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May 23, 2017

Premier Dwight Ball  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Office of the Premier  
P.O. Box 8700  
St. John's, NL  
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**Delivered Via Email: [premier@gov.nl.ca](mailto:premier@gov.nl.ca) and Fax 709-729-5875**

Dear Premier Ball,

**Re: Muskrat Falls Project - Your Government's Promises and Obligations to the Innu Nation**

I am writing to you with respect to your government's obligations to the Innu Nation, and our disappointment about the recent lack of communication about the Muskrat Falls Project.

Your government has made commitments to Innu Nation under our Agreement in Principle about environmental management and protection, and more specifically, you have made promises about the Muskrat Falls Project, making commitments to re-assess the potential for methylmercury contamination.

Last October, we reached an agreement in good faith about these commitments, and it included a promise that any flooding that Nalcor had to do in the Fall would be kept to a minimum, and then it would be drawn back down to natural flow levels this Spring 2017.

What we are finding out now is that Nalcor's plan is changing, and it has changed without any notice or any open communication with the Innu. That falls far short of the province's obligations to the Innu and fulfilling the specific promises made last October.

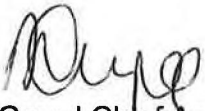
Last Fall, we went to our people and calmed the concerns they had about the immediate flooding that Nalcor said needed to happen in order to install the ice boom. We did so by citing and relying on the promises that were made by your government that any flooding would be drawn back down before temperatures warmed and there was more of a risk of mercury methylation. You also promised, and we communicated to our people, that you were committed to independent and thorough assessment of ways to avoid, mitigate and manage any methylmercury impacts from the Muskrat Falls Project, via the Independent Experts Advisory Committee (IEAC).

Now, we are in the position of having to tell our people that these promises are not being met. We are finding out that Nalcor is not intending to draw down the flooding until the end of this Summer. According to the advice we have been provided, methylation of mercury happens when the temperatures rise. This means that the potential damage will be done by the time the levels are brought back down. That also means that much of the research of the IEAC, which is just now being formed, that is dependent on the flooding being drawn down (e.g. testing soil removal options) will also be delayed.

In addition, we are troubled by the fact that any information Innu Nation has received has been through Nalcor's public or social media statements, or only when we have made inquiries of the province or Nalcor representatives. We need the province and Nalcor to be transparent and accountable to our people, to provide us with the full picture of what is happening on an ongoing basis – not simply when we insist on an answer.

We are asking that you respond on an urgent basis, with action that fulfills your promises to the Innu.

Sincerely,



Grand Chief Anastasia Qupee

Cc: Hon. Perry Trimper, MHA Lake Melville