



## Albert County: Protecting What's Important.

Municipal councils in Hillsborough and Alma have expressed concern about unconventional oil and gas development in our area, but most of our rural county has no local elected, accountable representatives. On this important issue, we must speak up for ourselves. We must protect ourselves from the environmental damage this industry can do to:

- water, soil and air quality
- existing livelihoods (farming, tourism, fishery)
- our roads
- our property values
- health of people, livestock and wildlife
- surface stability (sinkholes, fault lines, aquifer draining, earth tremors)

In other shale gas development regions, damage by the industry has brought great hardship to property owners. When we gather at a protest site, we are exercising our human rights to peacefully assemble in protest of the gas and oil industry in our region, which threatens our health, well-being and quality of life.

## A Guide for Protestors

Neighbours and supporters can use this pamphlet to help protect the civil and political rights of everyone concerned about gas and oil development in our region.

### 1. Goals of the Protest

All cultures in NB are united to protect our natural environment, our properties, our rights, and our communities from the tremendous damage and hardship that unconventional gas and oil development has done to many rural communities in the past decade. We expect all our supporters to remember to present a clear, positive and consistent image of why we are protesting.

### 2. Before Leaving Home

Tell others where you are going, what you plan to do, and how long you plan on being there.

### 3. Come Prepared!

You may be at the protest for a while, so bring:

- flags, placards, musical instruments
- food, water, extra clothes, bug protection
- paper and pen
- rain gear, tarps and ropes if rain is a concern
- your cellphone or digital camera – recording events might help protect you or someone else

**ALSO:** Take photos discreetly. If your camera or phone is confiscated by the police, it may be held as evidence for a court proceeding.

### 4. NO drugs or alcohol before or at the protest.

This is non-negotiable and will not be tolerated.

## **5. Parking your Car**

Your car could be towed and impounded as either a safety precaution or a harassment strategy to break up the protest.

- park appropriately for direction of travel.
- ensure your vehicle is entirely off the road.
- do not block private driveways or side roads.
- photograph your “good” parking job.

## **4. Look for People wearing Safety Vests – our Team Captains/Peacekeepers.**

These trained volunteers will help you protest safely. Our spokespeople will handle communication between protestors and the police or media.

Our Team Captains will keep you informed and if you have any concerns, please let them know. Also, please advise your Team Captain if you must leave the area.

## **5. Non-violence, Safety and Respect.**

We will keep protesting until we convince industry to pack up and go home, because New Brunswickers have not agreed to have this industry set up shop here.

- Bring nothing to the protest area that could be seen as a weapon in any way.
- Show RESPECT FOR EVERYONE.
- No verbal abuse.
- No damage of vehicles and equipment.
- Pay close attention to our Peacekeepers.
- Immediately move away from aggressive persons.
- Speak to a Peacekeeper about any concerns you have.

## **6. Pointers for Standing Your Ground**

When informed by police that we must clear the area so that industry activity can proceed, some individual protestors may choose to “stand their ground,” and risk being arrested, rather than withdraw. Each person must make his or her own decision about this. If you are an individual who might do this, prepare yourself well, including:

- Put contact names, medications, health issues, lawyer's contact info, in your wallet, pocket, or sock.
- Recruit an observer/support person to accompany you to the protest. This person must be equipped with all the information they need to support you, including the info mentioned above. This person will keep a personal “watch” on you, documenting all your actions/interactions in case evidence is required.
- If arrested, be prepared to explain your reasons for protesting to the police or to the media. You may want to rehearse this, as you may feel very emotional and overwhelmed at the time.

## **7. For those who can't risk being arrested...**

Our Peacekeepers/Team Captains will give you a heads-up when this is coming. They will urge people not prepared to risk arrest to step back or aside into the “Green Zone.” Peacekeepers will form a safety barrier between the Green Zone and the Red Zone (activists prepared to risk arrest). If you are caught unprepared, immediately back away; consider getting down on your knees and put your empty hands in the air to show you are not involved in civil resistance action.

**RED ZONE** — block the passage of vehicles and likely get arrested

**YELLOW ZONE** — stand as direct observers on the shoulder of the road, with a slight chance of getting arrested or,

**GREEN ZONE** — stand as an observer completely off the road with no chance of getting arrested