

Untitled

From: cassie stead [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 9:14 AM

To: Information

To C-NLOPB,

I am not sure how I feel about drilling in the gulf of St. Lawrence. I am from Newfoundland and feel economically it could be a good thing for Newfoundlanders since it has the potential to provide various jobs. I myself am pursuing a major in geology and could one day find myself working within the Gulf of St. Lawrence if drilling were to take place in the future so it is not something that I can just outright be opposed to. But, at the same time, I have so many concerns about drilling in the Gulf. I did go to one of the public consultations and have the map of specific areas of interest off the coast of western Newfoundland and I am concerned at how it will affect this pristine area. I noticed that one area covered the coast along the Gros Morne National park. Speaking economically, this park is a huge tourist spot and is very important to Newfoundland. Environmentally, it is a fragile and glorious ecosystem that needs to be protected. Would drilling negatively affect this area? Would it be worth it for oil and gas in the Gulf of the St. Lawrence? I myself have hiked along the green gardens trail which leads you from forested area to the gorgeous coast. It was so serene, so inspiring. Would this change with oil and drilling going on along the coast? Something tells me yes. The west coast is known for its beauty, not just Gros Morne, but that whole area. That whole coast boasts beaches that cannot be found anywhere else in Newfoundland, since beautiful sandy beaches are a rare find here. And what of the fish? The fishing industry is still important within Newfoundland and all of the Atlantic provinces. Some for commercial use, some for more personal, but it is apart of our livelihood. I received an email from Council of Canadians who quoted the fishery in this region to be worth an estimated \$1.5 billion. They also said, "The risks posed to aquatic species, ecosystem health and coastal communities are far too great for any type of drilling to move ahead." Now I am not an environmentalist so I cannot say for myself whether this is true or not. I have no idea whether drilling would make such a profound negative impact but, it is a concern of mine. I think extensive research should be done. If the risks are found to be too great, no drilling should now or ever take place in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. There is a call for a moratorium going around and if I feel that not enough research is being done or that the impact from drilling is too great, I will be supporting it and I know that others will too.

Sincerely,

Cassie Stead