



Support was strong as Atlantic Council of Canadians chapter activists took part in the 2012 Global Frackdown to say “no” to fracking near Lake Ainslie.



by Angela Giles

Winning Community Fights Against Fracking

Across Canada, people are banding together to say “no” to fracking. In recent months, Atlantic Canada has been a hotspot for this kind of grassroots community action.

Inverness County Council in Nova Scotia made history by passing a by-law that banned fracking within the county. The by-law recognized the precautionary principle to protect the rights of individuals, and looked at other regulations that would be contravened by allowing hydraulic fracturing. The Inverness County Chapter of the Council of Canadians played a key role in moving the by-law forward. Chapter members said a transparent and inclusive public consultation process allowed the by-law to eventually earn overwhelming support in the county.

This past summer, Kent County, New Brunswick, became a beacon for fracking opposition when Texas-based Southwestern Energy attempted to perform seismic testing throughout the region. With already-established community groups adding their voices to the newly mobilized members of the Elsipogtog First Nation, the community opposition has been strong. Media coverage often focused on the people who were willing to stand in front of the thumper trucks used for seismic testing, and there were also

days of solidarity actions when hundreds of people would visit the Sacred Fire and encampment. Mi’kmaq, Acadians and Anglophones have all worked together. The company left the province in August, but recently returned to complete seismic testing. The Elsipogtog Band Council has issued an eviction notice to the company.

Protecting water has been key to these fights. For example, when Atlantic Industrial Services (AIS) applied to Colchester County Council in Nova Scotia for permission to release “treated” fracking waste into the local sewage system (which would result in the fluid eventually entering the Bay of Fundy), thousands of people wrote letters of objection and voiced their concerns at public meetings. The overwhelming response was difficult to ignore and the County rejected AIS’s application.

Atlantic Canadians are not anti-development, and we are keen to become energy self-sufficient. But we are also able to gauge when the risks of energy extraction outweigh the potential benefits, and we have been coming together to protect our water and our communities at every stage of the fracking process.

Angela Giles is the Atlantic Regional Organizer for the Council of Canadians.

5 Things You Can Do to Stop Fracking

- 1. Form a group.** There is power in numbers. Join with other groups – youth, environmental, Indigenous and other groups – in your community to strengthen your campaign.
- 2. Sign the “Don’t frack with our water” petition** at www.canadians.org. (Download it and get others to sign it too!)
- 3. Pass a resolution.** Want to have fracking banned in your community? Visit your municipal council and ask council members to pass a resolution against it.
- 4. Talk to politicians.** Let your municipal, provincial and federal politicians know what you think.
- 5. Make it public.** Write a letter to the editor, speak to the media, or hold an event to make a public statement against fracking.

Visit www.canadians.org/fracking for more action ideas and resources. Let us know what you are doing in your community and we will add it to our “Fracker Tracker.”