

Region 7 (Alberta)



Newsletter

Spring 2012

An extraordinarily brave woman coming to convention

Jessica Ernst used to be an oilfield consultant before her water well was contaminated with hydro carbons due to Encana's hydraulic fracturing of energy wells in her Rosebud neighbourhood. Jessica has launched a landmark lawsuit against Encana for negligence causing water contamination, and the Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB), the province's energy regulator, for breaching the Charter of Rights. Jessica is coming to speak at our convention in Forestburg on June 23rd.

Related to Jessica's case, the NFU passed a resolution at the 2011 convention calling for a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing. In the NFU news release of February 2012, the call for a moratorium was made, as well as the conditions that would have to be met before it could be lifted. All voluntary recommendations issued by the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers

(CAPP) need to become mandatory, which means; aquifer protection is guaranteed by better casing construction, volumes and essence of fluids and the use of all chemicals are disclosed and recorded. In addition, the NFU demands that instead of industry's self-policing, a truly independent regulator also enforce regulation and fines in case of non compliance, and that a third party regulator needs to be present on sites during all drilling and fracturing processes. Typically when there is a case of contamination or disruption of neighbouring water wells, the common practice of energy companies ERCB and/or Alberta environment is to address it somewhat and to have land owners sign a confidentiality agreement. That practice must be made illegal as it camouflages the extent of the environmental damage and it forms an affront to the public interest. -nfu-

NFU REGION 7 CONVENTION

JUNE 23, 2012

MASONIC HALL, FORESTBURG, ALBERTA

Followed by a tour of the facilities and a train ride with the

BATTLE RIVER RAILWAY COOPERATIVE.

Pig Roast to follow (see back page for details).

Resolutions are welcomed at the Regional Convention. It is essential to give the NFU direction for policy development and action from the grassroots upwards.