

# B. C. TAP WATER ALLIANCE

Caring for, Monitoring, and Protecting  
British Columbia's Community Water Supply Sources

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Media Release

## CAPP CONTINUES TO LIE - NOW TO YUKONERS

The Yukon Chamber of Commerce hosted a luncheon talk on January 15, 2014 in Whitehorse, part of a recent series of talks on energy meant to open a “conversation” about oil and gas fracking to the Yukon business sector. Aaron Miller, one of two energy industry guest speakers, gave a themed presentation, *The Yukon: Environment, Energy & Economy*. The event was videotaped by CBC, with follow-up interviews next day on CBC radio and articles in Yukon newspapers.

Miller, since June 2012, was the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers’ (CAPP’s) manager of natural gas strategy and advocacy, and later in 2013 he became manager of Northern Canada. Not revealed at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Miller had previously been employed with **Enerplus Resources, Penn West Petroleum Ltd., and Husky Energy**. In 2011-2012, Miller was engaged as a campaigner for the Alberta **Progressive Conservative Party**, and in October 2011 he became **Calgary’s Chamber of Commerce** programming director.

In a January 17, 2014 article in the Whitehorse Star, *Expanded Oil Industry Hinges on Fracking, Audience Told*, it stated how luncheon guests were entertained with the following message, that “*hydraulic fracturing does not hurt the environment:*”

*Fracking does not pollute ground water, oil and gas geologist John Hogg told the audience..... “It’s a myth,” Miller said in his closing remarks to the luncheon. “Quite frankly, if you look at the facts, it(s) nothing short of preposterous. ... We have drilled 175,000 wells without contaminating drinking water,” Miller said.*

Miller stated in his luncheon presentation that CAPP’s exemplary, non-contamination record stems from two government regulators: **“these stats are not coming from CAPP, they are not coming from industry, they are coming from the provincial regulators in British Columbia and Alberta.”** In Miller’s sorry explanation, he neglected to inform Yukoners that it is voluntary for energy companies operating in BC and Alberta to disclose when they contaminate groundwater, and common practice for these companies to investigate themselves, make private cash settlements and issue gag orders with water well owners over contamination of a public resource.

Will Koop, Coordinator of the BC Tap Water Alliance (the Alliance) - who happened to be on a speaking tour in the Yukon, and attended the luncheon - [played his video of Miller’s dishonest statement](#) and presented a slide (see below) about [his open letter to CAPP](#), requesting that the lobby group “*apologize in writing to all Canadians for falsely stating that there has never been a documented / proven case of hydraulic fracturing contaminating groundwater.*” Koop stated:

*“What we said in our letter to CAPP, we’re saying that somebody just wrote a report, showing from your own documentation, in government documentation, in regulators documentation, that there has been groundwater contamination. So, why are they hiding from the information that they reported on, that the government has? It’s certainly a lot of B.S. going on here.”*

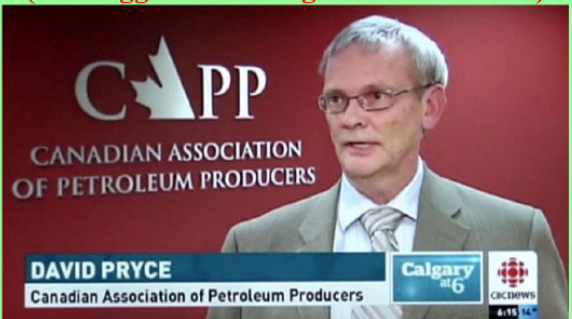
In a September 6, 2011 press release, [Western Canadian Energy Ministries “Collaborate” in Secret with Influential Petroleum Cartel](#) [CAPP] on Development of Controversial Fracking Policies, the Alliance reported on a leaked confidential Alberta Minister’s Briefing Note, where the New West Partnership agreement between three western Canadian Provinces had developed joint strategies concerning fracking and “water issues,” whereby governments will advertise that fracking is safe with public tax-dollars. [The Calgary Herald reported recently](#) that the Harper Conservative government is now spending 40 million tax dollars in one year “to advertise Canada’s natural resource sector - principally oil and gas.” (In 2010-11, the federal government spent \$237,000 on advertising.)

In late October, 2013, a group of Albertan energy companies, the Lochend Industry Producers Group (LIPG), advertised in two local newspapers (Cochrane Eagle and Rocky View Weekly) the false claim from the Alberta Energy Regulator that **“there has not been a single documented case of water well contamination resulting from hydraulic fracturing operations in Alberta.”** Fracking Canada published an expository account, [LIPG Fails to Reveal the Fine Print](#), countering the misinformation, providing details on contamination cases in Alberta and BC.

“We explained to the Yukon public in each of our 8 presentations from January 13-17, 2014 that the most likely reason why CAPP is continuing to lie is because of accumulating liabilities and the looming shadow of multiple lawsuits, concerns of which have been ongoing for decades,” says Will Koop. “Given the extensive documentation in Jessica Ernst’s June 2013 report ([Brief Review of Threats to Groundwater from the Oil and Gas Industry’s Methane Migration and Hydraulic Fracturing](#)), which clearly refutes CAPP’s claims and similar statements made by government regulators, why is the media continuing to advertise CAPP’s big lie?”

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Right: Slide # 53, in Will Koop’s Yukon tour presentations.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SECRETS, LIES AND REVENUES</b></p> <p><b>B.C. TAP WATER ALLIANCE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OPEN LETTER TO CAPP</b> (September 10, 2013)</p> <p><i>I respectfully draw the CAPP’s Attention to the regulator and industry research summarized in the web link herein:</i></p> <p style="color: red;"><b>Contamination of North America’s Groundwater from Fracking (Hydraulic Fracturing) Revealed in a New Case History Catalogue.</b></p> <p><i>I respectfully request that the Association apologize, in writing, to all Canadians for falsely Stating that there has never been a documented / proven case of hydraulic fracturing Contaminating groundwater.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red;"><b>November 30, 2012 - FRACK POKER (The Biggest Gambling Game in Canada)</b></p>  <p style="color: red;"><b>CAPP’s Big Poker Bluff</b> (One of the top ten quotes of the Frack Era from CAPP’s nervous David Pryce on CBC Television on link below): <a href="http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/story/2012/11/30/calgary-hydraulic-fracking-oil-cochrane-guidelines.html">http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/story/2012/11/30/calgary-hydraulic-fracking-oil-cochrane-guidelines.html</a></p> <p style="color: red; text-align: center;"><b>We’ve hydraulically fracked about 175,000 wells in Western Canada without any problems !!!</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Snapshot from Stop Fracking BC Website)</p>
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