



Magdalen Islands, September 2nd 2010

Mr Sean Kelly
Manager of Public Relations
C-NLOPB

Mr Kelly,

As agreed during our telephone conversation, I record here the concerns and demands of our group with regards to the seismic exploration project of Corridor Resources at the Old Harry prospect.

Although Corridor Resources came to meet some fishermen in the Magdalen Islands last Monday, August 31st, we are disappointed with the scope of this gesture. No real public consultation has been held with fishermen, nor with all those directly involved with these projects, either here in the Islands or elsewhere in Quebec and the Atlantic provinces.

The Islands' fishermen publicly expressed their opposition to seismic surveys as well as their request for a moratorium before the seismic surveys that are planned near their fishing spot take place. They also claimed to fear the cumulative effects of seismic surveys that have been conducted in this area for several years (see Appendix 1).

In our opinion, **it is essential that public consultations be held before Corridor Resources obtains a permit to conduct seismic surveys this fall.** It is imperative that these consultations include the participation of all coastal communities in the Gulf.

The proposed seismic survey planned for this fall and the proposed drilling in 2011 or 2012 in Newfoundland raise serious concerns throughout the country. A growing number of organizations, elected officials, politicians and citizens have called for a **moratorium on all proposed exploration and exploitation in the Gulf of St. Lawrence** (see Appendix 2).

As such, note that the agglomeration council of Magdalen Islands has adopted a resolution calling for a moratorium on exploration and exploitation in the Gulf (see Appendix 3). The Regional Conference of Elected of Gaspésie and Magdalen Islands (*CRÉGIM*) as well as the Quebec Federation of Municipalities have also adopted a similar resolution.

Several arguments justify this request. A moratorium is necessary in order to take the time required to implement an integrated management of the Gulf; to rigorously and integrally assess environmental, social and economic risks and impacts of the projects; to enhance the rules (environmental standards, companies' civil liability, etc..) and technologies (drilling, spill containment measures, etc.), and to choose collectively to drill or not in the Gulf, through public consultations.

In Quebec, the Office of Public Hearings on the Environment (*BAPE*) had conducted public hearings in 2004 on the issues related to seismic surveys in the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence (Report 193)

<http://www.bape.gouv.qc.ca/sections/rapports/publications/bape193.pdf>

The chairman, Mr André Harvey stated that:

“Following its analysis, the committee believes that prior to conducting seismic surveys in the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence with high power devices, we must build the state of knowledge of their effects on marine organisms, protect areas which could restrict such a practice and have an adequate legal framework.

The committee also highlights the fact that participants at the public hearing would have liked to be consulted on the proposed development of offshore petroleum of the Government of Quebec.”

I invite you to read this report, if not already done so, as well as the opinions and recommendations it contains, including:

Opinion 16 – Before any major discovery of offshore oil is done, the committee believes that the island and coastal communities of the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence should participate in the establishment of energy policies that may alter their lifestyle.

In accordance with the recommendations of the *BAPE*, the Department of Natural Resources and Wildlife of Quebec (*MNR*) will hold strategic environmental assessments (*SEA*) on the exploration and exploitation of oil and gas in the St. Lawrence
<http://www.sea.gouv.qc.ca/index.asp>.

These will not be completed until the end of 2012. It is ironic that the *SEA* take place in Quebec, while seismic surveys may be authorized only kilometres away from the study area. This situation demonstrates the importance of implementing an integrated management for the entire Gulf of St. Lawrence.

More than ever, we believe that all the affected provinces must take the opportunity to act together and carefully on this issue before any proposed exploration and exploitation is made, including seismic surveys.

Hoping very much that the concerns shared by a growing number of groups in Canada are taken into account, I send you my respectful greetings.



Danielle Giroux
President
Attention Fragîles

Appendix 1

Press releases following Corridor Resources visit to the Magdalen Islands on August 30th, 2010

1) Visite de Corridor Resources, CFIM, 30-08-10

<http://www.cfim.ca/accueil/-/pub/3Yfl/content/441562-viste-de-corridor-resources?redirect=%2F>

2) Les pêcheurs des Îles de la Madeleine rejettent l'exploration d'hydrocarbures

Radio-Canada Gaspésie les Îles, bulletin de 16h30, le lundi 30 août 2010.

http://www.radio-canada.ca/audio-video/pop.shtml#urlMedia%3DhttpZAPmedia_Telejournal&duree%3Dcourt

3) Hydrocarbures dans le golfe Saint-Laurent: Méfiance aux Îles-de-la-Madeleine, R-C, 31 août 2010

http://www.google.com/url?sa=X&q=http://www.radio-canada.ca/regions/est-quebec/2010/08/31/001-corridor-resources.shtml&ct=ga&cad=:s1:f1:v0:d1:i0:lt:e0:p0:t1283264763:&cd=oOj13Jro0eQ&usg=AFQjCNHdV0AghYQVg_k2yOwFa7SWgcG53g

4) Un passage obligé pour Corridor Resources

<http://www.cfim.ca/accueil/-/pub/3Yfl/content/444070-un-passage-oblige-pour-corridor-resources?redirect=%2F>

5) Wo les moteurs! <http://www.cfim.ca/accueil/-/pub/9trP/content/446595-wo-les-moteurs;jsessionid=13A6F667AB46D3DFF613217A7ABA41D4?redirect=%2F>

Appendix 2

September 2nd 2010

For a moratorium on oil and gas exploration and exploitation in the marine environment: List of organizations, associations and elected officials who are calling for a moratorium

Organizations and elected - Gaspésie and Magdalen Islands (moratorium called for the entire St. Lawrence):

- Attention Fragîles, Îles-de-la-Madeleine
- Conseil d'agglomération des Îles-de-la-Madeleine
- MRC de Bonaventure
- Conférence régionale des élus de la Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine (CRE-GIM)
- Tourisme Îles-de-la-Madeleine
- Pêcheurs des Îles-de-la-Madeleine
- Arrimage, corporation culturelle des Îles-de-la-Madeleine

Other organizations (moratorium called for part of Canada or all marine regions)

- Union internationale de la conservation de la nature (UICN)
- World Wildlife Fund Canada (WWF-Canada)
- Le Conseil des Canadiens (The Council of Canadians)
- Association des retraitées et des retraités de l'éducation et des autres services publics du Québec (AREQ)
- Fondation David Suzuki
- Sierra Club
- Les Inuits – Canada's northern peoples (Arctique)
- Green Party Leader
- SOS Coalition (Golfe du Saint-Laurent)
- The P.E.I. Fishermen's Association
- Stratégies Saint-Laurent et la Commission des comités de zones d'intervention prioritaire (Comités ZIP) en zone marine (Saguenay, de la rive nord de l'estuaire, du Sud-de-l'Estuaire, Côte-Nord du Golfe, Baie des Chaleurs et Îles-de-la-Madeleine)
- Conseil régional de l'environnement Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine (CREGIM)
- Greenpeace (opposition à l'exploration et l'exploitation des hydrocarbures)
- Nature Québec
- Fédération Québécoise des Municipalités
- Ecology Action Centre
- AVAAZ (pour les Etats-Unis)

Political parties considering that it is essential to act with caution:

- Québec Solidaire est le seul parti politique du Québec qui ne s'est pas rallié à EEGP dans le golfe Saint-Laurent. Amir Kadir a présenté une motion pour la journée mondiale des océans adoptée à l'unanimité par L'Assemblée nationale.
- Bloc Québécois (questions adressées au gouvernement fédéral sur le moratoire)
- NPD, Terre-Neuve-Labrador (veut faire stopper forage de Chevron, au nord-est de Terre-Neuve).
- Parti libéral du Québec : la ministre Nathalie Normandeau (MRNF) a demandé à son homologue de Terre-Neuve si elle envisageait d'imposer un moratoire sur les forages dans la partie terre-neuvienne du golfe du Saint-Laurent tant que le bilan de la catastrophe environnementale du golfe du Mexique ne serait pas connu.
- P.E.I. Environment minister joins call for summit on offshore oil drilling
- Pauline Marois, chef du parti québécois

References:

Attention Fragiles : <http://www.attentionfragiles.org/>

Conseil d'agglomération des Îles : Communiqué de presse : Hydrocarbures au large des Îles-de-la-Madeleine. Les élus demandent un moratoire http://www.muniles.ca/services_communications_communiques.html

MRC Bonaventure <http://www.cyberpresse.ca/le-soleil/actualites/environnement/201006/22/01-4292504-un-moratoire-sur-lexploration-et-lexploitation-dhydrocarbures-dans-le-golfe.php>

CRÉ-GIM : Exploitation d'hydrocarbures: Moratoire demandé par les élus de la Gaspésie et des Îles Publié le mercredi, 23 juin 2010
<http://www.lavantage.qc.ca/actualite/exploitation-d-hydrocarbures-moratoire-demande-par-les-elus-de-la-gaspesie-et-des-iles>

Tourisme Îles-de-la-Madeleine : adopté au dernier CA (mi-juin)

UICN <http://www.iucn.org/knowledge/news/?5420/Stop-oil-and-gas-exploration-now-says-IUCN>

WWF http://www.wwf.ca/conservation/oceans/oil_spill_petition.cfm

Le conseil des canadiens, Lessons learned from BP disaster – Arctic moratorium needed
<http://www.canadians.org/media/energy/2010/09-Jun-10.html>

L'AREQ Bas-St-Laurent-Gaspésie-les-Îles-Côte-Nord s'oppose à La taxe santé et à l'exploitation pétrolière dans le golfe
Îles de la Madeleine, <http://lavanpostecanoe.ca/webapp/sitepages/content.asp?contentid=144678&id=531>

Fondation David Suzuki <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/fr/medias/lettres-dopinion/2010/06/forages-dans-le-golfe-du-saint-laurent-un-moratoire-est-necessaire/>

Sierra Club Canada Calls for a Moratorium on Offshore Oil Drilling <http://www.sierraclub.ca/en/media/release/sierra-club-canada-calls-moratorium-offshore-oil-drilling>

Inuit call for Arctic offshore oil drilling moratorium <http://inform.com/science-and-technology/inuit-call-arctic-offshore-oil-drilling-moratorium-945758a>

Green Party Leader and SOS Coalition <http://greenparty.ca/fr/media-release/2010-07-05/le-parti-vert-du-canada-et-sos-coalition-demandent-limposition-d-un-moratoi>

The P.E.I. Fishermen's Association

<http://www.theguardian.pe.ca/index.cfm?sid=346086&sc=98>

Stratégies Saint-Laurent et la Commission des comités de zones d'intervention prioritaire (Comités ZIP) en zone marine (Saguenay, de la rive nord de l'estuaire, du Sud-de-l'Estuaire, Côte-Nord du Golfe, Baie des Chaleurs et Îles-de-la-Madeleine)

http://www.strategiessl.qc.ca/pdf/communiqu_e_ssl_zipmarines_hydrocarbures_20100712.pdf

Conseil régional de l'environnement Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine (CREGIM)

<http://lechodelabaie.canoe.ca/webapp/sitepages/content.asp?contentid=154320&id=1953>

Greenpeace <http://www.greenpeace.org/canada/fr/actualites/non-exploration-petrole-gaz-fleuve/>

AVAAZ

http://www.avaaz.org/fr/stop_offshore_drilling/98.php?cl_taf_sign=6nMhI5nn

L'Assemblée nationale souligne la Journée des océans <http://www.cfim.ca/accueil/-/pub/9trP/content/258812-l-assemblee-nationale-souligne-la-journee-des-océans;jsessionid=FDB6B6CEE60C2BCE078CCD4B915C0500?redirect=%2Faccueil%2F-%2Fpub%2F3YfI%2Fcontent%2F254021-des-millions-pour-marine-atlantic%3Fredirect%3D%252F>

Bloc Québécois <http://www.raynaldblais.qc.ca/content/view/149/1/>

NPD Terre-Neuve-Labrador

<http://www.radio-canada.ca/regions/est-quebec/2010/05/11/004-petrole-moratoire-forage.shtml>

Activités de forage dans le golfe du Saint-Laurent - LA MINISTRE NORMANDEAU S'ADRESSE À SON HOMOLOGUE DE TERRE-NEUVE

<http://communiqués.gouv.qc.ca/gouvqc/communiqués/GPQF/Mai2010/31/c8450.html>

P.E.I. Environment minister joins call for summit on offshore oil drilling

<http://www.theguardian.pe.ca/index.cfm?sid=345992&sc=98>

Exploitation pétrolière dans le golfe, Pauline Marois appuie la demande de moratoire

<http://www.radio-canada.ca/regions/est-quebec/2010/08/16/004-moratoire-petrole.shtml>



Press Release

Oil and Gas Drilling in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence

Îles-de-la-Madeleine Municipal Council Calls for a Moratorium

Îles-de-la-Madeleine, June 11, 2010. — The Agglomeration Council of Îles-de-la-Madeleine calls for a moratorium on oil and gas drilling in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. The municipal council wants to know more on the subject and demands that its citizens be included in discussions concerning the production of oil and gas in a marine environment.

Situated in the heart of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, Îles-de-la-Madeleine is considered one of Quebec's finest jewels. Oil and gas production in the region? "Certainly not at any cost", declares Mayor Joël Arseneau. "The archipelago's environment is fragile and its economy is based on fishing and tourism. This demands a cautious approach and careful action with regard to the issues."

Residents of Îles-de-la-Madeleine see the Gulf as a single marine ecosystem, almost closed off from the Atlantic Ocean. An integrated approach for the whole of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence is therefore the only way to go about it. Whether drilling operations originate in Nova Scotia, in Newfoundland or Québec, they must be subject to common rules and must respect the same guidelines. "They say the sea unites the lands it separates. Together we must decide how to best profit from its riches", says Mayor Arseneau. He therefore calls for a coalition of maritime communities in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence in favor of a moratorium, allowing for the exchange of information and the development of a common and harmonized vision of oil and gas exploration and production in a marine environment.

The Agglomeration Council proposes to use this time to allow for a better understanding of the issues at hand and to review provincial and federal legislative frameworks. Council also hopes for an agreement among the Gulf provinces in order to harmonise guidelines, measures and procedures for drilling and producing oil and gas in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. "We also want to know contingency plans in the event of a spill. Action-reaction is not an acceptable response: the risks are real and residents are very concerned. We must learn from what's happening right now in the Gulf of Mexico", states Joël Arseneau.

The Agglomeration Council intends to take leadership in bringing coastal communities to work together on these issues through a process involving the regions' socio-economic partners, the citizens of Îles-de-la-Madeleine, as well as those in communities surrounding the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. To this end, before the close of 2010, Islanders intend to have coastal communities unite in a forum to address these issues.

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Information: Joël Arseneau, Mayor and Chair of the Agglomeration
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Municipalité des Îles-de-la-Madeleine

Direction du greffe

EXCERPT from the minutes of the regular session of the Agglomeration Council of the Îles-de-la-Madeleine held June 8, 2010 at City Hall.

A1006-112

Moratorium on Oil and Gas Exploration and Production in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence

- WHEREAS the environmental and socio-economic issues relating to any future oil and gas production in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence is of great importance to the region's coastal and island communities;
- WHEREAS it is necessary to adopt an integrated approach for the whole of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, all provinces combined, since the Gulf forms a single marine ecosystem, that is almost cut off from the Atlantic Ocean;
- WHEREAS it is important to consider the legitimate concerns of the coastal people and to involve these local communities in the decisions made surrounding the environmental and socio-economic issues associated with offshore oil and gas production;
- WHEREAS the Government of Quebec has begun developing a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) program designed to provide a framework for offshore oil and gas exploration and production. The program is aimed at four basins: the Estuary and the NW portion of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, Anticosti, Baie-des-Chaleurs and Madeleine basins, which includes the Îles-de-la-Madeleine archipelago;
- WHEREAS SEA studies allow for the development of recommendations on the conciliation of activities associated with oil and gas drilling and production, the commercial fishery, tourism, and maritime transportation and the protection of marine mammals;
- WHEREAS Results of these studies will not be known for several years;
- WHEREAS Corridor Resources has announced it intends to proceed with exploratory drilling on the Old Harry cross-border geological structure some 80 km off the coast of the Îles-de-la-Madeleine as early as 2011;
- WHEREAS on June 1, 2010 the Federal Parliament adopted a motion concerning offshore oil and gas production aiming to provide Canada with the world's most rigorous safety and environmental protection regulations and to report to the House of Commons in order to ensure follow-up.

WHEREAS on June 3, 2010 Quebec's National Assembly adopted a motion acknowledging the gravity of the ongoing oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, stating that the present moratorium on the issuing of permits for the drilling of oil and gas in the Estuary and the Gulf of Saint Lawrence must allow for reflection on the necessity of protecting Quebec's marine biodiversity;

WHEREAS on May 21, 2010 the Quebec Minister of Natural Resources, Nathalie Normandeau, sent a letter to Newfoundland and Labrador's Minister of Natural Resources, Kathy Dunderdale, asking if she foresees imposing a moratorium on drilling while the results of the Gulf of Mexico environmental disaster remain unknown, and requesting to know the exact measures the Canada-Newfoundland-and-Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board intends to adopt for offshore oil and gas exploration and production and better safety measures for test-well drilling;

WHEREAS the territory of the Iles-de-la-Madeleine is fragile and its economy is based on marine resources and tourism;

THEREFORE

on a proposal from Roger Chevarie,
seconded by Rose Elmonde Clarke,
it is unanimously resolved


THAT the Agglomeration Council of the Iles-de-la-Madeleine declare itself in favour of a moratorium on oil and gas exploration and production in all of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence;

THAT in the interest of exploiting the resource while protecting the Gulf of Saint Lawrence ecosystem, this moratorium allows the following actions to be carried out:

- review of the federal and provincial legislative frameworks;
- an agreement amongst the coastal provinces with regard to harmonizing the framework, measures and procedures for oil and gas developments;
- assessment and revision of contingency measures in the event of a spill;
- definition of appropriate mechanisms for consulting and ensuring the participation of coastal populations;
- analysis of the economic value of the resources in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence;

THAT the Agglomeration Council of the Iles-de-la-Madeleine provide leadership in bringing together the region's socio-economic partners, the citizens of the Iles-de-la-Madeleine, as well as those in communities surrounding the whole of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, and foster a framework for exchange and discussion on the issues surrounding offshore oil and gas within a coalition of communities of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
Signed in the Iles-de-la-Madeleine
This 9th day of June 2010


Manon Dubé, Assistant Clerk