

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE**
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE



DATE: **OCTOBER 31, 2011**

NO. _____

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR _____

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR _____

WHEREAS the hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for natural gas involves the use of chemicals and hazardous materials during construction, drilling, hydraulic fracturing, gas production and delivery, well maintenance, and worksite operations;

AND WHEREAS hydraulic fracturing of underground geologic formations is often accomplished by injecting a complex mix of fluids and chemicals, including very large volumes of water under very high pressure to create fractures in gas bearing geologic formations;

AND WHEREAS many of the chemical constituents injected during hydraulic fracturing have documented adverse health effects and/or adverse environmental impacts; and

AND WHEREAS serious concerns have been raised regarding water contamination near fracking sites;

AND WHEREAS use of these hydraulic fracturing mixes exposes adjacent land and surface waters to the risk of contamination through open pit storage, truck transport on roadways, and activities during well development;

AND WHEREAS wastewater from fracking can contain radioactive elements and has been discharged into rivers that supply drinking water for millions, according to the *New York Times*;

AND WHEREAS the pollution of water caused by fracking threatens the long term economic well-being of communities, as businesses and consumers depend on clean drinking water;

AND WHEREAS there is no federal or provincial legislation specifically on hydraulic fracturing and the oil and gas industry is not required by federal or provincial law to publicly disclose chemical formulas of hydraulic fracturing fluids so that this information is publicly available for health and safety purposes;

AND WHEREAS concerns have been raised regarding the safety of effectively processing waste waters from hydrofracking operations;

AND WHEREAS while communities in the Great Lakes Basin are politically and economically independent, the Basin is in fact one integrated watershed and therefore decisions in one region have the ability to affect other regions as well as the whole Basin;

AND WHEREAS the Great Lakes is a shared commons and public trust and as such requires public consultation and a process that enables communities to be a part of the decision-making process on issues that affect the Great Lakes Basin as a whole;

AND WHEREAS on September 30, 2010, the United Nations Human Rights Council passed Resolution A/HRC/15/L.14 affirming the human right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation and as such contamination of drinking water by 'fracking' fluids is a violation of this and other human rights;

AND WHEREAS being a riverfront community, the wise stewardship of Niagara-on-the-Lake's water sources involves protection of our water supplies and water sources for generations to come;

AND WHEREAS protection of Niagara-on-the-Lake's water supplies and resources is better accomplished by prevention of contamination and environmental degradation, rather than attempting to clean up contamination and restoring degraded environments after the fact.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake calls for a dialogue between various levels of governments in the United States and Canada as well as First Nations and Native American governments on impacts of hydraulic fracturing in the Great Lakes Basin and treating 'fracking' wastewater in municipal wastewater treatment systems in the Great Lakes Basin; and,

- a) THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake supports a province-wide and national moratorium on hydraulic fracturing and the treatment of the by-products of hydraulic fracturing within the Great Lakes Basin until a robust public discussion has occurred with full consideration of the human and environmental impacts, and,
- b) THAT the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake respectfully requests the support of the Regional Municipality of Niagara and local Area Municipalities in this regard; and
- c) THAT this Resolution be circulated to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for support by Ontario Municipalities, the Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, MPP Kim Craitor, MP Rob Nicholson, MPP Jim Bradley, Ontario's Minister of the Environment, MP Peter Kent, Canada's Minister of the Environment, the City of Niagara Falls, NY, and the Niagara Falls NY Water Board.

RECORDED VOTE

