

Honourable David Ramsay, Minister
Industry, Tourism and Investment
Government of the Northwest Territories

By e-mail: david_ramsay@gov.nt.ca

May 12, 2015

RE: Public Hearings Regarding Hydraulic Fracturing (Fracking)

Dear Minister Ramsay,

In keeping with public concern, Alternatives North requests you place a moratorium (i.e., suspension) on fracking until a comprehensive review of the practice is completed, including meaningful engagement with NWT residents.

There have been public calls for a moratorium or ban in various regions and by various communities. For example, the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) called for the Gwich'in Settlement Region to be a frack-free zone at their August 2014 Annual General Assembly. The GTC and the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board asked for a moratorium on fracking in their revised Land Use Plan. The Dene Nation called for a moratorium on fracking in 2011, the Sahtu Secretariat Inc. called for a comprehensive review of fracking in 2014, and the Akaitcho Government called for a ban on fracking in 2014. Most recently, Dehcho stated they will not allow or consent to fracking in the Dehcho traditional territory.

Alternatives North believes the potential impacts of fracking in the NWT are poorly understood by the public and regulators alike. Designing regulations without understanding the issues involved is not a socially or environmentally sound approach. Clearly there is concern about fracking throughout the NWT. We suggest that the comprehensive review could be done through an appropriately scoped regional study (pursuant to PART 5.1 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*), and/or a select committee similar to the Yukon's review process.

The GNWT Land Use and Sustainability Framework assures us that "[d]ecisions about land are made in a transparent and accountable manner based on meaningful engagement with NWT residents and interested parties and, where applicable, consultation and accommodation with Aboriginal governments and organizations". The regulation of fracking is certainly a decision about land.

Please let us know your intentions on this important issue.



Karen Hamre
Alternatives North