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

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

Subject : Fw: Muskrat Falls Filibuster ends with Significant Debate

Attachment : Muskrat Falls filibuster ends with significant debate_Dec 22 2012.doc;

Communications
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From: oppositionnewsreleas

Sent: Saturday, December 22, 2012 01:24 PM

To: Foote, Carla

Subject: Muskrat Falls Filibuster ends with Significant Debate

December 22, 2012
For Immediate Release

Muskrat Falls Filibuster ends with Significant Debate

Liberal Opposition Leader Dwight Ball is applauding all members of the House of Assembly for the progress made during the 86 hour filibuster on legislation enabling the Muskrat Falls project. Early this morning, debate on the two pieces of legislation; 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* ended with third reading on each bill.

"These were both very complicated pieces of legislation that will have far reaching effects on not just the Muskrat Falls project, but also electrical power rates and land expropriation for the duration of the project," noted Ball. "As the Official Opposition we owe it to all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians to ensure that merits of the legislation were debated in a full open and public forum as the House of Assembly."

With the passing of this legislation Nalcor has been granted a monopoly of supplying and distributing electrical power on the island of Newfoundland for the duration of the project. Government has handed decision making on power rates for Muskrat Falls power to Nalcor regardless of any other options that could arise in the next 50 years.

"As Government denied the Opposition the right to hold a special debate on the Muskrat Falls project ahead of sanctioning by Nalcor and Emera Energy on December 17, 2012 the option to filibuster these two pieces of enabling legislation did provide the people of the province with the opportunity to understand the ramifications that will develop as a result of the project," said Ball.

The filibuster began on Tuesday, December 18, 2012 and ran around the clock for over three consecutive days making it the longest filibuster in the history of the House of Assembly. During the debate on Bill 61 and Bill 60, the Official Opposition moved to introduce eight amendments with the intention of modifying both pieces of legislation.

"The multi-billion dollar Muskrat Falls project will cost the ratepayers of this province significantly over the next 50 years, there are still several unanswered questions," noted Ball. "We will continue to hold Government to account on this project and demand answers for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador."

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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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NEWS RELEASE

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