

May 1, 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
A1C 5S7

Dr. Gosine and Panel Members;

Thank you for the opportunity to submit documentation.

As a property owner in the Town of Kippens and former resident, I am deeply concerned with the Government of Newfoundland & Labrador's continued consideration of hydraulic fracturing for the province of Newfoundland.

The Town of Stephenville and nearby locations has a long and established history of environmental issues. Ignorance and lack of awareness has been used to justify and accept what has occurred previously. The use of toxic herbicides during the Earnest Harmon Air Force base years is one example. Minimal clean up efforts and disregard for a healthy environment following the closure of the Abitibi Consolidated paper mill, more recently, another.

Both of these examples (and others) however, have a common denominator. That is, continued disregard for the health and wellness of residents by all levels of government and a deliberate practice of turning a 'blind eye'. Today, as the practice of hydraulic fracturing is entertained, I fear, we already know what this will lead to. Dismissing and disregarding this inner knowing in order to enhance budget and relative positional authority has dire consequences, not only today but for generations to come. Hiding behind ignorance, in my opinion, is no longer acceptable and we MUST err on the side of caution. I am urging you to do so.

As a Registered Social Worker, I am deeply aware of the impact fear, stress and anxiety has on personal and community psyche and it's impact on long term growth, development and wellness. I am also very concerned about the health and wellness of all life forms.

Furthermore, I am well aware of the many needs that already exist on the islands west coast, particularly related to underserved health care and limited fire & safety services. Adding more risks and demands to these already inadequately served areas, seems ill conceived.

As a founding member of the Qalipu First Nation Band, owner of Family Help Online [FMLYHLP] Inc, taxpayer and property owner, I urge you to also use your HEART when determining the provincial course of action.

Education, statistics, and research...ultimately, are only as good as the ethics upon which they are built. We know that in research, funding sources also inform outcomes.

Please, draw on your personal ethics and align them with the best interests of humanity when formulating your recommendations.

We cannot control for human error in the fracking process, however, we can control for human error in the review process.

As a Newfoundlander, I am standing on guard for thee. I hope in your position, you will do the same.

I have included links below to support my position.

Sincerely,
Susan O'Quinn / Shadow Wolf
BCS, BSW, MSW, RSW

Pennsylvania Teachings and Lessons:

<http://farmprogress.com/story-susquehanna-river-gets-clean-marcellus-shale-fracking-report-9-108706>

<http://www.phillymag.com/news/2015/05/05/fish-cancer-pennsylvania-river/>

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/drilling/>

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/2015/may/pennsylvania-fracking-environmental-justice-poor-economics>

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/05/science/earth/fracking-chemicals-detected-in-pennsylvania-drinking-water.html?_r=0

California Teachings & Lessons:

<http://www.nrdc.org/health/files/california-fracking-risks-report.pdf>

<http://www.propublica.org/article/ca-halts-injection-fracking-waste-warning-may-be-contaminating-aquifers>

<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-fracking-20150211-story.html#page=1>

<http://rt.com/usa/194620-california-aquifers-fracking-contamination/>

<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-fracking-water-20150311-story.html>

<http://rt.com/usa/240145-california-fracking-wastewater-chemicals/>

<http://www.mintpressnews.com/fracking-pollutes-california-water-as-drought-crisis-worsens/204329/>

Please prevent Newfoundland from joining this global epidemic.
Our future is in your hands