

27<sup>th</sup> November, 2013

For immediate release

## **Province wide fracking awareness group will not accept internal review**

The Newfoundland and Labrador Fracking Awareness Network (NL-FAN) welcomes the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's decision to "not accept applications for onshore and onshore-to-offshore petroleum exploration using hydraulic fracturing," and applauds Minister Hon. Derrick Dalley (of Natural Resources) for his statement that the government's "first and main consideration when exploring an economic development opportunity is the health and safety of our people and protection of the environment."

NL-FAN does not, however, support a proposal for an internal government review. Public concern over the use of unconventional oil exploration and extraction is growing substantially in the province as well as throughout Canada and globally. "Policy can best be informed and guided by a strong, independent, science-based review that addresses impacts across all sectors and is grounded in transparent public consultation", says NL-FAN spokesperson Simon Jansen. "People on the west coast on either side of the conversation want to see exactly what information the government is taking into consideration when forming their final decision on the matter. Nothing short of an independent, transparent, science based approach will likely satisfy residents in the region," he states.

NL-FAN is a non-partisan group of organizations and individuals from across the province who have serious concerns about the potential risks of unconventional oil exploration and extraction, including hydraulic fracturing, in Newfoundland and Labrador. The NL-FAN, through its affiliate organizations and members, urges the provincial and federal governments to establish an independent, non-governmental, non-industry panel to conduct a scientific and public review of hydraulic fracturing in Newfoundland and Labrador in order to fully assess the potential health, environmental, economic, and social effects on the region as a whole.

Many of the public concerns are related to potential impacts of this technology on human health. "Our network feels strongly that an independent, science-based review should also include a health impact assessment of hydraulic fracturing and other associated technologies employed under unconventional oil exploration and extraction," Jansen continues. "This health impact assessment should engage health professionals and medical scientists. In addition, an independent review should address potential impacts on existing sustainable industries such as fisheries and the province's billion dollar tourism industry."

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