

Timeline for Methylmercury Actions

- March 22, 2016** Scientific workshop, “Methylmercury and Muskrat Falls: Sharing and Understanding Our Varied Perspectives”, held in St. John’s. Facilitated by Mr. Bruce Gilbert, Office of Public Engagement.
<https://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2016/env/0323n05.aspx>
- June 14, 2016** Minister of Environment and Conservation (Perry Trimper) releases Human Health Risk Assessment Plan. The release notes that should the need be identified for consumption advisories, Nalcor shall provide compensation measures:
<https://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2016/env/0613n05.aspx>
- August 4, 2016** Scientific Workshop, “Methylmercury Mitigation and Muskrat Falls: A Discussion of Practical Solutions”, held in Happy Valley - Goose Bay. Facilitated by Mr. Wayne Thistle Q.C. Final report published October 28, 2016.
https://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/env_assessment/projects/Y2010/1305/Workshops_methylmercury/1305_final_aug4_%20methylmercury_mitigation_workshop%20report_updated_28oct.pdf
- September 29, 2016** Early draft of “Methylmercury Monitoring Plan for Surface Water Quality of the Muskrat Falls Reservoir, Churchill River and Lake Melville” prepared by the Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC).
- October 14, 2016** First set of samples collected under the above monitoring plan. Note that the plan was revised over the course of several months including October 17, December 19, 2016 and September 29, 2017 through consultation with the three Indigenous groups. Data is posted to website.
https://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/methylmercury_mrf.html
- October 26, 2016** Premier meets with the three Indigenous groups and there is an agreement for the formation of an independent experts advisory committee (IEAC).
<https://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2016/exec/1026n01.aspx>
- November 10, 2016** A framework for IEAC terms of reference (TOR) was formally sent to officials of the three Indigenous groups.
- December 9, 2016** A revised draft TOR was returned to ECC.
- Dec 9 – March 24** There were 6 teleconference calls to discuss details of the TOR for the IEAC.
- March 24, 2017** Terms of reference for the IEAC are agreed to by all parties.
https://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/env_assessment/projects/Y2010/1305/ieac_tor.pdf
- May 16, 2017** First meeting of the IEAC via teleconference. Work begins to find a chair for this committee.

- July 4, 2017 Premier is provided with a briefing on the progress of the IEAC
- July 27, 2017 As of this date, 500 water samples have been collected from the project area and analyzed for methylmercury and other water quality parameters. Data and graphs are posted on the internet.
- May 16 – Aug 4 There were 8 teleconference calls with the IEAC members to finalize the selection of the chair.
- August 4, 2017 An independent chair (Dr. Ken Reimer) is approved by all IEAC members and appointed to lead the IEAC. <http://ieaclabrador.ca/members/ken-j-reimer/>.
- August 22, 2017 The IEAC formally appoints a research director, 6 scientific experts and three Indigenous knowledge experts and begins to work on fulfilling the objective of the IEAC terms of reference.
- September 22, 2017 The IEAC issues its first set of recommendations to the NL Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment. These recommendations were that a feasibility study be undertaken for soil and vegetation removal, changes be made to the aquatic monitoring plan, and that Nalcor finalize their methylmercury modelling project.
- September 25, 2017 Provincial Government issues news release to advise it has received and accepted the IEAC's first set of recommendations:
<https://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2018/mae/0411n03.aspx>
- Sept 25 – March 8 There were 4 teleconference calls with the IEAC oversight committee.
- March 8, 2018 Face-to-face meeting of the IEAC in Happy Valley – Goose Bay.
- March 26, 2018 Teleconference and webinar with the IEAC oversight committee and the scientific and Indigenous knowledge experts.
- March 28, 2018 Then Minister Joyce issues letter to Stan Marshall regarding the IEAC's request for Nalcor to expedite its current methylmercury modelling project and the efforts of Nalcor's consultants in that regard.
- April 10, 2018 IEAC issues the final set of recommendations. These recommendations were to mitigate MeHg impacts by soil removal and wetland capping, develop a community based monitoring program, post and impact security fund, and provide advice on future health management.
- April 11, 2018 Provincial Government responds to receipt of the final IEAC recommendations.
<https://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2018/mae/0411n03.aspx>
- April 26, 2018 A scheduled teleconference call with the chair of the IEAC is cancelled. Minister Parsons is assigned to the Department of MAE portfolio.
- May 16, 2018 A briefing is held for then Minister Parsons on the IEAC's recommendations.

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| June 7, 2018 | Conference call with Minister Parsons and Nunatsiavut Government to discuss the recommendations of the IEAC. |
| June 7, 2018 | Conference call with Minister Parsons and Dr. Ken Reimer to discuss the recommendations of the IEAC. |
| June 19, 2018 | Start of an internal departmental research project to undertake a statistical analysis of the methylmercury data collected from the Lower Churchill River. The purpose is to identify trends and include an interpretation of analysis results for the many samples that were below the laboratory's detection limit (less than 0.01ng/l, which is the smallest amount of MeHg that can be measured by the best available scientific methods) |
| June 28, 2018 | Presentations by Nalcor on predicted MeHg effects for MAE officials. This is the completion of the Harris hydrodynamic model for the formation of methylmercury in the Muskrat Falls reservoir and transport downstream. |
| July 25, 2018 | Conference call with Minister Parsons and Innu Nation on IEAC recommendations. |
| August 3, 2018 | Conference call with Deputy Minister Jamie Chippett and NunatuKavut Community Council. |
| August 9, 2018 | As of this date, 1,000 water samples have been collected from the project area and analyzed for methylmercury and other water quality parameters. Data and graphs continue to be posted on the web. https://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/methylmercury_mrf.html |
| August 29, 2018 | Briefing for Premier on status of monitoring and analysis of methylmercury recommendations. |
| November 8, 2018 | Minister Letto is assigned to the Department of MAE portfolio |
| November 13, 2018 | Briefing for new minister, Hon. Graham Letto. |
| November 27, 2018 | MAE executive briefed by Water Resources Division officials on the statistical analysis of the MeHg monitoring program to date. This analysis was used to inform the development of recommendations to Cabinet. |
| December 2018 | IEAC presentation to Cabinet deferred until January . |
| January 9, 2019 | Cabinet briefing - resulted in decisions; discussions on implementation of the recommendations are occurring with Nalcor. |
| January 10, 2019 | Briefing for Labrador MHAs |