



May 31, 2012

Ms. Anick Pelletier, President
NB College of Family Physicians
850 Picot Avenue
Bathurst, NB E2A 4Z9

Dear Ms. Pelletier:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence regarding shale gas exploration and development in the province of New Brunswick.

In New Brunswick we have a long history of natural gas exploration and development, back to 1859: We currently have the appropriate regulations in place to manage the industry at its current level. However, with the potential for increased development it is incumbent upon the government to ensure all regulations are at optimal levels to ensure the safe and responsible development of the natural gas industry.

Our government recently released a discussion paper on Responsible Environmental Management of Oil and Gas Activities in New Brunswick. It sets out recommended standards and practices that will ensure the oil and gas industry is developed in an environmentally responsible manner.

I encourage you and your members to visit the website (www.gnb.ca/naturalgas or www.gnb.ca/gaznaturel) to read the documents and submit your comments.

In addition, we are asking New Brunswickers for their thoughts on how revenues from an expanded natural gas industry should be shared with landowners and nearby communities and local service districts. The deadline for submissions and comments to be sent to government is July 18, 2012.

In the meantime, we are also hosting a related citizen engagement tour during the month of June. Details of this tour can also be found on the website.

I encourage all New Brunswickers to read the two discussion documents and to share their comments with us. This input will guide us as we work to strengthen our existing regulatory standards to better protect water, our environment and our people.

Thank you for writing me on this important issue and expressing the concerns of the members of the New Brunswick College of Physicians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Northrup".

Bruce Northrup

cc: Hon. David Alward, Premier
Hon. Craig Leonard, acting Minister of Energy
PC MLA's

Minister/Ministre

Natural Resources/Ressources naturelles

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