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Makeup of Newfoundland and Labrador fracking review panel already being criticized

Environment and health interests not represented on panel, critic contends

Posted on October 14, 2014 | By Darren Campbell | 3 Comments

Last Friday, Newfoundland and Labrador's Minister of Natural Resources, Derrick Dalley, announced the [five panel members](#) that will review the socio-economic and environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing.

However, it didn't take long for criticisms to roll in over the makeup of the panel. George Oliver, spokesperson for the Port au Port-Bay St. George Fracking Awareness Group, says there isn't [enough health and environmental interests](#) on the panel.

And so it begins – anti-fracking advocates chipping away at the legitimacy of a government-led review on this uber-controversial oil and gas extraction method.

It's a familiar cry, and one that those in the oil and gas industry who favour the use of fracking have not been able to fend off effectively in the court of public opinion.

This was a problem for pro-fracking advocates during Nova Scotia's fracking review, which resulted in the provincial government introducing legislation to [ban the practice](#) onshore. I didn't attend any of the public meetings during the review, but Nova Scotia Energy Minister Andrew Younger told me in a recent interview that he's been hearing from people that "they didn't feel comfortable participating [in the review] because the anti-hydraulic fracturing voices were so loud."

Considering panel members can't help but be swayed by witnessing passionate, and sometimes angry, speakers who are dead set against fracking, especially if that's pretty much all they are hearing at these public meetings, we shouldn't be surprised when that panel recommends a fracking ban – as the Nova Scotia panel did a month ago.

It seems to me that if the oil and gas industry wants to prevent a repeat of what happened in Nova Scotia, they had best make their voices heard (and loudly) during this upcoming review process in Newfoundland and Labrador.

After all, the squeaky wheel tends to get the grease – something the anti-fracking crowd learned a long time ago.

- [Andrew Younger](#)
- [Derrick Dalley](#)
- [fracking](#)
- [George Oliver](#)
- [newfoundland and labrador](#)
- [Nova Scotia](#)
- [oil and gas](#)
- [Port au Port-Bay St. George Fracking Awareness Group](#)

3 Comments to "Makeup of Newfoundland and Labrador fracking review panel already being criticized"

1.  Graham O'Liver // [October 16, 2014 at 1:19 pm](#) // [Reply](#)

Good morning Darren. You make a very good point about Nova Scotians coming out and being heard at the the