

Date : 12/19/2012 7:46:24 AM

From : "Howard, Jacquelyn"

To : "Maclean, Heather" , "Williams, Tina" , "Lawlor, Lisa E" , "Brown, Milly" , "Hammond, Lynn" , "Marnell, Debbie"

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

Subject : Fw: Government Shuts Down Debate on Muskrat Falls Legislation

Attachment : Government shuts down debate on Muskrat Falls\_Dec 19 2012.doc;

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From: oppositionnewsreleas

Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2012 07:36 AM

To: Foote, Carla

Subject: Government Shuts Down Debate on Muskrat Falls Legislation

December 19, 2012  
For Immediate Release

### Government Shuts Down Debate on Muskrat Falls Legislation

The Official Opposition are outraged by the audacity of Government to stifle debate in the ongoing filibuster in the House of Assembly over enabling legislation for the Muskrat Falls project, effectively shutting down the process and denying any possible amendments.

"The potentially delinquent conditions in Bill 61, *Electrical Power Control Act, 1994*, *The Energy Corporation Act and the Hydro Corporation Act, 2007* and Bill 60, *An Act Respecting the use and Expropriation of Land for the Purpose of the Muskrat Falls Project* will leave this province with its hands tied when it comes to competition for electrical power rates," noted Opposition Leader Dwight Ball. "As the Official Opposition we were prepared to introduce amendments to ensure all legislation would hold Government accountable, yet Government denied us that right and instead invoked closure tools to shut down the process."

Natural Resources Minister Jerome Kennedy limited debate in second reading of Bill 61, Bill 60 and Bill 53 by denying the ability to introduce amendments when invoking *Standing Order 43*.

"By implementing this tactic Government has denied normal legislative process, and with it the right for every elected member on both sides of the House of Assembly to respond to issues which are critical to the sanctioning of the Muskrat Falls project," said Ball.

The role of the Public Utilities Board has been consistent since confederation with Canada. Legislation proposed in Bill 61 and Bill 60 will alter that forever and with it the independent regulatory oversight which protects the people of our province.

"This is just another example of the arrogance of this Premier and her Government," added Ball. "Instead of being respectful of the province and ensuring due diligence on this legislation Government has shut down debate and in effect denied the people of Newfoundland and Labrador the right to democratic process."

With over a year to prepare this legislation, Government is now attempting to put the final nail in the coffin. This is consistent with every action taken thus far on the Muskrat Falls project.

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Office of the Official Opposition  
**NEWS RELEASE**

**December 19, 2012**  
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