

Jacqui Hunter



27 September, 2013

Scott Tessier, Chairman and CEO
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
5th Floor, TD Place
140 Water Street
St. John's NL A1C 6H6
information@cnlopb.nl.ca

Re: Western NL SEA Update_Draft document

Dear Mr. Tessier,

I own and operate a successful seasonal business; Java Jack's Restaurant and Gallery in Rocky Harbour. I am just finishing my fourteenth season and have enjoyed the process of nurturing an idea into an award winning property.

I hire my 15+staff locally and train them , buy my fish locally at the plant, buy from the local farmer and grow a garden on site. I support local initiatives and groups and sit on steering committees for town improvement projects. I am on the Board of Theatre Newfoundland Labrador and support their Gros Morne Theatre Festival in Cow Head.

I am an entrepreneur...but I'm a social entrepreneur. I also hold a BSc in Botany

I have read a summary of the Western NL SEA UpdateDraft document and as a socially responsible business person , with a background in science, I have some real concerns that need to be aired.

- Tourism on West Coast has not been given enough consideration. This sustainable industry has been growing every year. I know that if oil exploration were to change the "brand" that is Gros Morne, tourism will suffer.
- Coastal cultures such as those on the West Coast of Newfoundland are intimately connected with the marine environment. I have fisherman friends that have relied on the clear, cold waters off western Newfoundland for their livelihood and are very concerned with the outcome of this process. More

independent, up to date research is needed. Significant data gaps identified in the previous SEA need to be filled.

- Public health is not mentioned or included in mitigation plans.
The aging two-lane highway is already a challenge at times. The increased traffic on Route 430 will undoubtedly result in more traffic accidents. If this exploration and development goes ahead, problems will arise when there are flares, spills, or seepage of toxic fluids into the groundwater and/or sea . These toxins pass through the marine food chain to the fish and crustaceans we eat, and to the seaweed I spread on my garden. Local and sustainable food is what many of our visitors are looking for and the restaurants in this area that supply fresh and local would be very adversely affected. Contamination of the Gulf would also limit food security in this region
- The draft SEA Update comes to no conclusion and has no recommendations. As this is a draft, it is an incomplete document. For these reasons, when the SEA Update is complete, there must be a further round of public consultations.

I think that no new exploration licences should be issued in the Newfoundland offshore area, and the call for bids issued May 16 2013 for four parcels of land in the Newfoundland offshore area should be recalled. No authorizations should be given for projects currently submitted in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, including Black Spruce Exploration and Shoal Point Energy's Western Newfoundland Drilling Program, and Corridor Resources' Old Harry , until after the recommendations and conclusions of the final SEA Update Report have been subjected to public scrutiny.

I have spoken to many visitors to our province this summer. For the most part , they are horrified at the thoughts of oil exploration and especially fracking in this area.

Let's not sacrifice a sustainable industry that the provincial and federal government has invested so much in for an unsustainable industry that could have ruinous consequences.

Sincerely,

Jacqui Hunter