

PROPOSED RESOLUTION - NATURAL RESOURCE EXPLORATION AND EXTRACTION INVOLVING HORIZONTAL HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

WHEREAS horizontal hydraulic fracturing, commonly known as “fracking,” has been banned or placed under moratorium in several countries, three U.S. states and three Canadian provinces

WHEREAS recent studies have revealed serious risks to public health involved at every stage of operations

WHEREAS methane emitted by fracked wells is a potent greenhouse gas, contributing to man-made climate change

WHEREAS Alberta’s water resources are precious and valuable

WHEREAS there is growing concern in Alberta and a growing body of evidence of negative effects of horizontal hydraulic fracturing activities on human and animal health and air and water quality and of an increase in dangerous seismic activity

WHEREAS agricultural production and the safety of our agricultural products will be under increasing scrutiny as our trade develops with countries where horizontal “fracking” is not allowed

WHEREAS our reputation for environmental integrity has the potential to have a direct effect on our tourism industry

WHEREAS Alberta municipalities require the assistance of the Province in order to fulfill their duty to protect the health and safety of their residents

Be it resolved that the Alberta NDP calls on the Provincial Government to:

1. Declare a moratorium on horizontal hydraulic fracturing pending independent scientific study to determine the effects of all operations on human and animal health, and on the environment, including thorough investigation of effects on air, land and water.
2. Declare nondisclosure agreements in landowner contracts regarding information on effects of the technology on air, land or water to be illegal.
3. Remove “right of entry” legislation, which renders useless any attempt to obtain reasonable compensation for landowners.

Background Statement

Subsequent to natural resource exploration and activities involving horizontal hydraulic fracturing, concerns have been received from landowners regarding air, water and soil contamination, human and animal health effects and seismic events, some of which were destructive of infrastructure.

Residents are expected to prove harm from these activities, rather than industry being required to prove safety. We need to ensure the protection of our people, our environment and our water - our most valuable natural resources.