



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
January 27, 2012

FBC is ready to receive human health concerns relating to oil and gas development in Northeastern BC

Vancouver – The Fraser Basin Council (FBC) has begun the first phase of a three-phase human health risk assessment in northeastern British Columbia to identify any human health concerns that people may have about oil and gas development in the region. FBC is carrying out Phase 1 of the human health risk assessment for the BC Ministry of Health. Phase 1 will inform the Ministry’s terms of reference for Phase 2, an assessment of health risks.

During Phase 1, the Fraser Basin Council is inviting comments from multiple interests, including members of the public who live and work in northeastern BC, citizens groups, government authorities, health organizations, environmental organizations, community groups, industry, workers, academic institutions, and anyone else who may be able to identify human health concerns.

“In Phase 1 of the Human Health Risk Assessment, we are finding out what health concerns exist about oil and gas development in BC’s northeast,” said David Marshall, Executive Director of the Fraser Basin Council. “To do that, we plan to connect with a range of interests in the region, and we want everyone with a concern to express to know they are welcome to participate.”

Comments can be submitted – no later than **March 7, 2012** – to the Fraser Basin Council in one of four ways:

- online via the project website (www.hhra.ca)
- by email (info@hhra.ca)
- by regular mail (c/o Fraser Basin Council, 1st Floor, 470 Granville Street, Vancouver, BC V6C 1V5)
- by leaving comments on a toll-free line (1-855-664-4472).

FBC is also scheduling a number of one-on-one meetings with individuals or organizations in the region, by telephone or in person. A request for a one-on-one meeting can be made by email (info@hhra.ca) or by telephone message on the toll-free line (1-855-664-4472).

FBC will create a synopsis of human health concerns in a Phase 1 report. That report will be delivered to the Province of BC at the end of March, and will subsequently be made public.

About the Human Health Risk Assessment

The Human Health Risk Assessment is a three-phase project organized by the BC Ministry of Health to identify, explore and assess concerns about human health relating to oil and gas development in Northeastern British Columbia. The full risk assessment consists of three phases: 1) a public engagement to identify health concerns, 2) a human health risk assessment based on findings from Phase 1 and 3) a report to the Province, stakeholders and the public.

About the Fraser Basin Council

The Fraser Basin Council is a charitable, non-profit society that advances sustainability in the Fraser Basin and across BC. We bring people together to find collaborative solutions, with a focus on healthy water and watersheds, climate change and air quality, and community sustainability and resilience.

.....

Media Contact:

Denise Palmer Hoskins, Communications Manager
Fraser Basin Council
T: 604 488-5352 | E: dhoskins@fraserbasin.bc.ca