

- Grand River Keepers Press Release

April 8, 2009
For immediate release

LOWER CHURCHILL HYDROELECTRIC GENERATION PROJECT

PUBLIC NEED NOT ATTEND

Grand Riverkeeper Labrador is very disappointed that the "information sessions", described by Nalcor as the Fish Habitat Compensation Workshops and held in Happy Valley-Goose Bay on April 7, 2009, and in St. John's on April 3, 2009 were CLOSED to the public.

Valued and respected citizens and elders in Labrador were denied access. Nalcor's local representative was very heavy handed in his refusal to accommodate even two more people and the general public were never informed of the process at all.

As well, by holding two or three separate, small "by invitation" only sessions on this extremely important issue, Nalcor appears to be using a "divide and conquer" tactic smothering cross-fertilization of diverse opinions within the community in the process. Information sessions do not constitute proper consultation and we demand a better process with proper interaction.

SHORT NOTICE

As in the past, invitees were given very short notice and minimal time to prepare. Grand Riverkeeper had 4 working days notice while another participant had one day. We are all busy people and this shows a complete lack of consideration and respect for the very people Nalcor expects to solicit feedback from.

NOT ENOUGH TIME

There is never enough time to fully cover the issue. These "information sessions" need to be extended to a full day and involve everyone at once, including the public. Only then will we have meaningful public consultation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS A FULLY INTEGRATED AND INTERACTIVE PROCESS

If, as stated in the Executive Summary of the Lower Churchill Project Environmental Impact Statement:

Nalcor Energy is committed to full and open consultation as a means of enabling meaningful dialogue with the people and groups who have an interest in the Project. Consultation is an opportunity for Nalcor Energy to share Project information and to receive information and comments from the public. (Exec.Summ. P.8, 2.2)

then these divisive practices must cease.

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