



NUNATSIAVUT
Senauti jãrini kajusimanik pivallianimmut
10 Years of Continued Progress

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July 15, 2016

Premier Dwight Ball
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P O Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

Dear Premier Ball:

Muskrat Falls project
Downstream Impacts – proposed meeting

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 7, 2016 confirming your commitment to reconvene experts regarding the potential for methylmercury impacts from the Muskrat Fall project.

We are pleased that you are inviting the Nunatsiavut Government, Innu Nation and Nunatukavut Community Council to participate in the discussion. We also feel that it is important to invite relevant research and scientists to participate. This issue is of extreme importance and concern to the Nunatsiavut Government.

We feel it is important that if a meeting can be arranged the discussion has to be meaningful and include participants from all of the regulators and relevant government departments, the relevant researchers as well as the indigenous groups. We have put together a meeting proposal for your consideration that includes the participants we would like to see in attendance at such a meeting. WE feel the participants on this list should be invited to the meeting. The meeting proposal is attached.

As you indicated in your letter timing is critical. It is critical that mitigation be completed before flooding starts to ensure the protection of the health of all users both upstream and downstream from the project. Your letter proposed a date of July 27, 2016 in Happy Valley Goose Bay for such a meeting. As communicated back to your staff this date does not work for the Nunatsiavut Government. We would like to propose the meeting take place on August 4, 2016 in Happy Valley- Goose Bay.

We look forward to our participation in a meeting as per the proposal attached to this letter. We await your response.

Sincerely,

President Johannes Lampe

cc. Grand Chief Anastasia Qupee, Innu Nation
President Todd Russell, Nunatukavut Community Council

Honourable Perry Trimper, Minister of Environment and Conservation
Darryl Shiwak, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Nunatsiavut

Government

Enclosure: Nunatsiavut Government's meeting proposal

Nunatsiavut Government proposal to Provincial request for a meeting to review the science and decisions around Muskrat Falls downstream impacts

Notes:

- Scope: Review of the provincial decision on June 14, 2016 to approve Nalcor's Human Health Risk Assessment based on the best available science. Specifically, this will include a presentation and clarification of Harvard human health risk results first presented to Minister Trimper on February 23, 2016 and released in publicly on April 18, 2016 in the Lake Melville Scientific Report, which were excluded from the March 22, 2016 methylmercury workshop and thus from the June 14 provincial decision.
- **Preliminary agenda:**
 - Provincial presentation on science that was considered for the June 14 decision
 - Harvard presentation on human health risk results
 - Presentation on scientific justification for four Make Muskrat Right solutions
 - Discussion on implications of Harvard results for the HHRA and actions that should be taken by the regulator
- Location: Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador
- Chair: Jointly approved independent mediator
- Participants: The March 22 meeting included few methylmercury experts. Methylmercury experts from the regulators need to be at the table to interpret results and provide advise to decision-makers, who should also be at the table. Aboriginal groups who will be affected by downstream impacts of Muskrat Falls must also be at the table. Nalcor should be present as observers only. Below is a list of scientific experts, political and aboriginal leaders that must be included.
- Imperative that specific experts from each of the regulating departments are part of this meeting.
- Would be important that the mediator and agenda be agreed to by the Nunatsiavut Government and the Province.

Harvard human health risk project leads who must be in attendance:

Elsie Sunderland

Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Engineering at the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and in the Department of Environmental Health in the Harvard School of Public

Dr. Sunderland is the project lead on the human health risk research that includes baseline methylmercury exposures and future exposures related to the Muskrat Falls project for Inuit around Lake Melville. Dr. Sunderland's research focuses on how biogeochemical processes affect the fate, transport and food web bioaccumulation of trace metals and organic chemicals. Her group develops and applies models at a variety of scales ranging from ecosystems and ocean basins to global applications to characterize how changes in climate and emissions affect human and ecological health. Her group also

makes key measurements of chemical concentrations and reaction rates in environmental samples (natural waters, sediments, and aquatic biota) and humans (hair, blood) to parameterize and evaluate environmental models. Prior to her tenure at Harvard University, Dr. Sunderland was Senior Staff with the Council for Regulatory Environmental Modeling at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Research and Development.

Trevor Bell

Professor at the Memorial University of Newfoundland

Dr. Trevor Bell is Professor of Geography and Coracle Fellow at Memorial University of Newfoundland. His research focuses on landscape history from a variety of perspectives, including geological evolution, climate change impacts and human interaction. His research approach is strongly interdisciplinary and collaborative, involving analysis and expertise from a range of disciplines in the earth, life, and social sciences. He conducts field research in Arctic and Atlantic Canada and around the North Atlantic Rim. He is the academic co-lead on the Lake Melville: *Avativut, Kanuittailinnivut* study.

Scientific experts who must be invited, and where at least one identified individual from each department/grouping must be in attendance:

Environment Canada**Birgit Braune**

Research Scientist - Contaminant Monitoring and Surveys with Environment Canada
Adjunct Research Professor at Carleton University

Dr. Braune is a Research Scientist with the Science and Technology Branch of Environment Canada at the National Wildlife Research Centre, Carleton University, Ottawa, where she conducts studies related to toxic chemicals in marine birds and other wildlife. Over the last decade, her research has focused on the arctic marine environment and she has been actively involved in both national and international assessments of contaminants in arctic biota.

Sandy Steffen

Physical scientist (Atmospheric Mercury Specialist), Air Quality Research Division

Sandy Steffen specializes in environmental Processes relating to the transport, transformation and deposition of mercury in and around the atmosphere. Lead for the Canadian Mercury Science Assessment. This assessment is the first comprehensive national description of mercury in the Canadian environment. Current work includes: designing research to study the processes driving the transformation of mercury in and around the Canadian and Arctic atmosphere; investigating spatial and temporal trends of atmospheric mercury on a national and regional scale; and investigating the role that the atmosphere plays in the impact of mercury contamination in Canadian and arctic ecosystems.

Derek C.G. Muir

Senior Research Scientist and Section Head of Aquatic Contaminants Research Division
(Priority contaminants fate and bioaccumulation)

Adjunct professor at University of Guelph, University of Toronto, and University of Waterloo

Dr. Muir has expertise in the distribution, fate and bioaccumulation of contaminants. He is the Past President and Vice-president of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry and has been the Co-chair of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme and POPs Assessment group since 1994.

Neil M. Burgess

Biologist, Wildlife Toxicology in Ecotoxicology & Wildlife Health Division,
Environment Canada, Mount Pearl, Newfoundland and Labrador

Neil Burgess has expertise in assessing the impacts of toxic chemicals on wildlife health and populations in Atlantic Canada. His current work includes: studying the bioaccumulation of mercury in aquatic ecosystems and mercury impacts on common loons and seabirds; monitoring long-term trends of persistent toxic chemicals in Atlantic seabirds and ocean ecosystems; and developing an ecological risk assessment of mercury impacts on fish and wildlife across Canada

Fisheries and Oceans Canada**Participant**

NL DFO Regional Scientist

Lisa Loseto

Section Head of Ecosystem Impacts Research

Lisa Loseto, Ph.D., leads a research team studying ecosystem impacts in the Arctic with Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The team focuses their research on understanding ecosystem structure, function and health and how the ecosystems respond to impacts at regional and local scales. Her research on Arctic marine mammal health focuses on diet, contaminant exposure and the linkage to ecosystem health and ecosystem stressors.

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada**Sarah Kalhok Bourque**

Manager, Northern Science and Contaminants Research Directorate, INAC

Jason Stow

Environmental Scientist, NCP Secretariat, INAC

Jason Stow is an Environmental Scientist with the NCP Secretariat at Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. Jason has been with the NCP since 2002 and currently manages the Environmental Monitoring and Research subprogram.

Academic experts

Pierre Ayotte

Professor at Université Laval

Pierre Ayotte holds a PhD degree in Pharmacology from the University of Montreal (1987). He is an associate professor at the Department of social and preventive medicine at Université Laval and is heading the biomarker laboratory the Institut national de santé publique de Québec. This laboratory which is supported by FRSQ's Environmental Health Research Network, is dedicated to the development of biomarkers to be included in molecular epidemiologic studies investigating the role of environmental factors in various diseases. His research focuses on the possible role of endocrine disrupters in altering reproduction and development, immune system function and promoting breast carcinogenesis. Dr. Ayotte has authored or co-authored 100 refereed papers and book chapters and 165 abstracts.

Mélanie Lemire

Assistant Professor at Université Laval

Mélanie Lemire is the titular of the Nasivvik Research Chair in Ecosystem Approaches to Health. She is an Assistant Professor at the Département de médecine sociale et préventive at the Université Laval, and researcher at the Axe santé des populations et pratiques optimales en santé du Centre de recherche du CHU de Québec. Using ecosystem, transdisciplinary, intersectoral and participatory approaches, her projects focus on studying the complex effects of environmental changes and the balance between benefits and risks of local foods on Indigenous health as well as acting in prevention to promote northern ecosystems as a land to sustain health and well-being.

Aboriginal Participants who must be invited:

Innu Nation

Grand Chief Anastasia Qupee

Other Innu Nation participants

NunatuKavut

President Todd Russell

Other Nunatukavut Participants

Provincial participants who must be invited:**Labrador-Grenfell Health**

Dr. Gabe Woollam
Family doctor, chief of staff in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and director of the Northern Family Medicine Education Program, Member of the Executive for the Society for Rural Physicians of Canada

NL Department of Health and Community Services

David Allison
Chief Medical Officer of Health

NL Department of Environment and Conservation

Paul Carter
Environmental Scientist, Environmental Assessment Division

Political decision-makers who must be in attendance:**Nunatsiavut Government**

President Johannes Lampe
Minister Darryl Shiwak
Minister Greg Flowers
Deputy Minister Carl McLean
Deputy Minister Michelle Kinney
Deputy Minister Isabella Pain
Director of Communications Bert Pomeroy
Director of Environment Rodd Laing

Regulators / Decision makers

Dwight Ball
In his role as Minister of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs

Perry Trimper
Minister of Environment and Conservation and MHA for Lake Melville

Randy Edmunds
MHA for Torngat Mountains

Yvonne Jones
MP for Labrador, Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs

Kevin Alexander , RDG Fisheries and Oceans NL Region

Senior Representative from Environment Canada Atlantic Region

Senior Representative from Health Canada

Senior Representative from Indigenous Affairs and Northern Development

Nalcor representatives who may be invited, with any Nalcor representatives participating only as observers:

Stan Marshall

CEO of Nalcor

Chris Loomis (as observer)

Member of the Board of Directors for Nalcor and Member of the Board of Directors for the Labrador-Island Link Operating Corporation

Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology with joint appointment to the neuroscience group in the Faculty of Medicine. Was Vice-President (Research) of Memorial University and a member of the governing council of CIHR and the Science Advisory Board of Health Canada

Additional scientific experts who may be invited:

Tony Scheuhammer

National Wildlife Research Centre, Environment Canada

John Chételat

Research Scientist with National Wildlife Research Centre, Environment Canada; adjunct professor at Carleton

Robin Anderson

Research Scientist in the Ecological Sciences Section at Fisheries and Oceans Canada; adjunct professor at Memorial

Michel Parent

Research Geoscientist with Natural Resources Canada