

Date : 7/15/2010 2:13:50 PM
From : "Dunderdale, Kathy"
To : "Thompson, Robert"
Subject : Re: Comments Pls

I like it

Sent Via BlackBerry

From: Thompson, Robert
To: Dunderdale, Kathy
Sent: Thu Jul 15 14:05:25 2010
Subject: Fw: Comments Pls

Are you comfortable with this approach:

Sent Via BlackBerry

From: Thompson, Robert
To: Bown, Charles W.; Morrissey, Ken
Sent: Thu Jul 15 12:32:20 2010
Subject: Comments Pls

Letter to the Editor:

The Telegram and the Opposition parties have missed the real meaning of the Lower Churchill Benefits Strategy that I released on July 14, 2010.

The Strategy is a statement of public policy on how the industrial and employment benefits of the project will be managed. It is not a “deal” as the Telegram has asserted in its headline. It is, nonetheless, an important document because it makes substantive commitments to the people of the province. It says the government will be equally as diligent with its own projects as it is with private sector resource projects. It says that the thousands of jobs created by this investment in our future will accrue to the benefit of this Province first.

This Strategy also communicates our expectations to contractors and sub-contractors. These businesses need accurate and timely signals from Nalcor and government so they can construct their proposals and bids taking into account the benefits obligations.

The “request for proposals” for the main engineering contractors was released last week, so it was essential to release the Benefits Strategy around the same time. The Strategy spells out the amount of engineering work that must occur in the province. The Official Opposition’s claim that the Strategy is premature suggests that the bidders need not understand our benefits expectations when preparing their bids. Such an approach would create uncertainty and risk, and potentially jeopardize many high-paying jobs.

The Benefits Strategy is a guide for the whole Lower Churchill Project and is part of an unfolding plan. The steady progress towards the start of the Project is evident in the substantial progress on preliminary engineering, aboriginal agreements, environmental assessment and, in the last week, the request for proposals for engineering consultants and the Benefits Strategy.

Honourable Kathy Dunderdale.