





facts and numbers in front of you before you open discussions. And that's what we're in the essence of trying to get at now.

**PREMIER WILLIAMS:** I'm just going to add to that. There's one thing too which we as a government has said to Hydro. Is that, even if the other route is not acceptable or is not timely right now because of transmission capacity and it means that its going to be a little more expensive or more expensive to go the maritime route, well than as a government we're prepared to defer our return on that for a period of time if absolutely necessary in order to give the province proper options. So if it's more expensive to go the maritime route rather than wait until Quebec happens to free up or obtain or acquire or construct transmission capability, than we'd like to get on with this project. We think it's a good project. So the economics, one is more economical than the other, there's absolutely no doubt about that, but we haven't dismissed the maritime route.

**REPORTER:** (inaudible) correspondence from Quebec, are they on side or are they putting up some road blocks?

**ED MARTIN:** We've had excellent relations with Hydro Quebec Trans Energy who are handling the application. So there's lots of correspondence going back and forth and at this point it's just a fair exchange in technical data and we're assessing.

**PREMIER WILLIAMS:** The biggest problem is sometimes there's isolated stories that have come out of Quebec with regards to transmission capacity. They're not coming officially from Hydro Quebec, they're not coming from the Government of Quebec, they're coming from independent opinions that are stating that. So I think that's probably caused some consternation throughout and people have reacted to that. So it's not official.

**TED BLADES:** That's Premier Danny Williams speaking with reporters earlier today, standing beside him at the microphone was Ed Martin, he is the CEO of Newfoundland & Labrador Hydro.