

Tobique First Nation, NB August 2013

Wulustuk Times

**Wulustuk - Indigenous name for St. John
River**

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Wulustuk Times:

Each month we gather and publish the latest, most current and relevant native information for our readers. Proceeding with this concept, we feel that a well informed person is better able to see, relate with, and assess a situation more accurately when equipped with the right tools. Our aim is to provide the precise tools and the best information possible.

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BLUE MOUNTAIN CAVE MYSTERY

By: D.C. Butterfield

Is there a Native connection to the mysterious cave that folklore says is somewhere on Blue Mountain? Blue Mountain is located approximately half way (About 20 km) along Route 385, and off to the right, when travelling between Plaster Rock and Riley Brook. Clearly visible after Two Brooks. The story began as the caption of the November 21, 1912 issue of the Woodstock N.B. 'The Carleton Sentinel' read "Found Mysterious Cave in Victoria County Mountains" with the sub-caption 'Discoverers Say Huge Stone Door Stands At Entrance, As Well As Figures Carved Out Of Stone'. The discoverers were "a man named Jenkins, accompanied by three others". They stated that "a huge stone door, with three holes drilled through, stands at the entrance, with stone figures of some animal, not unlike a dog, guarding each side of the entrance."

A follow-up came in the Dec 20, 1912 of this same newspaper with the caption "Blue Mountain Cave, Former New Brunswicker Tells Grewsome Story", sub-captioned with 'Of Victoria County's Mystery --- A Great Chief Sang His death Song On Blue Mountain --- Treasures Buried In Its Depths And Entrance Never Found' and an added 'Bones Of A Thousand Red Men There'. The person who provided the next information was apparently from Prince Rupert B.C.. That person stated --- "My grandfather told me the tale many times and I have more than once spent hours in the cave". He went on to say, "In the War Of 1812, my grandfather was a member of the New Brunswick Company, whose march, from "The City By The Sea" has been celebrated in story and song".

He claims that - "They went by way of Blue Mountain where the snow lay ten, twenty and thirty feet deep. History has never recorded the fact but the Company rested for three days in the cave." Then, to add intrigue, he speaks of his grandfather's father (His great-grandfather!) in that - "From his father, in whose veins ran the blood of the Kings of the New Brunswick wilds --- before the white man came, he had learned of the cave and from him he had learned the story of the last stand of a tribe of Indians who fought for the right to live and who had been driven a thousand miles from their hunting ground in New York State." It states further - "The large stone door with holes through it blocks one entrance --- there is another higher up the mountains and a third no man has ever found."

From the article - "The bones of a thousand red men are buried in the cave --- but one survivor lived to tell the horrible tale of fight, flight, and dreadful massacre of the peace loving Indians ---. Their enemies came from the coast --- the village ran blood, over half the tribe perished there --- the rest

led by the young chief sought refuge in the cave at "Blue Mountain". There the implacable foe found them and when the hot summer sun had baked -- - fired the mountain so that the cave became an oven and but one escaped, a boy, young and strong, who many years later became a great chief among his captors." However - "He never forgot his people and sang his death song a century after on "Blue Mountain" and is buried in the dust of his forefathers within the cave --- whose massive door was placed there by his adopted people and whose graven images resembling dogs were found within the cave where death from heat and smoke had been succeeded by petrification."

It closed with - "The treasures of the slain tribe are there --- but the superstitious Indians could never overcome the horrors of the interior of the cave and no white man ever found the third entrance directly over where the treasures are buried."

The article thus ends! But, to speculate on possibilities - of the Montauk (Montaukett and/or Pamanack) indians of Long Island, N.Y. - it seems that in 1662 the small pox raged so fatally as to threaten extinction of the tribe ...! So, is it inconceivable that surviving members may have successfully attempted a long journey to escape that dreadful disease and ended up in present day N.B. in the area of the cave? Only to be unwelcome and unwanted, and to be caught up in the subsequent related events ... "driven a thousand miles from their hunting grounds in New York State."

FIRST NATIONS COLLECTIVELY OPPOSE FRACKING

- The natural gas being fracked from the ground is primarily methane. Atmospheric methane is one of the most potent and influential greenhouse gases on Earth, more potent than carbon dioxide unit per unit. Methane gas is twenty-five times stronger than CO₂ as a greenhouse gas. On a side note, agricultural livestock, especially sheep, cattle and poultry, are also large producers of methane.

- Methane that leaks during the fracking process cancels any environmental benefit of burning natural gas over coal as had been touted by proponents of fracking. Methane's global warming potential far exceeds that of carbon dioxide. Regardless of the methane leak concern, shale gas represents one of the largest reserves of carbon on earth. Burning it and putting its carbon into the atmosphere remains a concern for global warming.

- Water mixed with chemicals is used to make the fracking fluid mixture. Typically, 2 to 8 million gallons of water may be used to frack a single well

just once. Some wells consume much more. A well may be fracked as many as 18 times over its 20 to 30 year life span in order to keep the gas flowing. Each fracking period lasts about 3 weeks. Each frack increases the chances of chemical leakage into the soil and local water sources.

- Chemicals used in fracking fluid are proprietary to the company and are not revealed. 90% to 95% of the fracking fluid is not retrieved and remain in the ground after the fracking is finished.

- The average fracking well is up to 8,000 feet deep. The depth of drinking water aquifers is about 1,000 feet. Pollution problems can occur from poor concrete well casings that pass through the aquifers and leak natural gas as well as fracking fluid into water wells.

- Fresh water consumption is a concern. The water used in the fracking process to make the fracking fluid is not completely recovered. From 80% to 90% of the fracking fluid remains locked in the earth after the fracking process is finished. It is sealed there using concrete. Therefore the water is “consumed” and not returned to the earth unlike some other “water withdrawal” operations like power plants that use water for cooling and then discharge it back into waterways without any contamination, or treat it in wastewater treatment plants and then discharge it. Be aware of this distinction when gas companies and governments compare water consumption of fracking sites to consumption of water by towns and cities. They are comparing apples and oranges. One actually consumes it, the other uses it and returns it. There were 27,000 new gas wells completed in the US in 2011. Consider that an average well consumes 5 million gallons of water, that one well can be fracked as many as 18 times, and that most of this water is never recovered and put back into the water table. It can soon be appreciated that the amount of water that gets consumed and never returned to the earth and recycled is alarming. The more of these wells that get drilled for fracking year after year, the more water gets locked up in the earth forever. This should be a concern to everyone except perhaps those who are also concerned about global warming and glaciers melting and raising sea levels along coastal towns and cities. This might be a way to use up the rising glacier waters. Of course I jest here.

- Waste water is a concern (also spelled wastewater). The remaining 10 to 20 percent of the fracking fluid that flows back up the well is recovered as contaminated wastewater. The disposal of this contaminated wastewater is a huge concern, with air pollution being the first part of this concern. Before the wastewater is trucked to either a remote injection well or a processing facility for disposal, it is emptied into wastewater ponds to evaporate and condense the chemicals. These ponds release volatile organic compounds 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The gases from evaporation come into contact with diesel exhaust from trucks and generators at the well site.

Ground level ozone is then produced. The remaining waste water after evaporation is typically trucked away and disposed in deep “injection wells” in which it is injected into the earth between impermeable layers of rocks to avoid polluting fresh water supplies. Such wells are commonly used by other industries such as chemical companies. In the United States, injection wells are regulated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state governments under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). In Canada the National Energy Board and each province regulates “deep disposal wells” through the preliminary screening of project proposals and the issuance of water licenses and land permits. Alberta has over 1,800 disposal wells but according to the Province of New Brunswick’s web site there are presently none here. Every day somewhere on this planet we humans are injecting toxic chemicals into the earth where supposedly they will be safe from harming plant and animal life forever.

- According to the U. S. Energy Information web site, in the U. S. there were 514,637 active gas wells in 2011 consuming 72 trillion gallons of water and 360 billion gallons of chemicals, and all of these permanently locked into the ground.

- The reliability of the concrete seals of the depleted wells is subject to failure at some point in time. The cement that is used to seal the wells after the fracking is finished is very brittle and prone to cracking with shrinkage with any earth movement.

- The predicted massive number of jobs created from fracking will be a short term window of opportunity as the whole world jumps onto the fracking band wagon. Before too long there will be a glut of fracked oil and gas on the market.

- Transporting the water to each well and the waste water away from each well requires 400 to 800 large tanker truckloads of liquids to the well during fracturing, and 500 to 700 smaller tanker truckloads of liquid waste from each well. A typical eighteen-wheeler tanker truck weighs up to 40 tons. All day long these trucks travel over existing roads and bridges, and new roads have to be built into the fracking sites through field and forest. The truck traffic needed to deliver water to a single fracking well causes as much damage to local roads as nearly 3.5 million car trips. Multiply that by 10 to 20 wells drilled per pad. Also consider this, that truckers are paid by the load, so the faster they drive, the more loads they get paid for.

- A drilling unit with only two drilling pads takes up about 350 acres of land or forest. Think about the present 500,000+ sites in United States. How much land is damaged?

- All the hype by the fossil fuel companies about achieving energy independence from fracking has left out the costs in energy, consumed water and other essential natural resources, and environmental damage. Fracking converts our rural and natural areas into industrial zones, replacing forests and farm land with well pads, roads, pipelines and other infrastructure, and at the same time damaging our natural resources.

- The Province of New Brunswick web site states this about groundwater contamination by hydraulic fracturing: "The likelihood of this occurring is remote given the depth at which hydraulic fracturing for shale gas is typically occurring and the distance to drinking water aquifers. Shale gas deposits currently being exploited in NB are at a depth of approximately 2.0 km below ground surface. The limit of freshwater aquifers in NB is around 200 m depth. The intervening rock contains multiple layers of tight rock formations which would help to prevent the upward migration of water/fluids to drinking water aquifers..... NB's current regulations and directives set out requirements to set surface casing well below groundwater, cement to surface and pressure test. There are also requirements for intermediate casing (where installed) and production casing. Requirements to repair inadequate cementing jobs and/or abandon wells have also been set out. Abandoned oil and gas wells in the Stoney Creek area of NB have been thoroughly studied, accounted for and properly decommissioned..... It is not currently known how much water a typical shale gas well in NB would require..... Each stage requires approximately 4,000 cubic meters of water to hydraulically fracture using current technologies.... City of Fredericton consumes on average 23,000 cubic meters per day, largely for domestic use."

All my relations, Nugeekadoonkut

THE WULUSTUKYIEG TRADITIONAL COUNCIL OF TOBIC POSITION ON SHALE GAS EXPLOITATION WITHIN OUR HOMELAND

The WTCT opposes, in the strongest possible terms, the continuing exploitation and destruction of our homeland, Oskigeneeweekog, by our white oppressors. Be it fracking, mining, lumbering, spraying, etc, etc.

As our white oppressors progress upon their headlong rush toward self-destruction in the name of greed or as they call it, progress and development, they continue on their genocidal course in killing off the remaining few Indians who have always known NB as their homeland. The course that they embarked upon when they annihilated the welcoming, gentle and peaceful Beothuk.

Since all other attempts have not worked and since all levels of white governments simply ignore our pleas to be heard, the WTCT is preparing a complaint to the United Nations under its genocide convention protection.

The UN Genocide Convention states, in very clear and simple terms, that a nation state cannot kill off another people under the guise of progress and development.

We must heed the words and sentiments of Malcolm X who stated in the strongest terms possible, when he urged his black brothers... “to use any means necessary” to get the white oppressors to remove their jackboots of terrorism and oppression from their collective throats.
So too must the Red Man!

We must also keep in mind that we are not the thieves, the criminals, the killers, the murderers, not the ones who committed genocide. Our people have done nothing wrong nor do we do anything wrong or criminal when we protect and defend ourselves, our families, our clans, our communities and our nations. We are simply doing our duty.

WE ARE NOT THE CRIMINALS!!!!

These are the words of a child of genocide.

Signed, Dan Ennis, Saugum, WTCT

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## **COUNCIL OF YUKON FIRST NATIONS DECLARES TRADITIONAL LANDS “FRACK FREE”**

By John Ahni Schertow

On Friday, June 28, 2013, the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) passed resolution declaring their traditional lands to be “frack free” and calling on the Yukon government to prohibit all fracking in the territory.

The resolution reads:

Be it resolved that the Council of First Nations calls on the Yukon Govt. to prohibit fracking in the Yukon and declares our traditional territories to be frack-free.

As reported at Rabble.ca, “The resolution was passed by full consensus of the general assembly of those present.”

The Council of Yukon First Nations is a central political organization that represents eleven of the fourteen First Nation governments in the Yukon on a national and International level.

First Nation governments in the Yukon consist of:

Carcross/Tagish First Nation  
Champagne and Aishihik First Nations  
Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council  
First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun  
Gwichya Gwich'in Council  
Kluane First Nation  
Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation  
Nihtat Gwich'in Council  
Selkirk First Nation  
Ta'an Kwach'an Council  
Teslin Tlingit Council  
Tetlit Gwich'in Council  
Tr'ondek Hwech'in  
White River First Nation

## **OIL, GAS DEVELOPMENT BANNED IN B.C.'s SACRED HEADWATERS**

CBC News

The B.C. government has confirmed a ban on oil and gas development in the Sacred Headwaters region of northwestern B.C.

"As part of a tripartite agreement, Shell Canada is immediately withdrawing plans to explore for natural gas in the Klappan by relinquishing its tenures," the province said in a release.

"In addition, the Province of British Columbia will not issue future petroleum and natural-gas tenure in the area."

A four-year ban on oil and gas exploration in the area was set to expire Tuesday.

Shannon McPhail, the executive director of the Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition, says announcement is a welcome relief.

"There are no words to even describe how we're feeling about this right now," she told CBC News. "This has been a long road of 10 years of working on this and I think it has been a huge victory."

The moratorium has prevented Shell Canada from doing exploratory drilling in the area, which is home to the headwaters of three salmon-bearing rivers: the Skeena, Nass and Stikine.

## **PAST ABUSES LINGER OVER FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION DEBATE**

Aboriginal leaders are pointing to past abuses as evidence that the federal government should let their communities craft their own education policies.

When news broke that more than 1,300 aboriginal people, mostly children, were used as subjects of nutritional experiments initiated by the Canadian government in the 1940s and 50s, it struck a chord with aboriginal leaders that was all too contemporary.

A statement from the Assembly of First Nations said such horrors would never have happened if aboriginal people were in control of their own lives and communities.

News of the old abuses resurfaced as the national organization was meeting this week in Whitehorse, where members were discussing education reform.

Some lamented that federal policy makers haven't learned key lessons of the past, as they prepare to present the First Nation Education Act to Parliament this fall.

"The pattern in which the federal government has approached this legislation hasn't broken the pattern we are looking to break,"

Assembly of First Nations Chief Shawn Atleo said in an interview.

Participants at the Whitehorse meeting issued a statement asking Canada to work with First Nations as partners on a path to progress.

Since 2012, the federal government has been crafting legislation that it says does exactly that. It says it has consulted with aboriginal communities at every step in the process, met with 600 people and received written input from almost 600 more.

The legislation would create a framework allowing First Nations to establish their own education systems.

The government sent a letter to First Nations chiefs earlier this month outlining a "blueprint" of its planned legislation, which is now available online, and has requested feedback on progress made to

Editor's Note: In an effort to bring you all the news from across Indian country, can include articles of interest from other websites. Some websites may require you to register or to subscribe before granting you access to a story or video or other media. You and only you should decide if that is in your best interest. NativeNewsNetwork.com is not recommending you do so. We simply want you to be aware of all the news impacting American Indian people.

## DEAN'S DEN: - PROMISED TRUST

### Promised Trust

The spiders busy spinning  
For the season up ahead  
Following an instinct  
Generations - on a thread,  
The black bear feasts on berries  
His coat is soft and sleek  
But he has no inclination  
Of his magnificent physique,  
A butterfly flits like fancy  
As a leaf tossed in the wind  
All entirely intentional  
Short cycles to rescind,  
Consider the lilies of the field  
The beauty of their bloom  
The season slowly changes  
While they wave a pompous plume,  
The buck has broken velvet  
For now, he'll have to wait  
To days to come, the rugged rut  
For autumn, and a mate,  
Sparrow's young have flown the nest  
And spread out cross the land  
They fly away on wings of faith  
Dependent on Creator's hand,  
The hawk, the lamb, the hummingbird  
Everything that each expects  
Provided on a Promised Trust  
For none can know - what's next,  
Grasshoppers, crickets, crows  
Dandelions, paint-brushes, clover  
Robin's, blue jays - sequence  
Won't be long ... 'til summer's over!

D.C. Butterfield

## **LEGAL NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by virtue of the Great Law of Respect of the Wulustukyeg Nation;

and

by the authority of the Royal Proclamation of 1763;

and

by virtue of the provisions of the Covenant Chain of Treaties of Peace and Friendship;

and  
pursuant to the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

and

pursuant to the provisions of the Government of Canada Letter of Validation dated May 23, 2008, in which Canada accepts it's legal and lawful obligation regarding the illegal taking of Tobique Reservation land;

That the Wulustukyeg Traditional Council of Tobic (WTCT) issues this Caveat Emptor addressed to any person, interest or corporate entity that may be planning, considering or contemplating the purchase, the sale or the development of any and all lands within the described Tobique First Nation's 1892 Surrender specific claim, which contains approximately ten (10) thousand acres.

This proclamation addresses, challenges and duly forewarns the general public regarding the validity and legality of buying, selling, developing and/or claiming title to lands which have never been ceded, sold, surrendered, traded, bartered, given-up, exchanged or compromised in any way, shape or form by its original owners - the Wulustukyeg (Maliseet) People of Tobique.

Individuals who fail to heed this legal notice leave themselves vulnerable to legal action including criminal or civil.

Signed:

Dan Ennis, Grand Chief, WTCT

Pat Paul, Sub-Chief, WTCT

Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers you can be successful or be happy.