

709NEWS

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Product Summary:

ISSUES AND ANSWERS: Lynn Burry" interviews Premier Danny Williams.

Sunday, April 08, 2007 12:18PM Item # 01

NTV - Evening News

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[Previously discussed unrelated topic]

LYNN BURRY:I want to follow up on the point that Fred made just a little while ago that the equalization and dealing with Stephen Harper, there are other issues that the province really counts on the federal government for their support. You're looking for a loan guarantee from Ottawa on the development of the Lower Churchill. What does this say? If you and Stephen Harper are at odds over this, what is it saying for negotiations on other files?

DANNY WILLIAMS:Well on the Lower Churchill for example, you can rest assured that if it's good for Quebec and good for Ontario Stephen Harper will deliver on a guarantee for the Churchill. That's the politics of it because that's the way he conducts himself. He just recently gave \$900 million more to Quebec for the aerospace industry. From our own perspective, I've tried to position out province in a very strong fiscal position so that if we have to go it alone on this project without a federal guarantee, then we'll do so. Now it would be better, we'd get cheaper rates, the cost of borrowing would be cheaper, there would be some savings if we get the guarantee, but you know he made that commitment in the same letter that he made the other commitments. So I don't necessarily expect him to honour it. Now he might surprise me and good if he does. I can't trust him from that perspective to deliver on it, so on that basis we have to move forward and that's all we can do.

[Goes on to discuss unrelated topic]