

# Water equals life. Who is Jessica Ernst?

Passing through Yukon for Global Frackdown Day (Sept. 22), this champion of public interest and ground water protection, Jessica Ernst, a woman of heart and head, came to Whitehorse to deliver her message about the hard and real consequences that hydraulic fracturing has done to her water, farm, life and community in Rosebud, Alta.

"When we are fracked, nothing is the same anymore," she says.

Jessica grew up in Pierrefonds, a suburb of Montreal. She is proud to be from Quebec and to have been educated where she learned to have a critical mind.

With her three decades of experience as an environmental consultant with oil and gas companies, she knows what she is talking about.

She is, right now, in a spot where everybody would want to have her *courage* but where no one would like to be in her place.

Instead, to subside in the darkness of her reality, to have been betrayed by her peers, to have lost the use of water on her farm and to be hopeless to get back to her quiet life from before being fracked, Jessica is suing:

- the Government of Alberta;
- the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB); and
- Encana.

She is accusing them of negligence and of conducting illegal activities. You can Google "Jessica Ernst".

As a professional in this field, she ought to pursue them to make them accountable.

"Jessica is doing what we all want to do but don't have the balls to stand up and do," said Shawn Campbell, a Ponoka-area rancher who also has water contamination problems related to fracking.

"Water is the key issue. If you don't have clean water, what are you going to do? You won't live long."

She does not want to be treated as an "activist", as she is only a woman who is defending her right to *water*, as any good mother will have to do in the near future for her children.

Unlike others, she will not accept bribes to shut off.

This law court cost her lots of money and energy, and obliges her to live a calm life. She surrounds everything with bright light and prayers. She knows that

she is so little beside the giants she is facing.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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The daily practice of the 12 steps helps her to surrender and give her the necessary strength to face each day and to be grateful for the daily victories. She does not intend to give up, one day at the time.

She works 18 hours a day, seven days week to do research and to prepare her next talks, all supported by documents of proof, and it is with great generosity that she shares her research with us.

For Jessica, *water equals life*, which is why she leaves behind her everyday life and well-loved

dog to travel to communities to wake us up on the realities of what fracking does.

Yukon is not exempt from fracking. It is at our doorstep. Just look project 2012-0140 at the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board online and read between the lines.

Jessica talk, *The Great Get-away: Secrets of a Frac Cover-Up*, will be in Calgary, where she will speak about four aspects of fracking, culture and politics in Alberta:

- 1) breaking the law to frack in secret;
- 2) punishing citizens who ask questions;
- 3) investigating fracking without investigating in order to ensure that experiments continue; and
- 4) using Alberta Innovates to

conceal public water testing data.

There is a way to give Jessica donations through her website:

<http://www.ernstversusen-cana.ca>

If you are concerned about fracking in Yukon, a paper petition to ban hydraulic fracturing in the Yukon is at the Alpine Bakery, Aurora Borealis, Well Read Books, Patty's Café, Midnight Sun Café, Takhini Hot Springs, The Feed Store (board) and the Shipyards Park building

Thanks to all for their co-operation and thanks to Jessica.

A Yukoner concerned about oil and gas exports and development in the Yukon,

**Jacqueline Vigneux**  
Whitehorse