

Kennedy Hesitant about any Deal with Quebec

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The Minister of Natural Resources says there's no reason to trust that Quebec would create a fair deal to develop the Lower Churchill. Jerome Kennedy says history has shown that is something Quebec can't do. In a letter to the editor yesterday, former Premier Roger Grimes referred to the fight with Quebec as a "political myth". Kennedy says, Quebec would obviously be interested in doing a 'Grimes deal' because, like before, they would be the only ones to benefit. He says Grimes is ready to give it all away again.

He says if Quebec is open to discussions, so is the province, but it won't be on Grimes' terms and it won't be on the Upper Churchill terms. Kennedy says it will have to be on terms that are fair to all of us. He says if the 'Grimes deal' was so good, then why did members of the NL Hydro board resign, including Dean MacDonald.

Meantime, former Premier Danny Williams says he doesn't know where Grimes is coming from. Williams says the notion that Quebec is our friend is both absurd and ridiculous.

He says that Roger Grimes' deal from several years ago was giving it all to Quebec: the marketing, construction, finance, and eventual ownership if there were any overruns. Williams says just from a general, practical perspective, the province needs to have an alternate route. He says in 2041, when the power becomes available, if we are land locked, we will have nowhere to go and we will be held at ransom by Quebec again.