

Date : 9/30/2015 1:28:55 PM
From : "MacLean, Heather"
To : "Quinton, Diana" , "Brown, Milly"
Cc : "Ivey, Donna" , "Marnell, Debbie" , "Donnan, Hugh" , "Barfoot, Scott"
Subject : RE: For Approval: Response to James McLeod, The Telegram
Thank you diana

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From: Quinton, Diana
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 1:25 PM
To: MacLean, Heather; Brown, Milly
Cc: Ivey, Donna; Marnell, Debbie; Donnan, Hugh; Barfoot, Scott
Subject: For Approval: Response to James McLeod, The Telegram

Question:

I'm working on an analysis piece on the release of updated Muskrat Falls cost estimates.

I'm wondering what level of communications co-ordination was involved between government and Nalcor. Obviously it wasn't pure coincidence that the oversight committee report came out at exactly the same moment when Ed Martin was delivering the same information to journalists in Labrador. But I'm interested in understanding how this sort of thing comes together and whose decision it was to release the information in this way.

Moreover, I'm interested in speaking with Min. Dalley about whether the public should have confidence in the independence of the oversight committee process, given that the government is clearly co-ordinating a communications strategy with Nalcor on something like this.

If Min. Dalley is available at some point today to do a phone interview, that would be much appreciated. This will be for the web and tomorrow's paper, so any comment before 4:30pm would be good.

Suggested Response:

Here is a statement sent on behalf of Minister Dalley:

The Department of Natural Resources was aware that Nalcor planned to provide a project update to the public via media. Nalcor is a crown corporation and keeps us abreast of their work on behalf of the province.

The Muskrat Falls Oversight Committee had been monitoring the project carefully and was due to report for the quarter ended June. They decided to provide the updated information from Nalcor and incorporated numbers up to August and to send out the information as promptly as possible to ensure that the people of the province had a complete view from both Nalcor and the Oversight Committee on the project and cost update.

The oversight committee is one of several processes which helps to ensure that the highest level of due diligence is being applied to the project. In making its observations, the committee uses an extensive reporting framework, which includes project reports regularly generated by Nalcor, information specifically requested by the committee, and information required by the Independent Engineer.