

## **Resolution 2C**

### **FRACKING (PASSED)**

⇒ District of West Hants

**WHEREAS** hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for natural gas and other fossil fuels often involves the injection of hundreds of toxic chemicals into the ground; and

**WHEREAS** hydraulic fracturing uses massive amounts of water, as much as millions of litres per fracking “job”; and

**WHEREAS** there have been more than 1,000 documented cases of water contamination near fracking sites in the U.S. and some people, such as in Rosebud, Alberta, have well water that now contains so much natural gas they can light their drinking water on fire; and

**WHEREAS** the pollution of water caused by fracking may threaten the long-term economic, social and ecological well-being of communities that depend on clean water sources to meet their basic needs; and

**WHEREAS** the treatment of fracking wastewater may strain municipal wastewater systems and puts water sources at risk since wastewater treatment systems may not be capable of removing endocrine disruptors and other toxic chemicals from fracking wastewater; and

**WHEREAS** more study is needed on the impact of hydraulic fracturing on localized air pollution which can have adverse health effects; and

**WHEREAS** while the industry claims that natural gas is a cleaner fuel, some independent studies have shown that hydraulic fracturing creates more lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions than mining and burning coal and clearly more scientific study is needed; and

**WHEREAS** water and air are shared commons and public trusts and as such require genuine public consultation and a process that enables communities to be a part of the decision making process; and

**WHEREAS** on September 23, 2011, the UN Human Rights Council passed Resolution A/HRC/18/L.1 affirming the human right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation and as such contamination of drinking water by fracking fluids is a violation of this and other human rights;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the UNSM support a province-wide moratorium on hydraulic fracturing until provincial and federal reviews have

been completed that include extensive public consultation and full consideration of the potential human and environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the UNSM also call for dialogue between First Nations, federal, provincial and municipal governments on the impacts of hydraulic fracturing; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that extensive public consultation and full consideration be given for protocols and procedures to address fracking water and the eventual disposal of this byproduct through wastewater treatment plant facilities.

Response from:  
*Department of Energy*

**RESPONSE:**

*The Department of Energy understands Nova Scotians have concerns with the practice of hydraulic fracturing. As a result, there is currently a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing in Nova Scotia and no hydraulic fracturing is happening in the province at this time.*

*We have commissioned Dr. David Wheeler, president of Cape Breton University, to lead an independent review into hydraulic fracturing. This includes conducting public consultations on the environmental, socio-economic and health impacts of hydraulic fracturing in Nova Scotia. He will lead, and work closely with, an independent academic expert panel to conduct this work.*

*Dr. Wheeler's research will play a pivotal role in the province's conclusions on the future of hydraulic fracturing in Nova Scotia.*

*Nova Scotia Energy Minister Andrew Younger has met with Dr. Wheeler and stressed the province's position that this review should be truly independent and open to reviewing information from all sides of the debate. An independently led review, including public consultation, is the best way for Nova Scotia to make appropriate decisions regarding hydraulic fracturing.*

*On Tuesday, Feb. 4, Dr. Wheeler announced the appointment of nine individuals to the independent expert panel. To learn more please visit: <http://www.cbu.ca/sites/cbu.ca/files/docs/hfstudy/Expert%20Panel%20Announcement%20Final.pdf>.*

*Information about the review is available online at <http://www.cbu.ca/hfstudy/resources/doe-documents>.*