

Keep Newfoundland and Labrador frack-free

I am writing today to encourage the review panel to protect Newfoundland and Labrador and keep it free of fracking. I visited Newfoundland and Labrador in 2012, and was fortunate to have a chance to explore different parts of such a beautiful province and its natural heritage. This rich natural heritage must be protected from the negative environmental impacts of fracking.

Some of these impacts relate to the unsustainable amounts of water needed for fracking operations as well as the fracking wastewater that results from the hazardous chemicals used that pollute the water, with no proven safe method of disposal. Water is too precious to squander for cheap energy.

As I am sure you know, the UN has identified climate change as a major threat that humanity faces in the 21 century, perhaps humanity's biggest challenge yet. However, the solution is clear, to move away from fossil fuels, NOT to expand fracking. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄), which result from fracking, are the two leading anthropogenic greenhouse gases altering the climate. This is well known with unequivocal evidence.

However, another emerging threat is the seismic impact of fracking and the possibility that fracking contributes to earthquakes. While the science here is not as certain, it is important to err on the side of caution.

Please, ban fracking in Newfoundland and Labrador! There is widespread community opposition to fracking, and Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have moratoriums. There is no better time to reduce our fossil fuel dependence and lower our emissions by transitioning to green energy!

Sincerely,

R. Nassar