

Michael is out to get Muskrat Falls, Dunderdale says

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NDP Leader Lorraine Michael wanted to know about cost overruns at a Manitoba hydroelectric development during question period Tuesday.

“Manitoba Hydro’s Wuskwatim hydroelectric dam bills are in and the people of Manitoba learned it has cost twice what they were told it would cost. Manitoba Hydro officials blamed unprecedented increases in input costs on everything from cement, to fuel, to labour,” Michael said. “Mr. Speaker, I ask the premier: what makes her and Nalcor think they will be able to control the costs of their Muskrat Falls project, also approved by Manitoba Hydro?”

Natural Resources Minister Derrick Dalley told her to trust the experts at Nalcor.

“What we see time and time again in this House, and what the member opposite fails to recognize, is that we believe in our own experts and we believe in the work of Nalcor, first and foremost,” Dalley said. “This has been a long, comprehensive process. There has been a tremendous amount of work and expertise applied to the Muskrat Falls Project, Mr. Speaker, in every area that has been validated. It supports the work of Nalcor. It shows that we are on the right track.”

When Michael asked for a second time about cost overruns and Manitoba Hydro, Premier Kathy Dunderdale stepped up, accusing Michael of being blindly against Muskrat Falls.

“With this project and with any other project we take on in this province, it is important never to look at it through a single lens,” Dunderdale said.

“That is what the members opposite have done, particularly the third party. The lens that they peer through all the time, and every piece of the information is measured through, is that we are against Muskrat Falls.”