Moved by the Hon. Mr. Cathers, Government House Leader:

THAT a Select Committee Regarding the Risks and Benefits of Hydraulic Fracturing be established,

THAT Patti McLeod be Chair of the Committee,

THAT the Chair of the Committee have a deliberative vote on all matters before the Committee,

THAT the honourable members Hon. Currie Dixon, Stacey Hassard, Jim Tredger, Sandy Silver, and Darius Elias be appointed to the Committee,

THAT the Committee be mandated to:

1. gain a science-based understanding of the technical, environmental, economic, and regulatory aspects of hydraulic fracturing,
2. gain an understanding of Yukon’s current legislation and regulations relevant to the oil and gas industry,
3. consider the potential risks and benefits of hydraulic fracturing if it were used in Yukon,
4. facilitate an informed public dialogue for the purpose of sharing information on the potential risks and benefits of hydraulic fracturing, as well as gathering input from the Yukon public, First Nations, stakeholders, and stakeholder groups including non-governmental organizations,
5. hold public hearings in the two communities most likely to be affected by oil and gas development, Watson Lake and Old Crow, and in other Yukon communities as deemed appropriate by the Committee; and
6. consider whether hydraulic fracturing can be done safely if properly regulated;

THAT the Committee have the power to call for persons, papers and records and to sit during intersessional periods,

THAT in exercising its power to call for persons, papers and records the Committee may invite:

1. officials from the Government of Yukon to appear as witnesses on technical matters,
2. officials from other North American jurisdictions with experience in the regulation of hydraulic fracturing to appear as witnesses on technical matters,
3. experts in matters related to hydraulic fracturing to appear as witnesses,
4. representatives of Yukon First Nation governments and Yukon municipalities to appear as witnesses; and
5. stakeholders, and interested parties including non-governmental organizations and members of the public to appear as witnesses, or provide input through other methods to be determined by the Committee,

THAT the Committee report to the Legislative Assembly its recommendations regarding a policy approach to hydraulic fracturing in Yukon that is in the public interest, including:

1. its findings, if any, regarding the potential risks and benefits of hydraulic fracturing and whether allowing use of this technique is in the public interest; and
2. its recommendations, if any, regarding any steps that should be taken to responsibly regulate hydraulic fracturing should its use in Yukon be allowed,

THAT the Committee report to the House its findings and recommendations no later than the 2014 Spring Sitting of the Legislative Assembly,

THAT if the House is not sitting at such time as the Committee is prepared to present its report, the Committee Chair shall transmit the Committee’s report to the Speaker, who shall transmit the report to all Members of the Legislative Assembly and then, not more than one day later, release the report to the public; and

THAT the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly be responsible for providing the necessary support services to the Committee.

(Motion No. 433)