

MEMO

To: *private*

From: *private*

Date: *private*

Re: Nova Scotia public opinion - Fracking Moratorium

Methodology

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted September 1 to October 6, 2013 among a provincial sample of 1,300 eligible voters in Nova Scotia. Interviews were conducted in English.

The data was statistically weighted according to the 2011 Census according to age, region, gender, and education. The margin of error for this survey is $\pm 2.8\%$, 19 times out of 20. Note, the margin of error in subgroups with small sample sizes is much larger.

Findings

Overall, a large majority of eligible voters (69%) in Nova Scotia either strongly support (39%) or support (30%) keeping the ban on fracking in place, unless the independent review finds there is no risk to drinking water, human health, the climate or communities. In contrast, 16% either strongly oppose (8%) or oppose (8%) keeping the moratorium in place while 15% of eligible voters were unsure of their position.

Support for keeping the moratorium in place was fairly consistent across demographic and regional subgroups. Men and women were equally as likely to support the moratorium (men 68% support vs. women 69% support) as were respondents from different age groups.

Those eligible voters who said they planned to vote for the NS NDP were most likely to strongly support maintaining the moratorium (51% strongly support) but support was also high among Liberal (71%) and PC Party (72%) supporters.

The results of the survey clearly indicate that the public supports keeping the moratorium in place unless an independent review finds there is no risk to drinking water, human health, the climate or communities. This view is broad and deep across different segments of Nova Scotia society.

The table on the following page breaks down support by each of the subgroups discussed above.

Fracturing or hydraulic fracturing, is a relatively new process for extracting shale gas. Concerns have been raised about water contamination, harm to human health, and negative effects on communities and the climate. The Nova Scotia government has a moratorium on fracking while an independent review is underway.

Do you support keeping the ban on fracking in place, unless the independent review finds there is no risk to drinking water, human health, the climate or communities?

		Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose	DK	Count
Region	Nova Scotia	39%	30%	8%	8%	15%	1300
	Cape Breton	39%	33%	9%	8%	11%	225
	HRM	41%	29%	7%	6%	17%	563
	North	34%	27%	10%	9%	19%	236
	Annapolis/South Shore	39%	31%	8%	10%	13%	276
Gender	Male	37%	31%	8%	10%	14%	600
	Female	40%	29%	8%	6%	17%	700
Age	18 to 29	39%	25%	5%	12%	20%	160
	30 to 39	40%	32%	7%	8%	13%	193
	40 to 49	38%	36%	8%	6%	11%	267
	50 to 59	43%	30%	9%	7%	11%	268
	60 to 69	41%	28%	11%	9%	11%	231
Committed Voters - Intention	70+	32%	27%	9%	6%	26%	181
	NDP	51%	22%	6%	13%	8%	242
	Liberal	37%	34%	7%	9%	13%	396
	PC	36%	36%	10%	6%	12%	199
	GP	65%	17%	0%	13%	5%	17