



## ***Media Release***

# **Coalition of NWT Citizens Launches Petition Calling for Environmental Assessment of Future Fracking Applications**

Yellowknife February 11, 2014

A coalition of NWT environmental and social action groups has launched a petition to call on the GNWT to use its authority under the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA) to refer any further horizontal hydraulic fracturing (fracking) applications in the NWT to a full environmental assessment that includes public hearings. The MVRMA states that a project that might be a cause for public concern should be referred for an environmental assessment.

The petition was posted on the GNWT Legislative Assembly petition website on Friday, February 7th, 2014, and is found at the following link: [http://epetition.lant.public-i.tv/epetition\\_core/community/petition/2614](http://epetition.lant.public-i.tv/epetition_core/community/petition/2614) The petition will be open to collect signatures until March 7th, 2014. All residents in the NWT are eligible to sign the petition. Once the petition is closed, it will be presented in the Legislative Assembly.

The petition has been created in response to the Sahtu Land and Water Board granting permission to ConocoPhillips to use horizontal hydraulic fracturing to drill two test wells outside Norman Wells this winter, without referring the new and controversial oil extraction technique to environmental assessment.

"Fracking uses and permanently contaminates very large volumes of water, and will require transporting toxic fracking chemicals and polluted wastewater through our communities, along our highways and on the Mackenzie River. We want to ensure that the environmental and social impacts of this controversial oil extraction process have been carefully studied before further fracking is approved in the NWT," says Christine Wenman of Ecology North.

For more information and to speak with members of the Fracking Action North coalition about this petition, please contact the following spokespeople:

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