



## **WOLASTOQEY NATION IN NEW BRUNSWICK**

WOLASTOQEY NATION CONSULTATION OFFICE  
BOX 14, 150 CLIFFE ST. (2ND FLOOR)  
FREDERICTON, NB / E3A 0A1  
t 506.459.6341 / f 506.459.0974

[DELIVERED VIA EMAIL]

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### **Wolastoqey Nation Strongly Opposes Province's Secret Lifting of Fracking Moratorium in Sussex Area**

The Wolastoqey Nation recently became aware, via mainstream media, that in early May Premier Higgs and the Province of New Brunswick quietly passed an Order in Council exempting an area near Sussex from the Fracking Moratorium ("Moratorium"). All of this was done without any consultation with, or even notification to, the Indigenous peoples of this Province, and the Order in Council has not been made public.

The area where the Province has lifted the Moratorium includes unceded Wolastoqey Nation Traditional Territory. This decision and the secrecy surrounding it are unacceptable to our Nation.

St. Mary's Chief Allan Polchies Jr.: "My community and my Nation oppose any hydrofracking activities in our Territory. Water is one of our most precious resources. Our harvesting rights, our culture, our wellbeing depend on clean water. Fracking creates risks to our water that are simply too high to make this activity worthwhile."

Madawaska Chief Patricia Bernard: "The Province's attempt to secretly open the door to fracking in our Territory is shocking, unacceptable, and unlawful. They need to restore the Moratorium immediately, and they need to have a serious dialogue with Indigenous peoples before taking any more steps in that direction. If the Province does not correct course quickly, my Nation will be examining all of its options for dealing with this serious breach of our rights."

The 2018 Throne Speech of the Higgs government committed to addressing unkept promises to First Nations and to defining a new relationship with First Nations that would include more control over lands and resources. The decision to secretly exempt the Sussex area from the Moratorium without any Indigenous consultation does the very opposite and perpetuates the status quo in the New Brunswick government's relationship with Indigenous peoples.

Tobique's Chief Ross Perley: "I am very disappointed with this Provincial Government's approach on fracking within unceded Wolastoqey Nation Traditional Territory. It falls short of the Higgs Government's promise of defining a new relationship with the Wolastoqey and Mi'kmaw Nations. It is our job to ensure the protection of lands and waters for our future generations and we will unify with our Mi'kmaw brothers and sisters to stop this development."

The Wolastoqey Nation calls on the Province of New Brunswick to immediately re-establish the Moratorium and engage with Indigenous peoples on any proposal to allow fracking.

Woliwon/Wəliwəwəw



Chief Allan Polchies Jr.  
St Mary's First Nation



Chief Tim Paul  
Woodstock First Nation



Chief Patricia Bernard  
Madawaska Maliseet First Nation



Chief Shelley Sabattis  
Oromocto First Nation



Chief Ross Perley  
Tobique First Nation



Chief Gabriel Atwin  
Kingsclear First Nation