



Municipalité des Îles-de-la-Madeleine

Service des communications

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PRESS RELEASE

Oil and Gas in the Gulf of St. Lawrence

The Municipality of Îles-de-la-Madeleine requests a review panel of the project to drill and produce on the Old Harry deposit

Îles-de-la-Madeleine, April 26, 2011 – The *Municipality of Îles-de-la-Madeleine* adopted a resolution on Tuesday, April 12, 2011, asking the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board, as well as Canada's Minister of Environment to submit Corridor Resources' project to drill the Old Harry deposit to a review panel. This request comes after the results of the recent Forum, "Exploration and Exploitation of Hydrocarbons in the Gulf of St. Lawrence: Coastal Communities' Concerns", where coastal communities agreed on the necessity of an integrated approach to oil and gas projects in the Gulf.

The *Municipality of Îles-de-la-Madeleine* now invites communities concerned by the challenges and risks associated with oil and gas production in marine environments to join them in their appeal. While the Forum was the first step towards an integrated approach, it's essential that dialogue continue and that a united voice makes the request for a federal review.

"Coastal communities demand a pause for review of the regulatory and environmental framework for future gas and oil drilling, wherever it happens in the Gulf", says Mayor Joël Arseneau, in summary of the Forum. "Many questions remain unanswered and coastal communities want reassurance as to the impacts of the industry on the fisheries, tourism, and their environment."

The two-day interprovincial forum held on the Magdalen Islands brought together representatives of coastal communities around the Gulf, municipal managers and governments, representatives from the fisheries, as well as the aquaculture and tourist industries. The nine conferences offered to participants covered the state of the Gulf, legal questions pertaining to oil and gas, models for offshore drilling, the economic benefits as well as the socio-economic and environmental risks. Points of views were exchange during workshops that allowed the group to reach a consensus on several courses of action and points to focus on.

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