

April 23, 2012

Hon. Bruce Northrup
Minister of Natural Resources
Constituency Office: Kings East
P. O. Box 3339
Sussex, NB E4E 3P9

Dear Hon. Northrup:

RE: *hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") in New Brunswick*

Following a recent Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the College of Family Physicians, members of our college voted on a resolution against hydraulic fracturing in New Brunswick.

By this letter we are urging you to protect our valuable resources and the public's health by putting a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing development in New Brunswick until further research can prove that the benefits clearly outweigh the risk of this practice.

We are particularly concerned about potential contamination of public water supplies, air pollution resulting from fracking operations, disposal of radioactive wastewater, possible spills of toxic chemicals, the health of children and pregnant women, only enumerating a few.

The expanded use of hydraulic fracturing to extract natural gas from underground rock formations potentially pose a threat to drinking water resources and is of concern to a growing number of communities. Nearby aquifers may be harmed in the process, and drinking water contamination has been found in communities where hydraulic fracturing is in use.

Studies are starting to occur at a critical point in time, as the practice of hydraulic fracturing is expanding rapidly to meet growing demand for natural gas. These studies are clearly showing concerns in the safety of hydraulic fracturing. Evidence of contamination supports the need for effective regulation to protect groundwater and domestic wells from the impact of fracking. It also emphasizes the need to address cumulative effects.

For all of the reasons above, we believe hydraulic fracturing is not the right choice for New Brunswick and we urge you to use the power of your legislation to suspend the development of this industry in our Province until further research is done.

Sincerely,



Anick Pelletier, MD, CCFP
President NB College of Family Physicians