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## **CITIZENS GROUP URGES GOVERNMENT TO BAN FRACKING**

***Don't Frack PEI presents this week to a Standing Committee, and to the Land Use Task Force.***

The citizens group Don't Frack PEI has prepared a submission to the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environment, Energy and Forestry, which will be delivered at 1:30 on Thursday June 6th, in the Coles Building. The public is welcome at this presentation. Considerable opposition to fracking on PEI, and evidence to support a ban, is being coordinated by Don't Frack PEI. The group will also present to the Land Use Task Force on Friday.

"To allow fracking on PEI would be madness" says Muriel Siemers, a member of the Don't Frack PEI committee. "Our bedrock is simply not suitable, and along with our total reliance on groundwater, this should be enough to rule it out". Even legislative committees that have studied fracking warn that it is too risky. Fracking would damage our drinking water, our fisheries, our tourism industry, and the health of the most vulnerable in our society – and that is the focus of the presentations to government.

Fracking involves pumping millions of litres of water mixed with toxic and carcinogenic chemicals into the ground, under huge pressure. The resulting cracks release trapped methane. Much of the toxic liquid is left underground; the rest has to be removed by a relentless stream of heavy tankers. The majority of fracking wells will fail within 60 years, and failing wells allow toxic liquid to seep into the groundwater, which is our only source of drinking water. Water supplies have been poisoned across North America by fracking. "We have already made presentations to the Minister of Environment, three MPs, and many community groups" says Andrew Lush, who is also with the PEI Watershed Alliance, an organization that publicly states that "we must not allow such an environmentally damaging procedure to go forward".

The message is not all negative. Don't Frack PEI has worked to produce a plan to power PEI from wind, water, sun and geo-thermal energy and, once they have succeeded in getting a permanent moratorium on fracking, the group will turn its attention to the real issue of making PEI an example to the rest of North America of how we don't need fossil fuels. This message will also be presented to the Standing Committee, and to the Land Use Task Force.

The text of the presentation will be posted on the Don't Frack PEI website on Friday. The website, [www.dontfrackpei.com](http://www.dontfrackpei.com), has a wealth of information and contact details for all the committee members.

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