



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Environment and Conservation
Environmental Assessment Division

April 17, 2014

Mr. David Schulze
Dionne Schulze - Attorneys
507 Place d'Armes #1100
Montreal, Quebec H2Y 2W8

Dear Mr. Schulze:

Re: Reply to your letter dated March 26, 2014 concerning the *Species at Risk Impacts, Mitigation and Monitoring Plan* for Labrador-Island Transmission Link Project (Transmission Project)

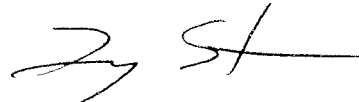
I am writing in response to your letter of March 26, 2014 regarding the *Species at Risk Impacts, Mitigation and Monitoring Plan* (the "Plan"). Thank you for your comments. The province would like to reiterate several points made in our letter to you of March 24, 2014.

1. Relative to the 30 day Aboriginal consultation period for the Plan, the Conseil des Innus de Ekaunitshit is welcome to, at any time during the 30-day period request additional time to review the Plan. Government will make an expedited decision on such a request;
2. The participant funding program you referenced, which was administered by the federal government during the EA review of the LITL Project, was jointly funded by the province and the federal government, and the province has previously communicated its views on funding for post EA phases of this Project;
3. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is committed to the management, conservation and recovery of the caribou herds in Labrador, and to do so in collaboration with the Aboriginal resource users. In fact, as you may know, on February 26, 2014, in a joint letter to the Ungava Peninsula Caribou Aboriginal Round Table (UPCART)'s Co-Chairs Sarah Leo and Adame Delisle Alaka, Deputy Ministers responsible for Environment and Wildlife from the Government of Quebec and from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador requested UPCART to collaborate with both governments in drafting a plan "to ensure the persistence of the George River Caribou Herd". The Deputy Ministers also requested that a liaison committee be established to allow for sharing of views/concerns. Chief Jean-Charles Piétacho was copied on this letter, as the representative of the Conseil des Innus de Ekuanitshit on the UPCART.
4. Nalcor Energy is required to develop an acceptable Plan before obtaining a Section 19 permit under the NL *Endangered Species Act*. The Plan must satisfy NL's requirements for appropriate avoidance, mitigation and monitoring measures to protect species at risk to the greatest extent possible for the issuance of a Section 19 permit. Should project

impacts prevent the recovery or survival of a designated species the Minister may, with the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, amend or revoke a Section 19 permit (Section 19 (4)). As previously indicated, one draft of this Plan has already been referred to Aboriginal governments / organizations for review, and given the substantive changes required to the Plan since that time, a further iteration of the Plan will also be referred for Aboriginal consultation, as per the Project's Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines. If the Conseil des Innus de Ekuanitshit has questions during its review of the Plan, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Kirsten Miller, Senior Wildlife Biologist – Habitat Management/GIS, (Wildlife Division) at (709) 637-2029 or via email at kirstenmiller@gov.nl.ca.

Once again, thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention. Should you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Ivy Stone

Environmental Assessment Division

Cc. Chief Jean-Charles Piétacho, Conseil des Innus de Ekuanitshit (BY FAX: 418-949-2085)
Brian Harvey, Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office
Kirsten Miller, Wildlife Division, Department of Environment & Conservation