

Date : 12/17/2012 6:08:41 PM

From : "Power, Bradley"

To : "Dalley, Derrick" , "Hynes, Darrell"

Subject : FW: Confidence in Public Utilities Board remains high on Muskrat Falls: Liberals

Attachment : Confidence in Public Utilities Board remains high on Muskrat Falls Liberals_Dec 17 2012.doc;

From: oppositionnewsreleas

Sent: Monday, December 17, 2012 6:08:40 PM

To: Foote, Carla

Subject: Confidence in Public Utilities Board remains high on Muskrat Falls: Liberals

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December 17, 2012
For Immediate Release

Confidence in Public Utilities Board remains high on Muskrat Falls: Liberals

The Liberal Opposition are pointing to the results of an independent poll by Corporate Research Associates which again shows there continues to be public confidence in the Public Utilities Board to fairly assess the Muskrat Falls project.

It's clearly evident with the findings of this recent poll that although Government may not have confidence in the Public Utilities Board (PUB), the majority of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians disagree. When asked if they are confident in the PUB to fairly assess the reports provided on the Muskrat Falls project, 67% of respondents indicated they are confident in the ability of the PUB. Just 26% indicated they are not confident in the PUB, and 7% don't know.

"This Government has repeatedly said they have no confidence in the PUB to do a thorough examination of the merits of the Muskrat Falls project," noted Opposition Leader Dwight Ball. "The members of the PUB were appointed by Government, yet the Premier doesn't trust them to deliver an independent review on Muskrat Falls."

The poll commissioned by the Official Opposition is based on a sample of 800 adults surveyed from Nov. 13 to Dec. 1. The poll results also indicate that not only do the people of the province have confidence in the PUB, but they also agree that the Muskrat Falls project should go through a second review to assess expert reports and the Decision Gate 3 (DG3) numbers. When asked if respondents agree that the Muskrat Falls project should go through a second review, 67% agree while just 27% disagree, 5% don't know and 1% neither agree nor disagree.

"When an overwhelming majority feels there needs to be an independent review of the project, then Government cannot ignore that there are still questions to be asked," said Ball. "Regardless of whether or not there is support for Muskrat Falls, it's still not a green light for Government to plow through on sanctioning the deal." While the final decision is being made today to sanction the Muskrat Falls project, the Premier and her Government have proposed removing the responsibility of setting rates for Muskrat Falls power from the PUB.

"The numbers speak for themselves, the taxpayers of this province want a PUB review and since they're footing the bill for this project, Government needs to engage the PUB."

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Media Contact: Carla Foote | Director of Communications | Office of the Official Opposition | 729-6151 | 691-6673 E copies
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Office of the Official Opposition
NEWS RELEASE

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