habitat.

Conviction of an offence may lead to fines ranging from **\$1,000 to \$50,000** or imprisonment of up to **1 year**.

For further information, contact the Wildlife Division (709-637-2026) or the nearest District office of the Department of Natural Resources.



May 31, 2015

### **Letter 3**

Dear Dr. Gosine and Panelists,

Even as a teenager in the 1970s, I was very concerned about the environment. Before I ever read Rachel Carson's book, "Silent Spring" and becoming a member of the World Wildlife Fund in my first year university at 16 years of age, I wanted to do my part to help save the world.

Then in August of 2012, and in my 50s, I was faced with the very real possibility of my world needing to be saved. That was when I first heard and understood the term hydraulic fracturing. The alarm bells went off. I knew then and there I could no longer remain passive about what very likely to happen. My home and all my favorite haunts were suddenly at risk.

In the three years since I found out that a junior oil company wanted to frack at Shoal Point, I learned so much about every aspect of this highly controversial technique. I am aware of how devastating and destructive fracking activity and accidents have been to the people in areas where they have occurred. I am aware of how their lives have been negatively affected and irrevocably changed. I know if fracking came to town, my life as I knew it would never be the same again either. And regardless of the argument over NIMBY, I can honestly say that I have always felt compassion for those who had their

lives destroyed because of the catastrophic effects of oil and gas on their lives and communities. Accidents happen and they have become much more frequent.

I have always been a lover of the great outdoors and felt a deep connection with nature. My home has always been on the west coast and I have never wanted to live permanently anywhere else. I have never been much of a traveler and when I'm away from home, I can never wait to get back. This place is as much a part of me as the blood that flows through my veins. I absolutely love the west coast, particularly Kippens where generations of my family have lived and been good stewards of the land, and secondly, Felix Cove where my husband grew up and we spend the first fifteen years of our lives together. Both communities have been home to our two daughters. I feel so lucky to live here, to have enjoyed the peaceful comfort and safety of our Newfoundland lifestyle. I can honestly say I have never taken it for granted as I thank God to have been so blessed. I've never wished for more than to live this simple life, here on the island, where every day is a gift. I love the brooks, rivers, ponds, hills, trails, wildlife, waterfowl, songbirds, ocean breezes, sunrises, sunsets, forests, bogs, marshes, bays and coastlines. I simply appreciate everything nature has to offer. Even her wrath has a beauty that moves me. It's why my heart is here and it's here I want to stay. Never do I want a future where I may be forced to leave, like other families who've had to because of the detrimental health effects of fracking operations around their homes.

That is why it came as such a shock to know that junior oil and gas wanted to come and use exorbitant amounts of our very precious and limited fresh water, inject hundreds of liters of highly toxic and carcinogenic chemicals into our highly fractured shale rock, have vast amounts of produced water, wastewater and flowback that could never be safely disposed of, and have methane flares burning and emitting toxic pollution into our air to be carried by prevailing winds to all the communities downwind. That and the myriad of other negative effects, not least of all to our coastlines, bays, flora and fauna, all of which are very precious to me. I wished it was a nightmare I would awaken from. It seemed absolutely insane that this was ever allowed anywhere, and it was terrifying that it was now being proposed for here. To have our west coast's breath-taking coastal environment transformed from what it is now, to an industrial "natural drilling platform" as the oil companies are so anxious to do, would be horrible and heartbreaking.

I have never been a political person. I have never been an activist. I like to live quietly and in relative peace. I dislike confrontation. But since August 2012, I felt I've been thrown into a situation where I have to take a stand and speak up for what I love and cherish. And I have to fight for it. It is not fair. This is my home. I do not want it to be exploited and destroyed in the horrible way that fracking related activity has ruined the lives and homes of others. I heard way too often that the government won't be making decisions based on emotion, but rather the hard, cold facts. Well I say this, what happens to our west coast,

is very much an emotionally charged issue. We're talking about our home and I passionately want to protect it.

Access to water is a human right. It is a basic necessity of life. How one can justify the use of water for fracking and rendering it toxic, removing it completely from the water cycle is beyond my comprehension. It is an unjustifiable, immoral action against humanity and all life. It is so obvious and yet for all those who are proponents of this, I cannot help but feel it's like the emperor in Hans Christian Anderson's, "The Emperor's New Clothes". The truth is so clear even a child can see it yet the 'grownups' many blindly accept the charade. Poisoning our water, air and land is criminal. We can live without fracking, but we cannot live without clean water, air and land. All other forms of life cannot survive without it either. Protection of these life essentials must be protected above all else.

Exxon Mobil's CEO, Rex Tillerson, was involved in a lawsuit in 2013 opposing a water tower to support fracking because it would be too much of an eyesore, creating a noise nuisance and traffic hazards. If he didn't want this in his backyard, how in God's name can anyone in the industry justify it going in anyone's backyard. The hypocrisy is unbelievable. Well I say, what's not acceptable for the CEO of a mega oil company, is certainly not acceptable for us either and we should not have to accept it.

I live with the hope and faith that this panel will follow the good sense of other panels that have placed bans on fracking. I pray that our province too, will do the right thing and not permit this activity until it is 100% proven safe. I don't think it is too much to expect. It is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,  
K. Marche

