



## Getting our Governments to Act

### How to pass a bylaw or resolution

Help raise awareness locally about the dangers of fracking by visiting your local municipal or town council and asking elected representatives to pass a resolution that places a moratorium, or even a full ban, on fracking operations within city limits.

Start by meeting with local politicians to get them onside. Find out how to get a motion introduced and be prepared to speak at committee and/or council meetings. Use our sample resolution below as a starting point, and be sure to check our website [www.canadians.org/fracking](http://www.canadians.org/fracking) for other helpful resources such as factsheets and articles that you can use for research and background information.

### Sample municipal resolutions on fracking

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 36 million 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 threatens 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 strains municipal wastewater systems and puts water sources at risk since wastewater treatment systems are not 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;



**Option 1:** Moratorium until review/public consultation occurs:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that on the \_\_\_\_day of \_\_\_\_20\_\_, (municipality or town) supports a province-wide and national 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that (municipality or town) also calls for dialogue between First Nations, federal, provincial and municipal governments on the impacts of hydraulic fracturing.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that hydraulic fracturing for natural gas and other fossil fuels within (municipality or town) and (name of local watershed) watershed and the treatment of fracking fluids in (municipality or town)'s wastewater treatment plant(s) is prohibited until the above-noted public consultations and reviews have been completed.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND EFFECTIVE on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council President

**Option 2:** Outright ban:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that on the \_\_\_\_day of \_\_\_\_20\_\_, (municipality or town) supports a provincial and national ban on hydraulic fracturing for natural gas and other fossil fuels.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that (municipality or town) will send a letter to (Member of Provincial Parliament and Member of Parliament) calling for a ban on hydraulic fracturing and for the development of provincial and federal legislation banning hydraulic fracturing.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that hydraulic fracturing for natural gas and other fossil fuels within (municipality or town) and (name of local watershed) watershed and the treatment of fracking fluids in (municipality or town)'s wastewater treatment plant(s) is banned.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND EFFECTIVE on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council President

**OTHER RESOLUTIONS/BYLAWS PASSED:**

Assembly of First Nations resolution Moratorium on Hydraulic Fracturing (Resolution 6g)  
[www.afn.ca/uploads/files/sca-res-11.pdf](http://www.afn.ca/uploads/files/sca-res-11.pdf)

Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation resolutions  
[www.vgfn.ca/ga-2013.php](http://www.vgfn.ca/ga-2013.php)

Quebec resolutions  
[regroupementgazdeschiste.com/?page=resolutions](http://regroupementgazdeschiste.com/?page=resolutions)

Burnaby, British Columbia resolution  
[burnaby.civicweb.net/Documents/DocumentList.aspx?ID=13406](http://burnaby.civicweb.net/Documents/DocumentList.aspx?ID=13406)

Inverness, Nova Scotia bylaw  
[www.canadians.org/sites/default/files/water/fracking/Anti-fracking\\_bylaw\\_passed\\_May6\\_2013.pdf](http://www.canadians.org/sites/default/files/water/fracking/Anti-fracking_bylaw_passed_May6_2013.pdf)

Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario resolution  
[www.canadians.org/sites/default/files/1899\\_001.pdf](http://www.canadians.org/sites/default/files/1899_001.pdf)



## Making a submission to the government

In some cases, governments will hold public consultations and invite public comments on fracking projects. This is an opportunity to pressure the government and raise public awareness about fracking.

Here are some examples of submissions from the Council of Canadians:

Letter to Nova Scotia Environment about Colchester fracking wastewater:

[www.canadians.org/sites/default/files/Colchester-fracking-appeal-0513.pdf](http://www.canadians.org/sites/default/files/Colchester-fracking-appeal-0513.pdf)

Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board: [www.canadians.org/sites/default/files/water/fracking/NL-SEA-report-submission0913.pdf](http://www.canadians.org/sites/default/files/water/fracking/NL-SEA-report-submission0913.pdf)

New York's Department of Environmental Conservation: [www.canadians.org/sites/default/files/council-of-canadians-comments-on-ny-hydraulic-fracturing.pdf](http://www.canadians.org/sites/default/files/council-of-canadians-comments-on-ny-hydraulic-fracturing.pdf)

## What to ask candidates during elections

An election campaign period is a perfect time to raise the issue of fracking with candidates. You can attend all-candidates debates, send emails, write letters to the editor (see page 42) and use social media to get candidates to take a position on fracking. (See sample tweets on page 46.)

### Here are some sample questions to ask candidates in the lead-up to an election:

What is your position on fracking? Do you support a ban/moratorium on (future) fracking?

Regulation for fracking falls largely to provinces and territories because of their power to issue drilling and water permits. While it is true that hydraulic fracturing has been used for decades, fracking for unconventional gas – shale gas, coalbed methane and tight gas – is new and provincial regulations have not caught up to this expanding technology. What regulations or legislation will you implement to regulate fracking?

A typical fracked well requires the use of between 55,000 and 220,000 litres of chemicals, but the specific combination and quantities of chemicals used are considered proprietary trade secrets. Will you legally require companies to disclose a full list of the chemicals they use during the fracking process?

A typical fracking project uses anywhere from 10 million to 200 million litres of water. How will you monitor water use for fracking and ensure that water is protected as a human right for current and future generations?

Under Article 32 of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples governments are required to obtain free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting Indigenous peoples' lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with



the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources. Will you ensure that free and informed prior consent is obtained for any fracking projects and approvals for water takings?

**From the Nova Scotia Fracking Resource and Action Coalition:**

Will your government extend the existing moratorium and enact a legislated 10-year moratorium on fracking, and if not, what conditions would have to exist before your party would consider it safe to lift the present moratorium on fracking?

Hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for shale gas generates many millions of litres of contaminated wastewater each time a well is fracked. This wastewater contains a mix of hazardous contaminants, including chemicals from fracking fluids and contaminants released from shale by fracking. Fracking wastewater often contains radioactive elements, many of which have long half-lives, such as radium 226 with a half-life of 1600 years. The release of fracking wastewater into the environment, even after partial treatment, can have long-term impacts on people's health and the environment. According to studies, there are no safe methods of disposing fracking wastewater. Will your party prohibit fracking wastewater from being imported from other provinces into Nova Scotia?

While candidates may dodge controversial topics during an election campaign, it is a critical time and a good opportunity to raise these issues and press them to go on the record with a position against fracking.