

Before getting to the synopsis, I would like to provide a bit of my background as it relates to my interest and involvement in the subject area. I am from Hillview in Trinity Bay and did my undergraduate degree at Memorial University with a focus on Newfoundland history and politics.

After MUN I went to the University of Ottawa and did a Master's degree concerning Newfoundland's attempts to develop its hydroelectric resources in Labrador from 1952 to 1988. That work led to an article in *Newfoundland Studies* in 1999. The research also led to a presentation in 2001 at a Public History Conference concerning the impact that Churchill Falls had on political and popular culture in Newfoundland over the subsequent decades since the Upper Churchill Contract was signed in 1969. The Master's paper also led to a research report prepared for the *Newfoundland Royal Commission* in 2003 which expanded the story to 1949 to 2002 – at the time it was not practice to have gone into the Grimes government approach and actions as it was still developing and we did not know how that story would end.

I went on to do a Doctorate from the University of Waterloo on how the Pierre Trudeau's transformation of approaches to policy development at the federal level was heavily influenced – if not predominantly shaped – through his interactions with the Club of Rome, and the emergence of systems analysis as a policy tool from 1968 to 1984. How public policy is developed at the federal level continues to show the legacy of that time.

In addition to an academic background, I have significant experience working within the area of energy policy and natural resource development. I have also worked at the Centre for International Governance Innovation and the Conference Board of Canada's Energy Policy Unit. Projects at the Conference Board included a number of topics including reports on

- the need for a strategic energy framework for Canada
- climate change and adaptation preparedness
- water governance and sustainable development

I also wrote sections of the Board's Mission Possible major report that argued for the reviving of Prime Minister Diefenbaker's idea of a National Power Grid. I currently work at the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission as a Senior Framework Officer in the Regulatory Policy Directorate.

In summary, I have had a long interest in the politics of hydroelectric development on the Churchill River and have conducted numerous related studies both directly related to the Churchill Falls story and more broadly in terms of overall energy policy and natural resource development.