

Combined Councils of Labrador

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Cheryl Blundon
Director of Corporate Services and Board Secretary
Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities
P.O. Box 21040, St. John's, NL A1A 5B2

November 1st, 2021

Dear Ms. Blundon

The Combined Councils of Labrador was formed in 1972 when the communities of Nain, Makkovik, Davis Inlet and Hopedale met for an inaugural conference to address issues that were similar in each municipality. Together as a united voice they lobbied government officials for improvements in their region.

In 1979, the Combined Councils of Labrador met in North West River and expanded to include all communities in Labrador, forever changing the face of Labrador politics.

In January of 2007 the Combined Councils of Labrador held its Annual General Meeting in the community of Nain, Nunatsiavut. It was at this meeting (the 35th Annual) the member communities in attendance voted to amend the Combined Councils of Labrador Constitution to include any incorporated Municipality, Local Service District or permanently recognized community or Aboriginal Community Government and/or First Nations Community (incorporated either by or under a special or general act of the legislature) may become a member of the Combined Councils of Labrador on payment of the current membership dues. Each Municipal, Community Government Member, or permanently recognized community and/or First Nations Community of the Combined Councils of Labrador shall select its own representative or representatives to participate in the activities of the Combined Councils of Labrador.

From its early beginnings the Combined Councils of Labrador has grown in scope and capacity to acknowledge municipal governance as the vehicle of choice for economic development, community living, social challenges, infrastructure activities and thrives for leadership in advocacy, policy development, research and municipal training.

Today we are here representing the municipalities in Southeastern Labrador who will be greatly affected by the decision to let this proposal move forward. NL Hydro is

moving this project forward without any input from the general public who will be most impacted by this project. Very few people in the region know about this project and maybe even less know how far this have progressed without the general population voicing their concerns or support for such a project.

The demographics for this region should give NL Hydro a second thought of how greatly impacted the most disadvantaged people in our society would be if this project moves forward. Currently they pay the highest rates in the province and yes, they are subsidized by NL Hydro but even with this subsidy they cannot afford to heat their homes by electricity generated by diesel operated plants. And this is the only alternative you can give the residents for the next several decades.

With all the talk about climate change and the need to change how things are done, yet NL Hydro wants to replace three generating stations with one larger plant, that will still be sending pollutants into the air and not give residents cheaper electricity rates.

With the proposed cost of the new super plant for the region, was there any research done on a secondary transmission line from Muskrat Falls or the development of a small hydro project on one of the many rivers in southeast Labrador? Or the commendation of several other sources for alternative energy?

No other region of this province as a greater potential for alternative energy sources and yet NL Hydro falls short on their responsibility to provide cheaper, cleaner energy to coastal Labrador residents.

Many communities in Southeastern Labrador are trying other alternatives to lessen their dependence on fossil fuels by making their homes more energy efficient with heat pumps and upgrades to their insulation in their homes and here is NL Hydro planning for the future and constructing a 19th century generating station.

Many people in our communities would like to move away from wood burning systems to heat their homes yet NL Hydro gives them very little alternative to this idea.

Coastal Labrador residents will not accept this project because it still limits their access to clean, cheap energy to heat their homes, businesses and help entice other businesses set up here.

This project shows how short-sighted NL Hydro is and think the residents will accept this without any input, unfortunately your wrong and people will stand against such a project going ahead at this time when there are many alternatives out there.

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NL Hydro is a crown corporation and as such should be open and transparent, the way this project was handle and the short notice of such hearing in not open and certainly not transparent. Residents and the general public expect and deserve better from a crown corporation than this rushed through process.

CCL looks forward to working with partners on a cleaner alternative for electricity in Labrador and looks forward to a more positive dialog on this and other issues.

The Combined Councils of Labrador wants to thank you for this opportunity to voice our concerns on this very important matter.

Sincerely



Margaret Rumbolt, Executive Director
For
Board of Directors of Combined Councils of Labrador

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