



Port au Port / Bay St George Fracking Awareness Group

For Immediate Release

September 11, 2013

A first in NL, Jessica Ernst, internationally recognized environmental consultant brings her fracking story to Stephenville.

Stephenville, NL- On Sunday, September 22th, 2pm, at the Stephenville Arts and Culture Centre, the Bay St George / Port au Port group is hosting the People's Forum on Fracking, where the environmental scientist Jessica Ernst will be presenting her case against hydraulic fracturing, popularly known as 'fracking', for the first time to Newfoundland citizens. Maude Barlow, Chairperson of the Council of Canadians will be introducing Jessica via a pre-recorded video.

Ernst with thirty years experience working in the oil and gas industry as an environmental consultant says, that "the companies and regulators are not telling the whole truth when it comes to fracking". She recently released a ten-year study refuting industry, politicians and regulators claims that 200,000 wells have been fracked in western Canada without a single incident of water contamination. The study, "Brief Review of Threats to Canada's Groundwater from the Oil and Gas Industry's Methane Migration and Hydraulic Fracturing" points out that confidentiality agreements signed by people who have had their water contaminated prevent key facts from emerging, and that individuals and municipalities have been legally prevented from speaking publicly about water contamination caused by the oil and gas industry.

Ernst brought international attention to the practice of fracking by filing a lawsuit against Canada's largest natural gas producer –Encana- for poisoning the groundwater in her community of Rosebud, Alberta. She also filed suit against the Alberta government and energy regulator, the Energy Resource Conservation Board, for unlawful activities and failing to protect Alberta's water and citizens from contamination.

For Katherine Hoskins, co-chair of the organizing committee "we believe that Newfoundlanders will want to hear from someone who has first-hand experience with this controversial practice. We welcome everyone interested in hearing Jessica's story and research to join us on September 22".



Jessica Ernst

References

<http://www.ernstversusencana.ca/links-resources>

[Brief-review-of-threats-to-Canadas-groundwater-from-oil-gas-industrys-methane-migration-and-hydraulic-fracturing-v4\(2\).pdf](#)

Contact persons

-For information regarding the Forum: Graham Oliver (709) 643-5426

-To contact Jessica Ernst:

<http://www.ernstversusencana.ca/contact>

and use the “contact button”