

Date : 9/17/2012 2:38:17 PM

From : "Howard, Jacquelyn"

To : "Hammond, Lynn" , "Marnell, Debbie" , "Maclean, Heather" , "Williams, Tina"

Cc : "Collingwood, Jennifer" , "Power, Glenda"

Subject : FW: Liberals Present Government with Proposed Rules for Muskrat Falls Debate

Attachment : Liberals present government with proposed rules for MF debate_Sept 17 2012.doc;Rules of Debate.doc;image001.jpg;

From: oppositionnewsreleas

Sent: Monday, September 17, 2012 2:37 PM

To: Foote, Carla

Subject: Liberals Present Government with Proposed Rules for Muskrat Falls Debate

NEWS RELEASE

Office of the Official Opposition



September 17, 2012
For Immediate Release

Liberals Present Government with Proposed Rules for Muskrat Falls Debate

Liberal Opposition Leader Dwight Ball and Opposition House Leader Yvonne Jones have presented government with the "Proposed Rules for a Special Debate on Muskrat Falls". This is in response to a request of government in a letter to the Premier on June 26th, 2012.

The proposed rules include the ability for all three parties to call witnesses as presenters to be questioned at any given time throughout the duration of the debate. All sessions of the debate will also be required to be fully televised for the benefit of the people of the province.

"I wrote the Premier requesting comments on the discussion of terms and rules for a Special Debate on Muskrat Falls, and to date have not received acknowledgement of our request or a response," said Ball. "Such neglect in the face of a very crucial decision for the residents of Newfoundland and Labrador is unconscionable."

"The House of Assembly is the peoples' forum, and the perfect venue for interested parties to have their say on all aspects of the proposed Muskrat Falls project," said Jones. "This debate will provide the public with information from arms length experts in order to deliver a fully informed and comprehensive update on the issues of concern."

Upon acceptance of these proposed rules it is expected that a tentative start and end date, and resolution wording will be finalized with all three parties, as well as a proposed list of witnesses.

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Media Contact: Carla Foote | Director of Communications | Office of the Official Opposition | 729-6151 | 691-6673 E copies @ www.liberaloppositionnl.com

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**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR**

Official Opposition Office

Proposed Rules for a Special Debate on Muskrat Falls

1. The Special Debate shall start no sooner than three (3) weeks after the public release of the Resolution to be debated; and the public release of the Muskrat Falls review information (DG3 numbers and reports).
2. The Special Debate would occur in both morning and afternoon sessions (9AM-12PM and 2PM -5PM NST). Morning sessions would be reserved for witness examination while afternoon sessions would be reserved for members' debate.
3. Question Period would be limited to 60 minutes each day, from 1-2PM NST. The focus of Question Period shall be solely limited to the proposed Muskrat Falls project.
4. The three (3) leaders with official party status (Progressive Conservatives, Liberals, New Democrats) and three (3) critics from each of the afore mentioned parties will be given one (1) hour openers and one (1) hour closers. All other Members of the House of Assembly (MHA's) get 20 minutes each to participant in the debate.
5. All three (3) parties will be permitted to call witnesses to be examined by all sides. Government must provide requested officials from relevant agencies (for example: Ziff Energy Group, Manitoba Hydro International, Emera Inc, Navigant, Nalcor Energy, Joint Review Panel and the Public Utilities Board). The Official Opposition Party and the Third Party will also be permitted to call witnesses. Witness sessions will run in the style of Estimates Committees/Committee of the Whole (i.e. Q&A, with speakers, alternating between opposition parties).
6. All sessions of the Special Debate on Muskrat Falls will be televised.
7. Official wording of the Resolution to be presented for debate shall be agreed upon in advance by all three (3) parties.