





Premier Williams said that although this decision is obviously not the desired outcome, the province through Nalcor will continue with plans for development of the Lower Churchill project.

"By no means does this decision mean that we are stopping or slowing down plans to develop this extraordinary clean, renewable energy project," said the Honourable Kathy Dunderdale, Minister of Natural Resources. "We knew the potential for this unfortunate decision and this is precisely why we have been pursuing two alternative routes to market, including the Labrador-Island Link, the Maritime route as well as the pursuit of a separate 740 MW transmission service request into the Maritimes and New England. This is a wonderful clean energy project and we are anxious to move forward."

The Premier added that not only did the Régie show a complete lack of regard for open access principles; they went beyond the scope of the complaints they were hearing and suggested the transmission lines in Labrador and Upper Churchill generating facility are under the control of Hydro-Québec. This completely ignores the Upper Churchill contract and the realities of that existing project,

"In essence, the Régie attempted to re-write the Upper Churchill contract to give even more power and control to Québec," said Premier Williams. "To suggest that these assets are rightfully owned by Hydro-Québec is unfathomable. The Régie further made the erroneous assertion that Hydro-Québec takes priority over the Twin Co power block and recall power used by the province. This is clearly in contradiction of the Upper Churchill contract and I can assure the people of the province, we put absolutely zero credence in these statements by the Régie. Indeed, it further de-legitimizes the entire ruling."