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# Too many unknowns to recommend fracking in Newfoundland: review panel

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ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - A panel that studied hydraulic fracturing in western Newfoundland says there are too many unknown risks and data gaps to green-light fracking.

The government-appointed panel recommends in a report today that the province continue its freeze on fracking applications until risks and benefits are better understood.

Those steps include creating a buffer zone around Gros Morne National Park and assessing potential health and environmental risks.

The panel studied expert reports, but says there are still many holes in the scientific and technological data for the region.

The province has not approved the contentious method of extracting oil and gas using chemicals and water at high pressure.

Newfoundland and Labrador said in 2013 it would not accept any fracking applications pending a review.

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