

Date : 2/2/2011 4:57:09 PM

From : "Clarke, Lesley"

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Subject : CBC - PM meeting 'good first step': Dunderdale

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CBC News, *Last Updated: Wednesday, February 2, 2011 | 3:51 PM NT*

Newfoundland and Labrador's premier said Wednesday her first meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper went well, although she acknowledged that no important issues were settled.

Kathy Dunderdale met with Harper and other key ministers Tuesday during a visit to Ottawa.

Dunderdale told reporters in St. John's that she raised several important issues with Harper, including the province's pitch for federal support for the Lower Churchill hydroelectric megaproject.

She said she also raised the province's position on a potential dispute with Quebec over the Old Harry petroleum discovery in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, as well as the province's wish to acquire the federal government's minority ownership stake in the Hibernia oil project.

As well, Dunderdale said she discussed the possible creation of a stand-alone agency to regulate safety in the offshore oil industry, which was the key recommendation of last year's Wells inquiry into helicopter safety.

Dunderdale said the meeting was "a very good first step."