



ADMINISTRATIVE HEAD OFFICE
25 Ikajuktauvik Road, PO Box 70
Nain, NL, Canada A0P 1L0
Tel: 709.922.2942
Fax: 709.922.2931
nain_reception@nunatsiavut.com

September 20, 2016

Hon. Dwight Ball, Premier
Confederation Building, East Block
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Premier,

I am writing to formally request a face-to-face meeting with you on Monday, September 26, at 1:30 p.m., at your Confederation Building office, to discuss mitigating impacts from methylmercury flowing into Lake Melville before flooding of the Muskrat Falls reservoir begins.

As you know Labrador Inuit are deeply concerned about the impacts methylmercury exposures will have on their health and wellbeing, their traditional way of life and their future. We understand that impoundment of the reservoir could begin as early as October 1. Once impoundment starts, there will be no turning back; the damage would already have been done.

During our meeting of June 26 you indicated that you didn't take health risks likely. You also urged the Nunatsiavut Government to come to a table that would include all aboriginal groups and other stakeholders, to discuss the scientific research conducted in Lake Melville, and come to an informed decision on a way forward.

Minister Trimper has also indicated publicly that he would consider changing his decision to accept Nalcor's Human Health Risk Assessment Plan if he could get the Nunatsiavut Government in the same room as other stakeholders.

During an interview with CBC Radio, following the public rally on June 27 in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, you reiterated the importance for the Nunatsiavut Government to come to a table and to share information. You also committed, based on that sharing of information and evidence provided, to explore all options to make informed decisions regarding the Nunatsiavut Government's concerns.

As you know, the Nunatsiavut Government joined other stakeholders and independent researchers at a workshop on August 4 in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. We have come to the table, Mr. Premier, the evidence has been provided, and it is now time to make an informed decision.

I urge you to not allow history to repeat itself. As we have learned from the forced resettlement of Hebron and Nutak, and from the residential schools experience, the marginalization of our people and the negative impacts of those decisions are irreversible.

During the Speech from the Throne on March 8 of this year, your government committed to working “collaboratively with Aboriginal people and governments to ensure development decisions are made with openness, transparency, and accountability, incorporating the concerns and interests of Aboriginal communities.” Your government has also publicly supported the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls for Action.

In the spirit of reconciliation, Mr. Premier, you can help right the wrongs of the past by helping to protect the future of our people.

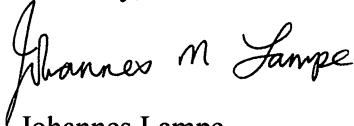
If Muskrat Falls continues down its current path, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will one day again be apologizing for the injustices of the past.

We have lost so much as a people, Mr. Premier. Please don't add to our pain and suffering by taking away our traditional food supply, by poisoning our people and stripping us of a way of life we have enjoyed for generations - a way of life that is already under siege.

The Nunatsiavut Government realizes the importance of building a solid working relationship with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for the benefit of Labrador Inuit and, indeed, all residents of the province.

Given the urgency of this matter, I would expect you to clear your schedule for the afternoon of September 26. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Johannes Lampe
President

c.c. Nunatsiavut Executive Council