

## Muskrat Falls deal was a battle: premier

By Staff The Canadian Press

May 27, 2013 Updated: May 27, 2013 | 1:04 pm

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. – Premier Kathy Dunderdale of Newfoundland and Labrador says the federal government tried to tie a federal loan guarantee for the Muskrat Falls hydro project to fishery concessions.

Dunderdale told the St. John's Board of Trade today that talks for the \$1 billion loan guarantee almost fell apart Nov. 29 over federal efforts to tie that support to European trade talks.

Opponents of CETA, a Canada-European trade agreement, say it could come at the expense of minimum processing requirements and other laws that protect local fisheries.

Dunderdale says she slammed the phone down on Nigel Wright, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's former chief of staff, after refusing the federal demands.

Dunderdale says Ottawa backed off at the 11th hour and Harper travelled the next day to Labrador to sign the loan guarantee deal.

Dunderdale also says Crown corporation Nalcor Energy is launching requests for financing to move the \$7.7-billion Muskrat Falls project along.

The announcement comes a day before the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board starts hearings into the Maritime Link that would bring Muskrat Falls power to the province.