Communities coast to coast are raising red flags about fracking. Farmers and landowners in the Prairies who live near fracking drill sites can light their tap water on fire because it’s so contaminated with methane. Energy companies are withdrawing billions of litres of water from the Fort Nelson River in northeastern B.C., the lifeline of the Fort Nelson First Nation and other communities downstream. Any fracking in southern Ontario will pose serious risks to the Great Lakes, the drinking water source to more than 40 million people. Communities across Atlantic Canada are demanding – and getting – fracking bans to protect their drinking water and livelihoods.

Fracking is a risky technique where sand, water and chemicals are injected into the ground to break apart rock formations to extract natural gas or oil. Fracking uses – and contaminates – large amounts of water and is a threat to our environment, climate and public health.

70% of Canadians support a moratorium on fracking.
5 reasons to ban fracking

1 Fracking threatens water sources. A fracking project requires anywhere from 10 million to 90 million litres of water per project, the equivalent of roughly 4 to 36 Olympic-sized swimming pools. There is no method to safely dispose of fracking wastewater. The injection of fracking wastewater into the ground has been linked to earthquakes.

2 Fracking makes climate change worse. Some industry and government officials are promoting fracked natural gas as a “clean, green fuel,” but studies show that this type of gas can produce as much greenhouse gas emissions as coal.

3 Fracking puts public health at risk. Fracking companies are not required to disclose how many — or even what kinds — of chemicals they use. Studies have shown that many of the chemicals (the ones we do know about) cause serious health problems such as cancer or organ damage.

4 We need green jobs. Fracking is a threat to farming, tourism and other sustainable industries. Rather than continuing to frack for natural gas or oil, we should look for sustainable solutions to transition off of fossil fuels.

5 Fracking opens the door to other mega projects. Fracking projects can lead to a network of fracked gas pipelines, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminals, export projects, and LNG super tankers that impact our watersheds and climate and the health and safety of our communities.

For more information about the Council of Canadians’ campaign to ban fracking visit canadians.org/fracking.