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# Industry not paying fair share for water: report

By **AURORA TEJEIDA**

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The province is missing out revenue by charging large companies, including those in the natural gas industry, too little for the water they use.

That's according to a new [report](#) by the POLIS Project on Ecological Governance and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA).

The report found that the province receives only \$2.75 from the natural gas industry for approximately 2.5 million litres of water withdrawn from lakes, rivers and streams. The community of Dawson Creek in northern B.C. is charging companies \$11,000 for the same volume of water, which is equivalent to the volume of an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

Natural gas is a [booming industry](#) in British Columbia and the process of extracting this gas, via hydraulic fracturing or 'fracking', requires massive volumes of water.

In a recent Tyee [series](#) on the industry, author Hayley Dunning reported that one natural gas well pad can use up to 100 million litres of water to complete its fracturing process -- the same amount as it takes to produce 70 cars. According to Dunning's research there are more than 10,000 such wells in British Columbia -- and the province supports the creation of more projects in this industry.

The POLIS and CCPA report also found that in some cases the province does not even require industries to meter their withdrawals from lakes, rivers and streams, adding to "a complete lack of regulation on sub-surface or groundwater withdrawals."

"Now more than ever, we need the province to commit to a Water Sustainability Act that embraces the need for transparent, across-the-board reporting of all water use," concluded the report's author Ben Parfitt.

*Aurora Tejeida is completing a practicum at The Tyee.*

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 BartelsGeorge • 2 months ago  
**It is not good ,If the industry is not paying for water i**  
Hey,It is not good ,If the industry is not paying for water its a serious matter and this problem should be solved quickly.  
<http://www.iecl.com>  
^ | ▾ Share ▸

 snert • 2 months ago  
**Always put the inflow**  
downstream from the outflow. That would force people to better mange the resource.  
^ | ▾ Share ▸

 whatthe • 2 months ago  
**Wow, really, were being taken advantage of by oil and gas crowd**  
Thanks be to god they are only poisoning they are ripping us off for.  
And thanks be to God we can rely on them to wipe out our debt, end our taxes, and load of a 100 Billion dollar prosperity fund for us all.  
God bless the oil and gas crowd and their social license enablers, Tzep, Horter and company.  
Where we would be without them eh?

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Maybe debt free and in control of our destiny with a healthy environment and a legacy we would be proud for our kids to inherit?

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morechatter • 2 months ago

**booming??**

Hardly. Natural gas prices plummeted from \$14 per thousand cubic feet in 2005 to \$3.34 this February, well below the costs associated with drilling, operating, and marketing natural gas, estimated at \$5 per thousand cubic feet. But proponents believe that higher prices in Asian markets and the higher liquid potential of B.C. gas, make B.C.'s shale reservoirs an economically feasible opportunity.

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morechatter • 2 months ago

**This is how the BC Liberals do business**

<http://www.gulf-times.com/busi...>

On the losing end and any talk about investment is just unless Clark is planning on subsidizing LNG projects and Japan is barely holding on.

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Skywalker • 2 months ago

**This is how the BC Liberals...**

..subsidize the companies that donate to their party.

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