

Date : 8/21/2012 8:53:13 AM
From : "Howard, Jacquelyn"
To : "Maclean, Heather" , "Hammond, Lynn" , "Brown, Milly"
Cc : "Collingwood, Jennifer" , "Power, Glenda"
Subject : FW: Level of personal attacks by government is disturbing: Ball
Attachment : Level of personal attacks by government is disturbing, Ball .doc;image001.jpg;

From: oppositionnewsreleas
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2012 8:49 AM
To: Miles, Peter
Subject: Level of personal attacks by government is disturbing: Ball

NEWS RELEASE

Office of the Official Opposition



August 21, 2012
For Immediate Release

Level of personal attacks by government is disturbing: Ball

Liberal Opposition Leader Dwight Ball today stated that the increased level of personal attacks by PC MHAs on opponents of the Muskrat Falls project is very disturbing, and indicates that there are no moral limits to where the Dunderdale Government will go.

"I find it deeply disturbing and repugnant to hear Member of the House of Assembly Steve Kent argue during a media interview that imputing personal motives of persons on the other side of public policy debates is not only permissible but desirable," said Ball. "This will have a chilling and corrosive effect on the public's participation in the issues facing the province. When it has become official government policy to use the machinery of government to attack the motives of critics, why would anyone say anything?"

Ball noted that it's been a longstanding principle of public discussions that you attack the position, not the person, but now we see a government representative imply that attacking the person is the preferred and legitimate way to address matters of public interest.

"The hypocrisy of government's policy to attack the personal motives of critics is incredible," said Ball. "They feel entitled to make personal attacks while they vigorously protest whenever their own motivations are called into question."

Ball stated that as the public debate on Muskrat Falls continues throughout the fall, government must listen to the message instead of attacking the messenger.

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