

Diane Martin and David Stromberg



September 26, 2013

Scott Tessier, Chair & CEO
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador
Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB)
5th Floor TD Place, 140 Water Street
St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador
Canada A1C 6H6
c/o Sean Kelly, Manager of Public Relations, skelly@cnlopb.nl.ca

Re: The C-NLOPB, and the Western Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area
Strategic Environmental Assessment and Update Report

Dear Mr Tessier:

To think about hydrolic fracturing off the west coast of Newfoundland is entirely horrifying to so many of us. We are not all scientists, though a few of us are. We are not business owners or operators, though we count several of them among those of us as well, who are opposed to fracking along the West Coast of Newfoundland.

From our back window we see Bonne Bay, which has been chockablock with fishing boats these past few days, bringing in mackerel. Woody Point has a fish plant, and it is second only to tourism as an income generator here.

As for the provincial government, its own website,

<http://www.newfoundlandlabrador.com/PlacesToGo/Western>, quickly brings visitors to the Western NL part of the site to be informed about two UNESCO world heritage sites located here. We live in Woody Point, an enclave town in Gros Morne National Park, one of the most beautiful, geologically significant parks in the country.

To imagine, at the very least, the trucks that would plow through our town is unsettling, as is the thought that the UNESCO status of the park might be jeopardized.

We were excited to read of Beothuk Energy's plans to build off-shore wind farms to supply energy to Atlantic Canada and the US Northeast.

<http://www.rechargenews.com/wind/offshore/article1338245.ece>

That is the kind of energy we have always hoped Newfoundland would embrace, in terms of research and support. Why is it always non-sustainable oil and gas that attracts the most money and grabs the most headlines? Why not leave Western NL well enough *alone*?

As far as we can tell, Premier Dunderdale comes to this part of the island only to make announcements or speeches, such as on September 12 of this year when she came to Humber Valley Resort to address the International Symposium on Oil and Gas Resources in Western Newfoundland. We find it ironic that she comes to a *resort* to talk about something that *threatens* resorts up and down the coast. We have no idea if she has ever been to Gros Morne, though Lorraine Michael comes every year, even though she represents a St. John's riding, and Danny Williams was also a regular visitor.

The C-NLOPB has a conflicting mandate for petroleum industry development, worker safety and environmental health. Its focus is on oil and gas exploration and development backed up by industry consultants who focus on 'mitigation' of

negative impacts, instead of protecting vulnerable ecosystems.

There is a truism that so many people in your industry and other larger cooperations embrace: It is easier to ask for forgiveness than to ask for permission. It's damage control and mitigation, rather than taking the idea of hydraulic fracturing and looking to see what it would do, if it would be worth it, and what might be better.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador made a commitment in their 2011 Climate Change Action Plan to be a global leader in the arena of climate change, which they indicate is "one of the greatest long-term challenges facing the planet". *In the bigger picture there is a necessary shift that must happen towards more sustainable and renewable forms of energy within a green economy.*

Right?

Sincerely, via email,

Diane Martin [REDACTED] and
David Stromberg [REDACTED]

Cc.

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