

Tobique First Nation, NB September 2011

Wulustuk Times

Wulustuk - Indigenous name for St. John River

*This publication produced monthly at Tobique, NB,
Canada E7H 5K3*

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Wulustuk Times:

Each month we gather and publish the latest, most current and relevant native information for our readers. Proceeding with this concept, we feel that a well informed person is better able to see, relate with, and assess a situation more accurately when equipped with the right tools. Our aim is to provide you with the precise tools and the best information possible.

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(HF) COULD RUIN GEOLOGICAL MANTLE AND UNDERGROUND WATER BASINS

p.paul, Tobique First Nation

In recent times the increase in Hydro Fracturing (HF) activities by a number of corporations in the province in search of shale gas has stirred much attention, unrest and bared a lot of emotions among the people across the land. But especially irked are the native people who see their traditional role as “Stewards of the Land” once again being snubbed, ignored and totally disregarded.

The main concern raised by the protesting groups along with their native counterparts is the potential risk and permanent damage that could result in the dynamic disruption and/or shattering the underground geology and contaminating huge subterranean clean-water streams, rivers and reservoirs that have been safely sheltered in their natural underground beds and channels for eons of time.

The abundance of subterranean waterways and reservoirs in any part of the land is evidenced by the fact that the earliest farmers, ranchers or pioneering homesteaders who set up on any piece of land anywhere in the province could just dig down a few hundred feet, or so, on their property, and hit a ready supply of fresh, potable clean water for their stock and families. That has the usual practice to secure water in any landholding venture anywhere in the province.

That unfortunately would not be the case any longer if the Hydro Fracturing is allowed take over and wreck the sub-surface fresh water supplies throughout the province because in their deadly drive to reap their sacred \$\$, the most valuable commodity we have could be contaminated or destroyed forever, -our water.

Through wholesale Hydro Fracturing our sub-surface water supplies would ultimately be poisoned contaminated and unuseable forever due to the severely toxic solutions and other highly poisonous compounds and mixes used in HF operations.

When or if that ever comes to be, we globally would suffer the consequences to last a lifetime, while the perpetrator, the HF operator, merrily slips away from the mining areas loaded down with tons of ill-gotten bucks and booty heading back to his stately mansion.

Apparently, and as reported recently in the media, NB government, in its hopes of reducing unemployment stats, has given its unwavering support and a clear ‘green light’ to companies and corporations ready to invest serious \$\$\$ into the HF projects to produce the very marketable product, -shale gas in remote and settled New Brunswick areas.

At the same time however, another scenario is also taking place in the province as province-wide public demonstrations that includes native protesters, have sprung up essentially overnight and rallied in the remote HF project byways, on the streets, and even at the Legislature to either put a complete stop to the lethal HF activities before they become totally out of control and/or too politically connected to halt. But more importantly, to convince the province to stop licencing all HF projects immediately, in the effort to save our most precious commodity, our drinking water.

Pure drinking Water has now been declared a human right by the United Nations.

On 28 July 2010, water was declared a human right through a United Nations Resolution that scored, 122 for, zero against and 41 abstentions.

The Resolution in short stated, "Safe and clean drinking water and sanitation is a human right essential to the full enjoyment of life and other human rights"
The UN Resolution speaks for 900 million people worldwide, from every continent who presently do not have access to clean water or sanitation.

On a personal note, - within this country (Canada) alone, a huge percentage of native communities from northern areas as well as in southern reserves, are within the 900 million people referred to in the above UN statement and in the many first nations water contamination situations, no alarm or major concerns were raised by the public or given attention for repair or remedy.

Whereas in year 2000 when Walkerton, Ont. (pop. 5000) water contamination situation arose five persons died and dozen others injured. That crisis was quickly attended to, and resolved in a fairly short order as a result of quick reaction from governments involved, and mainly for it being a non-native community.

The Walkerton case shows exactly where governments' priorities lie and where interests are focused when it comes to safety and health hazards.

One very important factor that can't be overlooked in HF operations which could raise legal eyelids when a Canadian province (like NB) readily allows corporations to tear up vast sections of lands and territories for the interests of corporate shale gas explorations.

Have NB constituents been adequately advised, alerted and made aware of the legal complications and unique technicalities involved in allowing mega corporations to proceed in HF projects?

Might be worth to ask the local MLA if we're headed in the right direction in supporting HF operations.

TOBIQUE LOOKS TO PAST TO PRESERVE ANCIENT CULTURE AND LANGUAGE

p.paul

Tobique FN, (Special) - A new teaching technique for re-learning 'slipping' arts, crafts, culture and language has been initiated at Tobique through a filmed study of its past economic history.

The 20-week project involves about 20 male and female individuals of various ages and skill backgrounds entails integrating youth with elders who will share and co-share duties and responsibilities in carrying out various projects that early Tobique residents depended upon and kept them occupied in following traditional paths, skills and technologies.

The use of the Maliseet language will predominate and will be main communication medium applied throughout the duration of the project.

During the 20-week tenure two film teams will be on hand to record the proceedings. The first team is from the local area and the second team is from an outside professional consultant firm who will train the local camera team. Their responsibility will be to follow and record every step and move taken by the project for use in follow-up purposes or for training other communities who might wish to use this process.

Each task completed in the program will be recorded in a short 10 to 15-minute film production which will be kept in safe, secure storage for future use.

Most tasks in the program will concentrate on aboriginal craftwork such as production of snowshoes, miniature birchbark canoes, suede or leather products, moccasins, souvenir items, etc.

But the primary interest will be on basket making, a long-term Maliseet activity that sustained Tobique families for centuries who happen to reside within the heartland of a thriving potato industry of Maine and New Brunswick where baskets were virtually indispensable in the potato industry until harvesters came on the scene in the 1950's and 60's.

The 20-week course headed by Councillor Brenda Perley is sponsored by the Chief and Council and is intended to provide potential long-term employment outlet for those enrolled in the program and to help others to follow.

CITIZENS CALL FOR FRACKING MORATORIUM

CBC News

A citizens group is calling for a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing in New Brunswick until the provincial government puts regulations in place.

Members of Citizens for Responsible Resource Development rallied outside several politicians' offices on Monday. Two of the members met with Minister of Local Governance Bruce Fitch at his office in Riverview.

Fitch said they are the first citizens to come and talk to him about hydraulic fracturing. He said it isn't his file, but stressed that the province is doing its homework and listening to all sides.

"Get those sides of the story and then ultimately it goes back to the minister to get his recommendation on how to move forward on this."

Bethany Thorne-Dykstra, president of the citizens group, said with much of the exploration by oil companies going on in southeastern New Brunswick, Fitch should be involved.

"We want to hear from the whole cabinet on what their position is because we believe they were elected by the people to protect the people and that's what we see missing," she said.

Dykstra contends exploration is moving too fast and that the province is being irresponsible by allowing gas and oil companies to drill test wells in New Brunswick before regulations are in place. The group is concerned about the possible impact on water and land.

"There should be some discussion and talking between communities for land and land use planning in terms of whether natural gas should be a free-for-all for the entire province," Dykstra said.

Dykstra's group is planning weekly rallies, and has started a petition asking for a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing until there are clear regulations.

Natural Resources Minister Bruce Northrup said in March that the government would not follow the lead of Quebec and New York and put a moratorium on shale gas development and the controversial process of hydraulic fracturing.

Northrup said it will take three to four years for a full shale gas operation to be in place and he's confident the proper processes will be in place by then.

Hydraulic fracturing, also known as hydro-fracking, pumps a mixture of water, chemicals and sand into the ground, creating cracks in shale rock formations. That allows companies to extract natural gas from areas that would otherwise go untapped.

TESTING FOR SHALE GAS IN N.B. SUSPENDED AMID ANTI-FRACKING PROTESTS, VANDALISM

Global News

FREDERICTON - A week after asserting protesters would not thwart seismic testing for shale gas deposits in New Brunswick, Southwestern (SWN) Resources Canada has suspended its operations claiming vandals caused damage to equipment.

The company says someone has caused "tens of thousands of dollars" in damage to equipment and that some had been stolen.

Opposition to shale gas exploration has been growing, with community activists and environmental groups claiming gas development in rural parts of the province would put water and air quality at risk.

Seismic testing is an early step in shale gas development.

But it's how the gas is extracted, should development continue, that has people up in arms.

A controversial process called hydraulic fracturing - also known as fracking - would be employed to extract the gas. The process involves injecting millions of liters of water and sand under high pressure into a well, creating fractures in the rock allowing the extraction of natural gas.

SWN Resources refutes claims hydraulic fracturing poses an environmental risk.

Tom Alexander, manager of SWN's operations in New Brunswick, told The Moncton Times & Transcript opponents have "misrepresented" the risks of hydraulic fracturing.

"Those who are against this have completely blown this out of proportion," he said Friday.

He said he wants an open debate on the issue.

"Let's have a reasoned discussion, with real facts. Much of their information is out of context and outright fabrications. It's been completely misrepresented to the people," he told the Times & Transcript.

Demonstrations against SWN Resources and shale gas extraction reached a fever pitch recently.

A little more than a week ago, about 40 people from rural and First Nations communities formed a two-day "peaceful" blockade of equipment on a road outside the village of Stanley, approximately 50 km north of Fredericton.

Demonstrators said it was a necessary step to protect their land and water.

The next day, Aug. 11, demonstrators took their protest to the lobby of a government office building, in Fredericton, and demanded to speak to Premier David Alward face to face.

Alward was out of town, but Natural Resources Minister Bruce Northrup did agree to address the group, although he reaffirmed the province's commitment to gas industry development.

Shale gas opponents "slowed down" equipment again Thursday on the English Settlement Road, 40 km outside of the capital city.

That's when SWN Resources' geophysical operations manager, Mike Rhodes, told Global News equipment had been vandalized.

Geophones sets, used to measure sound waves, were damaged or destroyed the night before.

SWN Resources has about 700 of the sensors spread out over a 14-kilometre distance.

"Some of the geophone sets," Rhodes said, "were cut with a some sort of knife or cutters, some were pulled up and thrown into the bushes, it's just taking a long time to repair those and put them online."

Rhodes says it would be impossible to protect that much equipment from vandals.

Joey Saindon, a resident of nearby Durham Bridge, said Thursday it wasn't vandals who messed with the equipment.

"It's people who were forced to do this because the government is not stepping in and protecting us," he said.

"It really feels like our neighbourhoods are being invaded," Saindon said.

In response to this latest development, Northrup told CBC New Brunswick, "The public has the right to protest as long as they're a friendly protest, but we certainly don't condone blockades and we certainly don't condone stealing property."

SWN Resources was scheduled to do another three to four weeks of testing. Northrup said the company will resume testing in 2012.

While shale gas development could pump millions of dollars into New Brunswick's economy in the years to come, Alexander said the suspension of operations this summer means workers brought in to conduct tests will no longer be around to supporting local businesses.

Opponents, on the other hand, are hailing the move as "one victory in a larger battle" to prevent shale gas exploration and extraction in the province.

*With files from Mayya Assouad

LAC SEUL FIRST NATION OPPOSES WASTE STORAGE WITHIN TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Media Release

Chief Clifford Bull and the Council of the Lac Seul First Nation have announced that the Lac Seul Band will not support any nuclear waste storage initiatives by regional municipalities within the LSFN traditional territory.

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"We are aware that the towns such as Sioux Lookout, Ignace and Ear Falls have either expressed or are expressing their interest as potential host repository sites for nuclear waste, in response to the recent call for Expressions of Interest by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization," said Chief Bull. "We borrow this world from our children, and Lac Seul does not want to create an impossible problem for our future generations to struggle with."

Lac Seul First Nation stands with the Grand Council of Treaty 3, Nishnawbe Aski Nation, and many Northwestern Ontario First Nations in opposing the potential development of nuclear waste storage sites. "This is not a matter of consultation and accommodation for Lac Seul. This is a matter of opposition," stated Chief Bull.

Lac Seul is located approximately 38 km northwest of Sioux Lookout. Lac Seul First Nation has a large base, which is bounded to the north and east by the Lac Seul reservoir, and is comprised of four on-reserve communities: Kejick Bay, Canoe River, Whitefish Bay, and Frenchman's Head.

Lac Seul First Nation is the oldest First Nation in the Sioux Lookout District of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (formerly Indian and Northern Affairs Canada). The reserve was established pursuant to Treaty 3, through adhesion in 1874.

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FIRST NATION WINS LEGAL BATTLE OVER CLEAR-CUTTING

CBC News

John Cutfeet is silhouetted outside the provincial legislature in Toronto, on June 25, 2007, after a teepee was erected by members of the Grassy Narrows and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nations to draw attention to logging and mineral extraction on their traditional lands. (Adrian Wyld/Canadian Press)

Leaders of the Grassy Narrows First Nation in northwestern Ontario are declaring a

major legal victory in their decade-long fight over clear-cutting in their traditional territory.

Ontario's Superior Court ruled Wednesday that the province cannot authorize timber and logging if the operations infringe on federal treaty promises protecting aboriginal rights to traditional hunting and trapping.

Grassy Narrows has long argued it only agreed in 1873 to sign a treaty with Canada involving the Keewatin lands north of Kenora on a promise that the federal government would protect its traditional ways of life.

Grassy Narrows' lawyers said the ruling would have reverberations across Canada for other First Nations fighting to protect traditional lands.

Ontario has provincial jurisdiction over timber and mining rights.

The provincial government has for years been selling timber leases to large forestry companies that have clear-cut large swaths of the region.

Superior Court Justice Mary Sanderson ruled Ontario has no right to infringe on rights protected by federal treaty — and urged governments to live up to their promises.

Sanderson stopped short of issuing any injunctions or making any findings of fault against the Province of Ontario. More legal arguments are expected in the coming weeks over injunctions to prevent further logging.

There will also be a complicated impact assessment that will try to measure the cost of years of clear-cutting on the forest, animals and the people of Grassy Narrows.

CHINESE COMPANY TO SINK MORE MONEY INTO NUNAVIK NICKEL MINE PROJECT NUNATSIAQ NEWS

Jilin Jien Nickel Industry Co. said Aug. 29 that it's ready to invest an additional \$400 million in the Nunavik Nickel project in Nunavik, reports Canadian Press.

Wu Shu, the mining company's chief executive office, made the announcement Aug. 29 in Beijing after a meeting with Premier Jean Charest, who is on trade mission that has taken him to Japan and now to China.

The \$400 millions means Jilin Jien will have sunk \$800 million to fast-track that mine, Nunavik's second, into operation.

The mine is expected to begin production in mid-2012 and employ about 270 people, CP said.

Jilin Jien Nickel Industry acquired nickel mining company Canadian Royalties Inc. in 2010, and it remains embroiled in legal disputes with its partner, Vancouver-based Goldbrook Ventures, which said last year that its Chinese partners in the Nunavik Nickel mine project violated their partnership deal.

Goldbrook then started the first of three separate arbitration proceedings against the parent company of Jien Canadian Mining. Charest remains in China until Sept. 2.

DIABETES MORE COMMON IN POOR AREAS: STUDY

THE STARPHOENIX

More needs to be done to prevent diabetes among those living in Saskatoon's inner city, where people have a higher likelihood of developing the chronic disease, says a Saskatoon Health Region report released Friday.

"We are dealing with a large health problem and a health problem that is getting bigger," said Dr. Stephen Whitehead, deputy medical health officer and co-author of the report.

More than 16,500 people, or about five per cent of those living in the Saskatoon area, had diabetes in 2006-07. And 90 per cent of those people had type 2 diabetes, which is considered preventable in most cases.

Among those living in the city's low-income neighbourhoods, 7.1 per cent had diabetes compared with 5.0 per cent of people living in middle-income neighbourhoods and 4.2 per cent living in affluent neighbourhoods.

The disparity between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people living in Saskatoon Health Region was even greater. More than 12 per cent of people with Registered Indian Status had diabetes, which was 2.5 times higher than the 4.9 per cent of people who were not considered to have Indian status.

Whitehead acknowledged that it's well known that diabetes is affecting more people now than in the past and that certain people are more likely to develop the chronic disease, but he said the report is the first detailed look at the problem in the Saskatoon area.

"It's more reinforcing what we already know," said Whitehead at a news conference Friday morning.

"What we're trying to do with this report is act as a catalyst for action. It gives a baseline of what the picture is like of diabetes. What we don't want is a report that will sit on the shelf and gather dust."

If left unchecked, the number of people who develop diabetes is projected to double by 2020. Complications arising from diabetes include heart attacks, strokes, kidney failure, diseases requiring amputations and blindness. They are life changing and sometimes

deadly. They also create significant strain on the health-care system.

Friday's report makes eight recommendations to turn the tide preventing diabetes from developing in the first place and to reduce the complications for those who have the disease.

Saskatoon Health Region president and CEO Maura Davies accepts the report and is committed to dealing with the issues, particularly the disparity between aboriginal people and those who aren't aboriginal.

"It will have to inform the work ahead in terms of targeting neighbourhoods, targeting communities, targeting individuals who have an aboriginal background who are at higher risk," said Davies after the news conference.

She wasn't sure how much money it would take to provide to implement the report's recommendations.

"It's not always about adding more. It's sometimes about adding more, but it's also making sure we are getting really good bang for our buck," she said.

"Chronic disease management programs have shown they make a little bit of money go a long way because they do it in partnership. The other thing we need to look at is of the resources that we've got, are they positioned where they can have the most impact? We have already moved some of our public health staff from more affluent neighbourhoods to have more of a focus in our lower incomes communities and neighbourhoods," said Davies.

DAN'S CORNER - - CROWN LAND IS INDIAN LAND

The land that has come to be known as Canada is Indian land, our land, and has always been our land.

At some point after contact those transplanted Europeans arrogantly decided that they would begin referring to Indian land as Indian Crown Land. This represents the beginning of the theft of our land. It also represents the beginning of the creation of the legal fiction and political illusion that has come to be known as Canada. This was the eurocanadian means of legitimizing what they knew and still know as the theft of land. Theft of Indian land.

If one reads European history one will discover that the theft of Indian land began much earlier. This was when the Christian church divided North America into portions and gave certain portions to different countries. Along with land grants the church also granted to European whites its go-ahead to conquer and populate Indian lands for in the minds of Church officials the occupiers were/are only sub-human savages. These savages were not civilized, not Christians, were/are not like Europeans for they did not try to conquer and convert "others" and they did not develop the land.

In the minds of Europeans the "permission" from the Christian church was and is the legitimizing force for the act of stealing land that does not rightfully belong to one. After all, the church gave its approval to steal savage land.

The Christian churches "permission" was what began the religious theft process of our land, and the methods that gave it life and sustainability, into the present, was the concept of Indian Crown Land. From there, it was simply a matter of time and eurocanadian chicanery attitudes for it to become simply Crown Land.

In the present day you add to the mix the eurocanadian's deliberate and calculated state of denial with respect to their theft of our land along with their "white is right" and "might is right" attitude and you have a situation where those eurocanadians are more than willing and able to annihilate more of our people in the same manner that they managed to annihilate the Beothuk, so that they may continue holding on to our land.

Maybe the eurocanadians won't annihilate our people in as blatant a manner as they once did but annihilate they will for they will not return our land simply because they know in their hearts that this land is our land. For their individual and collective greed is too great. Greater yet then even their individual and collective guilt for their theft of Indian land.

As Indian people we are duty-bound to do what we must do to continue what the Ancestors have instructed us to do. To honor, respect, nurture and protect our Sacred Earth Mother. And to honor, respect, nurture and protect the Ancestors, the People and the Seventh Generation.

All My Relation, Dan Ennis

DEAN'S DEN - "SUMMER' GONE I" AND A SHORT "SUMMER'S GONE II"

Summer's Gone (I)
Summer's gone!!!
Now where'd it go?
Don't look at me
'Cause I don't know!
What about the things I planned to do
And only finished one or two,
I never saw the solstice dawn
I thought I had to "carry on"
I didn't lay out in the sun
And seldom had the time for fun
I was always "on the run"
Still, so much was left undone!
I didn't stop to smell the flowers
And whiled away no idle hours,
I never heard the robin sing

I never had a "summer fling".
Always busy -
To and fro
Now summer's gone
And ... where'd it go?

Summer's Gone (II)
It won't be long
'Til summer's gone
With just a memory left behind
And when it goes
Well, just like that
I'll miss it one more time!
D.C. Butterfield

AMERICAN INDIANS QUOTES:

Our land is everything to us...I will tell you one of the things we remember on our land. We remember that our grandfathers paid for it - with their lives. ~ John Wooden Legs, Cheyenne

We must protect the forests for our children, grandchildren and children yet to be born. We must protect the forests for those who can't speak for themselves such as the birds, animals, fish and trees. ~ Qwatsinas, Nuxalk Nation

Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our Children.

Grown men can learn from very little children for the heart of the little children are pure. Therefore, the Great Spirit may show to them many things which older people miss.
~ Black Elk

We, the great mass of the people think only of the love we have for our land, we do love the land where we were brought up. We will never let our hold to this land go, to let it go it will be like throwing away (our) mother that gave (us) birth. ~ Letter from Aitooweyah to John Ross, Principal Chief of the Cherokees.

Certain things catch your eye, But pursue only those that capture your heart.
~ An old indian saying

Give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way.
~ Native American saying

Only after the last tree has been cut down, Only after the last river has been poisoned, Only after the last fish has been caught, Only then will you find money cannot be eaten.
~ Cree Prophecy

SEPTEMBER 3, TALKING CIRCLE

Our Sept. Talking Circle will take place at the Kingsclear
FN, Sat. Aug. 3, 2011, 1 PM

Everyone is welcome to attend. See you there!

For more information call our contact persons:

Andrew Atwin, 506-261-7189

Daryl Hunter, 506-363-3567

Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers you can be successful or be happy.