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Ralph, Peter

From: Shea, Erin
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2019 11:45 PM
To: Chippett, Jamie
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: QP Note - IEAC - Meeting.docx
Attachments: QP Note - IEAC - Meeting.docx

Please see the following for approval. Need to have new QP messages up to the Branch by 1030 tomorrow, but I also have the Premier's event at 1030. I can come see you in the AM first thing.

**QP Issue Note
 Municipal Affairs and Environment
 April 8, 2019**

ISSUE: Independent Experts Advisory Committee (IEAC)

The Premier has requested a meeting with Indigenous leaders to discuss the Terms of Reference for an oversight committee to implement the IEAC's recommendations on monitoring and public health management. Next steps pertaining the recommendations related to an impact security fund and physical mitigation will also be addressed.

ANTICIPATED QUESTIONS:

- Why has government not responded to the recommendations?
- What is government doing to help those concerned about methylmercury?

KEY MESSAGES:

We have continued to work on the recommendations; our priority is to work together with our Indigenous partners to ensure the health of residents.

We have asked to meet with our Indigenous partners this week.

We will discuss the draft Terms of Reference for the committee that will oversee implementation of the monitoring and public health management recommendations,

We will also discuss next steps on the impact security fund and physical mitigation recommendations.

SECONDARY (Water monitoring):

- The monitoring plan was agreed to by all parties, and the IEAC applauded its design.
- Over 1,200 samples collected since 2016 have shown no risk to human health.
- Current levels of methylmercury in Lake Melville are low and many samples were below the detection limit of 0.01. Data is regularly shared on our website.

SECONDARY MESSAGING (Soil removal):

- Soil removal not agreed on by all voting members of IEAC.

- Taking an evidence-based, scientific approach. No proof soil removal would work. Some scientists say it might increase levels.

SECONDARY MESSAGES (Compensation):

- The IEAC did valuable work in confirming that current practices relating to the consumption of country foods and water are safe.
- In accepting Nalcor's human health risk assessment plan in 2016, government directed that compensation was to be provided if consumption advisories were issued.

BACKGROUND: See attached factsheet

Factsheet:

- The IEAC submitted final recommendations on methylmercury in April 2018, including:
 - A public information campaign to reiterate that country food and water are safe.
 - An independent, community-based body to oversee the design and implementation of a monitoring program for the Muskrat Falls project and provide information relevant to the protection of human health.
 - Negotiation of an Impact Security Fund between the Province, Nalcor, Indigenous groups and local population
 - Targeted soil removal in combination with wetland capping. This recommendation was not agreed upon by the IEAC members. Three of the voting members (Nunatsiavut Government, NunatuKavut Community Council and Affected Municipalities) voted in favor; the Innu Nation supported covering the wetlands.
- The four recommendations were unanimously agreed to by the Indigenous groups and municipalities with the exception that targeted soil removal was not supported by the Innu Nation.
- The IEAC was formed following an October 2016 agreement that the Provincial Government, in partnership with the Innu Nation, Nunatsiavut Government, and the NunatuKavut Community Council, would establish an Independent Expert Advisory Committee to determine and recommend options for mitigating human health concerns related to methylmercury. Mitigation measures will be realized through utilizing best available science that incorporates Indigenous Traditional Knowledge.
- Current levels of methylmercury in Lake Melville are in the order of 0.01 nanograms per litre, which is considered pristine.
- The soil removal has been estimated to cost between \$409 million and \$742 million, not including contingency funds, contractor risk premiums and costs associated with additional project delays.
- On March 8, 2019, Premier Ball sent a letter to all Indigenous groups to request a meeting to discuss moving forward with the implementation of recommendations on monitoring and public health management and to discuss next steps pertaining to the recommendations related to an impact security fund and physical mitigation. The letter included draft terms of reference for an independent body to ensure a coordinated approach to implementation and oversight of the community-based monitoring and public health management recommendations.