

# County seeks lawsuit dismissal

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Mountain View County has applied with the Court of Queen's Bench to have a \$32-million lawsuit launched against the municipality in August dismissed, according to court documents.

The county has made an application for summary dismissal of the claims made by plaintiffs Abe Neufeld, 1273927 Alberta Ltd, 404048 Alberta Ltd, and Style Realty Inc. operating at Neuroese Properties. Neuroese Properties contends, in part, that the

county and two then-sitting councillors stalled development of its proposed multi-million dollar, five quarter section development on the north side of Highway 27 adjacent to the Highway 2 interchange – the Netook Crossing North Business Park and Residential Community – costing the plaintiffs millions of dollars in lost economic opportunities.

The county has filed a statement of defence denying all allegations set out in the lawsuit. None of the allegations have been proven in court.

In its application for summary dismissal of the

claims, the county says there is no merit to the plaintiff's claims, including that the "alleged representations are not representations of existing fact and are not actionable in law" and "the inferences that the plaintiffs claim to have drawn from the alleged representation is patently unreasonable."

The county also claims that its "actions were at all times lawful and in good faith. None of the defendants acted in bad faith or with an intention to harm the plaintiffs in any way."

The application for summary dismissal will be heard in Court of Queen's Bench on April 1, 2014.

## Letter to the Editor

### Do it until it's proven dangerous?

For at least 30 years before the proven link between tobacco use and cancer, anecdotal evidence and scientific studies showed that tobacco was extremely dangerous to health. But the tobacco industry had lots of money.

They bought advertisements and their own science saying the opposite and created doubt. As a result, many people continued smoking and tens of thousands died. Would we have been better off if we had listened to the warnings?

For at least the last 15 years, 98 per cent of all published scientists have said that human use of hydrocarbons was leading to severe climate change. The few scientists who said

***"Will we, as with smoking and climate change, keep doing it until it is proven dangerous?"***

the opposite created doubt. We now have severe weather events and climate change happening around the globe killing more and more people and costing society billions of dollars. Would we be better off if we had listened to the warnings?

In the last few years, multi-stage high pressure horizontal hydraulic

fracturing has used billions of gallons of fresh water (a large part of it not reusable). Anecdotal evidence along with numerous studies show that fracking is polluting aquifers and wells and causing severe health effects and earth tremors. But the industry is spending many millions on advertising saying fracking is safe, creating the same doubt as with tobacco.

People, in order to protect themselves from the negative effects they have seen on water, health and the environment, have gotten bans or moratoriums on fracking in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, B.C. - the Tahltan First Nation, Vermont, Pennsylvania,

Hawaii, France, Luxembourg, Bulgaria, South Africa, Germany, England, Northern Ireland and the Netherlands; also towns, cities and areas in New York State, Colorado, Spain, Argentina, Australia, Italy and Switzerland.

Will we be better off if we listen to the warnings from our affected neighbours, the studies and the bans and moratoriums? Will we, as with smoking and climate change, keep doing it until it is proven dangerous? Or should we put a stop to fracking until independent scientific study has determined how and whether this process can be made safe?

**Ross Dabrusin**  
Olds

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