June 1	4, 2024		NP GRA 2025-2026
	Page 1		Page 3
1	(9:00 a.m.)	1	announcement, it goes to 2030 so there's no
2	CHAIR:	2	certainty beyond 2030 and, you know, we just
3	Q. Good morning everyone.	3	take the view of risk and our debt holders
4	MR. O'BRIEN:	4	and investors, they look at risk as long
5	Q. Good morning.	5	term, you know, our bond holders are buying
6	CHAIR:	6	30-year bonds, so they look at the long
7	Q. First we will go to Ms. Glynn to see if	7	term, not just the short term.
8	there are any preliminary matters.	8	SIMMONS, KC:
9	MS. GLYNN:	9	Q. Right, okay, and when we left off yesterday,
10	Q. No preliminary matters that I'm aware of,	10	I had asked to go to the order of the Board
11	Mr. Chair. I think we can turn it right	11	following that last GRA, which is PUB 2022
1	over to Mr. Simmons.		
12		12	and if we can key that one up please? And I
13	CHAIR:	13	would like to go to page 4 and that's page
14	Q. Mr. Simmons, good morning.	14	No. 4 and I apologize, I don't have the pdf
15	SIMMONS, KC.:	15	page number. It's the one, it's Section 2.1
16	Q. Thank you very much and good morning, Mr.	16	headed "Capital Structure and Return on
17	Chairman, panel members, counsel, Mr.	17	Equity." There we go. So, Mr. Murray, I
18	Murray. When we left off yesterday, Mr.	18	don't want to read through this with you,
19	Murray, I had asked you some questions	19	but I'm just going to outline a couple of
20	concerning Section 1.14 of the Newfoundland	20	points and where I'm coming to with this is
21	Power application and in particular there	21	I'm going to be asking you what's different
22	was a statement in there that Newfoundland	22	now, compared to the last time this—the last
23	Power's business risks in 2023 remain	23	GRA that was done, what's different
24	largely consistent with the risks at the	24	concerning the appropriate Newfoundland
25	time that Newfoundland Power had filed its	25	Power's views of the appropriate return on
	Page 2		Page 4
1	previous General Rate Application for	1	equity, so what are we talking about, you're
2	2022/2023, and I had asked you if I was	2	looking for a higher return on equity in
3	correct in understanding that those were the	3	this GRA than had been awarded in the
4	same risks that had been in play last time,	4	previous GRA. So that's where I'm going
5	that there's a GRA, and you told me that	5	with it, but I just want to go through a few
6	there was one exception, you said and	6	points here and what the Board has said in
7	correct me if I'm wrong on this, you said	7	their order. So, first it opens in lines 3
8	that after the previous GRA had been filed,	8	and 4 saying that for the 2022/2023 test
9	Hydro had filed its 2022 Reliability and	9	years, Newfoundland Power had proposed a
10	Adequacy Report and that you said that that	10	•
11	* * *	11	return on equity of 9.8 percent. Now,
1	changed the perception or the understanding of the reliability of the LIL, so you saw		that's substantially the same as what
12	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	12	Newfoundland Power is looking for now, which
13	that as a change in the risks since the	13	is 9.85 percent, correct?
14	previous time, and we talked about that	14	MR. MURRAY:
15	already. And I also asked you if one other	15	A. yes.
16	change was that there's now more certainty	16	SIMMONS, KC:
17	around rate mitigation and you said yes, and	17	Q. Right, so the ask is the same now as it was
18	that was a short-term change in risk;	18	then, the common equity ratio is 45 percent,
19	whereas you described the LIL concerns as a	19	it's been that way for awhile. The proposal
20	longer term change in risks, so do I have	20	now is to continue the common equity ratio
21	that basically right, where we left that	21	of 45 percent, right?
22	off?	22	MR. MURRAY:
	MR. MURRAY:	23	A. Yes, correct.
23	WIK. WIUKKA I .	23	A. 1 cs, correct.
23 24	A. Mostly, you know, I would say that, you	24	SIMMONS, KC:

Page 7 MR. MURRAY: that there was a settlement agreement and 1 1 2 the result of the settlement agreement was 2 Α. The numbers are similar, correct. 3 that the parties, including Newfoundland SIMMONS, KC: 3 4 Power, proposed to the Board to actually 4 Okay, very close. O. 5 approve a return on equity rate of 8.5 5 MR. MURRAY: 6 percent which is the same as it had been for 6 Yeah. Α. 7 the previous couple of GRAs, right? 7 SIMMONS, KC: 8 8 MR. MURRAY: And we'll hear from Dr. Booth on behalf of 9 9 That's correct, yes. the Consumer Advocate, last time round he 10 SIMMONS, KC: 10 recommended 7.5 percent and I think if you 11 O. Now I know there can be to and fro and give 11 looked at his report, that's pretty much the 12 and take when settlements are negotiated and 12 same as what he is recommending now. 13 I don't want to know anything about what 13 MR. MURRAY: 14 went into that settlement agreement, but am 14 Α. I believe it's 7.7 he's recommending. 15 I correct also that even when the parties 15 SIMMONS, KC: 16 agree to that, it's still up the Board to 16 O. Okay, very close. And we go to the next look at what's been proposed in the page, please, in line 2 and 3, the Board 17 17 18 Settlement Agreement and apply the 18 makes the statement that "Dr. Booth and Mr. 19 principles of what is a just and reasonable 19 Coyne agree that there had not been a return for the company and what is least 20 20 material change in Newfoundland Power's 21 cost and most reliable for the ratepayers 21 business risks since 2018" which was an 22 22 earlier time period. Now, is it when they're looking at what the parties have proposed, is that your understanding? Newfoundland Power's position now that there 23 23 24 24 also has not been a material change in the MR. MURRAY: 25 25 business risks since the last GRA, '22 and A. That would seem reasonable, yes. Page 6 Page 8 23? 1 SIMMONS, KC: 1 2 2 Q. Right, okay, and that's set out, too, I MR. MURRAY: 3 think, in paragraph—as we move down there, 3 A. Well it's in line with what I had previously 4 but I want to bring you down now to the 4 mentioned yesterday with respect to the 2022 5 5 paragraph that begins at line 32. The Board report on the reliability and adequacy 6 notes at lines 34 and 35 that the proposed 6 report which is different from what was our 7 rate of return of 8.5 and equity ratio of 45 7 understanding and what was on the record 8 8 percent were the same as were used and set prior to that. 9 9 in Newfoundland Power rates in the last two SIMMONS, KC: 10 rate applications, so that would be, we're 10 And you've identified that as being a now three rate applications in the past have longer-term concern, rather than a shorter-11 11 all used those same rates. And it refers to 12 12 term concern for the 2025 and 2026 test the evidence that was provided by the 13 13 years which is what's being used to set 14 experts in the '22/'23 application. Mr. 14 rates in this application. 15 15 Coyne, I think, was Newfoundland Power's MR. MURRAY: 16 expert and we'll also be hearing from him as 16 Well it's both because, you know, an event A. Newfoundland Power's expert at this hearing, due to the reliability of the LIL can happen 17 17 18 correct? 18 next year, not going to happen after the 19 19 MR. MURRAY: GRA, it could happen, our concern is it 20 Yes, Concentric Energy Advisors. 20 could happen anytime in the future. 21 SIMMONS, KC.: SIMMONS, KC.: 21 22 Q. Correct, and his recommendation last time 22 Q. Right, so an event could happen, there could 23 round was for 9.8 percent, again 23 be an outage, but that's not going to affect 24 substantially the same as his recommendation 24 what's happened in this hearing with the 25 this time which is 9.85 percent, right? 25 setting of the rates which are based on the

June 1	14, 2024		NP GRA 2025-2026
	Page 9		Page 11
1	forecast for '25 and '26, right?	1	SIMMONS, KC:
2	MR. MURRAY:	2	Q. So once again, aside from what you told us
3	A. I don't draw that same connection, I mean, I	3	about the long-term risks related to LIL
4	indicated it has to do with our risk, we	4	reliability, what's different now compared
5	haven't included any costs related to such	5	to when the last GRA or even the previous
6	an event, but when you look at the risk, it	6	two GRAs was done, that justifies the Board
7	does impact the risk of the company.	7	making a different decision that they made
8	SIMMONS, KC:	8	before which was based on substantially the
9	Q. And if we just skip down to paragraph	9	same asks for return on equity and the same
10	beginning at line 23, this is where the	10	expert recommendation on return on equity,
11	Board makes its decision and it was	11	why should they do something different than
12	satisfied to accept the recommendations that	12	8.5 percent now?
13	had been in the Settlement Agreement for the	13	MR. MURRAY:
14	8.5 percent common equity ratio, an 8.5	14	A. You know, the 9.85 recommendation is Mr.
15	percent return on equity and 45 percent	15	Coyne's testimony and evidence. Mr. Coyne
16	common, 45 percent capital structure. So,	16	and Concentric Advisors will be here to
17	I'd like to just bring you briefly to one	17	present their rationale on that. You know,
18	other document on the same theme and that's	18	it's been long recognized the 45 percent
19	one of the RFIs, it's NLH-NP-52 please?	19	equity by the Board, you know, due to our
20	This was a question posed by Hydro to	20	small size and cost flexibility and limited
21	Newfoundland Power and it was a request for	21	growth is important and the higher return on
22	information concerning the return on equity	22	equity, you know, which Concentric will
23	rates that had been requested by	23	speak to, is looking at a fair return
24	Newfoundland Power in the, actually in the	24	standard and the risk profile of
25	last four general rate applications, dating	25	Newfoundland Power to similar utilities and
25		23	
1	Page 10	1	Page 12
	back to 2013, and it lists the consultant's recommendations and it lists the final	1 2	what is an appropriate return under the fair return standard.
2		3	
3	return on equity award and it lists the	4	SIMMONS, KC:
4 5	common equity component. And if we look at	5	Q. So aren't those just all the same arguments that were made last time?
5	the last three general rate applications		
6	from 2016 up 'til 2022, Newfoundland Power's	6	MR. MURRAY:
/ /	ask for substantially the same, 9.5, 9.5,	/	A. You know, Mr. Coyne and Concentric is
8	9.8 and now it's 9.85, do you see that?	8	looking at what has been the change since
9	MR. MURRAY:	9	the last time and equity returns in North
10	A. Yes, I do.	10	America have gone up since our last rate
11	SIMMONS, KC:	11	case.
12	Q. And the consultant recommendations were—	12	SIMMONS, KC:
13	Newfoundland Power's consultant	13	Q. Uh-hm.
14	recommendations matched what Newfoundland		MR. MURRAY:
15	Power's ask was in each case, correct?	15	A. So under the fair return standard, looking
16	MR. MURRAY:	16	at what is a comparable return for
1 1 7	A TT1 42		comparable rick for Newtoundland Power I
17	A. That's correct, yes.	17	comparable risk for Newfoundland Power.
18	SIMMONS, KC:	18	SIMMONS, KC:
18 19	SIMMONS, KC: Q. And the final award of the Board was the	18 19	SIMMONS, KC: Q. Okay, so the underlying reason then for the
18 19 20	SIMMONS, KC: Q. And the final award of the Board was the same in each of those cases, 8.5 throughout,	18 19 20	SIMMONS, KC: Q. Okay, so the underlying reason then for the request to increase the return on equity is
18 19 20 21	SIMMONS, KC: Q. And the final award of the Board was the same in each of those cases, 8.5 throughout, correct?	18 19 20 21	SIMMONS, KC: Q. Okay, so the underlying reason then for the request to increase the return on equity is that equity is more costly in the capital
18 19 20 21 22	SIMMONS, KC: Q. And the final award of the Board was the same in each of those cases, 8.5 throughout, correct? MR. MURRAY:	18 19 20 21 22	SIMMONS, KC: Q. Okay, so the underlying reason then for the request to increase the return on equity is that equity is more costly in the capital markets now than it was last GRA, is that
18 19 20 21 22 23	SIMMONS, KC: Q. And the final award of the Board was the same in each of those cases, 8.5 throughout, correct? MR. MURRAY: A. In 20—yes, I mean, 2019 and 2022 were	18 19 20 21 22 23	SIMMONS, KC: Q. Okay, so the underlying reason then for the request to increase the return on equity is that equity is more costly in the capital markets now than it was last GRA, is that the reason?
18 19 20 21 22	SIMMONS, KC: Q. And the final award of the Board was the same in each of those cases, 8.5 throughout, correct? MR. MURRAY:	18 19 20 21 22	SIMMONS, KC: Q. Okay, so the underlying reason then for the request to increase the return on equity is that equity is more costly in the capital markets now than it was last GRA, is that

June 1	4, 2024		NP GRA 2025-2026
	Page 13		Page 15
1	advisor speak to that because that's their	1	and evaluate the evidence that's before them
2	recommendation.	2	now.
3	SIMMONS, KC:	3	SIMMONS, KC.:
4	Q. And from your seat as the CEO of the	4	Q. Thank you, Mr. Murray. I have a couple of
5	organization, it sounds like you are	5	questions for you just regarding a load
6	deferring to the opinion of your expert at	6	growth and in your direct evidence
7	Concentric on whether a return on equity	7	yesterday, you referred to the provincial
8	increase is needed by Newfoundland Power and	8	economic outlook which you said remained
9	you're not offering me any other reason for	9	weak. You said the economic indicators in
10	that, other than the opinion of Mr. Coyne,	10	Newfoundland and Labrador lag behind the
11	<u> </u>	11	
	do I have that right? MR. MURRAY:		rest of Canada, including historically low
12		12	forecast housing starts, and the annual
13	A. Well Concentric Energy advisors have done	13	customer connections were decreasing and
14	the comparison of Newfoundland Power to	14	that that made the company growth outlook
15	utilities of similar risks, that's the work	15	more challenging going forward. You recall
16	that they've done to come up with the	16	that, you know, I can bring you to the
17	recommendation of the 9.85.	17	transcript if you want to have a look at
18	SIMMONS, KC:	18	what you said yesterday.
19	Q. Okay. So if I were to suggest to you that	19	MR. MURRAY:
20	what Newfoundland Power is actually asking	20	A. No, that's correct.
21	the Board to do right now, is to reconsider	21	SIMMONS, KC:
22	its last decision, saying that the last	22	Q. Okay, so I would like to bring up RFI PUB-
23	decision was not correct, the rate of return	23	NP-45 please? So this was actually a
24	was set too low, reconsider that decision	24	question from the Board about Newfoundland
25	and make a different decision than had been	25	Power's capital plan, but when you turn over
	Page 14		Page 16
1	made at the last GRA, would I have that	1	to the second page of it, at paragraph 6,
2	right?	2	there's a comment here regarding forecasts
3	(9:15 a.m.)	3	and beginning at 6, Newfoundland Power's
4	MR. O'BRIEN:	4	answer is "While customer connections are
5	Q. I don't think that's a fair question given	5	forecast to decline over the next five
6	there was a settlement in the last two GRAs,	6	years"—which you've told us—"system load
7	in terms of the Board having different	7	growth driven by residential development in
8	information in front of them with a	8	urban areas, electrification of heating
9	settlement from the parties, so there is a	9	systems and electric vehicle adoption is
10	different focus at that time when the Board	10	forecast to offset that decline." So I take
11	accepting a settlement versus making a full-	11	it then that Newfoundland Power's position
12	on order at that time, so I don't think it's	12	on changing load in the future is that your
1		13	concerns about the decline in the number of
13	fair to say that he's saying the Board had		
14	it wrong at that point.	14	housing starts are expected to actually be
15	CHAIR:	15	offset by increasing electrification and by
16	Q. I don't think the witness has to accept the	16	increase of load from electric vehicles, is
17	scenario of the first option.	17	that correct?
18	MR. MURRAY:	18	MR. MURRAY:
19	A. Yeah, I mean, you know, the Board is being	19	A. Yeah, we are seeing an offsetting factor
20	asked to view the evidence in front of it as	20	from that, we are seeing lower housing
21	part of, you know, these proposals, you	21	connections, but the forecast allows for,
22	know, we're not asking the Board to make a	22	you know, what we've seen for
23	decision based on past decisions. We're	23	electrification from the, you know,
24	asking them to look at the evidence that's	24	government grant system for convergence from
25	provided in this General Rate Application	25	oil to electric and electric vehicle

NP GRA 2025-2026 June 14, 2024

Page 17 Q. Mr. Simmons, if you could just provide more adoptions, so those are in the current 1 1 2 forecast that is, that was part of the 2 context to your questions so we know we're forecast that was settled. 3 3 not rehashing the debate about the forecast. 4 SIMMONS, KC: 4 MR. O'BRIEN: 5 5 That would be helpful. Q. Right, and not only are they in the Q. 6 forecast, Newfoundland Power's view is that 6 SIMMONS, KC: 7 Sure, it relates to the risk issue, Mr. 7 they offset their anticipated design in new O. 8 8 residential connections, that's what is Chairman, because in the evidence yesterday 9 9 stated here, so I presume that would be your I understood Mr. Murray to say that declining residential connections, which 10 evidence? 10 would mean declining growth in load, were a 11 MR. MURRAY: 11 12 A. That would seem reasonable, yes. 12 future risk factor for Newfoundland Power, SIMMONS, KC: 13 so I just wanted to explore, just a little 13 14 Okay. Newfoundland Power, in making its 14 bit, the basis for that conclusion and that 15 assessment about housing starts, I think 15 there is probably other data out there that could be considered as well. uses Conference Board of Canada data. 16 16 MR. MURRAY: 17 17 MR. O'BRIEN: 18 That's correct, it's been a longstanding 18 Q. Again – sorry, Mr. Chair, you go ahead. 19 practice to use Conference Board of Canada 19 CHAIR: 20 as the Board has accepted for many GRAs, 20 O. I think it's fair—I was going to say I think 21 21 it's fair in the context of discussing risk yes. 22 22 SIMMONS, KC: to discuss the metrics of the economy. 23 Yes, and there are other economic 23 MR. O'BRIEN: Q. 24 projections available and in particular, I 24 And, Mr. Chair, to take that point, I don't Q. 25 think, the provincial government does 25 disagree in the context of risk, but in the Page 18 Page 20 1 econometric projections which include, you 1 context of looking at what other metrics are 2 know, provincial economic growth and things 2 out there that may affect what the actual 3 like housing starts as well, you're aware of 3 load forecast is, I don't think that's fair 4 that, I presume? 4 because now we're getting into what the load 5 5 MR. MURRAY: forecast is versus what it should be and 6 I'm aware that they do a forecast, I'm not 6 that's a settled issue. 7 sure what data they use or what the basis of 7 CHAIR: 8 8 their assumptions are. Q. I agree with you, Mr. O'Brien, I think the 9 9 context of the discussion should stick to SIMMONS, KC.: 10 And would you know whether or not Hydro uses 10 risk aspect of the forecast, not so much the provincial government data versus whether the reason was of the forecast 11 11 Conference Board of Canada when they're 12 12 itself, if that's okay. doing load forecast? SIMMONS, KC: 13 13 14 MR. O'BRIEN: 14 And in that context, I really just have one Q. 15 15 Mr. Chair, I understand forecast is settled more question for you, Mr. Murray, and since 16 in this matter and we seem to be going down 16 your evidence that you gave yesterday was related to Newfoundland Power's assessment 17 the road now, it's one thing to talk about 17 18 it in terms of risk, but if we're talking 18 of its risk, the question I was coming to 19 about it in terms of what the forecast is 19 was is there any particular reason why 20 and what it should be, I mean that issue was 20 making that assessment Newfoundland Power 21 part of the settlement agreement already, so 21 chooses to rely on the Conference Board of 22 opening up lines of questions on that, I'm a 22 Canada data, rather than look at the 23 little bit concerned about where this is 23 provincial government data, or would you 24 taking us. 24 know that? 25 CHAIR: 25 MR. MURRAY:

June 1	4, 2024		NP GRA 2025-2026
l .	Page 21		Page 23
1	Q. You know, to my understanding it's been	1	within the organization, right?
2	longstanding practice and actually ordered	2	MR. MURRAY:
3	by the Board, I'm going to say a few decades	3	A. That would be correct, yes.
4	ago, that Newfoundland Power use the	4	SIMMONS, KC:
5	Conference Board of Canada for its	5	Q. Mr. Mullins is VP Customer Operations, would
6	forecasting model.	6	you know how long he's been with
7	SIMMONS, KC:	7	Newfoundland Power, approximately?
8	Q. Thank you. I'd like to move on, please, to	8	MR. MURRAY:
9	some questions on the executive compensation	9	A. I believe since 2011.
10	issue.	10	SIMMONS, KC:
11	MR. MURRAY:	11	Q. Yeah, and would you know whether he had
12	A. Sure.	12	moved up through different positions within
13	SIMMONS, KC:	13	the company before becoming VP Customer
14	Q. And I believe there are four people in your	14	Operations?
15	organization that fall into the executive	15	MR. MURRAY:
16	category, that would be yourself, the VP of	16	A. Yes, he would have moved through, you know,
17	Customer Operations, the VP of Finance, and	17	I think he started in Engineering and moved
18	the VP of Engineering and Energy Supply.	18	on to Operations and moved to his current
19	Those are the four, I think:	19	role.
20	MR. MURRAY:	20	SIMMONS, KC:
21	A. Yes, that's correct, as I indicated	21	Q. Right, so he wasn't recruited into the VP
22	yesterday we're a relatively small executive	22	position from outside of Newfoundland Power
23	team.	23	or Fortis organization, right?
24	SIMMONS, KC:	24	MR. MURRAY:
25	Q. Now, I had a look at the biographies on the	25	A. That's correct, yes.
	Page 22		Page 24
1	Newfoundland Power website. I just want to	1	SIMMONS, KC:
2	run through with you quickly what some of	2	Q. Same with Ms. London, she, I think, had held
3	the backgrounds of some of these people are	3	positions at Fortis for sometime, is that
4	and I just want to identify where they have	4	right?
5	come from when they have come into those	5	MR. MURRAY:
6	executive positions. And in your case,	6	A. That's correct, yes.
7	you've been with Newfoundland Power, you		SIMMONS, KC:
8	say, since 2002.	8	Q. And she moved through Fortis over to
9	MR. MURRAY:	9	Newfoundland Power?
10	A. Yes, that's correct.	10	MR. MURRAY:
11	SIMMONS, KC:	11	A. Yes, I believe around 2017.
12	Q. And you've been on the executive team, you	12	SIMMONS, KC:
13	said yesterday for eight years?	13	Q. Right, and so she wasn't recruited from
14	MR. MURRAY:	14	outside, I'll say the Fortis family, into
15	A. Since 2014, yes.	15	her VP position, she came from within the
16	SIMMONS, KC:	16	organization as well?
17	Q. Okay, yeah. And you were in the position of	1	MR. MURRAY:
18	VP Operations before you became CEO?	18	A. Yes, that's correct.
19	MR. MURRAY:	19	SIMMONS, KC:
20	A. Yes, Customer Operations.	20	Q. And the same thing for Mr. Chubbs, I
21	SIMMONS, KC.:	21	believe, he's been with Newfoundland Power
22	Q. So you weren't recruited from outside the	22	for some time and moved through progressive
23	Newfoundland Power or Fortis organization	23	positions and I believe he actually went to
24	into the CEO position, you're someone who	24	Maritime Electric for a short time?
25	kind of grew through some of the positions	25	MR. MURRAY:
L^{2J}	king of grew unough some of the positions	L 43	IVIIX, IVIUIXIXI I

Julie 1	4, 2024				NP GRA 2025-2026
		Page 25			Page 27
1	A. Yes, I	believe he was Maritime Electric from	1	organizatio	ons across the breadth and depth
2	2016 to	2018, I believe—or no, 2018 to 2020	2	of business	s sectors across Canada." So
3	and the	en came back to Newfoundland Power.	3	that's an as	ssumption that Korn Ferry has
4	SIMMONS, K	CC:	4		they prepared that report. Would
5	*	aritime Electric is another company,	5		I that assumption as completely
6		, within the Fortis family, it's a	6		Newfoundland Power's case, given
7	•	company, right?	7		current executive have come up
8	MR. MURRA		8		e organization and have not been
9		correct, yeah. I think actually the	9	_	on the larger Canadian market?
10		the I said was right, 2016 to 2018,	10	MR. MURRAY:	in the larger cumulan market.
11	sorry.	1 5414 Was 11g111, 2010 to 2010,	11		, that statement is there, you can
12	SIMMONS, K	$C \cdot$	12		a when he's here next week, I
13		four of you then have come up through	13		it you know, what I will add is
14	-	tis organization one way or another,	14		ractice, this comparative group
15		f you were recruited from outside that	15		sed since 1998, I believe, and
16		zation into the executive positions	16		been executives in the past that
17			17		ited from outside of Newfoundland
	you ho MR. MURRA		18		
18					current executive team is, you
19		current executive team, yes.	19		ruited from within Fortis and
20	SIMMONS, K		20		land Power, but there are executives
21		e go to the Korn Ferry Report, please?	21		that have been recruited from
22		d like to go to page 8 of the pdfs,	22	outside.	
23		is page 7 of the report. This is a	23	SIMMONS, KC:	1
24		of the report, Mr. Murray, that	24	•	nk you. Can I have RFI, PUB-NP-173
25	speaks	of the methodology for selecting	25	please?	
		Page 26			Page 28
1		rative companies for use in determining	1	MR. MURRAY:	
2	Korn F	rative companies for use in determining erry's recommendations for the	2	A. Which nu	umber was that again?
2 3	Korn For comper	rative companies for use in determining erry's recommendations for the asation for Newfoundland Power	2 3	A. Which no SIMMONS, KC:	umber was that again?
2 3 4	Korn For comper executi	rative companies for use in determining erry's recommendations for the isation for Newfoundland Power ves, I believe. Are you familiar	2 3 4	A. Which nu SIMMONS, KC: Q. It's PUB	umber was that again? : NP-173. It's a fairly short one,
2 3 4 5	Korn For compere execution with the	rative companies for use in determining erry's recommendations for the asstion for Newfoundland Power ves, I believe. Are you familiar is report? You've read this, I	2 3 4 5	A. Which nu SIMMONS, KC: Q. It's PUB so probab	umber was that again? : NP-173. It's a fairly short one, bly deal with it on the screen.
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June	14, 2024		NP GRA 2025-2026
	Page 29		Page 31
1	Newfoundland Power executive?	1	This is another RFI that was, with questions
2	MR. MURRAY:	2	asked by the Board, and it does in the
3	A. You know, Mr. Ma can speak to this in more	3	answer to question No. 1 discuss the
4	detail, but I believe there was another RFI,	4	comparator group and it's similar to what
5	you know, where he responded that if you	5	you've actually just said in your evidence
6	look at the utility sector across Canada,	6	here, that it says that comparator group is
7	you know, it's mostly crown corporations and	7	a broad selection of commercial industrial
8	municipal owned utilities, there's very few	8	organizations on a national level and it
9	privately owned, investor owned utilities in	9	says "In discussion with Newfoundland Power,
10	Canada to make a comparator group. When	10	the selection criteria was originally
11	they look at what is the most appropriate	11	recommended by Korn Ferry in '97, approved
12	comparator group for Newfoundland Power,	12	by the board of directors beginning in '98,
13	this is the comparator group that was	13	and used continuously ever since." So does
14	developed or, I shouldn't say developed,	14	the Board reapprove the comparator group
15	that they recommended back in 1998 and has	15	that's going to be used every time one of
16	been accepted by, you know, the Board in all	16	these reviews is done, or were they only
17	GRAs since then as a comparator group for	17	involved back in '97 and approved it in the
18	Newfoundland Power. But again as I	18	original approach?
19	indicate, Mr. Ma can provide more detail on	19	MR. MURRAY:
20	that when he is present.	20	A. To my knowledge, I can't speak for, you
21	SIMMONS, KC:	21	know, years back, but to my knowledge I
22	Q. And this also may be a question better	22	don't believe they've reviewed the
23	answered by Mr. Ma, but I'll put it to you	23	comparator group. Korn Ferry has continued
24	anyway because you're the CEO and I think	24	to recommend the commercial industrial group
25	you seem well informed on these issues, why	25	as the comparator group that has been
	Page 30		Page 32
1	wouldn't it be appropriate to make	1	accepted by the Board since.
2	comparisons to publicly owned, public	2	SIMMONS, KC:
3	utilities and only compare to private public	3	Q. So can you tell me a little bit more about
4	utilities? From the ratepayer's point of	4	what the Board's role actually is here,
5	view there's no difference between the two.	5	because do they, for example, would you know
6	MR. MURRAY:	6	whether they have the ability to—whether
7	A. Mr. Ma would best answer that question. I	7	they make the final decision on what's the
8	know there was an RFI, I believe, where he	8	appropriate comparator group? For example,
9	responded to that, I can't recall which one	9	could they direct Korn Ferry to choose a
10	it is.	10	different or a modified comparator group
11	(9:30 a.m.)	11	here, or do they just defer to Korn Ferry's
12	SIMMONS, KC:	12	expertise and rely just on their
13	Q. Can I have RFI PUB-NP-171 please?	13	recommendations?
14	CHAIR:	14	MR. MURRAY:
15	Q. Just before you jump to that one, did you	15	A. They rely on Korn Ferry to provide the
16	want to point one out before the question?	16	recommendation of the appropriate comparator
17	MR. MURRAY:	17	group.
18	A. No, I don't recall which one exactly it was,	18	SIMMONS, KC:
19	to be honest.	19	Q. Uh-hm, and to your knowledge they recently
20	CHAIR:	20	haven't reviewed that because they haven't
21	Q. Okay, well we'll move on, thanks.	21	gotten into looking at whether the
1 22	SIMMONS, KC:	22	comparator group is the composition of it,
22		. ^^	1 - 41 1 41 '49
23	Q. And your counsel will have an opportunity,	23	have they, or whether it's appropriate,
	Q. And your counsel will have an opportunity, I'm sure in re-direct to bring you to anything else that he wants on that topic.	23 24 25	remains appropriate under the circumstances? MR. MURRAY:

June 1	4, 2024		NP GRA 2025-2026
	Page 33		Page 35
1	A. Not to my knowledge, no.	1	MR. MURRAY:
2	SIMMONS, KC:	2	A. That's correct.
3	Q. I have a few questions for you regarding the	3	SIMMONS, KC:
4	short-term incentive plan and we'll go to	4	Q. And so, the minimum performance level
5	RFI PUB-NP-32 please? And in particular I'm	5	achieves a 50 percent payout, which is 50
6	going to go over to, it's probably page 4 of	6	percent of base salary, right?
7	the pdf. So I'm going to ask you a few	7	MR. MURRAY:
8	questions, this is a useful table just to	8	A. Can you restate that please?
9	guide some of the questions I'm going to ask	9	SIMMONS, KC:
10	you. But from my review of this response to	10	Q. So there's a column that's headed "Minimum
11	request, I'll just give you sort of a few	11	50 Percent", there's "Target 100 Percent",
12	points of what my understanding is of the	12	there's "Stretch 150 Percent" and there's
13	way the short-term incentive program works	13	"Maximum 200 Percent". I'm just asking you
14	and if you need to look in more detail at	14	to explain to me, if you can, what those
15	the RFI, that's fine, or you must just be	15	percentages refer to, that's a percentage of
16	able to explain if I've got it wrong. So	16	what?
17	the short-term incentive payments, bonus	17	MR. MURRAY:
18	payments, they are set up as percentages of	18	A. Oh, it refers to, if you see the weighting?
19	base salary and they are based on both the	19	SIMMONS, KC:
20	corporate performance of the business as a	20	Q. Yes.
21	whole and also on the executive personal	21	MR. MURRAY:
22	performance and it's executive compensation	22	A. So the weighting on the far right is 30
23	I'm looking at now, and for the CEO and the	23	percent, so that is the target on the
24	VPs, the weighting is 70 percent is the	24	weighting, so for example, if the earnings
25	overall corporate performance and 30 percent	25	target was hit at 49.2 million, then the
	Page 34		Page 36
1	is their personal performance. Is that	1	weighting of 100 percent would apply to the
2	right so far?	2	30 percent.
$\frac{2}{3}$	MR. MURRAY:	3	SIMMONS, KC:
4	A. That's correct, yes.	4	Q. And how are—and there's different sorts of
5	SIMMONS, KC.:	5	targets here, for example, earnings, that
6	Q. Okay. And there is what's called a target	6	46.7 million for minimum, 49.2 million for
7	performance which, if it's achieved, the	7	target, that's the earnings of the company
8	bonus is 50 percent of base salary for the	8	in any particular year, right?
9	CEO and 35 percent for the Vice-Presidents,	9	MR. MURRAY:
10	is that right?	10	A. That's for 2024.
11	MR. MURRAY:	11	SIMMONS, KC:
12	A. That is correct.	12	Q. For 2024. And other things, like under
13	SIMMONS, KC.:	13	safety, there's different measurements that
14	Q. And depending on how good or bad the	13	go in there in order to quantify what the
15	performance is compared to those indicators	15	criteria are to determine whether that
16	there could be no bonus, the maximum bonus	16	target is met for something like safety.
17	would be equal to double the base salary?	17	MR. MURRAY:
18	MR. MURRAY:	18	A. That's correct.
19	A. To the percentage of the 50 or 35.	19	SIMMONS, KC:
20	SIMMONS, KC:	20	Q. So who determines these criteria that we see
21	Q. Right, okay. Now, this is the table that	21	in this table? Who sets the numbers, who
22	shows, I think the criteria that are used to	22	sets the percentages for safety performance?
23	assess the corporate performance that's on	23	MR. MURRAY:
24	the chart we've got on the screen there now,	24	A. That's set by the Board.
25	right?	25	SIMMONS, KC:
1			

NP GRA 2025-2026 June 14, 2024

Q. Does the Board use any outside expertise in 1 easy, put it that way, and so if you look 1 2 the way they go about, similar to the way 2 at, for example, safety, they would look at, 3 they go to Korn Ferry for compensation data? 3 your know, our previous three year average 4 Do they use any outside expertise to set 4 and compare looking at our trends over time 5 what these criteria should be? 5 to see what is an appropriate target, given 6 MR. MURRAY: 6 where we are with our safety program. 7 Not to set the targets. They use Korn Ferry 7 CHAIR: A. 8 8 for the overall strategy of the incentive Q. Excuse me, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Murray, just for 9 program in terms of the percentages, but not 9 clarity so everybody understands, could you 10 in terms of the actual targets. 10 be just clear when you're referring to the board of directors versus the Board, some 11 SIMMONS, KC: 11 12 So how do they go about setting the targets 12 people may not be clear which board you are 13 then? 13 referring to. That would be helpful, 14 MR. MURRAY: 14 thanks. 15 You know, a lot of it is based on historical 15 MR. MURRAY: Α. 16 data and looking for improvement over time, 16 A. Yeah, in all my discussions I'm referring to depending on the target and difficulty in the Newfoundland Power board. 17 17 18 setting the targets, so for example, 18 SIMMONS, KC: 19 controllable operating cost per customer 19 And my questions likewise, Mr. Chair, have O. would be based on the business plan which been of the Newfoundland Power board. 20 20 21 the company prepares, you know, the previous 21 CHAIR: 22 22 year as part of our July board meeting that Because earlier the board was referred to as O. those numbers are set and a target is set as 23 23 our board, so -24 SIMMONS, KC: part of that board meeting with respect to 24 25 looking at our forecast for the following 25 Yeah, we always need to think about what the Ο. Page 38 Page 40 1 year and our business plan, what the total 1 transcript looks like. One other thing I 2 control operating cost per customer is. 2 wanted to ask you about concerning this is 3 SIMMONS, KC: 3 that some of the bonuses and this was Right, so it would seem then that the 4 4 touched on yesterday, I think in the cross-Q. 5 5 choices the Board makes when it determines examination, some of these bonuses are 6 these criteria will have a significant 6 included, I treat it as, or allocate it as 7 impact on whether bonus is achievable by the 7 regulatory and some non-regulatory, so the 8 executive, the lower the targets are set, 8 ones that are accounted to regulatory will 9 the greater the chance that the executive 9 go into Newfoundland Power's forecast 10 chance achieve their bonus, correct? 10 expenses for the test years and will find 11 11 their way through to being paid for by the MR. MURRAY: ratepayers. The non-regulatory ones are 12 I'm not sure what you mean by the lowest the 12 paid for by the shareholders, right? 13 target -13 14 SIMMONS, KC: 14 MR. MURRAY: Yes, that's correct. 15 Well if the target is set relatively lower 15 A. 16 or higher, it will make it less, more or 16 SIMMONS, KC: less likely that the bonus target can be 17 17 Okay, and bonuses that result from achieving Q. 18 achieved? 18 the targets in the stretch column and the 19 MR. MURRAY: 19 maximum column, those are treated as non-20 Yeah, you know, the board, you know, looks 20 regulatory, do I have that right? 21 21 at targets from previous years and how MR. MURRAY: 22 difficult it is to set targets and, you 22 Yes, that's correct. It depends on the Α. 23 know, they're trying to ensure that they're 23 category, so financial earnings and 24 making the targets, you know, achievable but 24 regulatory are only up to 50 percent is 25 at a, you know, we're not making sure it's 25 included in rates and everything above that

Page 41 is to the shareholder and for the other 1 had been fairly consistent, which shows 1 2 targets, it's up to 100 percent in rates and 2 that, you know, the organization is focused 3 anything above that is to the shareholder. 3 on making sure we're delivering strong 4 SIMMONS, KC: 4 results for customers. That in the end 5 Right, so certainly for up to the payment of 5 benefits customers by providing better Q. 6 the target bonus, in all these categories 6 customer service, better reliability, and 7 the ratepayer has an interest, I'll say, in 7 you know, if you look at our safety record, 8 these bonuses since they're the ones that 8 it has improved, you know, a fair bit over 9 9 the last decade or two and these all drive are paying either fully for safety 10 reliability and customer satisfaction 10 better outcomes for customers, and I think criteria being met and 50 percent for the 11 11 an incentive program is a big part of 12 earnings in regulatory criteria being met. 12 driving results in any company. 13 So if we look at the first one, earnings MR. SIMMONS: 13 14 14 one, how does this system of paying the O. Could we go to the next page please? This executive a bonus for achieving higher 15 15 is a table I think which shows the criteria earnings, how does that incentivise action 16 16 for the personal portion of the incentive or behaviour that is for the benefit of the program in your case, and I – well, first 17 17 ratepayers? 18 18 question is: the portion of the bonus that's related to achieving the personal targets, 19 MR. MURRAY: 19 does that find its way into regulated rates? 20 You know, as we talked about yesterday the 20 21 financial health of Newfoundland Power is 21 MR. MURRAY: 22 22 important to customers, you know, our credit A. Yes, it is part of the 70/30 split that we metrics are important to maintaining our talked about earlier. So, you know, 23 23 24 credit rating and meeting earnings is a big 24 anything for the 70/30 split up to the 25 part of that and ensures that we have access 25 calculation of regulated and then to Page 42 Page 44 1 to debt at our lowest possible costs, which 1 unregulated and then it is part of that 2 in long term benefits customers by keeping 2 component. 3 our costs low overall. If we, you know, 3 MR. SIMMONS: 4 don't achieve our earnings, our credit 4 So, it's – for purposes of determining who's Q. 5 5 metrics and credit rating would be at risk, paying for it, ultimately, it's treated the 6 which would cost customers more. 6 same way as the corporate criteria? 7 7 SIMMONS, KC: MR. MURRAY: 8 The safety reliability and customer 8 A. You know, it's part of the 7 - the 70/30Q. 9 satisfaction criteria, why is it necessary 9 split is part of the overall calculation up 10 to provide an extra financial incentive to 10 to the limit, yes. the executive to achieve the goals of safety MR. SIMMONS: 11 11 12 reliability and customer satisfaction? Okay. I think I understand that. And I see 12 Isn't that part of the core job for which that many of these are described – the 13 13 14 the base salary is paid? payout is described as being subjective. 14 (9:45 a.m.) 15 Maybe you can just explain to me what that 15 16 MR. MURRAY: 16 means and how that works for determining 17 whether the personal objectives have been 17 You know, I firmly believe in incentives in A. 18 driving performance in order to look at our 18 met. 19 performance over the long term, our 19 MR. MURRAY: 20 reliability has been consistent over the 20 Yeah, so the difference here, you know, I Α. 21 last decade, if you go back, you know, two 21 would say if you look at reliability and 22 decades ago our reliability was a lot worse 22 customer service, for example, you know, 23 than it is today. 23 under the corporate target there's a – that 24 MR. MURRAY: 24 is a one-year target for that particular 25 -- Similarly, for customer satisfaction it 25 year 2024. But if you look at reliability

June 1	4, 2024		NP GRA 2025-2026
	Page 45		Page 47
1	and customer service here, it is more	1	A. If you look back, you know, over the last
2	subjective because it is looking at what is	2	couple of years, if I recall, I think prior
3	the company doing, what am I doing as the	3	– in 2022, the numbers we had there
4	president and CEO to drive long-term results	4	yesterday was just over I think it was 100
5	of reliability and customer service in the	5	percent because there was a – some of the
6	long term, looking out the next two, three,	6	corporate targets that were for that – in
7	four years so that, you know, the executive	7	that year in particular, I believe
8	is not incented to be only looking at short-	8	reliability was a zero because we didn't
9	term incentives. It's looking at short	9	meet our reliability target, but the overall
10	term, as well as the long term.	10	target was 100 percent, and I believe last
11	MR. SIMMONS:	11	year it was about 115 percent last year.
12	Q. Who makes the decision that the criteria	12	MR. SIMMONS:
13	have been met?	13	Q. Okay, so that – I'm sorry. So, that's 115
14	MR. MURRAY:	14	percent of what?
15	A. The board of directors.	15	MR. MURRAY:
16	MR. SIMMONS:	16	A. Of the 50 or 35 percent target.
17	Q. Does the board have a committee or do they	17	MR. SIMMONS:
18	do that as a whole?	18	Q. Okay, all right. So, I'm going to suggest
19	MR. MURRAY:	19	to you that given the history of the payment
20	A. It's done by the HR and Governance	20	of the bonuses since 2014 that it would seem
21	Committee, yes, but ultimately the final	21	that there's little risk to the executive of
22	approval is by the entire board.	22	not achieving their bonuses here. How would
23	MR. SIMMONS:	23	you respond to that?
24	Q. Do they get the benefit of any kind of	24	MR. MURRAY:
25	outside or independent expertise or	25	A. You know, as I indicated, there's – it's a
1 25	custor of macpoint emperate of	23	Ti. Tou line w, us I intercured, there is no a
	Page 46		Page 48
1	Page 46	1	Page 48
1 2	evaluation in making those decisions?	1	combination of years, depends upon the year.
2	evaluation in making those decisions? MR. MURRAY:	2	combination of years, depends upon the year. I believe in 2022, as I indicated, the – and
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Page 49 Page 51 A. GREENE, KC: Good morning, Ms. Greene. 1 1 2 2 GREENE, KC: O. So, in your view or in the view of 3 Before I begin my questions, I had one for 3 Newfoundland Power, it continues to be a Q. 4 clarification or a follow-up from questions 4 short-term risk as well as a longer-term 5 this morning by Mr. Simmons. It relates to 5 risk? Is that my understanding of your 6 your view of the risk of reliability in the 6 answer? 7 short term, and you had indicated there was 7 MR. MURRAY: 8 some change from the last rate case when you 8 A. That is correct, yes. 9 9 were here relating to the LIL as a result of GREENE, KC: 10 the update filed by Hydro in 2022, and I 10 Q. Okay. So, I do have a number of different just wonder why – if you could explain why 11 11 issues to review with you today, Mr. Murray. 12 the reliability of the LIL also is 12 But first, before we start, I wanted to get 13 considered to be a short-term risk for 13 the context of the increases that will arise 14 Newfoundland Power, as well as a long-term 14 for customers following the current 15 risk, and how that updating forms that 15 Newfoundland Power proposals that we have 16 decision? 16 before the Board. 17 MR. MURRAY: MR. MURRAY: 17 18 Yeah, if you back, you know, prior to 2022, 18 Um-hm. 19 there wasn't really an acknowledgement from 19 **GREENE, KC:** 20 Hydro in terms of the risk of outages to the 20 O. So, in the current application that we – why we're here in the room, Newfoundland Power 21 LIL. It was following the 2022 update to 21 22 22 the Reliability and Resource Adequacy Report have indicated they're requesting a 5.5 23 that it was acknowledged about the risk percent increase as of July 1, 2025. Is 23 24 24 coming from the Haldar Report and other that correct? 25 factors, I guess. And that was around the 25 MR. MURRAY: Page 50 Page 52 1 time the decision was made that Holyrood 1 A. Yes, that's correct. 2 would be required to be back up to the LIL 2 GREENE, KC: 3 until at least 2030 there. So, you know, 3 And one of the reasons why it's 5.5 is that 4 that was the biggest – we had always had the 4 Newfoundland Power decided not to follow the 5 5 view that this was required and that the LIL normal practice of fully rebasing power 6 was not reliable. We've held that view for 6 supply costs, and we can come – we will come 7 a long time, but this was the first time 7 to the reasons as to why not, but if they 8 that it was really acknowledged by Hydro 8 had done the normal practice, the actual 9 that it required backup. So, that's kind of 9 increase Newfoundland Power would be looking 10 the real premise of why it solidified around 10 for is 9.8 percent. Is that correct? 11 that time, and we still have that view. And 11 MR. MURRAY: 12 you know, the view there is that, you know, 12 With rebasing, yes, that would be correct. if you look over the history of the last GREENE, KC: 13 13 14 three or four years, in pretty much every At the current wholesale rate? 14 O. 15 winter, there's been two or three extended MR. MURRAY: 15 16 outages on the LIL due to ice storms or 16 A. That's correct. 17 GREENE, KC: material damage that have – you know, some 17 18 of them have been a week or more longer. 18 Q. And Newfoundland Power also ask for a 1.5 19 And fortunately, they happened in a time 19 percent increase for 2024 as well. Is that 20 period where weather was warmer and Holyrood 20 correct, and that is still before the Board? 21 21 was operational, so there wasn't any MR. MURRAY: 22 customer outages as a result. But we view 22 Α. Yes, that's the Return on Rate Base 23 that that risk, under the right 23 Application, which is still before the 24 circumstances, with peak weather conditions 24 Board, correct. 25 could be a lot different. 25 GREENE, KC:

Q. And we also have before the Board, the July 1 rate cases now, that I have never seen such 1 2 1 RSA Adjustment for July 1 of this year of 2 a significant increase being proposed in 3 such a short period of time. Are you aware 3 9.3 percent? 4 4 that in the past, the Board has considered a MR. MURRAY: 5 That's correct, which is largely related to 5 10 percent increase for customers as a rate 6 the 2.25 and the RSA for supply cost for 6 shock? Anything above 10 percent would be 7 7 considered a potential rate shock? last year. 8 GREENE, KC: 8 MR. MURRAY: 9 And if we added all of those up, we would 9 Yes, I'm familiar with the concept from the 10 get over 20 percent increase, and if we add 10 Board in the past, yes. 11 on the 2.25 to come from Hydro next year on 11 GREENE, KC: 12 July 1, 2025 arising from rate mitigation, 12 O. So, to begin with, and I wanted to put it 13 we're almost up to a 23 percent increase in 13 into context as to why we're all here and 14 rates for customers between where we are now 14 what we're talking about, when you looked at 15 and July 1, 2025. Is that correct? 15 those numbers as CEO, what instructions did you give to your staff, if any, to look at 16 MR. MURRAY: 16 what your proposals were to see how they 17 Those numbers sound correct, yes. 17 18 GREENE. KC: 18 could be reduced in any way? 19 In your time at Newfoundland Power have you 19 MR. MURRAY: ever – do you recall a rate increase being 20 20 A. You know, we're always looking at making 21 proposed by Newfoundland Power of that 21 sure that whatever we're doing is keeping 22 22 magnitude in that short period of time? our costs as low as possible, you know, which is part of the reason why we proposed 23 MR. MURRAY: 23 24 24 to do the wholesale rate sooner than later. Well, they're not all Newfoundland Power's -25 GREENE, KC: 25 You know, we feel that making the wholesale Page 54 Page 56 1 Q. No, the 2 - I'll give you that. 1 rate and the marginal cost reflect what the 2 MR. MURRAY: 2 actual cost of power is the wholesale rate 3 3 now to Newfoundland Power on the second A. Yes. 4 GREENE, KC: 4 block is 18 cents, which is not reflective 5 5 We take off the 2.25, you're still up to 18 of marginal cost of four or five cents, and Q. percent increase. 6 while, you know, there will be an impact of 6 7 MR. MURRAY: 7 setting that correctly, the sooner that is 8 Yes, and you know, I would clarify is that a 8 done, the better that is for customers in 9 number – part of those increases is due to 9 the long run to ensure that the price signal 10 the RSA which is power supply cost, which is 10 for energy is in line with the actual a flow-through to Newfoundland Power, yes. 11 marginal cost. So, you know, making sure 11 GREENE, KC: 12 12 we're doing those things. In terms of But it's still increases the customers will Newfoundland Power, you know, we're always 13 13 Q. 14 14 looking at our cost with respect to our pay? 15 15 MR. MURRAY: capital and operating to ensure that we're 16 That's correct, yes. 16 only proposing projects that are required to 17 provide service to customers. You know, as 17 **GREENE, KC:** 18 Q. Okay. So, do you recall any other time we 18 I mentioned yesterday, you know, a lot of 19 have been looking at that type of increase 19 our system was built in the '60s and '70s 20 in customer rates in that short period of 20 and, you know, in our view, if we don't keep 21 time, in your time with Newfoundland Power? 21 up with replacement of our aging assets, it 22 MR. MURRAY: 22 will be more costly if we don't do it in a 23 A. Not in my time in Newfoundland Power, no. 23 timely manner, and you know, take – make 24 GREENE, KC: 24 sure that we are replacing assets before 25 Okay. I can tell you that in the time, many 25 they fail in a timely manner. Otherwise

Page 57 what happens is we end up having to deal 1 only what is necessary when it comes to our 1 2 with a lot of failures and things like that 2 capital, making sure we're keeping on top of 3 in emergencies, which actually end up being 3 our operating to keep our reliability. We don't want, you know, reliability to slip as 4 more costly for customers. So, there's a 4 5 lot of balance that has to happen to ensure 5 well. You know, we have no – if you look 6 that we are doing enough to keep rates as 6 back at our last couple of GRAs, we had some 7 under control as we can without trying to, 7 big savings. You look back at 2017 when we 8 you know, skirt around our duty to ensure 8 introduced AMR, we were able to reduce our 9 that we are doing what is appropriate for 9 operating costs in that year by two million. 10 customers in the long run. And I know it is 10 In 2021, we were able to reduce through the some short – there's a lot of short-term LED Street Light Program our operating by 11 11 12 increases, but we are certainly making every 12 1.8 million. Those costs have carried effort to keep those as low as possible. 13 forward. You know, as your operating costs 13 14 **GREENE, KC:** 14 – you know, we built in those savings over 15 You mentioned – you referred to the – one of 15 time, it becomes more difficult to find Q. 16 the ways was to change the wholesale rate 16 additional large blocks of saving as time just to reflect marginal cost. However, goes on. 17 17 18 18 that won't substantially reduce the rates **GREENE, KC:** 19 that customers are looking at between now 19 So, we'll move on from the context to talk O. and July 1, 2025 if all of the proposals are 20 20 about some of these costs that are driving 21 approved, will it? So, that will not do 21 the increase and how they changed since the 22 22 much to reduce the customer rate impact? last time we were in the room. But first I 23 (10:00 a.m.) 23 wanted to talk about corporate performance 24 24 and how you evaluate your corporate MR. MURRAY: 25 25 performance. So, I wonder please if you It won't in the short term, but it will, you Page 58 Page 60 1 know, directly after that, it will have an 1 could bring up PUB-NP-009, Attachment A. 2 2 Now, we've already looked at these in a impact. 3 GREENE, KC: 3 different light when Mr. Simmons took you to 4 So, it won't significantly impact the 23 4 the corporate targets in the STI plan, but Q. 5 5 percent I just talked about? here we look at them as corporate 6 MR. MURRAY: performance measures and are these some of 6 7 No, it won't, but if we don't do it sooner, 7 the metrics that you use as CEO to evaluate 8 it will have – you know, could make – draw 8 how well Newfoundland Power is performing? 9 out the increases further. 9 MR. MURRAY: 10 GREENE, KC: 10 Yes, these would be some of them. There's – 11 you know, there's more besides this, but 11 And in your response as to my question as to if whether you had taken any specific action yes, this would be some of them. 12 12 or directed anything to be done differently, GREENE, KC: 13 13 I take it from your answer, and I don't want 14 14 What would the others be that you use? O. 15 15 to put words in your mouth, that you didn't. These are the ones you report to the Board 16 You looked at what you normally do. These 16 to measure performance. Is that correct? things that you talked about, balancing 17 17 MR. MURRAY: 18 capital and what you need to do to reinvest, 18 That's correct, yeah. A. 19 all of that would be your normal business. 19 GREENE, KC: So, I didn't get a sense that there was 20 20 The Board, the Public Utilities Board. anything that wasn't business as usual from 21 21 MR. MURRAY: 22 your response. 22 That's correct, yeah. A. 23 MR. MURRAY: 23 **GREENE, KC:** 24 A. You know, I'd say we're looking at, you 24 O. Okay. 25 know, making sure that what we're doing is 25 MR. MURRAY:

Page 63 MR. MURRAY: A. You know, when we look at customer service, 1 1 2 2 we have a number of other targets around A. Yes. The Cash Flow has been removed 3 response time, the outages. We also look at 3 because, you know, it's largely --4 our frequency of outages. We look at our 4 discovered over the last few years, it's 5 response times at our Contact Centre, our 5 become largely beyond management's control. 6 response times to street light outages, a 6 You know, the – for example, the wholesale 7 number of different customer metrics that we 7 rate has impacted our cash flow. So, it's 8 8 also measure. You know, how long it takes beyond management's control to control the 9 us to complete a new service connection for 9 sales and the wholesale rate. So, we find 10 customers. There's a number of other 10 that, you know, it's difficult to have 11 service targets as well that we focus on for 11 targets that are beyond management's control 12 customers. 12 because there's very little that management 13 GREENE, KC: 13 can do to actually have an impact on the 14 O. But these are the corporate performance 14 target. So, for that reason, it was removed 15 measures that end up in the Short-Term 15 from the list. GREENE, KC: 16 Incentive plan as the targets for which you 16 receive a bonus? 17 17 And one of the reasons you weren't able to O. 18 MR. MURRAY: 18 meet the metric is because in this – when we 19 These are the targets for the Short-Term 19 look at some of your metrics, you weren't Incentive Plan, that's correct. 20 20 going to make the target, and the credit 21 GREENE, KC: 21 rating agencies pointed out, it was because 22 22 you had not planned to recover your costs, These are the ones you report to the Public to rebase, to recover what was in the 23 Utilities Board for your performance? 23 24 24 MR. MURRAY: balances and the Energy Supply Cost Variance That's correct. 25 and part of the reason you wouldn't meet it 25 Α. Page 62 Page 64 GREENE, KC: 1 1 in '24 was because of the decision not to 2 2 rebase. Isn't that correct? Q. There's been a couple of changes since we 3 last looked at these. The first is the 3 MR. MURRAY: 4 Quality Leading Indicators and can you 4 A. I'm not sure whether you're referring to the 5 explain why that has been added as a new 5 rebasing in '25, in '24 for -6 metric and how it gets evaluated? GREENE, KC: 6 7 MR. MURRAY: 7 No, '24 for your target. 8 8 Yes. As I indicated, I think we spoke about MR. MURRAY: 9 9 this briefly yesterday, you know, best For targets? 10 practice right now around safety is -- you 10 GREENE, KC: know, the All Injury Frequency Rate is more You weren't going to rebase when you filed 11 11 of a lagging indicator. Best practice in 12 12 this application. the industry now is to have a lagging and a MR. MURRAY: 13 13 14 leading indicator, and we have added two 14 Yeah, it's not due to that. It's due to the A. 15 15 leading indicators. One is the quality of fact that, as I indicated, it is beyond 16 incident investigations and the other is the 16 management's control and targets that are – quality of job planning around our 17 17 you know, it's difficult to have a target, 18 fieldwork. 18 to incent a target that management has 19 GREENE, KC: 19 little control over. 20 And the next one that there is a change on 20 GREENE, KC: 21 21 is the Cash Flow from Operating Activities We'll come back to that when we go into some Q. 22 has been removed as a measure for the 2024 22 of your metrics in the Short-Term plan. 23 corporate performance and in the Short-Term 23 When I look at some of these, I see, for 24 Incentive Plan. Can you explain why it was 24 example, the Regulating Operating Cost per 25 removed? 25 Customer, we see in 2022, your plan was 244.

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Page 65 Your actual was 258. So, you didn't meet 1 2 the target in that year. And when we look 3 to 2023, we see again that the plan was 255 4 and your actuals was 265. So, for two years 5 in a row, you didn't meet the metric or your 6 target of what the cost per customer was. 7 Another one is SAIDI. Both of these, of 8 course, affect customers. We see, when we 9 go up to safety that – or SAIDI, you didn't 10 meet that in 2020 and in 2022. So, my 11 question is: when you see that you aren't 12 meeting an annual target, what action do you, as CEO, direct to your staff to address 13 14 the fact you haven't met your target and how 15 it can return back to meeting the target in 16 the next year? MR. MURRAY: 17 So, dealing with the SAIDI first. So, when 18 19 you look at SAIDI, you know, it is impacted 20 by a lot of things. SAIDI is impacted a lot 21 by weather. So, you know, in the years

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and achieve our target at the end of year,

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which could be, you know, reducing planned outages or something like that. But if there are a lot of significant storms, you know, big storms in that year, it can make the target hard to achieve. But we're always looking at our response time. In those years where the target was not met, you know, our response time and to outages was similar to previous years, it was largely due to weather events.

where we did not meet our target, we're, you

know, constantly watching our target as the

year goes on and we will look at ways to try

When you look at the Regulated Operating Cost per Customer, you know, that target in 2022 was set, we were using the GDP deflator that we had talked about yesterday. The GDP deflator in our 2021 GRA was forecast to be 5.8 and over the '22 and '23 year was more like 17 percent. So, the target was set before we knew the impacts of inflation and as a result, what you're seeing there is the impact of inflation on the target. So, the target was set when inflation was not forecasted to be as high and the actual inflation was much, much higher. So, as a result, those targets were not achieved in those years.

1 GREENE, KC:

Q. And have you taken into account when you see
 the 2024 target where it's higher again, for
 example, for Regulated Operating Cost, when
 we see inflation is coming down?

Page 67

MR. MURRAY:

7 A. You know, that is accounting for, you know, 8 the increases in cost over the last couple 9 of years and the target would have been set 10 based on our forecast from our business plan 11 last July, in terms of our operating cost per customer for 2024.

13 GREENE, KC:

14 Q. If we look at your operating cost, operating 15 costs are 10 percent of your overall revenue 16 requirement? Is that correct?

17 MR. MURRAY:

18 A. That's correct, yes, approximately.

19 GREENE, KC:

Q. And of the 5.5 percent that you are
proposing in this current application,
approximately 1.6 percent is a result of the
increase in operating cost? Is that
correct?

25 MR. MURRAY:

Page 68

A. Yes, that's correct.

GREENE, KC:

Q. Okay. I wonder if we could go to PUB Additional Information Request No. 2, Schedule B, Attachment 1. So, here it's a table of your operating costs over the period from 2022 to 2026 forecast and of course, you're asking for rates to be set based upon your 2026 test year. So, we see when we were last here for a general rate application, the 2023 test year was used to set rates, the current rates? Is that correct?

14 MR. MURRAY:

A. Yes, that's correct.

16 GREENE, KC:

Q. Okay. So, at that time, gross operating costs were 68.956 million and now we see that Newfoundland Power want to increase gross operating cost in their current proposal to 81.6 million, which is about an 18 percent increase in costs from the operating costs that are in your test year, your current rate, to your proposed rates.

MR. MURRAY:

Page 71 1 Α. So, you're referring to the 2023 forecast 1 0. So, business as usual again? 2 2 MR. MURRAY: year? GREENE, KC: 3 3 I wouldn't say business as usual, but you 4 No, the test year that's there, 2023 test 4 know, we've tried to make sure our costs are 5 5 as low as possible. year. 6 MR. MURRAY: 6 (10:15 a.m.) 7 7 **GREENE, KC:** Oh, the 68? A. 8 GREENE, KC: 8 I wonder if we could go now to PUB-NP-141C, 9 The 68.9 9 Attachment C. And here the question was how 10 MR. MURRAY: 10 Newfoundland Power have performed, because 11 11 it's always a question that comes up in A. Yes. 12 GREENE, KC: 12 every rate case, how did they compare their 69 million. 13 actual financial performance with respect to 13 O. 14 MR. MURRAY: 14 what they had included in their test year on 15 Yes, that's correct. As I indicated 15 which rates are set. And if we scroll right Α. 16 earlier, the test year was based on, you 16 down to the bottom, we can see that for the 17 know, the previous inflation that was 17 last two test years – it's hard to see on 18 proposed in the '21, which was 5.8 percent, 18 this because we have to go up to the top to 19 which was much higher. 19 see the years, but in the 2019 test year or GREENE, KC: 2020 it's called there, and in the 2017 test 20 20 21 Again, when you looked at that in preparing 21 year, your actual operating costs actually 22 22 for the application and said whatever the came in slightly below your test year reason, we'll come to a contribution of 23 23 forecast. 24 MR. MURRAY: inflation to the various operating cost, did 24 25 you, as CEO, say, "customers are looking at 25 Can you -A. Page 70 Page 72 1 more than a 20 percent increase. Our 1 **GREENE, KC:** 2 operating costs are going up by 18 percent" 2 Q. 2017, when you go down to the total, which 3 -- of that, 54 percent is labour cost? Is 3 again we have to go right to the bottom, you 4 that correct? 4 can see the test year was 59.9 and you came 5 5 MR. MURRAY: in at 59.68. For the next GRA again, you 6 came in below what you had forecast. In 6 A. That's correct, yes. 7 **GREENE, KC:** 7 2014, you were a bit higher at three 8 8 percent. But when we come to 2023, which is Okay. Did you give any specific direction Q. to your staff, for example, to keep any cost 9 9 the test year in which rates are currently 10 back to the '23 level, whether it was 10 set, we see there about more than a six training, whether it was travel, any of percent increase over what you have forecast 11 11 12 those items that are discretionary items? 12 when we were last here. MR. MURRAY: MR. MURRAY: 13 13 14 14 That's correct. You know, when we look at our cost, we built A. Α. 15 our forecast from the forecast year and you 15 **GREENE, KC:** 16 know, we put in what are known measurable 16 At what time during the year did you realize O. 17 that you were going to be above what you had 17 changes were above inflation, which were – 18 some of them are significant, unfortunately, 18 in rates? When did you realize you were 19 when it comes to the insurance and software, 19 going to so far exceed what had been 20 and in other areas, they are inflated at the 20 included? 21 21 GDP deflator with known savings and MR. MURRAY: 22 measures, and we built in our operating 22 I would say, you know, it was probably A. 23 savings, productivity, similar as we have in 23 around midyear that we realized where the 24 other GRAs. 24 costs were, and if you look at it, it's 25 **GREENE, KC:** 25 mostly on the non-labour side. Labour was

Page 73 within 400,000 of the forecast and is 1 cost, does that cause you any concern, as 1 2 2 CEO, and in fact, if we remove – if we only largely on the non-labour. 3 GREENE, KC: 3 looked at the last four years, we would see 4 4 an increasing trend in costs, which would And again, when you realized that at midyear 5 when you look at your budgets and see how 5 signal that there is less control on costs 6 you're doing compared to your forecast and 6 in the current period than there has been in 7 compared to what you have in your revenue 7 the previous period. 8 requirement, did you give any action to 8 MR. MURRAY: 9 9 reduce any costs? I wouldn't say there's less control on the Α. 10 MR. MURRAY: 10 operating costs. It's largely being driven 11 You know, when we looked at our operating 11 by inflationary pressures. If you look at A. 12 cost, we looked at some things – you look at 12 our – and largely on the, you know, the non-13 there beyond our control, such as some of 13 labour side, if you look at our non-labour 14 the higher ones, which is the other company 14 cost, 75 percent of the increase is across 15 fees, and large of it is due to the 15 three items, which is, you know, other 16 inflation we talked about earlier. We saw a 16 company fees, insurance and software, and 17 lot of inflation in contractor prices, as 17 some of those are increasing at 18 well as materials and supply costs, and you 18 significantly more amounts than the other 19 know, given the lateness in the year, it's 19 factors. So, you know, I would say that it 20 difficult to reduce that significantly more 20 is not that the costs are increasing beyond 21 than what the numbers are there shown. 21 management – you know, management is not 22 22 GREENE, KC: managing their costs. It is that we are 23 And then when you did your forecast for this 23 seeing significant increases in certain Q. 24 24 application, you based it off your actuals? areas that we did not see in the past. 25 25 GREENE, KC: When you looked at your budget for your Page 74 Page 76 1 operating cost for '25 – '24, '25 and '26. 1 Q. So, the reason is solely, in your view, due 2 MR. MURRAY: 2 to inflationary pressures? 3 3 When the application was filed in November, MR. MURRAY: 4 we had nine months of actuals. So, it would 4 A. A large part of it, yes. 5 5 have been based on the nine months of **GREENE, KC:** actuals for 2023. 6 And I understand Mr. Chubbs is the person 6 O. 7 7 GREENE, KC: who will speak in detail about some of the 8 8 specific increases in some of your operating Okay. Another way to look at how your 9 9 operating costs have been increasing is to costs that lead to these significant 10 10 look at the operating costs per customer in increases? the trend. I wonder if we could please go 11 MR. MURRAY: 11 12 to NLH-NP-011. And Newfoundland Power has 12 That's correct. 13 said that you have reduced your operating 13 **GREENE, KC:** 14 costs on an inflation adjusted basis over 14 O. You just mentioned costs that weren't 15 15 the last ten years and yes, we – can you labour, but if we go to your labour costs 16 scroll up a bit please? Yes, you can see 16 there, 54 percent of your operating cost? that in this trendline. This figure 17 17 Is that correct? 18 includes your 2023 actuals and then what is 18 MR. MURRAY: 19 forecast. So, we do see a decrease from 19 That's correct, yes. Α. 20 2013 down to 2021, but now we see the costs 20 **GREENE, KC:** 21 are going up again. We saw it in some of 21 Okay. And it seems that you have three Q. 22 the numbers we just looked at for your 22 distinct groups of employees that you looked 23 operating cost. So, again, coming back to 23 at – you look at in different ways when 24 the size of the increase customers are 24 you're setting their compensation, their 25 looking at, the trend of the increasing 25 salaries and any other benefits

June 1	14, 2024		NP GRA 2025-2026
	Page 77		Page 79
1	attributable. Is that – and those three	1	GREENE, KC:
2	groups would be your unionized group, your	2	Q. 99,814.
3	management group and then your executive and	3	MR. MURRAY:
4	your directors. There are three distinct	4	A. Correct, yes.
5	groups for compensation purposes. Is that	5	GREENE, KC:
6	correct?	6	Q. Okay. In looking at how you set the
7	MR. MURRAY:	7	compensation for the Union, is it fair to
8	A. Yes, that's correct.	8	say that you do a comparison of various
9	GREENE, KC:	9	trades to what is being paid by the other
	·	10	Atlantic utilities?
10	Q. With respect first to the Union, I wonder if		
11	we could go to PUB-NP-031, Table 1. And	11	MR. MURRAY:
12	what we have here, at an aggregate level, is	12	A. You know, it's collective bargaining that is
13	the average salary for each of these groups.	13	done in comparison, yes, to the other
14	So, that's PUB-NP -	14	Atlantic utilities.
15	MR. MURRAY:	15	GREENE, KC:
16	A. 31, yes, yeah. Just give me one second. I	16	Q. Okay. I wonder if we could look at Table 2.
17	want to get the full –	17	So, Table 2 shows the current wages to what
18	GREENE, KC:	18	I would call key trades positions in the
19	Q. Sure.	19	Union for any utility. Is that correct?
20	MR. MURRAY:	20	Your power line technician, your power
21	A. Okay. Yes, yeah.	21	system operator, these are the standard
22	GREENE, KC:	22	positions or trades that are used for
23	Q. I wanted to go through with you how	23	comparison purposes among the Atlantic
24	compensation is set for each of these groups	24	utilities. Is that correct?
25	that you seem to treat as three distinct	25	MR. MURRAY:
25	Page 78		Page 80
1	groups for compensation purposes. Sorry,	1	A. Yes, that's correct.
$\frac{1}{2}$	Mr. Browne, I'll try to speak up. First for	2	GREENE, KC:
2			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
3	the Union, you have two bargaining units,	3	Q. Okay. Now, do you want to indicate what is
4	clerical unit and a craft unit. Is that	4	there for Newfoundland Power for the current
5	correct?	5	rate? There's a footnote there you might -
6	MR. MURRAY:	6	MR. MURRAY:
7	A. That's correct, yes.	7	A. I'm not sure of your question.
8	GREENE, KC:	8	GREENE, KC:
9	Q. And so, when we see this line there for	9	Q. Oh. I believe that those rates include what
10	Union, this only gives us the average salary	10	your current proposal is to the Union. You
11	for various reasons, but to give us an	11	have not reached agreement with your craft
12	overall picture of the average salary paid	12	Union yet? Is that correct?
13	for the Union group, which would include	13	MR. MURRAY:
14	your craft and your clerical, and that's –	14	A. That's correct, yes. Those are based on the
15	in average salary, that's only the base	15	tentative deal that was reached in September
16	salary? Is that correct?	16	of last year.
17	MR. MURRAY:	17	GREENE, KC:
18	A. Yes, that's correct.	18	Q. So, what's included in your first column is
19	GREENE, KC:	19	the proposed rate, not your actual current
20	Q. Okay. So, the average salary by 2026, the	20	rate, because it includes a proposed
20	year in which rates you're proposing be set,	21	increase which the Union have not accepted
			-
22	the average Union salary will be	22	yet?
23	approximately \$100,000?	23	MR. MURRAY:
24	MR. MURRAY:	24	A. That's correct.
25	A. Correct.	25	GREENE, KC:

Page 81 Page 83 Q. Okay. So, when I look at those, I see that 1 A. That would be correct, yes, and as I 1 2 Newfoundland Power generally trends to be 2 indicated, like it's largely due to the – 3 the highest paid for the union worker, 3 you know, Newfoundland has had a lot more 4 except for the power system operator for 4 larger projects than the other Atlantic Nova Scotia Power and the materials handler 5 5 Provinces, so it's tended to have trades are 6 for Nova Scotia Power, and I should have 6 technically slightly higher. 7 said New Brunswick Power. So, for your 7 **GREENE, KC:** 8 8 power system operator, you're paid higher Q. Okay. And as I said, those are not your 9 9 current rates, but those are what you have than Hydro, Maritime Electric, but not quite 10 as high as Nova Scotia Power, New Brunswick 10 proposed for the current round of Power. When we look at the number of bargaining. So, that's one group of your 11 11 12 employees in each trade, I assume that the 12 employees. The second group that I wanted 13 highest number of people in any trade would 13 to go to next is the executive, and Mr. be for the power line technician. Is that 14 14 Simmons did cover some of my potential 15 correct? You would have more power line 15 questions, but I still have a number with 16 technicians than you would materials 16 respect to executive compensation. handlers, for example? 17 17 (10:30 a.m.)GREENE, KC: 18 MR. MURRAY: 18 19 Yes, we'd generally have an equal number of 19 Yesterday when Mr. Fitzgerald was O. power line technicians and power line lead questioning we talked about how much was in 20 20 21 hands, which would be the highest number. 21 revenue requirement, but I want to bring you 22 22 GREENE, KC: to PUB-NP-033. The one we looked at yesterday only included what was in revenue 23 Okay. So, if we looked at – and you've 23 Q. 24 already said that - and it is bargaining and 24 requirement that customers pay for the 25 I don't plan to get into bargaining, but 25 executives and the directors. This RFI Page 82 Page 84 traditionally, what the utilities do in 1 1 asked what was included in the question paid 2 Atlantic Canada, they look at what each 2 as bonuses or incentive payments, and we 3 other pays for the trades and that's what is 3 looked down below and it includes all of the 4 used at a high level for comparison 4 incentive and performance based payments. 5 5 purposes. Is that correct? So, I assume that this would include the 6 MR. MURRAY: 6 performance payments you pay to your 7 Yes, that's correct. I mean, we're trying 7 managers, is that correct, as well as your 8 to – you know, the objective is to be 8 bonuses to your executives and your 9 competitive within the Atlantic Canada 9 directors? 10 market. You know, if you look at 10 MR. MURRAY: 11 Newfoundland over the last, you know, I'm Yes, that's correct. 11 12 going to say decade or so, there's been a GREENE, KC: 12 lot of large projects which have tended to 13 13 Okay. So, the total amount customers will Q. 14 have slightly higher wages here in 14 pay, or forecasted to pay, if it's all 15 Newfoundland as a result. 15 approved, is \$1,547,000.00, including all 16 GREENE, KC: 16 the ones that are regulated? MR. MURRAY: 17 And in fact, Mr. Murray, subject to check, 17 Q. 18 if you want to check, if we look back to the 18 A. That's correct. 19 three previous rate cases when you were 19 GREENE, KC: 20 here, we would have seen a similar picture 20 Okay. And that's an increase from 2023 21 where generally Newfoundland Power hourly 21 where it was \$1,365,000.00, that's the 22 wage rates for the trades were higher than 22 forecast? 23 the others, except for the poor power system 23 MR. MURRAY: 24 operator. 24 A. Yes, that's correct. That is, you know, 25 MR. MURRAY: 25

Page 85 Page 87 conflated at, you know, your labour 1 into you as well. Is that correct? 1 2 inflation before our efficiency, one percent 2 MR. MURRAY: 3 3 That would be correct, yes. efficiency, yes. A. 4 **GREENE, KC:** 4 GREENE, KC: 5 First I was going to talk about the short-5 Regulatory performance is shown as a target Q. 6 term incentive plan, so I will go back to 6 for 2024. It had been in as a target in 7 PUB-NP-032, attachment A, which Mr. Simmons 7 previous STI's but removed. Can you explain 8 8 referred to, I believe. And I wanted you to why it was removed, and why it has been 9 9 explain what your role is as President and added back? 10 CEO in setting these performance targets for 10 MR. MURRAY: the directors and the executive, and the 11 11 Yes. It was removed, I believe, around 2017 A. 12 role of the Board. 12 when it was replaced with the cash flow 13 MR. MURRAY: 13 target, and as I indicated, you know, the 14 So, my role would be, you know, review the 14 cash flow was removed for 2024 due to the, targets. A lot of these targets have been 15 15 you know, view that management has little control over the actual cash flow. It can 16 longstanding, so, you know, they move 16 17 forward from year to year, so, looking at be, you know, either highly above target or 17 the target, looking at the target in 18 18 below target, and management has very little 19 previous years, and the data around the influence over that. So, when it was 19 20 target. I would make proposal removed it was decided to replace it with 20 21 recommendation to the Board as to what the 21 the regulatory target which was previously 22 22 target should be, you know, could be set at familiar to this Board, and we felt that it 23 was still a good indicator and incentive for for the next year. The Board will then take 23 24 24 the executive. that recommendation or proposal and do their 25 25 Page 86 Page 88 1 own review of it and finalize the targets. 1 GREENE. KC: 2 GREENE, KC: 2 I'm not sure I understood why it was first O. 3 So, you have a role in recommending the 3 removed. Why did you remove it? Q. 4 target. And also when we come to the 4 MR. MURRAY: 5 5 subject ones, what role would you have with At the time it was felt that cash flow was Α. 6 respect to the other Vice Presidents and 6 important and, you know, in ensuring that we 7 7 whether they have met their--and the could manage the cash flow of the company, 8 directors. Whether they have met their 8 but as we learned over time, it was 9 9 personal targets? Do you have any role with something that management did not have a lot 10 respect to whether they have met their 10 of control over so it was decided to be removed. 11 personal targets? 11 MR. MURRAY: 12 GREENE, KC: 12 I would only for the Vice Presidents. For 13 13 And how regulatory performance gets Q. 14 the directors, the individual Vice 14 evaluated; can you explain how you propose 15 15 to evaluate performance? Presidents would look at those targets for 16 those directors. I would look at the Vice 16 MR. MURRAY: 17 17 Presidents and provide my recommendation to It would be based on, you know, all of the A. 18 the Board. 18 regulatory proceedings. You know, 19 regulatory is a big driver of, you know, a 19 GREENE, KC: 20 So, the recommendations that go to the Board 20 lot of the business incentives at 21 for action, and approval, or rejection, come 21 Newfoundland Power. So, we would look at 22 from you for the Vice Presidents, and I 22 each of the individual regulatory filings 23 assume the Vice Presidents' recommendations 23 and make an evaluation on the outcomes and 24 for their staff, for their directors, feed 24 success of those filings. 25 25

Page 89 1 GREENE, KC: 2 Q. And again, it would be your evaluation 3 whether that metric was met or not that 4 would go to the Board of Directors? Page 89 1 to understand howyour evaluation 2 targets to the Board I use of Directors answer. 4 MR. MURRAY:	T 04
2 Q. And again, it would be your evaluation 3 whether that metric was met or not that 4 would go to the Board of Directors? 2 targets to the Board I u 3 previous answer. 4 MR. MURRAY:	Page 91
2 Q. And again, it would be your evaluation 3 whether that metric was met or not that 4 would go to the Board of Directors? 2 targets to the Board I u 3 previous answer. 4 MR. MURRAY:	u recommend these
whether that metric was met or not that 4 would go to the Board of Directors? 3 previous answer. 4 MR. MURRAY:	
4 would go to the Board of Directors? 4 MR. MURRAY:	,
5 MR. MURRAY: 5 A. Yes. I'm justjust give	e me a second
6 A. I would provide guidance to the Board for 6 Maureen, to try and thi	
7 them to make their final recommendation, 7 there for a second.	ink what is going on
·	
	armiain ruhrumaatina
I	
10 Q. If we look at earnings, which is there under 10 your budget would be	a stretch.
Financial, and we see the targetsfirst, 11 MR. MURRAY:	T) 11
perhaps, you have set a stretch target of 12 A. I'm not 100 percent sur	
13 51.7 million. Can you explain what that is? 13 back to you on that one	
14 MR. MURRAY: 14 may be going on there	C
15 A. Basically a stretch target is for achieving 15 set at our business plan	
over the target for the year. So, the 100 leaves in July. If the target for the year.	
percent is the 49.2 million, and the stretch 17 because of that, then the	
18 basically for Newfoundland Power is 18 adjusted to reflect what	
essentially at the 150 level, is the upper 19 is now. So, subject to	check, I would have
20 limit of our band. Anything above our band 20 to verify that, that the t	arget would be
would be not achievable because that would 21 adjusted based on what	t we now know, because
go into excess earnings. So, for 22 when the target was set	t it was in July of
Newfoundland Power the stretch would only be 23 last year, which was be	
	A in November. So, if
	ŕ
25	
	Page 92
Page 90	Page 92
Page 90 1 around the limit of the band. 1 that is the case, the ta	rget would be
Page 90 1 around the limit of the band. 2 GREENE, KC: 1 that is the case, the ta	rget would be ractual forecast that
Page 90 1 around the limit of the band. 2 GREENE, KC: 3 Q. Can we just go to Exhibit 5 for a moment Page 90 1 that is the case, the ta adjusted to reflect our is here. So, subject to	rget would be ractual forecast that
Page 90 1 around the limit of the band. 2 GREENE, KC: 3 Q. Can we just go to Exhibit 5 for a moment 4 where we see your forecast for 2024? I'm Page 90 1 that is the case, the ta adjusted to reflect our is here. So, subject to confirm that.	rget would be ractual forecast that
Page 90 1 around the limit of the band. 2 GREENE, KC: 3 Q. Can we just go to Exhibit 5 for a moment 4 where we see your forecast for 2024? I'm 5 sorry, it must be Exhibit 3. Can you please Page 90 1 that is the case, the ta 2 adjusted to reflect our 3 is here. So, subject to 4 confirm that. 5 GREENE, KC:	r actual forecast that o check, I will
Page 90 1 around the limit of the band. 2 GREENE, KC: 3 Q. Can we just go to Exhibit 5 for a moment 4 where we see your forecast for 2024? I'm 5 sorry, it must be Exhibit 3. Can you please 6 scroll to the bottom? Here we see Page 90 1 that is the case, the ta 2 adjusted to reflect our 3 is here. So, subject to 4 confirm that. 5 GREENE, KC: 6 Q. All right. Now you'ver	r actual forecast that o check, I will
Page 90 1 around the limit of the band. 2 GREENE, KC: 3 Q. Can we just go to Exhibit 5 for a moment 4 where we see your forecast for 2024? I'm 5 sorry, it must be Exhibit 3. Can you please 6 scroll to the bottom? Here we see 7 \$51,169,000.00 as your earnings in the Page 90 1 that is the case, the ta 2 adjusted to reflect our 3 is here. So, subject to 4 confirm that. 5 GREENE, KC: 6 Q. All right. Now you'v 7 interesting question.	r actual forecast that o check, I will we raised another How do you review
Page 90 1 around the limit of the band. 2 GREENE, KC: 3 Q. Can we just go to Exhibit 5 for a moment 4 where we see your forecast for 2024? I'm 5 sorry, it must be Exhibit 3. Can you please 6 scroll to the bottom? Here we see 7 \$51,169,000.00 as your earnings in the 8 forecast. Page 90 1 that is the case, the ta 2 adjusted to reflect our is here. So, subject to confirm that. 5 GREENE, KC: 6 Q. All right. Now you'ver interesting question. 8 these targets during the	r actual forecast that o check, I will we raised another How do you review
Page 90 1 around the limit of the band. 2 GREENE, KC: 3 Q. Can we just go to Exhibit 5 for a moment 4 where we see your forecast for 2024? I'm 5 sorry, it must be Exhibit 3. Can you please 6 scroll to the bottom? Here we see 7 \$51,169,000.00 as your earnings in the 8 forecast. 9 MR. MURRAY: 1 that is the case, the ta 2 adjusted to reflect our is here. So, subject to confirm that. 5 GREENE, KC: 6 Q. All right. Now you'ver interesting question. 8 these targets during the graph of them during year?	r actual forecast that o check, I will we raised another How do you review
Page 90 1 around the limit of the band. 2 GREENE, KC: 3 Q. Can we just go to Exhibit 5 for a moment 4 where we see your forecast for 2024? I'm 5 sorry, it must be Exhibit 3. Can you please 6 scroll to the bottom? Here we see 7 \$51,169,000.00 as your earnings in the 8 forecast. 9 MR. MURRAY: 10 A. Can you scroll up there, please? 1 that is the case, the ta 2 adjusted to reflect our 3 is here. So, subject to 4 confirm that. 5 GREENE, KC: 6 Q. All right. Now you'v 5 interesting question. 8 these targets during the please? 9 MR. MURRAY: 10 MR. MURRAY:	r actual forecast that o check, I will we raised another How do you review he year, and change
Page 90 1 around the limit of the band. 2 GREENE, KC: 3 Q. Can we just go to Exhibit 5 for a moment 4 where we see your forecast for 2024? I'm 5 sorry, it must be Exhibit 3. Can you please 6 scroll to the bottom? Here we see 7 \$51,169,000.00 as your earnings in the 8 forecast. 9 MR. MURRAY: 10 A. Can you scroll up there, please? 11 GREENE, KC: 11 A. Only if it would be see	r actual forecast that o check, I will ve raised another How do you review he year, and change
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Page 90 1 around the limit of the band. 2 GREENE, KC: 3 Q. Can we just go to Exhibit 5 for a moment 4 where we see your forecast for 2024? I'm 5 sorry, it must be Exhibit 3. Can you please 6 scroll to the bottom? Here we see 7 \$51,169,000.00 as your earnings in the 8 forecast. 9 MR. MURRAY: 10 A. Can you scroll up there, please? 11 GREENE, KC: 12 Q. So, that's for 2024 forecast, right? That's 13 what you're forecasting your earnings will 1 that is the case, the ta adjusted to reflect our is here. So, subject to confirm that. 5 GREENE, KC: 6 Q. All right. Now you've interesting question. 7 interesting question. 8 these targets during the during year? 10 MR. MURRAY: 11 A. Only if it would be seen that you're forecasting your earnings will 12 So, we wouldso, for any output the plant of the plant is the case, the target and you're forecast for 2024? I'm 4 confirm that. 5 GREENE, KC: 6 Q. All right. Now you've interesting question. 7 interesting question. 8 these targets during the plant is the case, the target and you've is here. So, subject to confirm that. 9 Q. All right. Now you've interesting question. 10 MR. MURRAY: 11 A. Only if it would be seen that you've forecasting your earnings will 11 A. Only if it would be seen that you've forecasting your earnings will 12 So, we wouldso, for any or	r actual forecast that o check, I will we raised another How do you review he year, and change comething like that. r example, for safety lose targets, there
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June 1	4, 2024		NP GRA 2025-2026
	Page 93		Page 95
1	budget? Is the minimumwhy wouldn't the	1	when do you adjust them, and on what basis
2	minimum be to meet your forecast earnings	2	do you adjust them.
3	for the year based on your budget approved	3	MR. MURRAY:
4	for the year?	4	A. So, on the earnings, the earnings target,
5	MR. MURRAY:	5	the plus or minus 50, is set at plus or
6	A. That's what it would be, but as I indicated,	6	minus five percent.
7	that is set in July. So, the target that	7	GREENE, KC:
8	was set for 2024 was set from the July	8	Q. Of what? You'll have to tell me.
9	business plan in 2023. If there were	9	MR. MURRAY:
10	differences in that it may have to be	10	A. Of the target, of the 100 percent target.
11	adjusted at a later time.	11	GREENE, KC:
12	GREENE, KC:	12	Q. Maybe I need a coffee at this time, but what
13	Q. And you will check to see? And I'd like to	13	is your target, is it your forecast budget
14	know when the last time youdid you adjust	14	for the year? When you set normally 2024
15	targets in '23 during the year, or '22	15	target, what did you look at to set your
16	during the year? And when we looked at what		target? You're sayingI want to know how
17	your forecast had been for '23, prior, I	17	you normally pick your minimum and your
18	guess you would have had that before you set	18	target, that's all. Is your target your
19	your target. You were even then forecasting	19	budget normally when you set these, and a
20	you would make 47.6 million. Anyway, I'd	20	stretch should be meeting them, doing better
21	like to know whenfirst whatdid you just	21	than –
22	say that the minimum target is normally	22	(10:45 a.m.)
23	meeting your budget, or did I misunderstand	23	MR. MURRAY:
24	your answer?	24	A. We'll confirm as part of the undertaking,
25		25	
	Page 94		Page 96
1	MR. MURRAY:	1	but it is, I believe, what you're saying,
2	A. Can you repeat that question?	2	with the return at 8.5 percent.
3	GREENE, KC:	3	GREENE, KC:
4	Q. How do you set the minimum target for	4	Q. So, you will in the undertaking explain how
5	earnings, is it your forecast budget, or is	5	the minimum target and stretch are set for
6	it something else?	6	earnings?
7	MR. MURRAY:	7	MR. MURRAY:
8	A. The minimum target for earnings isjust	8	A. Yes, we will.
9	give me a second.	9 10	GREENE, KC:
10	GREENE, KC:	11	Q. Okay. CHAIR:
11 12	Q. In any year how do youwhat do you use as your minimum target?	12	
13	MR. MURRAY:	13	Q. Excuse me. I'd like just to add something for clarity. Within that response could you
14	A. Yes, just give me one second.	14	explain what return on equity would be for
15	GREENE, KC:	15	the minimum relative target because I assume
16	Q. Ms. Glynn has reminded me, Mr. Murray, that		the target would be at a certain level, and
17	I should ask you for an undertaking.	17	if you're dealing with dollars, but could
18	MR. O'BRIEN:	18	you also express in the term of equity for
19	Q. I've been writing this down waiting for it.	19	the Board?
20	GREENE, KC:	20	MR. MURRAY:
21	Q. I get so into my questioning I forget to	21	A. Sure.
22	ask. An undertaking to respond as to if you	22	CHAIR:
23	have adjusted your targets, what years have	23	Q. Thank you.
24	you adjusted them, say the last five, and	24	MR. O'BRIEN:
	J J , 500 J 1000 11. 5, 5110	I	·
25		25	

Page 97 Page 99 Q. MR. MURRAY: So, we're looking at how minimum target and 1 1 2 stretches are set for earnings, explain what 2 A. I'm not sure, probably 20 years ago or so. 3 ROE is used in that context, and the earlier 3 GREENE, KC: 4 commentary or request you had was--you had 4 O. Oh, I think it's longer than that, Mr. 5 given five years or something. I just 5 Murray. 6 wanted to be sure what -6 MR. MURRAY: 7 GREENE, KC: 7 Twenty or 25, yes. Α. 8 In the last five years at what time have you 8 GREENE, KC: Q. 9 9 adjusted the target for earnings at any time Okay. So, we talked about bi-regulatory 10 during the year, and if so, when and on what 10 performance was added back. So, how well 11 basis. 11 you do in this hearing will affect all of 12 CHAIR: 12 your bonuses next year, is that correct? 13 And I believe it was both in dollars and in 13 Q. MR. MURRAY: 14 ROE, Mr. O'Brien. Thank you. 14 A. It would appear so, yes. 15 **GREENE, KC:** 15 GREENE, KC: 16 And that would be either minimum target or 16 Q. Okay. And when we look at another one of stretch or set, what's the basis for setting interest to customers--we've already looked 17 17 18 them because, as I said, when I looked at 18 at the controllable operating cost per 19 them in comparison to what your financial 19 customer, which unfortunately is trending plans were for the year, it seemed a bit odd 20 20 up. How do you set that target again? It's 21 to have a stretch of meeting your budget. 21 tied to your budget, is it? 22 MR. MURRAY: 22 MR. MURRAY: 23 Yeah, that is--there's something going on 23 Yes, it is, and it's set to target our Α. A. there. We'll figure it out. 24 24 budget and removes a couple of costs which 25 25 Page 98 Page 100 1 MS. GLYNN: 1 are, I'll just confirm that for you, you 2 2 know, things that are beyond our control, Q. So, everyone is clear on the undertaking? 3 3 such as CDM and OPEBs. So, there's a couple MR. O'BRIEN: 4 4 of things like that that are just removed Q. Yes, clear as mud. Read the transcript 5 5 tonight. for--that are beyond management's control. GREENE, KC: 6 GREENE, KC: 6 7 7 Now, if it's based on 8.5 percent ROE, you With respect to SAIDI, when we looked at the 8 have always achieved your ROE that has been 8 corporate performance measures we saw that 9 approved by the Board, is that correct? 9 that had not been met in certain years in 10 MR. MURRAY: 10 the last--the period that we looked at, the Yes, that's correct. 11 recent past. How do you set your target 11 GREENE, KC: 12 then for the next year? You don't meet the 12 target from the previous year. 13 So, even if you set a target for your budget 13 14 at eight and a half, Newfoundland Power has 14 MR. MURRAY: 15 15 always achieved meeting that eight and a A. Just let me--one second again. Every 16 half percent target? Okay. So, what's the 16 liability target right now currently is a 17 risk there for not making the earnings five year average. So, if we--you know, if 17 18 depending on how your set your target? 18 we don't set the target, or meet the target 19 MR. MURRAY: 19 in that year, it continues at the five year 20 Well, I guess the risk is not achieving our 20 average. So, the target would be, you know, 21 possibly slightly higher the next year 21 earnings. 22 GREENE, KC: 22 depending upon what the average is. So, it 23 But then the answer becomes tell me when you 23 is on a five year average that that is set. 24 last didn't achieve your earnings? 24 GREENE, KC: 25 25

Page 101 Page 103 Q. And you didn't meet SAIDI in 2020 or 2022. GREENE, KC: 1 1 2 So, those two years where you didn't meet 2 O. You don't have any recommendations or input 3 your target would go into the five year 3 into them? 4 average. So, your target is getting lower 4 MR. MURRAY: 5 because you have two years not meeting 5 No. A. 6 target and that gets reflected in two years 6 **GREENE, KC:** 7 out of five in your average. 7 Okay. And how are they evaluated? O. 8 MR. MURRAY: 8 MR. MURRAY: 9 No, it gets slightly higher because you got 9 They would be evaluated, you know, based on 10 to--the actual numbers are what are used in 10 my interactions with the Board through Board meetings. You know, they have interactions 11 the average, so it would get slightly higher 11 12 over that period, but our long-term--like, 12 with other executive and senior management 13 if you look at our SAIDI, I believe, on like 13 team. So, they would, you know, use those 14 a five year or 10 year average, it is 14 factors in your evaluation, and also, you 15 basically the same. It is about 2.6, 2.7, 15 know, provide them with my views on where 16 over the five year or the 10 year period. 16 we've progressed in these topics as well. **GREENE, KC:** GREENE, KC: 17 17 18 Q. I guess my point was when you see that you 18 Q. And for you 30 percent is personal, 19 don't meet a target, you don't take any 19 achieving your personal objectives, is that action to try to meet the target, you lower 20 20 correct -21 your target by taking into account the 21 MR. MURRAY: 22 22 previous two years where you didn't meet it; That's correct, yeah. 23 when you set your targets for your corporate 23 GREENE, KC: 24 STI. 24 - of your bonus, and for the directors, or Q. 25 25 Page 104 Page 102 1 MR. MURRAY: 1 for the Vice Presidents, it's also the same? 2 2 MR. MURRAY: A. You know, look, some targets could have 3 improvement factors, it depends upon the 3 Yes, that's correct. 4 target. A lot of the targets now are 4 **GREENE, KC:** 5 5 getting tighter. You know, if you look at And we don't have performance measures for Q. 6 SAIDI, like I indicated, our long-term 6 the individual Vice Presidents for the 7 personal, but can you explain how they are average performance is consistent, but 7 8 you're going to have variability from year 8 set and what your role is in setting them 9 9 and evaluating performance? to year. So, our average is around 2.6, 10 2.7. Some years you're going to have 10 MR. MURRAY: Yes. So, similarly--similarly for the Vice variability where it's going to be 2.5. 11 11 Some years you're going to have variability Presidents I would largely recommend their 12 12 where it's 2.9. It's a very tight target personal targets. You know, some of them 13 13 now. As performance has improved, it 14 may be subjective, some of them may be 14 15 quantitative, but largely on the personal 15 becomes more challenging that way. 16 GREENE, KC: 16 targets, as for myself, it is more focused on long-term objectives and long-term 17 I wonder if we could just go to your 17 Q. 18 personal performance targets. Can you talk 18 performance, whereas the quantitative, the 19 about your role in setting these targets, 19 70 percent, is focused solely on performance in that year, and this--for the individual 20 and the Board's role in setting these 20 21 targets it would focused on what are the targets? 21 22 MR. MURRAY: 22 Vice Presidents doing to drive performance 23 A. My personal targets are largely set by the 23 over the longer term on their individual 24 Board. 24 targets.

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Page 105 Page 107 GREENE, KC: 1 incentive plan, the executive receive a 1 2 2 long-term incentive plan, which we have no Q. And you would have a significant role to 3 play with respect to the evaluation, I information on the record as to what that is 3 4 assume what the reliability performance as a 4 because that is not regulated, is that 5 corporate measure, and on the personal 5 correct? 6 performance objectives for the individual 6 MR. MURRAY: 7 Vice Presidents, is that correct? 7 I believe it's in the Korn Ferry Report, but A. 8 MR. MURRAY: 8 it's non-regulated, yes. 9 For reliabilities, is that what you said? 9 **GREENE, KC:** 10 GREENE, KC: 10 Q. I wonder if we could go to NLH-NP-114. Here we see the short-term incentive payments 11 O. For all of the personal targets, the 30 11 12 percent for Vice Presidents, where they're 12 that were made to the executive and the 13 set for personal targets, you would make 13 directors for 2022 and 2023, and if we look, 14 recommendations--you would make 14 for example, at the first line, which is, 15 recommendations to the Board about your 15 well, for you, Mr. Murray--can you explain evaluation of the Vice Presidents' what the 57.4 percent is that we see there 16 16 achievement of those personal objectives? for 2023, the actual payment? 17 17 18 MR. MURRAY: 18 MR. MURRAY: 19 Yes. So, what that would be is--you know, 19 Yes, that's correct. A. GREENE, KC: you take the corporate targets, which is the 20 20 21 Okay. We already looked at the total 21 70 percent, and you take the total scoring 22 22 on that, and I believe in 2023 that was 115 amount, including managers, as in the revenue requirement of one million and a percent, and then you take the personal 23 23 24 half for payment over and above your base 24 target at 30 percent and what the total 25 25 Page 106 Page 108 1 salary for additional performance, and we 1 scoring was on that, and the 57.4 is that 2 looked yesterday at what is paid for the 2 times the 50 percent. So, that would be the 3 directors and the executive. Have you 3 total amount, and then the regulated amount, 4 considered or looked at what customers 4 you know, is shown down below, which is what 5 5 should pay, and what gets included in is regulated and what is non-regulated as we 6 revenue requirement, versus the practice in described earlier. 6 7 other jurisdictions? 7 GREENE, KC: 8 MR. MURRAY: 8 So, for the regulated it's up to 100 percent 9 I know--I'm familiar with Maritime Electric 9 of the targets, except for financial Α. 10 because I am on their Board, and I know in 10 performance and regulatory performance? 11 PEI the full amount is covered in customer MR. MURRAY: 11 12 rates. Similarly, I know in Alberta it is 12 And last year it would have been cash flow. similar there, and in BC I think it's a bit GREENE, KC: 13 13 14 similar to us in that the financial target 14 O. Now, if we look at 2022, when we went 15 is, I believe, capped there at a certain 15 through your corporate performance measures 16 level. 16 we saw that the company didn't meet three of 17 the corporate performance measures that it 17 **GREENE, KC:** 18 And when you say the full amount for PEI and 18 had set for itself for the year, and in 2023 Q. 19 Alberta, was it, you don't include the long-19 they didn't meet two of the six corporate 20 term incentive plan, do you? 20 performance measures, but yet we still see 21 21 significant payments to the executive. Can MR. MURRAY: 22 No. that's correct. 22 you explain? I assume it has to do with the 23 **GREENE, KC:** 23 weightings, that even if you don't meet half 24 O. Because in addition to your short-term 24 your targets you still get the significant 25 25

Page 109 Page 111 1 bonus. 1 evaluated by their supervisors, does that 2 MR. MURRAY: 2 get recommended to a vice-president or a 3 It would be due to weighting. So, if you 3 director or is it left at the supervisory A. look at--for example, in 2022 I believe we 4 4 level? And what's the maximum type of Pay 5 did not meet the regulatory or the operating 5 for Performance that somebody could receive? 6 cost, but on safety, for example, say the 6 MR. MURRAY: 7 7 target could have been 150 percent of the It would be done by the individual A. 8 8 target. So, it's the total of the combined supervisor, manager and would roll up to 9 targets that would result in the directors and eventually would roll up to 9 10 calculation. 10 the executive for final review. In terms of 11 (11:00 a.m.) 11 the amounts, Mr. Chubbs can speak to that 12 **GREENE, KC:** 12 when he's on the stand; you can talk to Mr. It's 11:00 o'clock, Mr. Chair. I'm not 13 Chubbs to make sure the numbers are correct. 13 14 finished on compensation yet, but it's 11:00 14 So, he can speak to that. 15 o'clock. 15 **GREENE, KC:** 16 CHAIR: 16 Q. Okay. And Mr. Simmons has already ask you Sure. I think it's time for a break. Thank about what benefits customers receive for 17 Q. 17 18 you. 18 the payments to managers, directors and executive over and above their base salary. 19 19 (BREAK - 11:00 a.m.)And I wondered if you wanted to add anything 20 (RESUME AT 11:31 a.m.) 20 21 CHAIR: 21 to that at this point in time, to explain 22 22 Back to Ms. Greene. your perspective as to why any amount should O. be included in the revenue requirement for 23 GREENE, KC: 23 24 24 these types of payments. Q. Thank you, Mr. Chair. You had mentioned 25 25 MR. MURRAY: Page 110 Page 112 1 1 earlier today that managers also receive pay A. It's all about driving outcomes for 2 for performance above their salary, can you 2 customers and for the business. When you 3 explain how that gets evaluated, on what 3 look at the manager level and that as I basis they're evaluated and who does the 4 4 indicated, performance there would be 5 5 evaluation? directly tied to, say for example, somebody MR. MURRAY: 6 6 in our engineering roles or something like, 7 So, I think what you're referring to is Pay 7 it could be tied to the delivering of 8 for Performance which is for managerial 8 projects. So, if we're rebuilding 9 employees and largely that is tied to 9 substations and everything, substations or 10 individual performance. So, it's for 10 transmission lines or our customer connect 11 individual management people and it's guided project we talked about, it would be focused 11 12 toward technical competence--excuse me, on delivering successful outcomes on those 12 guided toward technical competence. Just projects with respect to the budget, the 13 13 14 give me one second, please. It's guided timelines and schedule. So, they're always 14 15 toward their technical competence, execution 15 focused on outcomes that have customer 16 of results in that particular year and their 16 benefit to them and driving the business and our performance. own personal self-development and self-17 17 18 growth in their role. And that would be--18 GREENE, KC: depending upon the individual, it could be 19 19 O. And as I think Mr. Simmons also said, but 20 evaluated by their supervisor, their 20 isn't that expected of them for their base 21 manager. So, it's a combination of 21 salary to perform to what's required? If 22 different people. 22 they're required to manage a project, they GREENE, KC: 23 23 should be managing it to complete it as part of their job without any additional 24 O. And how would the evaluation translate into 24 what the actual pay is? You say they're 25 25 incentive?

June 1	Tune 14, 2024 NP GRA 2025-20				
	Page 113		Page 115		
1	MR. MURRAY:	1	CEO, in your role and recommending salary		
2	A. No, I don't agree fully with that. I mean,	2	ranges because I assume that you do		
3	it is part of compensation package. If you	3	recommend to the Board of Directors some		
4	look at our managerial compensation, it is	4	input into compensation for your executive		
5	meant to be competitive in the market. So,	5	and your directors. You yourself have to be		
6	it is not only driving the results which	6	satisfied with what the salary is in		
7	also is a big part of that, but is also an	7	comparison to what you think a relevant		
8	important component of retention of	8	pairs, don't you?		
9	employees as well as hiring of employees.	9	MR. MURRAY:		
10	So, you know, there's a lot of competition	10	A. Well, we rely upon, you know, our		
11	for employees and this is part of the	11	compensation consultant, if you want to call		
12	overall compensation package for employee	12	it that, to provide us that background. I		
13	hiring and retention, as well as driving	13	mean, I'm not a HR expert in my role, so we		
14	outcomes for customers.	14	rely upon the consultant to provide us with		
15	GREENE, KC:	15	that opinion.		
16	Q. So, as CEO, you believe that to ask customer	16	GREENE, KC:		
17	to pay a million and a half dollars for	17	Q. So, you're totally deferring to your		
18	these additional payments is reasonable and	18	consultant as to the reasonableness of the		
19	customers would support such payments?	19	salaries you pay your executive, is that		
20	MR. MURRAY:	20	what I take from your answer?		
21	A. Yes, that's correct.	21	MR. MURRAY:		
22	GREENE, KC:	22	A. Yes, that's correct.		
23	Q. I'd like now to move to the base salary for	23	GREENE, KC:		
24	directors and executives. Mr. Simmons took	24	Q. Okay. Mr. Simmons, took you to PUB NP173.		
25	you to some discussion of the peer group	25	I don't think we need to go back there, but		
	Page 114		Page 116		
1	that is used by Newfoundland Power to set	1	it showed limited, extremely limited number		
2	the base salary. Because of coursewhy is	2	of companies that were electrical utilities.		
3	the comparator peer group such an important	3	I'd like to actually go to Appendix C of the		
4	decision with respect to the determination	4	Korn Ferry report which shows the		
5	of salaries?	5	organizations that are in this Canadian		
6	MR. MURRAY:	6	Commercial Industrial group. And when I		
7	A. Are you referring the 390 comparator group	7	went through the list and I certainly don't		
8	from Korn Ferry?	8	plan to go through each company here,		
9	GREENE, KC:	9	there's a tremendous number of retail		
10	Q. Yes, or the fact that a commercial	10	companies, manufacturing companies,		
11	industrial national group is used to	11	virtually no electrical utilities, no		
12	determine the appropriate salary ranges.	12	organizations in Newfoundland, very few in		
13	MR. MURRAY:	13	Atlantic Canada. And in your role as CEO		
14	A. Yes, so Mr. Ma can directly answer this	14	you would view this as your comparable peer		
15	question, but at a high level, you know,	15	group?		
16	this is the comparator group that Korn Ferry	16	MR. MURRAY:		
17	has recommended to Newfoundland Power as	17	A. You know, as I indicated, Mr. Ma will speak		
18	being the appropriate market comparator for	18	to that, but I agree with that. Maybe go		
19	executives and directors within in the	19	back to page 12 in that report. One more		
20	company. And as I said, Mr. Ma can really	20	page, I think. That's it, yes, right there.		
21	provide the rationale as to why this is the	21	So, when they look at the comparator group,		
22	appropriate comparator group.	22	they're not looking at the companies.		
23	GREENE, KC:	23	They're looking at the, you know, this is		
24	Q. And I'm sure there will be questions for him	24	what they look at in this table down below.		
25	on that, but I'm asking you, in your role as	25	So, they're making a comparison of these		

,	14, 2024		NP GRA 2025-2026
1	Page 117		Page 119
1	accountabilities, if you want to call them,	1	of the Company from, I believe it was Duke
2	which is know how, problem solving and	2	Energy at the time.
3	accountability to determine the Korn Ferry	3	GREENE, KC:
4	Hay Points for the role. So, they're	4	Q. So, now we're about to about 1990's for Mr.
5	looking at executives in similar	5	Hughes.
6	organizations and their role in the	6	MR. MURRAY:
7	organization. They're not comparing	7	A. Late '90s, I believe. I also believe Mike
8	companies to companies; they're comparing	8	Mulcahy in the mid 2000s or before 2010 came
9	responsibilities of positions to	9	from outside, not exactly sure where. And
10	responsibilities of positions to determine	10	there was a number of other executives that
11	what is an appropriate comparator for each	11	came from within the Fortis Group as well
12	of the executives at Newfoundland Power. To	12	prior to that, such as Karl Smith and a few
13	determine what the Hay Points are and based	13	others.
14	on that, that is where they come up with	14	GREENE, KC:
15	their recommendations on appropriate salary	15	Q. Okay, so Mr. Hughes was back in the '90s, I
16	and other components of the compensation.	16	remember him from previous hearings. Mr.
17	GREENE, KC:	17	Mulcahy, what role was he—his name I don't
18	Q. And the peer group would include companies	18	recall.
19	that have Hay Points, that use Hay for their	19	MR. MURRAY:
20	evaluation purposes. How can they compare	20	A. I believe his role was, at that time we had
21	positions in those organizations unless they	21	a larger executive team, I think we have
22	also use this system of evaluation?	22	five or six, so our executive team has
23	MR. MURRAY:	23	gotten smaller over time and I believe he
24	A. Well, that is my understanding; that's what	24	was VP of Customer Service and HR, I believe
25	they do. So, Mr. Ma can explain that.	25	at the time.
25	Page 118	23	Page 120
1	GREENE, KC:	1	GREENE, KC:
2	Q. You mentioned, or in discussion with Mr.	2	Q. Okay, so say in the last 23, 25 to 30 years,
3	Simmons, he took you to that one of the	3	you've have three executive come from
4	rationale for this group is the fact that	4	outside the Fortis Group of Companies?
5	you must compete on a national level. Is	5	MR. MURRAY:
6	that correct?	6	A. That would seem about correct, yes. There
7	MR. MURRAY:	7	were a number of others, as indicated, from
8		8	within the Fortis Group as well.
	A. That's correct, yes. GREENE, KC:	9	GREENE, KC:
9 10		10	·
11	Q. Okay. And he asked you about the current	11	Q. And would it be a similar response for the director level?
12	executive. And I'd like to ask you about past executive. In your 20 years, you came	12	MR. MURRAY:
1 1 2	in 2002 was it?	13	A. Director level, you know, recently were
	III 2002 was it:		A. Director level, you know, recently were
13	MD MIIDDAV.	1 /	hinad a director of UD is inad us true three
13 14	MR. MURRAY:	14	hired a director of HR, joined us two, three
13 14 15	A. Um-hm.	15	years ago from outside, from Vale. Prior to
13 14 15 16	A. Um-hm. GREENE, KC:	15 16	years ago from outside, from Vale. Prior to that, I can't recall anyone else in the last
13 14 15 16 17	A. Um-hm. GREENE, KC: Q. So, in your period of time with the company,	15 16 17	years ago from outside, from Vale. Prior to that, I can't recall anyone else in the last 10, 15 years. That would be the most
13 14 15 16 17 18	 A. Um-hm. GREENE, KC: Q. So, in your period of time with the company, how many members of the executive have come 	15 16 17 18	years ago from outside, from Vale. Prior to that, I can't recall anyone else in the last 10, 15 years. That would be the most recent; that was director of HR.
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	 A. Um-hm. GREENE, KC: Q. So, in your period of time with the company, how many members of the executive have come from outside of the Fortis Group of 	15 16 17 18 19	years ago from outside, from Vale. Prior to that, I can't recall anyone else in the last 10, 15 years. That would be the most recent; that was director of HR. GREENE, KC:
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	 A. Um-hm. GREENE, KC: Q. So, in your period of time with the company, how many members of the executive have come from outside of the Fortis Group of Companies? 	15 16 17 18 19 20	years ago from outside, from Vale. Prior to that, I can't recall anyone else in the last 10, 15 years. That would be the most recent; that was director of HR. GREENE, KC: Q. So, it was such a rare occurrence, you can
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	 A. Um-hm. GREENE, KC: Q. So, in your period of time with the company, how many members of the executive have come from outside of the Fortis Group of Companies? MR. MURRAY: 	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	years ago from outside, from Vale. Prior to that, I can't recall anyone else in the last 10, 15 years. That would be the most recent; that was director of HR. GREENE, KC: Q. So, it was such a rare occurrence, you can actually recall the individuals in terms of
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	 A. Um-hm. GREENE, KC: Q. So, in your period of time with the company, how many members of the executive have come from outside of the Fortis Group of Companies? MR. MURRAY: A. So, about the same time I joined in 2002, 	15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	years ago from outside, from Vale. Prior to that, I can't recall anyone else in the last 10, 15 years. That would be the most recent; that was director of HR. GREENE, KC: Q. So, it was such a rare occurrence, you can actually recall the individuals in terms of who comes from outside. For the managerial
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	 A. Um-hm. GREENE, KC: Q. So, in your period of time with the company, how many members of the executive have come from outside of the Fortis Group of Companies? MR. MURRAY: A. So, about the same time I joined in 2002, Barry Perry joined the company as CFO. He 	15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	years ago from outside, from Vale. Prior to that, I can't recall anyone else in the last 10, 15 years. That would be the most recent; that was director of HR. GREENE, KC: Q. So, it was such a rare occurrence, you can actually recall the individuals in terms of who comes from outside. For the managerial group, do you know what the comparator
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	 A. Um-hm. GREENE, KC: Q. So, in your period of time with the company, how many members of the executive have come from outside of the Fortis Group of Companies? MR. MURRAY: A. So, about the same time I joined in 2002, 	15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	years ago from outside, from Vale. Prior to that, I can't recall anyone else in the last 10, 15 years. That would be the most recent; that was director of HR. GREENE, KC: Q. So, it was such a rare occurrence, you can actually recall the individuals in terms of who comes from outside. For the managerial

Page 121 Page 123 MR. MURRAY: '24 were less than for executives and 1 1 2 2 directors, the base salary line adjustment. There's a number of different groups that MR. MURRAY: are used for the manager group. I'm not the 3 3 4 best person to answer that. I would say it 4 Α. Um-hm. 5 would be either Ms. London or Mr. Chubbs. 5 GREENE, KC: 6 GREENE, KC: 6 Again, as CEO--I'm not asking you to get 7 Okay, subject to check because it's on the— 7 into the detail, I will with Mr. London on Q. 8 there are two comparator groups. One is 8 that--is that, from your perspective, 9 composed of a national group and the second 9 reasonable? And if so, why and how? 10 is composed of a group of electrical 10 MR. MURRAY: utilities and energy solutions companies 11 11 Well, when we do annual salaries every year, A. 12 they're called. Is that familiar to you, 12 we look at the market comparator in that 13 the groups that are used for managerial 13 year and all salaries are adjusted with the, 14 compensation. 14 you know, in the management, director, executive level, are adjusted based on the 15 MR. MURRAY: 15 market comparator for that particular year. 16 Α. I will take that subject to check. Like I 16 said. I haven't been as close to that in They don't provide forecasts for long term 17 17 18 recent years. 18 as to where salaries are going in two, 19 19 GREENE, KC: three, four years, time. They generally 20 provide it late in the calendar year for the 20 And in the second comparator group, there upcoming year. So, typically in November 21 are a number of electrical utilities, again 21 22 22 when we get the November/December we get the subject to check, I may not have them all, but there's BC Hydro, Toronto Hydro, Emera, market comparator groups and we look at the 23 23 24 Hydro One, Hydro Quebec, Nova Scotia Power, 24 individual groups to determine what the 25 Ontario Power. So, those are a number of 25 adjustments are for the coming year. Page 124 Page 122 1 electrical utilities that are in one of the 1 GREENE, KC: 2 2 two peer groups that are used for your Q. But for the last three years they have been 3 managers. Again, you can take it subject to 3 lower for managers and directors and 4 check. So, the fact that you do have a peer 4 executive, subject to check. 5 5 group that includes a significant number of MR. MURRAY: 6 utilities for managers, but not for 6 Yes, and I would assume that that's because Α. 7 executives and directors. Again, as CEO 7 the market comparator is in line with what 8 responsible for the overall performance of 8 those market comparators were for the 9 the company, why would there be that 9 different groups. 10 difference and are you comfortable with it? 10 GREENE, KC: 11 MR. MURRAY: 11 So, the selection of the appropriate 12 comparator group is very important, isn't The only comment there, our compensation 12 practices have been long standing, these 13 13 it? 14 comparator groups we've been using for many 14 (11:48 a.m.) 15 years now. You know, I'm not familiar with-15 MR. MURRAY: 16 excuse me, I'm not familiar with the 16 I'm not sure what you mean. rationale as to the selection of them 17 17 GREENE, KC: 18 originally when it was done a number of 18 Q. It leads into what the increases--who you 19 19 years ago. So I really can't comment in compare you to, and you use a different 20 terms of the appropriateness that way, but 20 comparative group than is used for managers. Ms. London is more familiar with it and can 21 21 You use it for your executive and your 22 speak to you about it. 22 directors. 23 **GREENE, KC:** 23 MR. MURRAY: 24 O. Again, subject to check, the increases 24 A. Yeah. You know, it's a good question for 25 recommended for the managers in '22, '23 and 25 Mr. Ma as indicated. I'm not an HR expert,

June 1	Tune 14, 2024 NP GRA 2025-2026			
	Page 125		Page 127	
1	so -	1	you now use in comparison to an	
2	GREENE, KC:	2	electric/utility peer group and a	
3	Q. But he's not your consultant for your	3	Newfoundland peer group, subject to check.	
4	managers, so I won't be able to ask him	4	So, my question to you as well is do you	
5	about the managers, will I?	5	believe that that information would be	
6	MR. MURRAY:	6	relevant and useful for the Board to have at	
7	A. I assume not. I guess he is the director	7	this point in time to review as to whether	
8	and HR consultant, yes.	8	that peer group continues to be reasonable	
9	GREENE, KC:	9	some 25 years later?	
10	Q. And again I'll ask Ms. Paige (sic.), and	10	MR. MURRAY:	
11	maybe you know, why you use a different	11	A. You know, my thoughts would be that a lot	
12	consultant for executive and directors	12	has changed in 25 years. You know, Mr. Ma	
13	versus your managers to rate the	13	can probably comment on appropriate	
14	compensation?	14	comparative groups. I know he did provide	
15	MR. MURRAY:	15	some comments around the challenges with	
16	A. I'm not aware. As I indicated, it has been	16	electric utilities because there's very few	
17	practice for many years, and that's the	17	in Canada that areyou know, when you	
18	groups that we use.	18	remove the Fortis companies and that, there	
19	GREENE, KC:	19	are very few private investor owned	
20	Q. You're relying on the fact that this	20	utilities in Canada to compare to.	
21	comparative group was approved by your Board		GREENE, KC:	
22	of Directors, I believe was it '97 or '98?	22	Q. And you come back, as Mr. Ma did in hisand	
23	MR. MURRAY:	23	he will speak to his RFI responses, butand	
24	A. Yes, that's correct.	24	reply to Mr. Simmons. Why is the	
25	GREENE, KC:	25	significance of privately owned versus	
-	Page 126		Page 128	
1	Q. Okay. And approved by this Board by well	1	publicly owned so important for the	
2	for use in that rate case back then, is that	2	executive and the directors, but yet you use	
3	correct?	3	them; you use public electrical utilities in	
4	MR. MURRAY:	4	the peer group for your manager group.	
5	A. That's correct, yes.	5	They're in one of the peer groups that are	
6	GREENE, KC:	6	used. So, why would it be different?	
7	Q. Okay. Subject to check, are you aware that	7	MR. MURRAY:	
8	at the time the Board approved this	8	A. As I indicated to Mr. Simmons, it's a	
	comparative group they had information	9	question for Mr. Ma.	
10	provided on the record with respect to how	10	GREENE, KC:	
11	the compensation for commercial/industrial	11	Q. Okay, but you feel comfortable with that's	
12	group compared to a comparative group of	12	the approachas CEO, that that is the	
13	electrical/utilities and a comparative group	13	approach for Newfoundland Power, that that's	
14	of Newfoundland companies?	14	how you do it?	
15	MR. MURRAY:	15	MR. MURRAY:	
16	A. Yeah, I'm not familiar. I wasn't at	16	A. That's correct.	
17	Newfoundland Power back then.	17	GREENE, KC:	
18	GREENE, KC:	18	Q. Have you, or have—have you asked Korn Ferry	
19	Q. Okay. Subject to check, it is in Board	19	to look at the reasonableness of the peer	
20	OrderI can bring it up with you want, but	20	group for the executive and directors in	
21	it's Board Order number PUB-36 (1998-1999).	21	recent years?	
22	So, at the time the Board approved the use	22	MR. MURRAY:	
23	of this group, they had information that	23	A. Not to my knowledge, no.	
24	showed what the results would be from the	24	GREENE, KC:	
25	use of a commercial/industrial group that	25	Q. In one of Mr. Korn Ferry's responses he	

June 1	4, 2024		NP GRA 2025-2026
	Page 129		Page 131
1	actually mentioned that it was reviewed for	1	Dear Gary. So, this letter is addressed to
2	2024.	2	you, Mr. Murray?
3	MR. MURRAY:	3	MR. MURRAY:
4	A. I think maybe what he is referring to is it	4	A. Yes, that's correct.
5	wasn't a review of the comparator group; it	5	GREENE, KC:
6	was a review of the HAY points for the	6	Q. And it gives the results of a re-evaluation
7	executive. Is that correct? Do you have	7	of the three positions, the three executive
8	the RFI that I can look at?	8	positions, at Newfoundland Power that was
9	GREENE, KC:	9	done as of June 2023, is that correct?
10	Q. Not at this point. I thought II didn't	10	MR. MURRAY:
11	think I was going to have to go there. So,	11	A. Yes, it is.
12	to your knowledge Korn Ferry hasn't reviewed		GREENE, KC:
13	the appropriateness of the peer group in	13	Q. Can you explain why you asked Korn Ferry to
14	recent times; they just continue to use it	14	do that, please?
15	because it's been used in the past? MR. MURRAY:	15	MR. MURRAY:
16		16 17	A. Yes. The reason that was done was when I
18	A. Not to my knowledge. You know, you can ask Mr. Ma and he can-he can direct you to	18	became CEO in 2020 I had responsibility in my former role as VP of Customer Operations.
19	that.	19	I also had responsibility for HR. When the
20	GREENE, KC:	20	roles were changed there was no evaluation
21	Q. And you haven't asked them to do that?	21	done to move the HR responsibilities to Ms.
$\frac{21}{22}$	MR. MURRAY:	22	London. So, I asked Korn Ferry to review
23	A. Not in terms of the comparator group. As	23	the changes and responsibilities that
24	indicated, he did review the HAY points of	24	occurred as a result of that to determine if
25	the executive recently, but that'snot the	25	the pay points were still appropriate with
	Page 130		Page 132
1	comparator groups.	1	the removal of the HR from the VP of
2	GREENE, KC:	2	Customer Operations and moving it to the VP
3	Q. I want to come now to how the positions of	3	of Finance and CFO, who was also responsible
4	the executive are evaluated, and if we could	4	for regulatory, so they done a review at
5	actually go back to the screen that you	5	that time.
6	justthank you. You explained that this is	6	GREENE, KC:
7	what's taken into account by Korn Ferry now	7	Q. The Human Resources function, was that
8	in establishing points for a position that	8	always within Customer Operations?
9	allows them to compare a position across	9	MR. MURRAY:
10	industries based on the number of point that	10	A. No. It becameprior to that it wasprior
11	the position has for know-how, problem	11	toI believe when Ms. Perry went to Fortis-
12	solving, accountability, and then the sums.	12	-previous to that Ms. Perry was responsible
13	Is that correct?	13	for HR, but when she moved to Fortis it
14	MR. MURRAY:	14	became under my responsibility.
15	A. Yes, that's correct.	15	GREENE, KC:
16	GREENE, KC:	16	Q. So, HR previously reported to Finance as
17	Q. And there was an evaluation done of the	17	well, prior to -
18	current executive positions in 2023, is that	18	MR. MURRAY:
19	correct?	19	A. Previously, yes.
20	MR. MURRAY:	20	GREENE, KC:
21	A. Yes, that's correct.	21	Q. And how did this evaluation work? Did Korn-
22	GREENE, KC:	22	-did you meet with Korn Ferry, as an
23 24	Q. Okay. And if we could go, please, to PUB-	23 24	example, and talk about the roles of the individuals? So, could you please describe
25	31, attachment C, page 9. Okay. Could we scroll up, please? Well, it's addressed to	25	the process that led to the re-evaluation?
	scron up, picase: wen, it s addressed to	L 23	the process that icu to the re-evaluation?

NP GRA 2025-2026 June 14, 2024

Page 133 Page 135 MR. MURRAY: MR. MURRAY: 1 1 2 2 Yes, it was a combination. I met with Korn Α. Yes, that's correct. Ferry. Can you just scroll down to the 3 3 GREENE, KC: 4 bottom for a second to see who signed the 4 And, of course, because of the increase in letter? Yes. So, I met with Bill Bowen, as 5 5 points for the VP of Finance, that would 6 well as Wiclif Ma, and both of them were--it 6 have led to a more--a larger salary increase 7 7 was, I guess, a Teams call, and we discussed than otherwise would have been for that 8 8 the changes and what were the position in 2024, would it? 9 9 responsibilities of the different CFO's, and MR. MURRAY: also provided them with some information for 10 10 A. Yes, and it also resulted in a reduction in them to complete their evaluation. 11 11 the VP of Customer Operations. As I 12 **GREENE, KC:** 12 mentioned, the HAY points basically came 13 Now, if you could scroll up. We see all 13 down for the VP of Operations, went up for 14 three Vice Presidents now have the same 14 the CFO role; so the same thing for the 15 number of points, is that correct? 15 salaries and incentives. 16 MR. MURRAY: 16 GREENE, KC: 17 17 Yes, that's correct. But it didn't result in any change because 18 GREENE, KC: 18 he was--that person was a known incumbent in that role, is that correct, Mr. Mullins? 19 And this is a change from before? 19 20 MR. MURRAY: MR. MURRAY: 20 21 Yes. If you go--previously I believe what 21 Mr. Mullins, yes. 22 it was is the Customer--VP of Operations had 22 GREENE, KC: slightly higher HAY points, and the VP and 23 23 The last--subject to check again, in the 24 CFO had slightly lower. So, essentially it 24 2016 General Rate Application was the last 25 was a transfer of HAY points from the 25 time we saw the HAY points assigned for the Page 134 Page 136 1 Customer Operations to the CFO role. And my 1 executive of Newfoundland Power, and I don't 2 understanding of it is with the HAY points, 2 think we need to go there, but it was 3 and Mr. Ma can explain to you, it's 3 curious to me that the number of points, 4 basically a pie. It's a set number of 4 which if you go back, it's for know-how and 5 5 points, and if responsibilities move or accountability, and problem solving. That's 6 change, then it's basically a plus or minus 6 what they use to compare across all the 7 between the roles. 7 organization; that the HAY points for each 8 GREENE, KC: 8 of the three executive positions were higher 9 And in terms of this evaluation, what was 9 than what we're showing here. It was VP 10 your role in providing information or a 10 Operations was 1628, VP Finance 1560, VP 11 meeting with Korn Ferry on making Regulation and Planning 1560. So, a 11 recommendations? significant difference, and I was--again, it 12 12 (12:00 p.m.) was one of those curiosities, like how you 13 13 14 MR. MURRAY: 14 set the target when you looked at your 15 15 performance. Has the nature of the Well, I didn't provide any recommendations, 16 I just provided them with the 16 operations in the company changed so that 17 responsibilities of the executives prior to 17 the executive doesn't--they don't need as 18 the changes and what their new 18 much know-how and problem solving as before? 19 responsibilities were, and they evaluated it 19 It was just a--I just wonder how this 20 from there. 20 process works. Is it objective, or is it 21 21 **GREENE, KC:** judgmental, or -22 Your position isn't listed here, so there 22 MR. MURRAY: 23 was no change in the number of points 23 A. No, it is not objective, it is very--my 24 assigned to the President and CEO, is that 24 understanding of the HAY points it's very 25 correct? 25 regimented. Mr. Ma can explain that. I

June 1	14, 2024		NP GRA 2025-2026
	Page 137		Page 139
1	mean, without seeing the number in front of	1	questions about it.
2	meif you had something to show me, I might	2	MR. MURRAY:
3	be able to speak to it, but –	3	A. Yes.
4	GREENE, KC:	4	GREENE, KC:
5	Q. If we want to, we can bring it up.	5	Q. That increase from 8.5 to 9.85 accounts for
6	MR. MURRAY:	6	1.6 percent of the 5.5 percent you're
7	A. Without seeing it, no, I would say that Mr.	7	looking for in this particular application,
8	Ma is best to speak to about this.	8	is that correct?
9	GREENE, KC:	9	MR. MURRAY:
10	Q. As I said, it was just a curiosity, I would	10	A. Yes, that's correct.
11	have thought unless the nature of the	11	GREENE, KC:
12	business had changed it would still require	12	Q. And if we go to the undertaking No. 1, which
13	the same amount of know how on problem	13	shows 2023 actuals, and if we scroll down we
14	solving, et cetera, and again, it just	14	see that actual earnings for last year under
15	reflects how compensation is set at	15	"Earnings Applicable to Common Shares" is 48
16	Newfoundland Power's base salary and STIs,	16	million, eighty-seven thousand dollars, a
		17	
17	I'd like now to go to another topic which is	ı	bit higher than—your actuals were a bit
18	the return on equity that Newfoundland Power		higher than your forecast. Now if we can go
19	is asking for in this rate case. We've	19	to Exhibit 5 and we scroll down, the last
20	already heard that Newfoundland Power is	20	column over is your forecast 2026 year and
21	requesting that the return on equity be set	21	that is what you are using to propose new
22	at 9.85 percent, on a common equity of 45	22	rates and the rate increases, is that
23	percent and that is an increase from the 8.5	23	correct? Your 2026 test year.
24	percent currently approved by the Board and	24	MR. MURRAY:
25	in effect since 2016. First, as CEO have	25	A. Yes, that's correct.
	Page 138		Page 140
1	you been satisfied with the financial	1	GREENE, KC:
2	performance and the financial integrity of	2	Q. Okay, and for earnings applicable to common
3	Newfoundland Power in your time as President	ı	shares, we see there 63 million, six hundred
4	and CEO?	4	and fifty-one thousand dollars. So the
5	MR. MURRAY:	5	increase from what you actually earned last
6	A. I would say yes.	6	year to what you are proposing to earn if
7	GREENE, KC:	7	everything that you have asked for gets
8	Q. Okay, and they've had no difficulty in	8	approved, is an increase of 15 million, .65,
9	attracting the necessary capital, is that	9	15.65 million and that's over a 15 percent
10	correct?	10	increase in your profit, is that correct?
11	MR. MURRAY:	11	MR. MURRAY:
12	A. Well we do have, you know, we have a very	12	A. Yes, that's correct.
13	limited number of investors that invest in	13	GREENE, KC:
14	our bonds. You know, our last bond offering	14	Q. So, we've already answered some questions
15	there was less interest than we had seen in	15	about this and you deferred to Concentric,
16	previous bond, bond ask.	16	but I want to ask as CEO and President and
17	GREENE, KC:	17	explaining to ratepayers why you are asking
18	Q. But you've still been able to attract	18	for that significant increase in your ROE
19	capital on terms, it hasn't been a	19	knowing that there was going to be in excess
20	particular problem for you.	20	of 20 percent increase in customer rates by
21	MR. MURRAY:	21	July 1, 2025, how did you, as President and
22	A. Not to my knowledge, but Ms. London can	22	CEO, satisfy yourself that it was reasonable
23		23	to do that?
	speak to it in a little more detail.		MR. MURRAY:
24	GREENE, KC:	24	
25	Q. Yes, and we will be asking Ms. London more	25	A. You know, as I indicated earlier, the

June 1	14, 2024		NP GRA 2025-2026
	Page 141		Page 143
1	recommendation on the return on equity comes	1	upon the consultant to do that analysis of
2	from Concentric advisors. I mean, they look	2	the risk of the other utilities in Canada to
3	at what Newfoundland Power's risk is	3	provide us with that view point.
4	compared to similar utilities and based on	4	GREENE, KC:
5	the fair return standard, what a fair return	5	Q. To your knowledge has any other Canadian
6	is for Newfoundland Power and that is where	6	utility considered above average risk?
7	the recommendation comes from.	7	MR. MURRAY:
8	GREENE, KC:	8	A. I don't know the answer to that question.
9	Q. Yes, and that is a recommendation of your	9	GREENE, KC:
10	consultant and you are deferring to the	10	Q. But you believe that you are riskier than
11	consultant and what I guess I'm suggesting	11	average, an average utility, you as a
12	is isn't there a role here for the executive	12	primarily a transmission and distribution
13	at Newfoundland Power knowing that that	13	utility?
14	recommendation of 9.85 and 45 percent would	14	MR. MURRAY:
15	put you at the highest ROE, common equity,	15	A. That's correct, yes.
16	pretty much in Canada for an electrical	16	GREENE, KC:
17	utility, that you feel reasonable and	17	Q. With respect to that increase of 9.85, you
18	comfortable in coming forward with it and	18	also know that it's most unlikely the Board
19	saying, oh, that's the consultant?	19	will accept 9.85, don't you?
20	MR. MURRAY:	20	MR. MURRAY:
21	A. We take the recommendation of consultant, I	21	A. Well I guess that's to be determined.
22	mean, we're not cost, coming out of cost of	22	GREENE, KC:
23	capital expert and based on the	23	Q. Well if we look at history as some indicator
24	recommendation and the fair return standard,	24	of the future, when Concentric also
25	that is the recommendation for a fair return	25	recommended significantly higher ROEs than
	Page 142		Page 144
1	for Newfoundland Power.	1	were approved by the Board and in fact we'll
2	GREENE, KC:	2	look at his evidence, it might be that he's
3	Q. Part of that is based on the risk that	3	also recommended that another jurisdiction
4	Newfoundland Power has, is that correct?	4	and it hasn't been accepted, so given that,
5	MR. MURRAY:	5	I come back to your total reliance on an
6	A. Yes, that's correct.	6	advisor whose recommendations have not been
7	GREENE, KC:	7	accepted by this Board when they last
8	Q. Korn Ferry, sorry, Concentric have indicated	8	reviewed it in a contested hearing in 2016
9	that they believe that you were above	9	and also when Newfoundland Power accepted a
10	average business risk, is that correct?	10	lower rate of return than recommended by its
11	MR. MURRAY:	11	consultant in a settlement agreement of the
12	A. Yes, that's correct.	12	last two GRAs.
13	GREENE, KC:	13	MR. MURRAY:
14	Q. Do you have any view on that, I mean, you're	14	A. Yeah, well I guess we're asking the Board to
15	familiar with the other electrical utilities	15	evaluate it now, given the circumstances in
16	in Canada, you must have some personal view	16	2024, you know, back in 2016, you know,
17	as to how your operations compare to others.	17	returns were declining across Canada.
18	MR. MURRAY:	18	Currently returns are increasing and, you
19	A. You know, I know a bit, I guess, but I mean,	19	know, we're asking the Board to evaluate
20	Korn Ferry did a more of a detailed	20	what is a fair return for Newfoundland
21	assessment of the risk compared to other	21	Power.
22	utilities. You know, I personally, we did	22	GREENE, KC:
23	not do an evaluation of the risk of all the	23	Q. Yes, I was just going back to the
24	other utilities in terms of their mechanisms	24	reasonableness of total reliance on a
25	and everything else, so you know, we do rely	25	consultant whose recommendations have not

June 1	4, 2024		NP GRA 2025-2026
l .	Page 145		Page 147
1	been accepted in the past and whether, as	1	A. That's correct, yes.
2	CEO, you would have some personal view as to	2	GREENE, KC:
3	what the appropriate profit level is to seek		Q. And will Ms. London speak to any increase in
4	4 from customers at this point in time, as		specific operating cost or is it all Mr.
5	5 they're looking at the 20 percent increase,		Chubbs?
6	more than a 20 percent increase.	5 6	MR. MURRAY:
7	<u> </u>		Q. Mr. Chubbs to my knowledge.
8	A. You know, we're relying on our cost of	7 8	(12:15 p.m.)
9	capital expert's recommendation.	9	GREENE, KC:
10	GREENE, KC:	10	Q. I wanted to turn now to the capital plan and
11	Q. I wanted to go back for a moment, I'm	11	if we could bring up PUB-NP-045. And here,
12	turning to some other topics, I wanted to go	12	if you go back up, scroll up to the question
13	back to NLH-NP-011.	13	please? This was with respect to your
1			critical areas of focus for the next five
14	MR. MURRAY:	14	
15	A. Okay.	15	years and I did want to ask you what you
16	GREENE, KC:	16	will see as the priorities for the next five
17	Q. Okay? And when we talked about this before,	17	years from a capital perspective and then I
18	you had, we talked about how the trend in	18	wanted to ask a little bit about a longer-
19	operating costs per customer had declined,	19	term perspective. So what does Newfoundland
20	but now we see an increase. You mentioned	20	Power see as the primary focus or priorities
21	that inflation is the primary reason, I	21	for the next five years in their capital
22	think, for the drive in the operating costs,	22	planning and why?
23	is that correct?	23	MR. MURRAY:
24	MR. MURRAY:	24	A. You know, as I mentioned yesterday, a lot of
25	A. That's correct, yes.	25	our assets were built in the '60s and '70s.
	Page 146		Page 148
1	GREENE, KC:	1	They are reaching end of their life in
2	Q. I wanted to point out that that figure it is	2	aging, you know, if you look at, you know,
3	inflation adjusted if you wanted to read	3	if you look at our poles, over 13 percent of
4	through it. So even with inflation	4	our poles are currently beyond their useful
5	adjusted, the trend is up, definitely up.	5	life and over the next, you know, decade, we
6	MR. MURRAY:	6	see another 13 percent that will be, exceed
7	A. Yes, that's correct.	7	their useful life. Similarly with
8	GREENE, KC:	8	substations, over 35 percent of our power
9	Q. So inflation, it is exceeding, even with	9	transformers have exceeded their useful
10	inflation adjusted based on inflation, we	10	life. So, you know, we do have a lot of
11	·	11	
1	still see the trend up.		equipment that is nearing the end of its
12	MR. MURRAY:	12	life and we have seen that in the last
13	A. Yes, as I indicated, you know, 75 percent of		number of capital budget, and it continues
14	the non-labour cost is being driven by, you	14	that more and more of our budget is to
15	know, three areas that are much higher than	15	replacement of aging assets, to continue to
16	inflation which is the insurance cost,	16	maintain reliability to customers. So the
17	software, cyber security and other company	17	biggest driver would be largely around asset
18	fees, those are the main drivers of the non-	18	replacement. You know, another driver would
19	labour component.	19	be some things in the near term in the '25,
20	GREENE, KC:	20	'26 timeframe. We're proposing to, our
21	Q. And of those three main components, is Mr.	21	asset management system which we use to
22	Chubbs the witness who will testify to	22	manage a lot of these assets is coming to
23	specific increases in each of those	23	the end of its life, so we will be replacing
24	categories?	24	that asset management system. You know,
25	MR. MURRAY:	25	those are the key drivers, I would say, in
			• • •

NP GRA 2025-2026 June 14, 2024 Page 149 Page 151 GREENE, KC: terms of the next couple of years in terms 1 1 2 of our focus on capital. 2 O. And in the longer term what is Newfoundland 3 GREENE, KC: 3 Power doing to prepare for these possible impacts on your infrastructure? 4 Are there any capital plans in there for any 4 5 electrification initiatives? 5 MR. MURRAY: 6 MR. MURRAY: 6 We've been looking at the impacts on our Α. 7 Mr. Chubbs would be the best one to answer 7 secondary wire and, you know, pole mounted A. 8 that. I believe there may be a small amount 8 transformers. With our GIS system and our 9 9 for some upgrades, but I don't think it ismetering system now, we're able to see parts 10 so Mr. Chubbs would be the best to answer 10 of the system that may be getting overloaded and we can continue to monitor that so we 11 it. 11 12 **GREENE, KC:** 12 can address it in a timely manner. So, you 13 We hear a lot in the news today about the 13 know, we are looking into that now and it 14 pressures for all of Canada and all of the 14 will evolve as time goes on. 15 grid with respect to the greening initiative 15 **GREENE, KC:** 16 and with respect to electrification 16 Q. But there's no specific--capital spending in the five year plan and you are continuing to 17 initiatives and what it means, so how is 17 18 Newfoundland Power preparing for that and 18 look at it for the longer term implications, is that how I understand your answer? 19 taking it into account. One question was is 19 there anything in the five-year capital plan 20 20 MR. MURRAY: 21 or my next one was going to be how do you 21 No, there is some in the five-year plan. I 22 see then unfolding for the future and what 22 can't specifically say how much. I don't implications, if any, would it have for your think it's significant, but Mr. Chubbs can 23 23 24 capital first, and then operating? 24 answer that question. 25 MR. MURRAY: 25 GREENE, KC: Page 150 Page 152 1 A. Yes, so Mr. Chubbs can get into the detail 1 Q. All right, thank you, Mr. Murray, that 2 on that if you ask him, but high level, I concludes all my questions. 2 3 would say that in the near term we will see 3 MR. MURRAY: 4 growth, growth from electrification would 4 A. Thank you. 5 5 mainly be on our secondary side of the MS. GLYNN: 6 system, so that would mainly be on the Back to the Commissioners if they have any 6 O. 7 secondary wire pole mounted transformers, 7 questions. 8 those types of things, that we would have to 8 COMMISSIONER NEWMAN: 9 replace and as I mentioned yesterday, like a No questions. 9 O. 10 pole mounted transformer we have seen as 10 COMMISSIONER O'BRIEN: 11 increased by nearly 60 percent in recent No questions. 11 Ο. times, so you know, those are the types of CHAIR: 12 12 things that would be driving pressure here. 13 13 Q. I've got one I'd like to touch on. Could we 14 And it would also be on, you know, some load 14 go back to, I think it's PUB-32, attachment 15 growth resulting from that electrification 15 A and the 2024 compensation targets. 16 initiative. I don't think it would be in 16 MR. O'BRIEN:

> 19 O. That table there is fine. Just noticing a 20 couple of items, reliability and I was 21 looking at the stretch targets and the

Which page, Mr. Chair?

22 maximum targets and so there's incentives to 23 exceed, continue to improve SAIDI, so SAIDI,

24 I think explains that SAIDI currently is

25 very good compared to Canadian average, is

17

18

Ο.

CHAIR:

the short term, but in the longer term it

power transformers, requiring the larger

power transformers and upgrades to the

distribution lines to prevent the lines from

being overloaded as well. But, you know,

that would be more, I would think, into the

latter part of this than the nearer part.

would be on our power transformers, it would

have an impact on, you know, overloading our

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June 1	June 14, 2024 NP GRA 2025-2026					
	Page 153		Page 155			
1	that fair?	1	year average is about 2.6, 2.7. There's			
2	MR. MURRAY:	2	variability, but the variability is largely			
3	A. That's correct, it's about 40 percent below	3	related to storms. You know, if we have a			
4	in our comparator group within CEA.	4	good weather year, then we could be a little			
5	1 5 1		bit below the 2.6. If we have a bad weather			
6	Q. And so there's an incentive and these	6	year, you know, there was a few years we			
7	incentives were stretched and maximum can be	7	missed it, we're above the target. So it's			
8	paid for by consumers because they're non-	8	more—weather is probably a bigger factor in			
9	regulated costs, but there's incentives to	9	it than that and, you know, our focus on			
10	further improve SAIDI beyond what the target	10	capital is maintaining the appropriate			
11	would be going forward, and also just those	11	amount of capital to maintain our current			
12	customer operating costs there's also	12	levels of reliability and service to			
13	stretched targets for further improvements	13	customers. And I think with our reliability			
14	there as well, controllable operating costs	14	at that 2.6, 2.7 over ten year shows that			
15	per customer. So here's my struggle, the	15	the level of investment we're doing is			
16	savings, you can reduce operating costs,	16	helping to maintain it, it's not improving			
17	based on my understanding, and improve SAIDI	17	it.			
18	by making additional capital investments	18	CHAIR:			
19	because you can reduce your operating costs	19	Q. Yeah, I recognize it may not be declining			
20	if you make your system stronger, buy newer	20	currently, and it seems to be stabilized,			
21	capital, right, that's the way I kind of	21	but if the stretched targets for the senior			
22	look at it, that's one way of reducing	22	management—and those stay the same year over			
23	operating costs. If you've got high	23	year, is always an improvement, I just want—			
24	operating costs and some areas making	24	and similarly with the controllable			
25	capital investments could be the right thing	25	operating costs, and I believe I noticed			
	Page 154		Page 156			
1	to do, could be the least cost way as well,	1	there is also, I think there was in, when we			
2	right. So you can reduce operating cost to	2	were looking at yours, it was enhanced			
3	investment in capital and you can improve	3	reliability would be one of your targets as			
4	SAIDI through investments in capital. So it	4	well, so there's incentive to exceed targets			
5	appears that there's an incentive to spend	5	as well. I just want to, it seems like all			
6	more on capital because you can—for the	6	of those things are targeted towards			
7	senior management because they can get	7	improved reliability based on the stretch in			
8	increased STI benefits, so I'm just	8	maximum payouts. There doesn't appear to be			
9	struggling with where's the incentive to	9	any kind of an incentive to manage capital			
10	manage capital costs?	10	investment within your targets for the			
11	MR. MURRAY:	11	executives. How does that fit into your			
12	A. So on the reliability, you know, I would say	12	targets for your executive?			
13	we're not incented to improve reliability.	13	MR. MURRAY:			
14	Our targets are set to maintain reliability	14	A. Well, you know, managing capital is a tough			
15	and, you know, in the calendar year, you	15	one to have a target on in the sense that,			
16	know, you can't really make any investments	16	you know, we propose the capital that is			
17	in the particular calendar year that will	17	required and it can be variable from year to			
18	have an impact of these results, I would	18	year, so, you know, if we have a large			
19	say, so investments that you're making in	19	project, say, that we have to upgrade a			
20	SAIDI would probably improve it—or capital,	20	hydro plant that has a—which can be bumpy,			
21	may have an impact on SAIDI down the road,	21	you know, you can have a normal capital			
22	but our experience has been that the	22	spending and then if you have a 15 million			
23	investments we are making is maintaining	23	dollar expenditure, a 20 million dollar			
24	reliability essentially at the level that	24	expenditure because of size of one or two			
25	it's at. Like I said, our five-year, ten-	25	single projects, it can drive your capital			

Page 159 up. I mean, we only propose projects that 1 Q. Nothing arising. 1 2 are required to maintain service to 2 GREENE, KC: customers, connect new customers, maintain 3 3 Nothing arising. Q. 4 reliability. You know, we don't propose any 4 MS. GLYNN: 5 capital that is in excess of what we view is 5 So we are done with Mr. Murray. We will Q. 6 that, so target capital is a hard one to 6 start with Ms. London, so I wonder if we 7 have an incentive on. If you look across 7 should take a five-minute break. 8 utilities across Canada, I'm not familiar 8 CHAIR: 9 9 with any of them that have incentives on O. Sure, we'll take a five-minute break. 10 capital for that reason. 10 (BREAK - 12:28 p.m.)11 CHAIR: 11 (RESUME - 12:36 p.m.)12 Q. Okay, I was thinking maybe it was a way of 12 CHAIRMAN: looking at capital costs per customer as So, there's no preliminary matters? 13 13 14 some form of long-term inflation adjusted 14 MS. GLYNN: 15 average or something. It just seems like it 15 No. there isn't. O. may be able to provide more of a balance 16 16 CHAIRMAN: rather than just an incentive focused solely 17 17 So, just over to Mr. O'Brien. 18 on operating and improved reliability, but 18 MS. GLYNN: 19 it would also be considering the capital 19 You have to swear or affirm. O. side because the capital side also drives **CHAIRMAN:** 20 20 21 costs too and it just doesn't seem to be 21 Oh, sorry. 22 reflected in the targets. 22 MR. O'BRIEN: 23 MR. MURRAY: 23 She's going to be affirmed. 24 24 MS. PAIGE LONDON, AFFIRMED A. Yeah, and the control and operating costs 25 per customer, I mean, is driven at—that does 25 CHAIRMAN: Page 160 Page 158 1 have a benefit to customers. I mean, if we 1 Q. Back to you, Mr. O'Brien. 2 2 MR. O'BRIEN: lower our operating cost per customer, then 3 that would be into our forecast going 3 Okay. Ms. London, will you please introduce 4 forward which will have a lower cost next 4 yourself to the Board, please? 5 5 year. So that one directly benefits MS. LONDON: 6 customers by having a lower operating cost 6 Good afternoon. I'm Paige London. I'm the A. 7 per customer. 7 Vice-President of Finance and Chief 8 CHAIR: 8 Financial Officer at Newfoundland Power and 9 I acknowledge that, but if it is achieved 9 I've been in this role since 2017. O. 10 through increased capital investment that 10 MR. O'BRIEN: you can reduce operating costs and you can, 11 Do you adopt Sections 3 and 4, Finance Rate 11 that may be a longer term effect, but it can Base and Revenue Requirements, as your 12 12 be partly offset. All right then, thanks 13 13 testimony? 14 for that. MS. LONDON: 14 MS. GLYNN: 15 15 A. Yes. 16 So now we go to whether there's any 16 MR. O'BRIEN: O. questions from the parties based on the 17 17 Are there any changes that you wish to make 18 Board's questions. 18 to the pre-filed testimony and exhibits at 19 MR. O'BRIEN: 19 this time? 20 I don't have any re-direct at this point and 20 MS. LONDON: 21 21 I don't have any questions arising from the A. No, there are not. 22 Chair's questions. 22 MR. O'BRIEN: MS. GLYNN: 23 23 Ms. London, can you comment on the company's 24 O. Dennis? 24 financial performance since the last rate 25 FITZGERALD, KC: 25 application?

Page 161 Page 163 MS. LONDON: MR. O'BRIEN: 1 1 2 Newfoundland Power's financial performance 2 What does Newfoundland Power propose as a O. has been relatively stable since 2021 and we 3 3 capital structure and return on equity for have maintained our financial integrity 4 4 2025 and 2026? 5 5 through 2023. Since our last rate MS. LONDON: 6 application, a number of global factors have 6 Based on the expert opinion of Concentric, Α. Newfoundland Power is proposing the 7 impacted the company that were not 7 8 continuation of our longstanding capital anticipated at that time. These include 8 9 significant increases in interest rates, 9 structure of 45 percent common equity and an 10 inflation at levels not experienced in a 10 increase in the return on equity to 9.85 number of decades, and provincial population percent. These proposals are consistent 11 11 12 growth, mainly due to immigration. Each of 12 with the fair return standard. 13 these factors impacted our financial 13 MR. O'BRIEN: performance in 2023. In addition, last 14 14 O. Well, let's deal with the capital structure. year, Newfoundland Power incurred additional 15 15 Why is 45 percent structure, a capital power supply costs from Hydro of almost 30 structure for Newfoundland Power important? 16 16 17 million dollars. This was due to the 17 MS. LONDON: combination of the current wholesale rate 18 18 Newfoundland Power's 45 percent capital structure is a key financial strength of the 19 and higher than anticipated electricity 19 20 sales. These costs will be collected from 20 company. It has been the cornerstone of our 21 customers as part of the July 1st rate 21 financial integrity for over 25 years and it 22 22 has contributed to access to capital markets stabilization adjustment. Due to the magnitude of these costs and the regulatory at reasonable cost in all market conditions. 23 23 24 lag in recovery, the company's cash flows in 24 Our capital structure was originally 25 the short term have weakened. 25 determined by the Board as necessary in Page 164 Page 162 1 MR. O'BRIEN: 1 support of this company's small size and low 2 2 growth potential and it has been reviewed Q. What is the forecast financial performance 3 from 2024 through 2026? 3 numerous times and has consistently been 4 MS. LONDON: 4 accepted by the Board as appropriate. Our 5 5 For 2024, we have a forecast revenue capital structure is also recognized as a A. 6 shortfall and as part of our rate of return 6 key credit strength by both Moody's and 7 on rate base application, we have proposed 7 DBRS, which are the independent credit 8 an increase in revenue requirement of 11.8 8 rating agencies, in their credit assessments 9 9 for Newfoundland Power. million dollars. This cost recovery is 10 required for Newfoundland Power to have an 10 MR. O'BRIEN: 11 opportunity to earn a fair return this year. 11 Have there been any change in the company's Looking forward at 2025 and 2026, without 12 business risks since the last rate 12 the proposals in our general rate application that would impact the capital 13 13 application, Newfoundland Power's financial 14 14 structure? integrity will deteriorate over this period. 15 15 MS. LONDON: 16 MR. O'BRIEN: 16 The company's business risk remain largely A. 17 consistent with those described in our last 17 So, what other matters do you intend to Q. 18 address today? 18 rate application. Those risks include the 19 MS. LONDON: 19 company's small size, surface territory 20 I would like to focus on a key issue in this 20 demographics and harsh operating 21 application, which is Newfoundland Power's 21 environment. The province's economy outlook 22 cost of capital. This issue has two main 22 remains weak in comparison to the rest of 23 components, capital structure and return on 23 Canada and the Muskrat Falls Project equity. I would also like to address the 24 24 continues to pose a challenge for our recommendations of Dr. Booth. 25 25 customers and is a risk to the company.

june l	14, 2024		NP GRA 2025-2026
	Page 165		Page 167
1	MR. O'BRIEN:	1	Falls Project cost and these costs will put
2	Q. Can you elaborate on that, Ms. London?	2	further pressure on customer rates in the
3	MS. LONDON:	3	future.
4	A. The economic outlook for the province can be	4	MR. O'BRIEN:
5	seen through key indicators, such as	5	Q. And why do these risks matter to
6	employment, housing starts and household	6	Newfoundland Power?
7	disposable income, and each of these	7	MS. LONDON:
8	indicators is forecast to lag behind the	8	A. These factors affect the company's business
9	rest of Canada in the medium term.	9	risk. Maintaining the current capital
10	MR. O'BRIEN:	10	structure is appropriate to provide the
11	Q. So, Mr. Murray also spoke about the risks	11	continued financial flexibility to respond
12	associated with Muskrat Falls. How do these	12	to all of these risks.
13	risks affect Newfoundland Power and its	13	MR. O'BRIEN:
14	customers?	14	Q. Well, let's discuss the return on equity.
15	MS. LONDON:	15	Do you have any comments on that?
16	A. The Muskrat Falls Project affects both the	16	MS. LONDON:
17	cost and reliability of service provided to	17	
18	Newfoundland Power's customers. The cost of	18	A. A fair return and appropriate capital structure go hand in hand. Together, they
		19	
19	Muskrat Falls is substantial. It represents almost four times the combined book value of	20	affect the company's financial performance
20 21		20	and help us maintain our financial
	the current utility investment of	21	integrity. Since our last rate application,
22	Newfoundland Power and Hydro. As part of	23	approved returns for investor-owned
23	the Provincial Rate Mitigation Plan, customer rates will increase by 2.25 percent	23 24	utilities across Canada have increased and
24			Concentric will speak to that in their
25	each year, beginning on July 1st this year	25	evidence. Newfoundland Power's financial
	Page 166		Page 168
1	until and including 2030. While this	1	performance has allowed us to maintain
2	provides certainty on customer rate impacts	2	credit metrics that support investment grade
3	in the near term, we don't know what will	3	credit ratings. This enables access to
4	happen beyond 2030. Further, this total	4	financing necessary to serve our customers
5	15.75 percent increase in customer rates	5	at least cost.
6	related to Muskrat Falls will not recover	6	(12:45 p.m.)
/	any additional spending required to address	7	MR. O'BRIEN:
8	reliability concerns. Customers will	8	Q. So, why is it important to maintain
9	experience sustained upward pressure on	9	Newfoundland Power's credit metrics or
10	electricity cost going forward.	10	rating, sorry?
11	MR. O'BRIEN:	11	MS. LONDON:
12	Q. What about the reliability risks associated	12	A. Newfoundland Power has investment credit –
13	with Muskrat Falls?	13	investment grade credit ratings from two
14	MS. LONDON:	14	credit rating agencies and this is important
15	A. Reliability of supply from Muskrat Falls	15	because it provides access to capital
16	affects Newfoundland Power's business risk	16	markets in all market conditions. An
17	from two perspectives. First, an outage to	17	investment grade credit rating also reduces
18	the Labrador Island Link during the winter	18	the cost of financing the investments in the
19	could pose serious supply risk for our	19	electrical system, which helps keep costs
20	customers. In this situation, Newfoundland	20	low for customers.
21	Power could incur additional cost to serve	21	MR. O'BRIEN:
22	customers with available electricity supply.	22	Q. And what factors are considered by the
23	And second, the cost of backup generation	23	rating agencies in assessing the credit
24	and other reliability investments are in	24	worthiness of Newfoundland Power?
25	addition to the 13.5-billion-dollar Muskrat	25	MS. LONDON:

Page 169 A. Each rating agency applies its own unique 1 2 methodology in its rating assessment for Newfoundland Power. Both rating agencies 3 4 consider quantitative and qualitative 5 factors in their assessments. Quantitative 6 factors are the credit metrics. These are 7 the calculations of cash flow coverage and 8 interest coverage metrics. Credit metrics 9 are a measure of the company's ability to 10 pay its long-term debt obligations and interest. While credit metrics are 11 12 important, they account for no more than 13 half of the credit assessments completed by 13 14 the rating agencies. The assessments of 14 15 rating agencies are informed in a large part 15 16 by qualitative factors. These include the overall regulatory framework, the 17 17 18 consistency and predictability of regulation 18 19 19 and the ability to recover cost and earn returns. Ultimately, a supportive 20 20 21 regulatory framework contributes to stable 21 22 22 cash flow and earnings underpinned by a fair 23 23 return and full and timely recovery of 24 24 costs. 25 MR. O'BRIEN: 25 Page 170

Page 171 1 the rating agencies look at. Are there any 2 other credit metrics that Newfoundland Power 3 monitors? 4

MS. LONDON:

5 Yes. The earnings test for our first 6 mortgage bonds is also an important credit 7 metric. The trust deed requires an interest 8 coverage of two times or higher for the 9 company to issue additional bonds. Under 10 existing customer rates, the company would have limited flexibility to issue first 11 12 mortgage bonds by 2026.

MR. O'BRIEN:

O. And what practical effect would this have on Newfoundland Power and its customers?

16 MS. LONDON:

Newfoundland Power would have to seek other financing if we were unable to issue first mortgage bonds. This would result in higher costs for our customers. If other financing was not available, the company may be unable to fulfil its obligation to serve customers.

BROWNE, KC:

Q. I just have an objection here. This seems just too staged to be permissible in an

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Q. How are these factors applied in assessing Newfoundland Power's credit rating? MS. LONDON:

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Q.

3 4 Both rating agencies have made it clear that A. 5 Newfoundland Power's 45 percent common 6 equity ratio is a key financial strength of 7 the company. It is viewed as a primary 8 indicator of overall regulatory support. 9 The rating agencies routinely review the 10 results of general rate applications in completing their assessments. As a result, 11 the Board's decisions play a critical role 12 in their assessments of the credit 13 worthiness of Newfoundland Power. This 14 15 importance was recently reiterated by 16 Moody's in its April 2024 credit opinion. Moody's states, "the stable outlook reflects 17 18 our expectation that the company will 19 continue to recover its costs and earn its 20 allowed returns in the timely fashion and 21 that the current rate pressure it is 22 experiencing will not result in any decline 23 in regulatory or political support". 24 MR. O'BRIEN:

So, you mention certain credit metrics that

Page 172 administrative tribunal. We have the examiner asking pre-staged questions, reading pre-staged answers. We don't know how the answers got to where it have. Has there been a meeting at Newfoundland Power to say, "these are our answers and this is the way you would read them"? She indicates, the witness indicates she's about to make comments about Dr. Booth. So, are all these pre-staged, preplanned? I know that sometimes a witness can have an opening statement, but this seems just too contrived. I'd just ask for the explanation of Newfoundland Power on why they're going about things this way.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Mr. Chair, this is not an adversarial Q. hearing. I mean, most of the information before the Board is on the record already. In terms of giving a statement, there's any number of ways to give a statement, whether it's put forth in terms of a question and answer or read off a statement. At this stage, it's only to give a summary of the witness's area in which she's going to

Page 173 Page 175 testify. In fact, the expert opinion of Dr. questions. 1 1 2 Booth is a question-and-answer expert 2 CHAIR: 3 3 opinion. I don't think there's any magic to Q. Yeah. I'm fine with the approach thus far. 4 this. This is not a memory test or a 4 I think the Board will evaluate the 5 credibility test at this stage. Mr. Browne 5 witness's comments based on the witness's 6 will have his ample time to cross-examine 6 level of expertise and Dr. Booth's comments 7 the witness and Ms. London will be finished 7 based on his level of expertise and Mr. 8 in a few minutes. I mean, this is the 8 Coyne's comments based on their level of 9 9 process that's been followed by the Board expertise. So, and certainly there'll be an 10 for the last number of years. I mean, I 10 opportunity to challenge the comments and can't remember it not following this type of challenge the level of expertise. So, I 11 11 12 process or anyone having an issue with it. 12 think we're fine for now. So, I think we should just proceed. 13 CHAIR: 13 14 O. Yeah, I acknowledge the opening statement, 14 BROWNE, KC: 15 which is effectively re-stating most of the 15 Q. Okay. My objection stands, for the record, RFI responses and the pre-filed evidence is 16 16 as to the way this is unfolding. normal practice before the Board. I'm sure, 17 17 CHAIR: 18 Mr. Browne, if there's opinions that the 18 Q. Okay, thank you. 19 witness presents on Dr. Booth, you'll 19 BROWNE, KC: certainly have an opportunity to address 20 20 I'll just leave it at that and respect your 21 them, but I don't – haven't seen any new 21 ruling, Mr. Chair. 22 CHAIR: evidence being introduced in the opening 22 23 statement, so I'm not really concerned at 23 We can proceed. Q. 24 24 MR. O'BRIEN: this stage. 25 BROWNE, KC: 25 O. Thank you. And I believe my last question Page 174 Page 176 1 Q. That's fair, but maybe the opening statement 1 for you, Ms. London, was you'd stated 2 or the opening – these questions and answer 2 earlier you wanted to address the impact of 3 sessions that we're now having, all 3 the recommendations by the Consumer 4 preplanned and prepared, that's fine, but 4 Advocate's expert, Dr. Booth. What are 5 5 maybe the witness should state who was – who those recommendations? 6 else has been available to help formulate 6 MS. LONDON: 7 7 these answers before they come to this Dr. Booth has recommended a reduction in the 8 8 capital structure from 45 percent to 40 process because it'll be interesting -- from 9 9 percent common equity and a return on equity Newfoundland Power's perspective I guess 10 it's all good, but now they're going to get 10 of 7.7 percent. 11 into expert evidence of Dr. Booth and I just 11 MR. O'BRIEN: 12 wonder if these statements are coming from 12 Do these recommendations cause you any 13 Concentric and how Concentric is – just it 13 concern? 14 seems it requires some explanation from the 14 MS. LONDON: 15 witness as to how – whose statements she is 15 Yes, they raise serious concerns for me. 16 reading. Are they hers or are they jointly 16 Dr. Booth's recommendations include a 17 from a committee? We have a right to know 17 reduction in our longstanding capital 18 at least that. 18 structure at a time when the company's 19 19 MR. O'BRIEN: business risks are significant and a 20 I think Mr. Browne can ask the witness where 20 decrease in the company's return on equity 21 21 at a time when approved return on equities her comments have come from. If there's 22 solicitor-client privilege associated with 22 for investor-owned utilities across Canada 23 it, that's one thing. Otherwise, if it's a 23 have increased. Newfoundland Power's return 24 comment made after discussion in-house, she 24 on equity is already the lowest in the 25 can make that comment. She can answer his 25 country.

Page 177 Page 179 MR. O'BRIEN: 1 continuation of regulatory orders that 1 2 And what are the practical effects of Dr. 2 enable timely cost recovery and support a 0. Booth's recommendations? 3 3 fair return will be critical to maintaining 4 MS. LONDON: 4 our financial integrity in the future. 5 In order to reduce the company's capital 5 MR. O'BRIEN: structure to 40 percent, a common share 6 6 Now, Ms. London, before we conclude, I O. 7 dividend of approximately 80 million dollars 7 understand you'd like to make some comments 8 would have to be paid. You can't simply pay 8 on the framework for a new wholesale 9 electricity rate. Can you tell us about a common equity investor a preferred equity 9 10 return, as Dr. Booth suggests. That would 10 that framework? not be a fair return. So, the 80 million MS. LONDON: 11 11 12 dollars would have to be borrowed and paid 12 Α. Newfoundland Power and Hydro have agreed to 13 out in order to reduce the capital structure 13 file applications proposing a revision to the wholesale rate effective January 1st, 14 to 40 percent. Cash flows would be reduced 14 15 due to the lower equity ratio and lower 15 2025 to reflect current marginal energy return and debt obligations would increase. 16 16 costs. With the commissioning of the 17 As a result, Newfoundland Power's credit 17 Labrador Island Link last year, the marginal metrics would decrease and financial risk 18 18 costs are now based on energy exports. It 19 would increase. 19 is important that the wholesale electricity 20 MR. O'BRIEN: 20 rate reflect this change. As outlined in 21 And what are the potential consequences of 21 the framework, the revised wholesale rate 22 22 this, Ms. London? would continue to be based on Hydro's 2019 MS. LONDON: 23 test year revenue requirement with no 23 24 24 overall change. As such, there would be no As CFO, I believe Dr. Booth's recommendation A. 25 jeopardizes Newfoundland Power's existing 25 customer rate impact associated with Hydro's Page 180 Page 178 1 credit ratings. In addition to the weaker 1 application. 2 credit metrics, the rating agencies would 2 MR. O'BRIEN: 3 re-evaluate the level of regulatory support, 3 How does this framework impact Newfoundland 4 a key qualitative consideration. This would 4 Power's 2025-2026 GRA? 5 5 likely lead to a downgrade in the company's MS. LONDON: 6 credit ratings. This would result in higher 6 There is no impact on Newfoundland Power's Α. 7 financing costs which are passed onto 7 proposed 2025 and 2026 revenue requirement. 8 customers. Additionally, with a 40 percent 8 As Mr. Murray described yesterday, we did 9 9 capital structure and 7.7 percent return on not rebase power supply costs in our rate 10 equity, the company would have limited 10 application. The parties to the settlement flexibility to issue first mortgage bonds by 11 agreement, Newfoundland Power, Hydro and the 11 2026, and as I said before, this would 12 Consumer Advocate, agreed that the Board 12 result in higher costs for customers. should order Newfoundland Power to rebase 13 13 14 Overall, these proposals would not be 14 its power supply cost as part of our flow-15 consistent with the fair return standard and 15 through application associated with the new 16 the company's financial integrity would 16 wholesale rate. This will ensure that power 17 17 supply costs rebased for the company's 2025 deteriorate. 18 MR. O'BRIEN: 18 and 2026 revenue requirements will be based 19 O. Is there anything else you'd like to add? 19 on the actual wholesale rate in place for 20 MS. LONDON: 20 those years. 21 To date, Newfoundland Power has been a 21 MR. O'BRIEN: A. 22 financially stable company. We are focused 22 Q. Okay. So, there's no impact on customer 23 on maintaining our financial integrity to 23 rates or revenue requirements as proposed in 24 ensure we can continue to deliver reliable 24 this application. What customer rate impact 25 service to our customers at least cost. The 25 can be anticipated as a result of the

Page 181 Page 183 rebasing? 1 Yes, that's correct. 1 A. 2 MS. LONDON: 2 FITZGERALD, KC: 3 3 As set out in the framework, rebasing power And that Newfoundland Power has the lowest Q. 4 supply cost with a revised wholesale rate, 4 or among the lowest rates of return 5 effective January 1st, 2025, would result in 5 currently? 6 an estimated customer rate increase of 4.3 6 MS. LONDON: 7 percent on July 1st, 2025. This is 7 Yes. A. 8 substantially the same rate impact as 8 FITZGERALD, KC: 9 rebasing with the current wholesale rate 9 Okay. But when you say these returns are 10 effective July 1st, 2025. 10 increasing, is that really comparison to companies that have the same sort of 11 MR. O'BRIEN: 11 12 12 So, why is this important to revise the thickness in equity that Newfoundland Power wholesale rate now? 13 has? 13 MS. LONDON: 14 MS. LONDON: 14 15 For Newfoundland Power, this will reduce 15 Overall, as I said in my opening statement, Α. Α. cost of capital is impacted by both capital 16 cash flow volatility associated with power 16 structure and return on equity and I think 17 supply costs experienced in recent years. 17 18 More importantly, a new wholesale rate will 18 generally across Canada, in recent years, there have been increases in both capital 19 benefit customers through lower marginal 19 power supply costs. This will also reduce structure as well as return on equity. 20 20 21 volatility in July 1st customer rate changes 21 FITZGERALD, KC: 22 22 going forward. But could you give us a specific example of MR. O'BRIEN: a company in Canada with 40 – you know, 45 23 23 24 Can you expand on what this will look like 24 percent equity that's actually increasing Q. 25 in the near term? 25 their ROE? Page 184 Page 182 1 MS. LONDON: 1 MS. LONDON: 2 2 Yes. Rebasing with a revised wholesale rate A. One example would be Fortis BC Energy and A. 3 would mean a larger customer rate decrease 3 Fortis BC Energy has a 45 percent common 4 on July 1st 2026 in the range of four to five 4 equity ratio and Fortis BC Energy's return 5 5 percent. This may provide an opportunity to on equity was recently increased to 9.65 percent. 6 consider smoothing customer rate increases 6 7 over the 2025 and 2026 period. 7 FITZGERALD, KC: 8 8 And are they a comparable utility? (1:00 p.m.)Q. 9 MR. O'BRIEN: 9 MS. LONDON: 10 Thank you, Ms. London. That's the direct we 10 They're in the gas business, so wouldn't have. Turn the witness over. 11 have been selected as part of Concentric's 11 CHAIR: 12 12 peer group. FITZGERALD, KC: Yes, over to Mr. Browne. 13 13 Q. FITZGERALD, KC: 14 Right, okay. So, you know, at the rate of 14 Q. 15 return that Newfoundland Power is currently 15 Mr. Chairman, we'll start. Good afternoon, 16 Ms. Paige (sic.). 16 enjoying, the 8.5, is there any problem with MS. LONDON: 17 credit worthiness, credit rating agencies 17 18 Good afternoon. 18 downgrading Newfoundland Power because of 19 FITZGERALD, KC: 19 this, you know, the lowest – what you're 20 Just picking up on one of your comments just 20 suggesting is one of the lowest rates in from your presentation there, your answers. 21 21 Canada? Is that impacting on the credit 22 You indicated to the Board that approved 22 rating? 23 rates of return on equity in Canada are 23 MS. LONDON: 24 increasing. I think that's what you said. 24 Α. So, from a credit rating perspective to this 25 MS. LONDON: 25 point we've been able to demonstrate and

June 1	Tune 14, 2024 NP GRA 2025-2026				
	Page 185		Page 187		
1	maintain credit metrics that would be in	1	FITZGERALD, KC:		
2	supportive of our current credit ratings	2	Q. And sorry, that was in what year?		
3	with the current equity ratio and return on	3	MS. LONDON:		
4	equity, but that is only one component of	4 5	A. I graduated in 2000 from university and		
5			began working at Deloitte immediately upon		
6	necessarily include the comparability of	6	graduation.		
7	investments of similar risk.	7	FITZGERALD, KC:		
8	FITZGERALD, KC:	8	Q. Okay. And at some point in time, you joined		
9	Q. Just going back to some of your background.	9	Fortis?		
10	So, you've worked in the province for how	10	MS. LONDON:		
11	long?	11	A. Yes, that's correct.		
12	MS. LONDON:	12	FITZGERALD, KC:		
13	A. 24 years.	13	Q. And when was that?		
14	FITZGERALD, KC:	14	MS. LONDON:		
15	Q. 24 years. Are you a native of Newfoundland		A. That would have been in 2004.		
16	and Labrador?	16	FITZGERALD, KC:		
17	MS. LONDON:	17	Q. And then you moved to Newfoundland Power?		
18	A. Yes, I am.	18	MS. LONDON:		
19	FITZGERALD, KC:	19	A. Yes.		
20	Q. And you went to university here?	20	FITZGERALD, KC:		
21	MS. LONDON:	21	Q. And what year was that?		
22	A. Yes, I did.	22	MS. LONDON:		
23	FITZGERALD, KC:	23	A. 2017.		
24 25	Q. And you're a graduate of MUN? MS. LONDON:	24 25	FITZGERALD, KC: Q. So, you were – were you recruited by		
23		23			
,	Page 186	1	Page 188		
$\frac{1}{2}$	A. Yes. FITZGERALD, KC:	1	Newfoundland Power or was it an internal		
3		2 3	shift in your – how did that all happen? MS. LONDON:		
4	Q. What year would have that been? MS. LONDON:	4	A. At the time, the former CFO of Newfoundland		
5	A. 2000.	5	Power was taking on a different role. So,		
6	FITZGERALD, KC:	6	there was a job competition for that CFO		
7	Q. Okay. And where'd you go after that?	7	position that I participated in and		
8	Sorry, what was your degree in?	8	ultimately, I was the successful person for		
9	MS. LONDON:	9	that job.		
10	A. So, I have a Bachelor of Commerce and a	10	FITZGERALD, KC:		
11	Bachelor of Economics, both from Memorial		Q. And who was the previous CFO?		
12	University, and I'm also a chartered	12	MS. LONDON:		
13	professional accountant.	13	A. Jocelyn Perry.		
14	FITZGERALD, KC:	14	FITZGERALD, KC:		
15	Q. And when did you receive that designation?	15	Q. Right, okay. So, this was an active – you		
16	MS. LONDON:	16	weren't recruited per se. You just partook		
17	A. 2002.	17	in the job opening, if you will, you applied		
18	FITZGERALD, KC:	18	for the job?		
19	Q. And were you in private practice right away	19	MS. LONDON:		
20	or did you – where did you start work as a	20	A. Yes, that's right.		
21	CA?	21	FITZGERALD, KC:		
22	MS. LONDON:	22	Q. When you were with Fortis, did you have any		
23	A. When I graduated university, I started work	23	liaison or did you work at all on matters		
24	as an auditor at Deloitte and I worked there	24	touching on Newfoundland Power?		
25	while I obtained my CPA designation.	25	MS. LONDON:		

Page 189 A. Not directly, but Newfoundland Power is a 1 A. They would be aware that we would be filing 1 2 wholly owned subsidiary of Fortis. So, I 2 a rate application, but they would have no would have had some reporting back and 3 involvement in the preparation. 3 4 forth, but didn't work on anything specific 4 FITZGERALD, KC: 5 to Newfoundland Power while I was at Fortis. 5 Is Fortis consulted at any point by 6 FITZGERALD. KC: 6 Newfoundland Power regarding a GRA? 7 So, you weren't involved in giving any 7 MS. LONDON: 8 advice to Newfoundland Power regarding their 8 No, they're not. 9 finances while you were at Fortis? 9 FITZGERALD, KC: 10 MS. LONDON: 10 Q. So, the GRA itself, we've heard the evidence No. 11 that proposed average rate increase would -11 A. 12 12 FITZGERALD, KC: for 2025 is a 5.5 percent increase, correct? 13 MS. LONDON: 13 In respect to this GRA, is this the first 14 Newfoundland Power GRA in which you've been 14 A. Yes, it is. 15 involved? 15 FITZGERALD, KC: MS. LONDON: 16 16 Q. Right, and the – when the GRA was being 17 No. it's not. This would be the third rate 17 prepared, was there any concern or was there 18 application I've been through since I've 18 any sort of thought – I know Mr. Murray 19 been at Newfoundland Power. 19 referred to peripheral issues, but was the issue of rate design brought up? 20 FITZGERALD, KC: 20 21 And can you describe for the Board your role 21 MS. LONDON: 22 in the preparation of the GRA? 22 Α. Not specifically in relation to the GRA. We MS. LONDON: do have an ongoing rate design review and 23 23 24 that is not complete, so that's still in 24 In terms of preparing the GRA, I mean, we A. 25 would have a finance and regulatory team 25 progress. So, that was not contemplated to Page 190 Page 192 1 that would be compiling the forecast and 1 be included in this filing. 2 preparing the materials. My role would be 2 FITZGERALD, KC: 3 doing a review of the materials and 3 Okay. So, what about the – you may be Q. 4 obviously going through some of the 4 aware, but in the capital budget, recent 5 5 assumptions used and just the overall capital budget application, there has been 6 application generally would be my 6 references to Newfoundland Power and the 7 7 responsibility as CFO. issue of specifically assigned charges. Was 8 FITZGERALD, KC: 8 that – was there any contemplation of including that issue in this GRA? 9 And is Fortis either directly or indirectly 9 O. 10 involved in the preparation of the GRA? 10 MS. LONDON: Not that I'm aware, no. 11 MS. LONDON: 11 FITZGERALD, KC: 12 Fortis is not involved in preparing 12 Newfoundland Power's GRAs. 13 13 Okay. Would you be aware that the Board in Q. 14 FITZGERALD, KC: 14 past orders had suggested that perhaps a GRA 15 15 Do they provide any direction prior to the would be the appropriate forum to deal with 16 preparation of the GRA to Newfoundland 16 specifically assigned charges? Power? MS. LONDON: 17 17 18 MS. LONDON: 18 Generally, I think if there were proposed to A. 19 No, they don't. 19 be a change in such a matter, that would be 20 FITZGERALD, KC: 20 appropriate to be done as part of a rate 21 So, there's complete – there's no connection 21 application. Q. 22 whatsoever between Fortis and the 22 FITZGERALD, KC: 23 preparation of this GRA? They're unaware of 23 Q. But it wasn't in this case? 24 any of the preparation? 24 MS. LONDON: 25 MS. LONDON: 25 No, because we weren't making any proposals

June 1	4, 2024		NP GRA 2025-2026
	Page 193		Page 195
1	to change.	1	Exhibit 3 of the application, and I guess
2	FITZGERALD, KC:	2	there has been a revised one filed, so we
3	Q. Right. And that would include the Memorial	3	can go to that one. So here we have the
4	University specific charge, that issue	4	actual forecast of operating expenses going
5	that's come up in recent capital budgets,	5	forward to 2026, and can you explain the
6	that wasn't – there was no contemplation of	6	process followed in developing these
7	including that issue in this GRA either, I	7	forecasts?
8	take it?	8	MS. LONDON:
9	MS. LONDON:	9	A. Specifically for operating expenses?
10	A. That's correct.	10	FITZGERALD, KC:
11	FITZGERALD, KC:	11	Q. Yes, I'm sorry, yeah.
12	Q. And asset management, that was another issue	12	MS. LONDON:
13	that's been brought up in various hearings	13	Q. Okay.
14	before this Board. But in this case again,	14	MR. O'BRIEN:
15	asset management was not included in an	15	Q. Which page are you on there, Mr. Fitzgerald?
16	issue that Newfoundland Power thought should		FITZGERALD, KC:
17	be addressed in this GRA?	17	Q. Okay, so I'm looking now at the document you
18	MS. LONDON:	18	filed yesterday, Mr. O'Brien.
19	A. Not specifically. Asset management has been	19	MR. O'BRIEN:
20	discussed as part of our capital budget	20	Q. Yeah, and we're just trying to figure out so
21	applications, but that's not a specific	21	we get it on the screen for everybody.
22	component of our rate application.	22	MS. LONDON:
23	FITZGERALD, KC:	23	A. I think it's page 1 of 9.
24	Q. So, I understood from Mr. Murray this	24	MR. O'BRIEN:
25	morning that the key issue actually in this	25	Q. One of 9.
	Page 194		Page 196
1	GRA is really the return on equity. That's	1	FITZGERALD, KC:
2	sort of the main issue that Newfoundland	2	Q. That's correct.
3	Power is concerned with in this rate	3	MR. O'BRIEN:
4	application, correct?	4	Q. Okay. Here we go, okay.
5	MS. LONDON:	5	FITZGERALD, KC:
6	A. I wouldn't agree with that exactly.	6	Q. So the question being –
7	Newfoundland Power is concerned with	7	MS. LONDON:
8	recovery of all of our costs and a fair	8	A. So in terms of operating expenses and how we
9	return is one of them, but we have	9	forecast those, we typically look at our
10	additional costs associated with operating	10	most recent operating expense results and we
11	the business and financing our investments	l .	would adjust and forecast those for known
12	as well. So, a key outcome is cost	12	and measurable changes, so we typically
13	recovery, but obviously return on equity is	13	inflate them using the GDP deflator for non-
14	a central part of the Board's determination	14	labour costs and then would use a labour
15	in any rate application.	15	inflation rate for our labour costs and any
16	FITZGERALD, KC:	16	other known changes that would be outside of
17	Q. I had understood it was described as a key	17	that general process, we would look at some
18	portion of this rate application. So, sort	18	of those specifically.
19	of the central piece, if you will.	19	FITZGERALD, KC:
20	MS. LONDON:	20	Q. So looking at the operating expenses and
21	Q. It is a piece, but I wouldn't say it would	21	we've been through this with Mr. Murray a
22	be the centerpiece, but it certainly is a	22	bit, but we see here in 2023 they're at 73.4
23	piece.	23	million and then next year they go to 78.7
24	FITZGERALD, KC:	24	million, and so that's, the math on that,
25	Q. I guess time will tell. If we can turn to	25	that's subject to check, I think that's
1 43	Z. I guess unit will tell. If we call turll to	1 ²³	mai o ouojeet to eneek, i tillik tilat o

	June 14, 2024 NP GRA 2025-2026					
	Page 197		Page 199			
1	about a 5.3 percent increase, would you	1	to our property, and we do have different			
2	agree that that's correct?	2	components of our insurance, but there are			
3	MS. LONDON:		generally the insurance markets have been			
4	A. Assuming the math is correct, I do see the	4	under pressure in recent years and we have			
5	increase from 73 to about 78 million	5	seen increases in those costs for a number			
6	dollars.	6	of years now that would be above			
7	FITZGERALD, KC:	7	inflationary levels.			
8	Q. So generally have you, and I assume you	8	FITZGERALD, KC:			
9	would be as a CFO, you've been, you know,	9	Q. So your assets, you're saying, that's where			
10	tuned in, I guess, to the Bank of Canada	10	you're feeling it, so currently the rate			
11	recent sort of statements on interest and	11	base of Newfoundland Power I believe is			
12	inflation. If I suggest to you that the	12	around 1.2 billion, I think, is that			
13	rate of inflation currently in Canada has	13	correct? Maybe I'm overstating it, is that			
14	been pegged at about 2.7 percent, would you		where we are?			
15	argue with me?	15	MS. LONDON:			
16	MS. LONDON:	16	A. For 2023, the average rate base was just			
17	A. No, I wouldn't, but I don't know the exact	17	under 1.3 billion dollars.			
18	rate but it sounds about in a range I would	18	FITZGERALD, KC:			
19	expect.	19	Q. 1.3 billion, so that's really the asset, if			
20	FITZGERALD, KC:	20	you will, I mean there's many assets in			
21	Q. But your operating expenses appear to be	21	that, I'm sure, that's being insured, so is			
22	exceeding that, that percentage. Is there	22	there a correlation between the size of your			
23	an explanation for that?	23	rate base and the cost of your insurance?			
24	MS. LONDON:	24	MS. LONDON:			
25	A. Yes, we've outlined through the record some	25	A. There would be some correlation with it			
	Page 198		Page 200			
1	of the cost pressures associated with	1	because the biggest component of our			
2	operating expenses and there would be some		insurance cost would be the property.			
3	associated with labour. Most of the	3	FITZGERALD, KC:			
3 4		3 4				
	operating expenses that we have, the forecast is based on GDP deflator which is		Q. So when you're doing your capital budget			
4	operating expenses that we have, the forecast is based on GDP deflator which is	4				
4 5 6	operating expenses that we have, the	4 5	Q. So when you're doing your capital budget planning, are you involved in that? MS. LONDON:			
4 5	operating expenses that we have, the forecast is based on GDP deflator which is actually lower than the 2.7 percent inflation rate, but we do have some areas of	4 5 6	Q. So when you're doing your capital budget planning, are you involved in that?MS. LONDON:A. I'm not directly involved in our capital			
4 5 6 7	operating expenses that we have, the forecast is based on GDP deflator which is actually lower than the 2.7 percent inflation rate, but we do have some areas of operating costs that are forecast to	4 5 6 7	Q. So when you're doing your capital budget planning, are you involved in that? MS. LONDON:			
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4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	operating expenses that we have, the forecast is based on GDP deflator which is actually lower than the 2.7 percent inflation rate, but we do have some areas of operating costs that are forecast to increase at a rate greater than inflation. FITZGERALD, KC: Q. And they are. MS. LONDON: A. One example of those costs is insurance costs and we've seen the market for insurance generally being higher than an inflationary rate, so that's something that we do anticipate to continue. FITZGERALD, KC: Q. On the insurance cost, what type of insurance is this that you're feeling this increase? (1:15 p.m.) MS. LONDON:	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	 Q. So when you're doing your capital budget planning, are you involved in that? MS. LONDON: A. I'm not directly involved in our capital budgeting, no. FITZGERALD, KC: Q. When all the costs are being considered in the capital budget, is, your know, the insurance cost regarded as a bi-product of capital budget? MS. LONDON: A. I would say no to that and just reflecting on the reasons for the increases we have seen in insurance, it's more on the rate side as opposed to the overall increase in property. FITZGERALD, KC: Q. On the rate side. Okay, I misunderstood, I thought you said that the increase was related to the size of your asset—or sorry, 			

Page 201 Page 203 MS. LONDON: MS. LONDON: 1 1 2 2 A. Yes, it is. A. I would have to think through that. So the 3 FITZGERALD, KC: company—what the statement that we're trying 3 4 So from a layperson's perspective if you're 4 to get across here is that operating cost 5 increasing your asset, then I would think 5 per customer when we adjust for inflation in 6 there's a correlation then to increasing of 6 2022 versus 2012 have increased by 9.5 7 your insurance, is that a fair inference? 7 percent, so I wouldn't—if you looked at it 8 MS. LONDON: 8 as a per year, maybe it would be one percent 9 Yes, there would be a correlation, but one 9 a year, but we looked at it from a point in Α. 10 of the other components to our insurance 10 time to a point in time. FITZGERALD, KC: 11 costs would be the rate and the rate has 11 12 increased substantially in insurance 12 If we can go now to page 2-27. This is markets. 13 figure 2-11, actually, so this is your 13 14 operating cost per customer, 2013 to 2022, 14 FITZGERALD, KC: 15 The rate, can you explain what your 15 and the figure shows a dip in 2021, can you Q. understanding is of the rate? 16 16 explain that or do you have an explanation MS. LONDON: for that? 17 17 MS. LONDON: 18 I don't have the detailed information. I do 18 19 19 believe it's on the record somewhere in the This is in Mr. Chubbs' section of the RFIs, but the overall cost of property 20 20 evidence, so I think he would be the best 21 insurance for utilities generally with 21 one to speak to that. I don't have that 22 natural disasters and increasing storms, 22 information off the top of my head. that rate for replacement has increased and 23 23 FITZGERALD, KC: 24 that's something that's not unique to 24 Okay. Sorry to jump around here a bit, can Q. 25 Newfoundland Power, that's common across 25 we go back to Exhibit 3, page 1 of 9? I Page 202 Page 204 1 most utilities. 1 just want to talk a little bit about the, 2 FITZGERALD, KC: 2 line 18 there on the depreciation expense, 3 So I guess your answer is when you are 3 and so here we see operating costs, so far 4 formulating your capital budgets, any 4 as they're depreciation costs increasing 5 5 increase in insurance costs are not factored again, go from 74.8 million in 2023, 79.5 in into the overall cost to the consumer? 6 2024 forecast and 83 million forecast for 6 7 MS. LONDON: 7 2025. Is there an explanation for this 8 Not for capital budgeting purposes, no. 8 acceleration in depreciation? 9 9 MR. O'BRIEN: FITZGERALD, KC: 10 But insurance is a main driver for your 10 Mr. Chair, I thought that depreciation increase of operating costs currently you're 11 expense was accepted and settled. Was that 11 an area was part of the settlement 12 saying? 12 MS. LONDON: agreement, depreciation expense methodology. 13 13 14 It's one of the examples, yes. 14 CHAIR: 15 FITZGERALD, KC: 15 Q. It's settled, I don't think that harms the 16 Right. If we could just turn to page 13 of 16 witness from just explaining the the application, Volume 1 and just line 11 17 17 MR. O'BRIEN: 18 there the statement says, "The company 18 Q. I just want to make sure – 19 reduced its gross operating cost per 19 CHAIR: customer approximately 9.5 with inflation 20 20 O. - increase, that's all. 21 adjusted basis over the last decade." 21 MR. O'BRIEN: 22 Subject to check, just doing the math again, 22 Q. Yeah, I just want to make sure we're not 23 would you agree that this implies an average 23 getting down too far of a road on 24 of 0.9 percent productivity improvement each 24 depreciation expense, so -25 25 CHAIR: year?

Page 205 Page 207 O. No, I think it's okay to just explain the 1 reflective of the cost of long-term debt 1 2 increase without necessarily challenging it. 2 versus short-term debt? 3 3 MR. O'BRIEN: MS. LONDON: 4 4 That's fine. A. Speaking to 2023 in particular, the increase O. 5 FITZGERALD, KC: 5 in finance costs in 2023 was driven by 6 Yes, it's just—so, is there an explanation 6 significant increases in short-term rates. 7 for that, the increase? 7 We typically finance our business through 8 MS. LONDON: 8 first mortgage bonds that are generally a 9 Part of the reason that depreciation would 9 30-year term. And that provides fixed increase in 2024 would be related to the 10 10 interest rates on these financing which provide certainty and consistency in finance 11 completion of our customer information 11 12 system that was completed in 2023. So, that 12 charges over the long term. So, over the 13 would have created a larger variance, I'll forecast period, any of the long-term debt 13 14 say between '23 depreciation and '24 14 that's currently in place would be consistent and then any changes would be 15 depreciation. And then, from the forecast 15 additional debt that's being issued, debt 16 beyond would be based on our capital budget 16 that would be repaid and then any changes in 17 estimates. 17 short-term borrowings. But the large 18 FITZGERALD, KC: 18 component of our finance costs would be 19 Right. So, again, as the capital budgets 19 Q. increase, so does, naturally the associated with our first mortgage bonds. 20 20 21 depreciation expense is going to increase in 21 FITZGERALD, KC: 22 lockstep with that. 22 And how does that relate to your capital budget spending, the finance charges? 23 MS. LONDON: 23 24 24 MS. LONDON: A. Generally, yes. 25 FITZGERALD, KC: 25 Overall, Newfoundland Power finances our Page 206 Page 208 1 Q. So, the larger the capital budget, the 1 rate base which includes our plant and 2 larger depreciation expense that the 2 capital investments in accordance with the consumer is going to have to pay for. 3 capital structure that authorized and 3 4 4 approved by the Board. So, that would MS. LONDON: 5 5 include overtime, managing the level of A. Yes, because depreciation is the way in 6 which those capital investments are 6 equity in the capital structure and then 7 recovered from customers. 7 doing periodic financings as required. 8 8 Typically we will use our credit facility to FITZGERALD, KC: 9 9 finance our operations and any capital in O. And again, just on the same document, 10 finance charges. Again, we have 2023, 37.3 10 the short term. And when it gets to a million, 41.6 in 2024 and 42.2 in 2025. And certain level, we will then proceed to issue 11 11 long-term permanent financing. 12 so, can you explain to me what's going on 12 there? FITZGERALD, KC: 13 13 MS. LONDON: 14 When you're doing your capital planning 14 Q. then, and I guess they would come to you at 15 The finance charges that would be presented 15 16 here are under the existing forecast. And some point regarding, you know, what's going 16 the changes in finance charges generally on in the market for interest rates. Are 17 17 18 would be the result of additional financing 18 interest rates factored in at all when the 19 required for both our capital investment and 19 capital planning process occurs? 20 our operations. And they would also reflect 20 MS. LONDON: the refinancing of maturing debt throughout 21 21 A. Generally, interest rates don't form the 22 the time periods as well. 22 justifications for the capital expenditures 23 FITZGERALD, KC: 23 that we put forward for approval, except in the instance when we have to do some sort of 24 O. Is there a portion of this or would you be 24 25 able to speak to whether the increases are 25 net present value calculation, but

Page 209 Page 211 generally, our capital expenditures are not 1 **CERTIFICATE** 2 justified based on specific interest rates. 3 When we do look at our overall financing, we I, Judy Moss, hereby certify that the foregoing is a 4 will take our five-year capital budget and true and correct transcript of hearing in the matter 5 look at the financing over a longer period of Newfoundland Power Inc. 2025-2026 General Rate 6 of time, but that would be more of an output Application heard on June 14th, 2024 before the 7 from the capital budget as opposed to an Newfoundland and Labrador Board of Commissioners of 8 input. Public Utilities, 120 Torbay Road, St. John's, 9 FITZGERALD, KC: Newfoundland and Labrador and was transcribed by me to 10 Q. But I guess, I mean, from a consumer's point the best of my ability by means of a sound apparatus. of view, if you are—and maybe I'm taking 11 12 your evidence incorrectly, but if Dated at St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador this 13 Newfoundland Power is insensitive to 14th day of June, 2024 14 interest charges when it comes to capital 15 budgeting, wouldn't you think that would 16 inflict an unnecessary cost on consumers? Judy Moss MS. LONDON: 17 18 In terms of financing costs, they can go up 19 and they can go down. So, our approach to 20 managing our business, managing our 21 investments and financings, it is to do that 22 over in a consistent manner over the long term and that helps provide rate stability 23 as well for customers. 24 25 FITZGERALD, KC: Page 210 Mr. Chairman, I see it's 1:28, it's a sunny 1 Q. 2 afternoon. I don't know how much I—I think this might be a good day to -3 4 BROWNE, KC: 5 We'll call it a day, yes. Q. 6 FITZGERALD, KC: 7 Two minutes left, maybe – 8 CHAIR: 9 I accept your plea there, so we're done for O. 10 the day. Thank you. BROWNE, KC: 11 Before we go, Mr. Chair, I'd like to wish 12 all the fathers a Happy Father's Day. 13 14 CHAIR: Yes, thank you, same to you. 15 Q. 16 MS. GLYNN: So, we'll be back at 9:00 Monday morning. 17 18 Upon conclusion at 1:28 p.m. 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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Ability - 32:6, 169:9, 169:19 **Abitibi -** 118:24 Able - 33:16, 59:8, 59:10, 63:17, 125:4, 137:3, 138:18, 151:9, 157:16, 184:25, 206:25 Above - 40:25, 41:3, 55:6, 70:17, 72:17, 87:17, 89:20, 105:24, 110:2, 111:19, 142:9, 143:6, 155:7, 199:6 Acceleration - 204: Accept - 9:12, 14:16, 143:19, 210:9 **Accepted - 17:20.** 29:16, 32:1, 80:21, 144:4, 144:7, 144:9, 145:1, 164:4, 204:11 Accepting - 14:11 Access - 41:25, 163:22, 168:3, 168:15 Accordance - 208: **Account -** 67:2, 101:21, 130:7, 149:19, 169:12 Accountabilities -117:1 Accountability - 11 7:3. 130:12. 136:5 Accountant - 186: Accounted - 40:8 Accounting - 67:7 **Accounts - 139:5** Achievable - 38:7. 38:24, 89:21 **Achieve -** 38:10, 42:4, 42:11, 65:25, 66:5, 98:24 Achieved - 34:7, 38:18, 48:5, 66:25, 98:8, 98:15, 158:9 Achievement - 105 :17

Achieves - 35:5

Achieving - 40:17,

41:15, 43:19, 47:22, 89:15, 98:20, 103:19 Acknowledge - 15 8:9, 173:14 Acknowledged - 4 9:23, 50:8 Acknowledgement - 49:19 Across - 27:1, 27:2, 29:6, 75:14, 130:9, 136:6, 144:17, 157:7, 157:8, 167:23, 176:22, 183:18, 201:25, 203:4 Action - 41:16, 58:12, 65:12, 73:8, 86:21, 101:20 Active - 188:15 Activities - 62:21 Actual - 20:2. 37:10, 52:8, 56:2, 56:10, 65:1, 66:23, 71:13, 71:21, 80:19, 87:16, 91:18, 92:2, 101:10, 107:17, 110:25, 139:14, 180:19, 195:4 Actuals - 65:4, 73:24, 74:4, 74:6, 74:18, 139:13, 139:17 **Add -** 27:13, 53:10, 96:12, 111:20, 178:19 Added - 53:9, 62:5, 62:14, 87:9, 99:10 Addition - 106:24, 161:14, 166:25, 178:1 **Address -** 65:13, 151:12, 162:18, 162:24, 166:7, 173:20, 176:2 Addressed - 130:2 5, 131:1, 193:17 Adequacy - 2:10, 8:5, 49:22 Adjust - 93:14, 95:1, 95:2, 196:11, 203:5 **Adjusted - 74:14**, 91:18, 91:21, 92:2, 92:17, 93:11, 94:23,

94:24, 97:9,

123:13, 123:15, 146:3, 146:5, 146:10, 157:14, 202:21 Adjustment - 53:2, 92:16, 123:2, 161:22 Adjustments - 92: 14, 123:25 Administrative - 1 72:1 **Adopt -** 160:11 Adoption - 16:9 Adoptions - 17:1 Adversarial - 172:1 **Advice - 189:8 Advisor - 13:1**, 144:6 Advisors - 6:20, 11:16, 13:13, 141:2 Advocate - 7:9. 180:12 Advocate's - 176:4 Affect - 8:23, 20:2, 65:8, 99:11, 165:13, 167:8, 167:19 Affects - 165:16, 166:16 **Affirm -** 159:19 Affirmed - 159:23, 159:24 **Afternoon -** 160:6, 182:15, 182:18, 210:2 **Agencies -** 63:21, 164:8, 168:14, 168:23, 169:3, 169:14, 169:15, 170:4, 170:9, 171:1, 178:2, 184:17 **Agency - 169:1** Aggregate - 77:12 **Aging -** 56:21, 148:2, 148:15 **Agree -** 5:16, 7:19, 20:8, 113:2, 116:18, 194:6, 197:2, 202:23 Agreed - 179:12, 180:12 Agreement - 5:1, 5:2, 5:14, 5:18, 9:13, 18:21, 80:11,

Ahead - 19:18 **Alberta -** 106:12, 106:19 Allocate - 40:6 **Allowed -** 168:1, 170:20 **Allows - 16:21**, 130:9 **America - 12:10 Among -** 79:23, 183:4 **Amount -** 84:13, 105:22, 106:11, 106:18, 108:3, 111:22, 137:13, 149:8, 155:11 **Amounts - 75:18,** 111:11 **Ample - 173:6 AMR - 59:8 Analysis - 143:1 Announcement - 3** :1 **Annual - 15:12**, 65:12, 123:11 Anticipate - 198:17 Anticipated - 17:7, 161:8, 161:19, 180:25 **Anytime - 8:20** Anyway - 29:24, 93:20 Apologize - 3:14 **Appear -** 99:14, 156:8, 197:21 **Appears - 26:15.** 154:5 **Appendix -** 26:20, 116:3 Applicable - 139:1 5. 140:2 Application - 1:21, 2:1, 6:14, 8:14, 14:25, 51:20, 52:23, 64:12, 67:21, 68:11, 69:22, 73:24, 74:3, 135:24, 139:7, 160:25, 161:6, 162:7, 162:14, 162:21, 164:13, 164:18, 167:21, 180:1. 180:10. 180:15, 180:24, 189:18, 190:6, 191:2, 192:5, 192:21, 193:22,

194:4, 194:15, 194:18, 195:1, 202:17 **Applications - 6:10** , 6:11, 9:25, 10:5, 170:10, 179:13, 193:21 **Applied -** 170:1. 188:17 **Applies -** 169:1 **Apply -** 5:18, 36:1 Approach - 31:18, 128:12, 128:13, 175:3, 209:19 Appropriate - 3:24, 3:25, 12:1, 28:24, 29:11, 30:1, 32:8, 32:16, 32:23, 32:24, 39:5, 57:9, 114:12, 114:18, 114:22, 117:11, 117:15, 124:11, 127:13, 131:25, 145:3, 155:10, 164:4, 167:10, 167:17, 192:15, 192:20 Appropriateness -122:20, 129:13 Approval - 45:22, 86:21, 89:8, 208:23 Approve - 5:5 **Approved -** 31:11, 31:17, 57:21, 84:15, 93:3, 98:9, 125:21, 126:1, 126:8, 126:22, 137:24, 140:8, 144:1, 167:22, 176:21, 182:22, 208:4 Approximately - 2 3:7, 67:18, 67:22, 78:23, 177:7, 202:20 **April - 170:16** Area - 172:25, 204:12 Areas - 16:8, 70:20, 75:24, 146:15, 147:14, 153:24, 198:7 Aren't - 12:4, 65:11 **Argue -** 197:15 Arguments - 12:4 Arise - 51:13 **Arising -** 53:12,

144:11, 180:11,

204:13

159:3 **Aspect -** 20:10 **Assess - 34:23** Assessing - 168:2 3, 170:1 Assessment - 17:1 5. 20:17. 20:20. 142:21, 169:2 Assessments - 16 4:8, 169:5, 169:13, 169:14, 170:11, 170:13 Asset - 148:17, 148:21, 148:24, 193:12, 193:15, 193:19, 199:19, 200:23, 201:5 **Assets -** 56:21. 56:24, 147:25, 148:15, 148:22, 198:25, 199:9, 199:20, 200:24 **Assigned - 134:24**, 135:25, 192:7, 192:16 Associated - 165:1 2, 166:12, 174:22, 179:25, 180:15, 181:16, 194:10, 198:1, 198:3, 207:20 Assumption - 27:3 , 27:5 Assumptions - 18: 8, 190:5 **Atlantic - 28:13**, 28:21, 79:10, 79:14, 79:23, 82:2, 82:9, 83:4, 116:13 Attachment - 60:1, 68:5, 71:9, 85:7, 130:24, 152:14 **Attract -** 138:18 Attracting - 138:9 Attributable - 77:1 **Auditor - 186:24** Authorized - 208:3 Available - 17:24, 166:22, 171:21, 174:6 **Average -** 39:3, 77:13, 78:10, 78:12, 78:15, 78:20, 78:22, 100:17, 100:20, 100:22, 100:23,

158:21, 159:1,

101:4, 101:7, 101:11, 101:14, 102:7, 102:9, 142:10, 143:6, 143:11, 152:25, 155:1, 157:15, 191:11, 199:16, 202:23 Award - 10:3, 10:19 Awarded - 4:3 Aware - 1:10, 18:3, 18:6, 55:3, 125:16, 126:7, 191:1, 192:4, 192:11, 192:13 **Awhile - 4:19**

Bachelor - 186:10.

186:11 **Back -** 10:1, 25:3, 29:15, 31:17, 31:21, 42:21, 47:1, 49:18, 50:2, 59:6, 59:7, 64:21, 65:15, 70:10, 74:23, 82:18, 85:6, 87:9. 90:18, 90:20, 91:13, 99:10, 109:22, 115:25, 116:19, 119:15, 126:2, 126:17, 127:22, 130:5, 136:4, 144:5, 144:16, 144:23, 145:11, 145:13, 147:12, 152:6, 152:14, 160:1, 185:9, 189:3, 203:25, 210:17 Background - 115: 12, 185:9 Backgrounds - 22: Backup - 50:9, 166:23 **Balance - 57:5,** 157:16 **Balances - 63:24** Balancing - 58:17 Band - 89:20, 90:1 Bank - 197:10 Bargaining - 78:3, 79:12, 81:24, 81:25, 83:11 **Barry - 118:23**

Base - 33:19, 34:8, 34:17, 35:6, 42:14, 52:22, 78:15, 105:24, 111:19, 112:20, 113:23, 114:2, 123:2, 137:16, 160:12, 162:7, 199:11, 199:16, 199:23, 208:1 **Based -** 8:25, 11:8, 14:23, 33:19, 37:15, 37:20, 46:9, 67:10, 68:9, 69:16, 73:24, 74:5, 80:14, 84:4, 88:17, 91:21, 93:3, 98:7, 103:9, 117:13, 123:15, 130:10, 141:4, 141:23, 142:3, 146:10, 153:17, 156:7, 158:17, 163:6, 175:5, 175:7, 175:8, 179:18, 179:22, 180:18, 198:5, 205:16, 209:2 **Basis -** 18:7, 19:14, 74:14, 95:1, 97:11, 97:17, 110:4, 202:21 **BC -** 106:13, 121:23, 184:2, 184:3, 184:4 Became - 22:18, 131:17, 132:10, 132:14 **Become - 63:5 Becomes -** 59:15, 98:23, 102:15 Becoming - 23:13 Began - 187:5 **Begins - 6:5** Behaviour - 41:17 **Behind - 15:10.** 165:8 **Believes - 26:18** Below - 71:22, 72:6, 84:3, 87:18, 108:4, 116:24, 153:3, 155:5 Benefit - 41:17. 45:24, 112:16, 158:1, 181:19 **Benefits - 42:2.** 43:5, 76:25, 111:17,

Bi - 99:9, 200:12 **Big -** 41:24, 43:11, 59:7, 66:4, 88:19, 113:7 **Biggest -** 50:4, 148:17, 200:1 **Bill - 133:5** Billion - 166:25. 199:12, 199:17, 199:19 Biographies - 21:2 **Bit -** 18:23, 19:14, 32:3, 43:8, 72:7, 74:16, 90:16, 97:20, 106:13, 139:17, 142:19, 147:18, 155:5, 196:22, 203:24, 204:1 **Block - 56:4 Blocks - 59:16 Board -** 3:10, 4:6, 5:4, 5:16, 6:5, 7:17, 9:11, 10:19, 11:6, 11:19, 13:21, 14:7, 14:10, 14:13, 14:19, 14:22, 15:24, 17:16, 17:19, 17:20, 18:12, 20:21, 21:3, 21:5, 28:7, 28:17, 29:16, 31:2, 31:12, 31:14, 32:1, 36:24, 37:1, 37:22, 37:24, 38:5, 38:20, 39:11, 39:12, 39:17, 39:20, 39:22, 39:23, 45:15, 45:17, 45:22, 46:4, 51:16, 52:20, 52:24, 53:1, 55:4, 55:10, 60:15, 60:20, 61:23, 85:12, 85:21, 85:23, 86:18, 86:20, 87:22, 89:4, 89:6, 91:2, 96:19, 98:9, 102:24, 103:10, 105:15, 106:10, 115:3, 125:21, 126:1, 126:8, 126:19, 126:21, 126:22, 127:6, 137:24, 143:18, 144:1, 144:7, 144:14,

144:19, 160:4, 163:25, 164:4, 172:19, 173:9, 173:17, 175:4, 180:12, 182:22, 189:21, 192:13, 193:14, 208:4 Board's - 32:4. 102:20, 158:18, 170:12, 194:14 **Bond -** 3:5, 138:14, 138:16 Bonds - 3:6, 138:14, 171:6, 171:9, 171:12, 171:19, 178:11, 207:8, 207:20 Bonus - 33:17, 34:8, 34:16, 38:7, 38:10, 38:17, 41:6, 41:15, 43:18, 61:17, 103:24, 109:1 Bonuses - 40:3, 40:5, 40:17, 41:8, 46:16, 47:20, 47:22, 84:2, 84:8, 99:12 **Book - 165:20 Booth -** 7:8, 7:18, 162:25, 172:9, 173:2, 173:19, 174:11, 176:4, 176:7, 177:10 **Booth's -** 175:6, 176:16, 177:3, 177:24 **Borrowed - 177:12** Borrowings - 207: **Both -** 8:16, 33:19, 65:7, 97:13, 133:6, 164:6, 165:16, 169:3, 170:4, 183:16, 183:19, 186:11, 206:19 Bottom - 71:16, 72:3, 90:6, 133:4 **Bowen - 133:5** Breadth - 27:1 Break - 109:17, 109:19, 159:7, 159:9. 159:10 **Broad - 31:7 Brought -** 191:20, 193:13

154:8, 158:5

Browne - 78:2,

171:23, 173:5, 173:18, 173:25, 174:20, 175:14, 175:19, 182:13, 210:4, 210:11 Brunswick - 81:7, 81:10 **Budget -** 73:25, 90:23, 91:10, 92:24, 93:1, 93:3, 93:23, 94:5, 95:13, 95:19, 97:21, 98:13, 99:21, 99:24, 112:13, 148:13, 148:14, 192:4, 192:5, 193:20, 200:4, 200:11, 200:13, 205:16, 206:1, 207:23, 209:4, 209:7 Budgeting - 200:8, 202:8, 209:15 **Budgets - 73:5,** 193:5, 202:4, 205:19 **Built -** 56:19, 59:14, 70:14, 70:22, 147:25 **Bullet - 26:22 Bumpy - 156:20** Business - 1:23, 7:21, 7:25, 27:2, 33:20, 37:20, 38:1, 58:19, 58:21, 67:10, 71:1, 71:3, 88:20, 91:15, 93:9, 112:2, 112:16, 137:12, 142:10, 164:12, 164:16, 166:16, 167:8, 176:19, 184:10, 194:11, 207:7, 209:20 Buy - 153:20 **Buying - 3:5**

C

CA - 186:21 **Calculation** - 43:25 , 44:9, 109:10, 208:25 **Calculations** - 169: 7 **Calendar** - 123:20, 154:15, 154:17

Call - 46:11, 79:18,

115:11, 117:1, 133:7, 210:5 Called - 34:6, 71:20, 121:12 Can - 1:11, 3:12, 5:11, 8:17, 15:16, 25:21, 27:11, 27:24, 29:3. 29:19. 30:13. 32:3, 35:8, 35:14, 38:17, 44:15, 52:6, 54:25, 57:7, 62:4, 62:24, 63:13, 65:15, 66:4, 71:16, 71:25, 72:4, 74:15, 74:16, 87:7, 87:16, 88:14, 89:13, 90:3, 90:5, 90:10, 90:16, 90:18, 94:2, 102:18, 104:7, 107:15, 108:21, 110:2, 111:11, 111:12, 111:14, 114:14, 114:20, 117:20, 117:25, 120:20, 122:3, 122:21, 126:20, 127:13, 129:8, 129:17, 129:18, 131:13, 133:3, 134:3, 136:25, 137:5, 138:22, 139:18, 150:1, 151:11, 151:12, 151:23, 153:7, 153:16, 153:19, 154:2, 154:3, 154:6, 154:7, 156:17, 156:20, 156:21, 156:25, 158:11, 158:12, 160:23, 165:2, 165:4, 172:11, 174:20, 174:25, 175:23, 178:24, 179:9, 180:25, 181:24, 189:21, 194:25, 195:3, 195:5, 201:15, 203:12, 203:15, 203:24, 206:12, 209:18, 209:19 Canada - 15:11, 17:16, 17:19, 18:12, 20:22, 21:5,

27:2, 28:14, 28:21,

29:6, 29:10, 82:2,

82:9, 116:13,

127:17, 127:20, 141:16, 142:16, 143:2, 144:17, 149:14, 157:8, 164:23, 165:9, 167:23, 176:22, 182:23, 183:18, 183:23, 184:21, 197:10, 197:13 Canadian - 27:9, 116:5, 143:5, 152:25 Can't - 30:9, 31:20, 120:16, 122:19, 151:22, 154:16, 173:11, 177:8 Capital - 3:16, 9:16, 12:21, 15:25, 56:15, 58:18, 59:2, 138:9, 138:19, 141:23, 145:9, 147:10, 147:17, 147:21, 148:13, 149:2, 149:4, 149:20, 149:24, 151:16, 153:18, 153:21, 153:25, 154:3, 154:4, 154:6, 154:10, 154:20, 155:10, 155:11, 156:9, 156:14, 156:16, 156:21, 156:25, 157:5, 157:6, 157:10, 157:13, 157:19, 157:20, 158:10, 162:22, 162:23, 163:3, 163:8, 163:14, 163:15, 163:18, 163:22, 163:24, 164:5, 164:13, 167:9, 167:17, 168:15, 176:8, 176:17, 177:5, 177:13, 178:9, 183:16, 183:19, 192:4, 192:5, 193:5, 193:20, 200:4, 200:7, 200:11, 200:13, 202:4, 202:8, 205:16, 205:19, 206:1, 206:6,

208:14, 208:19, 208:22, 209:1, 209:4, 209:7, 209:14 **Capped - 106:15 Carried - 59:12** Case - 10:15, 12:11, 22:6, 27:6, 43:17, 49:8, 71:12, 92:1, 126:2, 137:19, 192:23, 193:14 Cases - 10:20, 55:1, 82:19 Cash - 62:21, 63:2, 63:7, 87:12, 87:14, 87:16, 88:5, 88:7, 108:12, 161:24, 169:7, 169:22, 177:14, 181:16 Categories - 41:6, 146:24 **Category - 21:16**, 40:23 Cause - 75:1, 176:12 **CDM - 100:3 CEA -** 153:4 Centerpiece - 194: Central - 194:14, 194:19 **Centre -** 61:5 Cents - 56:4, 56:5 **CEO -** 13:4, 22:18, 22:24, 29:24, 33:23, 34:9, 45:4, 55:15, 60:7, 65:13, 69:25, 75:2, 85:10, 113:16, 115:1, 116:13, 118:25, 122:7, 123:6, 128:12, 131:17, 134:24, 137:25, 138:4, 140:16, 140:22, 145:2 Certain - 75:23, 96:16, 100:9, 106:15, 170:25, 208:11 Certainly - 41:5, 57:12, 116:7, 173:20, 175:9,

CFO - 118:23, 132:3, 133:24, 134:1, 135:14, 177:24, 188:4, 188:6, 188:11, 190:7, 197:9 CFO's - 133:9 **CHAIR -** 1:2. 1:6. 1:11, 1:13, 14:15, 18:15, 18:25, 19:18, 19:19, 19:24, 20:7, 30:14, 30:20, 39:7, 39:19, 39:21, 48:23, 96:11, 96:22, 97:12, 109:13, 109:16, 109:21, 109:24, 152:12, 152:17, 152:18, 153:5, 155:18, 157:11, 158:8, 159:8, 172:17, 173:13, 175:2, 175:17, 175:21, 175:22, 182:12, 204:10, 204:14, 204:19, 204:25, 210:8, 210:12, 210:14 Chairman - 1:17, 19:8, 48:16, 48:20, 159:12, 159:16, 159:20, 159:25, 182:15, 210:1 Chair's - 158:22 Challenge - 164:24 175:10, 175:11 Challenges - 127:1 Challenging - 15:1 5, 102:15, 205:2 **Chance -** 38:9, 38:10 Change - 2:13, 2:16, 2:18, 2:20, 7:20, 7:24, 12:8, 49:8, 57:16, 62:20, 92:8, 133:19, 134:6, 134:23, 135:17, 164:11, 179:20, 179:24, 192:19, 193:1 **Changed - 2:11**, 59:21, 91:16, 127:12, 131:20, 136:16, 137:12 Changes - 62:2, 70:17, 92:18,

206:19, 207:22,

208:2, 208:3,

208:6, 208:9,

194:22

Certainty - 2:16,

Cetera - 137:14

3:2, 166:2, 207:11

131:23, 133:8, 134:18, 160:17, 181:21, 196:12, 196:16, 206:17, 207:15, 207:17 **Changing - 16:12** Charge - 193:4 **Charges -** 192:7. 192:16, 206:10, 206:15, 206:17, 207:12, 207:23, 209:14 **Chart - 34:24 Chartered - 186:12** Check - 82:17, 82:18, 91:19, 92:3, 92:19, 93:13, 121:7, 121:16, 121:22, 122:4, 122:24, 124:4, 126:7, 126:19, 127:3, 135:23, 196:25, 202:22 **Chief - 160:7 Choices - 38:5 Choose - 32:9 Chooses - 20:21** Chubbs - 24:20, 76:6, 111:11, 111:13, 121:5, 146:22, 147:5, 147:7, 149:7, 149:10, 150:1, 151:23 Chubbs' - 203:19 Circumstances - 3 2:24, 50:24, 144:15 Clarification - 49:4 **Clarify - 54:8 Clarity - 39:9,** 96:13 Classified - 26:23 Clerical - 78:4. 78:14 Close - 7:4, 7:16, 48:8, 121:17 Coffee - 95:12 **Collected - 161:20** Collective - 79:12 Column - 35:10, 40:18, 40:19, 80:18, 139:20 Combination - 48: 1, 48:7, 110:21, 133:2, 161:18 **Combined -** 109:8, 165:20

Come - 13:16, 22:5, 25:13, 27:7, 52:6, 53:11, 64:21, 69:23, 72:8, 86:4, 86:21, 117:14, 118:18, 120:3, 127:22, 130:3, 144:5. 174:7. 174:21, 193:5, 208:15 Comes - 59:1, 70:19, 71:11, 120:22, 141:1, 141:7, 209:14 Comfortable - 122: 10, 128:11, 141:18 Coming - 3:20, 20:18, 49:24, 67:5, 74:23, 123:25, 141:18, 141:22, 148:22, 174:12 **Comment - 16:2**, 122:12, 122:19, 127:13, 160:23, 174:24, 174:25 Commentary - 97: **Comments - 127:1** 5, 167:15, 172:9, 174:21, 175:5, 175:6, 175:8, 175:10, 179:7, 182:20 **Commerce - 186:1** Commercial - 26:1 3, 26:24, 31:7, 31:24, 114:10, 116:6 Commercial/ **Industrial - 126:11**, 126:25 Commissioner - 4 8:19, 152:8, 152:10 Commissioners -152:6 Commissioning -179:16 **Committee -** 45:17, 45:21, 174:17 **Common - 4:18**, 4:20, 9:14, 9:16, 10:4. 137:22. 139:15, 140:2, 141:15, 163:9, 170:5, 176:9,

177:6, 177:9,

184:3, 201:25 Companies - 26:1, 26:16, 116:2, 116:10, 116:22, 117:8, 117:18, 118:20, 120:4, 121:11, 126:14, 127:18, 183:11 Company - 5:20, 9:7, 15:14, 23:13, 25:5, 25:7, 36:7, 37:21, 43:12, 45:3, 46:6, 46:9, 73:14, 75:16, 88:7, 108:16, 114:20, 116:8, 118:17, 118:23, 119:1, 122:9, 136:16, 146:17, 161:7, 163:20, 164:25, 170:7, 170:18, 171:9, 171:10, 171:21, 178:10, 178:22, 183:23, 202:18, 203:3 Company's - 160:2 3, 161:24, 164:1, 164:11, 164:16, 164:19, 167:8, 167:19, 169:9, 176:18, 176:20, 177:5, 178:5, 178:16, 180:17 Comparability - 18 5:6 Comparable - 12:1 6, 12:17, 116:14, 184:8 Comparative - 26: 1, 26:16, 27:14, 124:20, 125:21, 126:9, 126:12, 126:13, 127:14 Comparatively - 2 6:23 Comparator - 28:8, 28:11, 28:24, 29:10, 29:12, 29:13, 29:17, 31:4, 31:6, 31:14, 31:23, 31:25, 32:8, 32:10, 32:16, 32:22, 114:3, 114:7. 114:16. 114:18, 114:22, 116:21, 117:11, 120:23, 121:8,

123:12, 123:16, 123:23, 124:7, 124:12, 129:5, 129:23, 130:1, 153:4 Comparators - 124 :8 **Compare -** 26:19. 30:3, 39:4, 71:12, 117:20, 124:19, 127:20, 130:9, 136:6, 142:17 Compared - 3:22, 11:4, 34:15, 73:6, 73:7, 126:12, 141:4, 142:21, 152:25 Comparing - 117:7 , 117:8 Comparison - 13:1 4, 79:8, 79:13, 79:23, 82:4, 97:19, 115:7, 116:25, 127:1, 164:22, 183:10 Comparisons - 30: Compensation - 2 1:9, 26:3, 28:25, 33:22, 37:3, 76:24, 77:5, 77:24, 78:1, 79:7, 83:16, 109:14, 113:3, 113:4, 113:12, 115:4, 115:11, 117:16, 120:24, 121:14, 122:12, 125:14, 126:11, 137:15, 152:15 **Compete - 118:5** Competence - 110: 12, 110:13, 110:15 **Competes - 26:25** Competition - 113: 10, 188:6 Competitive - 82:9, 113:5 Compiling - 190:1 Complete - 61:9, 112:23, 133:11, 190:21, 191:24 Completed - 169:1 3. 205:12 Completely - 27:5 Completing - 170:1 Completion - 205:1

Component - 10:4, 44:2, 113:8, 146:19, 185:4, 193:22, 200:1, 207:19 Components - 117 :16, 146:21, 162:23, 199:2. 201:10 Composed - 121:9, 121:10 Composition - 28: 7, 32:22 Concentric - 6:20, 11:16, 11:22, 12:7, 12:25, 13:7, 13:13, 140:15, 141:2, 142:8, 143:24, 163:6, 167:24, 174:13 Concentric's - 184 :11 **Concept -** 55:9 Concern - 8:11, 8:12, 8:19, 75:1, 176:13, 191:17 Concerned - 18:23 , 173:23, 194:3, 194:7 Concerning - 1:20, 3:24, 9:22, 40:2 Concerns - 2:19, 16:13, 166:8, 176:15 **Conclude -** 179:6 Concludes - 152:2 Conclusion - 19:14 , 210:18 Conditions - 50:24 163:23, 168:16 Conference - 17:1 6, 17:19, 18:12, 20:21, 21:5 Confirm - 92:4, 92:19, 95:24, 100:1 Conflated - 85:1 Connect - 112:10, 157:3 Connection - 9:3, 61:9, 190:21 Connections - 15: 13, 16:4, 16:21, 17:8. 19:10 Consequences - 1 77:21 Consider - 169:4, 182:6

121:20, 122:14,

Consideration - 28 :19, 178:4 Considered - 19:1 6, 49:13, 55:4, 55:7, 106:4, 143:6, 168:22, 200:10 Considering - 157: Consistency - 169: 18, 207:11 Consistent - 1:24, 42:20, 43:1, 102:7, 163:11, 164:17, 178:15, 207:15, 209:22 Consistently - 164: Consolidated - 118 :24 Constantly - 65:23 Consultant - 10:12 , 10:13, 115:11, 115:14, 115:18, 125:3, 125:8, 125:12, 141:10, 141:11, 141:19, 141:21, 143:1, 144:11, 144:25 Consultant's - 10: Consulted - 191:5 Consumer - 7:9, 176:3, 180:12, 202:6, 206:3 Consumers - 153: 8, 209:16 Consumer's - 209: **Contact - 61:5** Contemplated - 19 1:25 Contemplation - 1 92:8, 193:6 Contested - 144:8 Context - 19:2, 19:21, 19:25, 20:1, 20:9, 20:14, 51:13, 55:13, 59:19, 97:3 Continuation - 163 :8, 179:1 **Continue - 4:20.** 129:14, 148:15, 151:11, 152:23, 170:19, 178:24, 179:22, 198:17 **Continued -** 31:23, 167:11

Continues - 51:3, 100:19, 127:8, 148:13, 164:24 Continuing - 151:1 Continuously - 31: 13 Contractor - 73:17 Contributed - 163: 22 Contributes - 169: 21 Contribution - 69:2 **Contrived - 172:13 Control -** 38:2, 57:7, 63:5, 63:8, 63:11, 64:16, 64:19, 73:13, 75:5, 75:9, 87:16, 88:10, 100:2, 100:5, 157:24 Controllable - 37:1 9, 99:18, 153:14, 155:24 Convergence - 16: **Core -** 42:13 Cornerstone - 163: **Corporate - 33:20.** 33:25, 34:23, 44:6, 44:23, 46:8, 47:6, 48:6, 59:23, 59:24, 60:4, 60:5, 61:14, 62:23, 90:21, 100:8, 101:23, 105:5, 107:20, 108:15, 108:17, 108:19 Corporations - 29: **Correctly -** 46:19, 56:7 Correlation - 199:2 2, 199:25, 201:6, 201:9 Cost - 5:21, 11:20, 37:19, 38:2, 42:6, 48:3, 53:6, 54:10, 56:1, 56:2, 56:5, 56:11, 56:14, 57:17, 63:24, 64:24, 65:6, 66:12, 67:4, 67:8, 67:11, 67:14, 67:23, 68:20, 69:24, 70:3,

70:9, 70:14, 73:12,

74:1, 74:23, 75:1, 75:14, 76:16, 99:18, 109:6, 141:22, 145:8, 146:14, 146:16, 147:4, 154:1, 154:2, 158:2, 158:4. 158:6. 162:9, 162:22, 163:23, 165:17, 165:18, 166:10, 166:21, 166:23, 167:1, 168:5, 168:18, 169:19, 178:25, 179:2, 180:14, 181:4, 183:16, 194:12, 198:1, 198:19, 199:23, 200:2, 200:12, 201:20, 202:6, 202:19, 203:4, 203:14, 207:1, 209:16 Costly - 12:21, 56:22, 57:4 Costs - 9:5, 42:1, 42:3, 52:6, 55:22, 59:9, 59:12, 59:13, 59:20, 63:22, 67:15, 68:6, 68:18, 68:22, 68:23, 70:2, 71:4, 71:21, 72:24, 73:9, 73:18, 74:9, 74:10, 74:14, 74:20, 75:4, 75:5, 75:10, 75:20, 75:22, 76:9, 76:14, 76:15, 99:24, 145:19, 145:22, 153:9, 153:12, 153:14, 153:16, 153:19, 153:23, 153:24, 154:10, 155:25, 157:13, 157:21, 157:24, 158:11, 161:16, 161:20, 161:23, 167:1, 168:19, 169:24, 170:19, 171:20, 178:7, 178:13, 179:16, 179:18, 180:9, 180:17, 181:17, 181:20, 194:8, 194:10, 196:14, 196:15, 198:8,

199:5, 200:10, 201:11, 202:5, 202:11, 204:3, 204:4, 207:5, 207:19, 209:18 Counsel - 1:17. 30:23 **Country -** 176:25 Couple - 3:19, 5:7, 15:4, 47:2, 59:6, 62:2, 67:8, 99:24, 100:3, 149:1, 152:20 Course - 65:8, 68:8, 114:2, 135:4 Court - 10:25 Cover - 83:14 **Coverage - 169:7**, 169:8, 171:8 Covered - 106:11 Coyne - 6:15, 7:19, 11:15, 12:7, 13:10 Coyne's - 11:15, 175:8 **CPA - 186:25** Craft - 78:4, 78:14, 80:11 Created - 205:13 Credibility - 173:5 Credit - 41:22, 41:24, 42:4, 42:5, 63:20, 164:6, 164:7, 164:8, 168:2, 168:3, 168:9, 168:12, 168:13, 168:14, 168:17, 168:23, 169:6, 169:8, 169:11, 169:13, 170:2, 170:13, 170:16, 170:25, 171:2, 171:6, 177:17, 178:1, 178:2, 178:6, 184:17, 184:21, 184:24, 185:1, 185:2, 208:8 Criteria - 31:10, 34:22, 36:15, 36:20, 37:5, 38:6, 41:11, 41:12, 42:9, 43:15, 44:6, 45:12 **Critical - 147:14.** 170:12, 179:3 **Cross -** 40:4, 173:6 Crown - 29:7 Curiosities - 136:1

Curiosity - 137:10 Curious - 136:3 Current - 17:1, 23:18, 25:19, 27:7, 27:18, 51:14, 51:20, 52:14, 67:21. 68:12. 68:20, 68:24, 75:6, 79:17, 80:4, 80:10, 80:19, 83:9, 83:10, 118:10, 130:18, 155:11, 161:18, 165:21, 167:9, 170:21, 179:15, 181:9, 185:2, 185:3 Currently - 72:9, 100:16, 137:24, 144:18, 148:4, 152:24, 155:20, 183:5, 184:15, 197:13, 199:10, 202:11, 207:14 **Customer - 15:13**, 16:4, 21:17, 22:20, 23:5, 23:13, 37:19, 38:2, 41:10, 42:8, 42:12, 42:25, 43:6, 44:22, 45:1, 45:5, 48:3, 50:22, 54:20, 57:22, 61:1, 61:7, 64:25, 65:6, 66:12, 67:12, 74:10, 99:19, 106:11, 112:10, 112:15, 113:16, 119:24, 131:18, 132:2, 132:8, 133:22, 134:1, 135:11, 140:20, 145:19, 153:12, 153:15, 157:13, 157:25, 158:2, 158:7, 165:24, 166:2, 166:5, 167:2, 171:10, 179:25, 180:22, 180:24, 181:6, 181:21, 182:3, 182:6, 202:20, 203:5, 203:14, 205:11 Customers - 41:22 , 42:2, 42:6, 43:4, 43:5, 43:10, 51:14, 53:14, 54:13, 55:5, 56:8, 56:17, 57:4, 57:10, 57:19,

198:13, 198:14,

61:10, 61:12, 65:8, 69:25, 74:24, 83:24, 84:13, 99:17, 106:4, 111:17, 112:2, 113:14, 113:19, 145:4, 148:16, 155:13, 157:3, 158:1, 158:6, 161:21, 164:25, 165:14, 165:18, 166:8, 166:20, 166:22, 168:4, 168:20, 171:15, 171:20, 171:22, 178:8, 178:13, 178:25, 181:19, 206:7, 209:24 **Cyber - 146:17**

D

Damage - 50:17 Data - 17:16, 18:7, 18:11, 19:15, 20:22, 20:23, 37:3, 37:16, 85:19 **Database - 26:14** Date - 178:21 **Dating -** 9:25 **Day -** 210:3, 210:5, 210:10, 210:13 **DBRS - 164:7 Deal -** 28:5, 57:1, 80:15, 163:14, 192:15 **Dealing -** 65:18, 96:17 **Dear - 131:1 Debate - 19:3 Debt -** 3:3, 42:1, 169:10, 177:16, 206:21, 207:1, 207:2, 207:13, 207:16 **Decade -** 42:21, 43:9, 82:12, 148:5, 202:21 **Decades - 21:3**, 42:22, 161:11 **Decided -** 52:4. 87:20, 88:10 Decision - 9:11, 11:7, 13:22, 13:23, 13:24, 13:25, 14:23, 32:7, 45:12, 49:16, 50:1, 64:1,

114:4

Decline - 16:5, 16:10, 16:13, 170:22 **Declined - 145:19 Declining -** 19:10, 19:11. 144:17. 155:19 **Decrease -** 74:19. 176:20, 177:18, 182:3 Decreasing - 15:13 **Deed - 171:7 Defer -** 32:11 **Deferred -** 140:15 Deferring - 13:6, 115:17, 141:10 **Definitely - 146:5 Deflator -** 66:14, 66:15, 70:21, 196:13, 198:5 **Degree -** 186:8 **Deliver - 178:24** Delivering - 43:3, 112:7, 112:12 **Deloitte -** 186:24, 187:5 **Demographics - 1** 64:20 Demonstrate - 184 :25 **Dennis - 158:24** Depreciation - 204 :2, 204:4, 204:8, 204:10, 204:13, 204:24, 205:9, 205:14, 205:15, 205:21, 206:2, 206:5 **Depth - 27:1** Describe - 4:25. 132:24, 189:21 Described - 2:19, 44:13, 44:14, 108:6, 164:17, 180:8, 194:17 Design - 17:7, 191:20, 191:23 **Designation - 186:** 15, 186:25 **Detailed - 142:20**, 201:18 Deteriorate - 162:1 5, 178:17 **Determination - 11** 4:4, 194:14

Decisions - 14:23,

46:1, 170:12

Determine - 36:15, 114:12, 117:3, 117:10, 117:13, 123:24, 131:24 **Determined - 143**: 21, 163:25 Determines - 36:20 38:5 **Determining - 26:1** , 44:4, 44:16 Developed - 29:14 Developing - 195:6 **Development - 16**: 7, 110:17 **Didn't -** 47:8, 58:15, 58:20, 65:1, 65:5, 65:9, 98:24, 101:1, 101:2, 101:22, 108:16, 108:19, 129:10, 134:15, 135:17, 189:4 Difference - 30:5, 44:20, 122:10, 136:12 Differences - 93:10 Different - 3:21, 3:23, 8:6, 11:4, 11:7, 11:11, 13:25, 14:7, 14:10, 23:12, 32:10, 36:4, 36:13, 46:13, 50:25, 51:10, 60:3, 61:7, 76:23, 110:22, 121:2, 124:9, 124:19, 125:11, 128:6, 133:9, 188:5, 199:1 Differently - 58:13 Difficult - 38:22, 59:15, 63:10, 64:17, 73:20 Difficulty - 37:17, 138:8 **DING - 48:18 Dip -** 203:15 **Directed -** 58:13 Direction - 70:8, 190:15 **Directly - 58:1**, 112:5, 114:14, 158:5, 189:1, 190:9. 200:7 **Director - 111:3**,

Directors - 31:12. 39:11, 45:15, 77:4, 83:25, 84:9, 85:11, 86:8, 86:14, 86:16, 86:24, 89:4, 103:24, 106:3, 107:13, 111:9, 111:18, 113:24, 114:19, 115:3, 115:5, 122:7, 123:2, 124:3, 124:22, 125:12, 125:22, 128:2, 128:20 Disagree - 19:25 Disasters - 201:22 **Discovered** - 63:4 **Discretionary - 70:** Discussing - 19:21 Discussions - 39:1 Disposable - 165:7 **Distinct -** 76:22, 77:4, 77:25 **Distribution - 143**: 12, 150:22 Dividend - 177:7 **Document - 9:18.** 195:17, 206:9 **Doesn't -** 136:17. 156:8, 157:21, 185:5 **Dollar -** 156:23, 166:25 **Dollars - 96:17**, 97:13, 113:17, 139:16, 140:4, 161:17, 162:9, 177:7, 177:12, 197:6, 199:17 Don't - 3:14, 3:18, 5:13, 9:3, 14:5, 14:12, 14:16, 19:24, 20:3, 30:18, 31:22, 42:4, 48:12, 56:20, 56:22, 58:7, 58:14, 59:4, 81:25, 100:12, 100:18, 101:19, 103:2, 104:5, 106:19, 108:23, 113:2, 115:8, 115:25, 116:7, 119:17,

123:17, 136:1,

136:17, 143:8,

143:19, 149:9,

150:16, 151:22,

157:4, 158:20, 158:21, 166:3, 172:3, 173:3, 173:21, 190:19, 197:17, 201:18, 203:21, 204:15, 208:21, 210:2 **Double - 34:17** Downgrade - 178:5 **Downgrading - 18** 4:18 Dr - 7:8, 7:18, 162:25, 172:9, 173:1, 173:19, 174:11, 175:6, 176:4, 176:7, 176:16, 177:2, 177:10, 177:24 **Draw -** 9:3, 58:8 **Drive -** 43:9, 45:4, 104:22, 145:22, 156:25 **Driven -** 16:7, 75:10, 146:14, 157:25, 207:5 **Driver - 88:19**, 148:17, 148:18, 202:10 **Drivers - 146:18**, 148:25 **Drives - 157:20 Driving -** 42:18, 43:12, 59:20, 112:1, 112:16, 113:6, 113:13, 150:13 **Due -** 8:17, 11:19, 50:16, 54:9, 64:14, 66:10, 73:15, 76:1, 83:2, 87:14, 109:3, 161:12, 161:17, 161:22, 177:15 **Duke - 119:1 Duty - 57:8**

Ε

Each - 10:15, 10:20, 77:13, 77:24, 81:12, 82:2, 88:22, 116:8, 117:11, 136:7, 146:23, 161:12, 165:7, 165:25, 169:1, 202:24 Earlier - 7:22, 39:22, 43:23, 69:16, 73:16, 97:3, 108:6, 110:1,

120:11, 120:13,

120:14, 120:18,

123:14, 125:7

140:25, 176:2 Earn - 140:6, 162:11, 169:19, 170:19 **Earned - 140:5 Earnings - 35:24**, 36:5, 36:7, 40:23, 41:12. 41:13. 41:16, 41:24, 42:4, 89:10, 89:22, 90:7, 90:13, 92:21, 93:2, 94:5, 94:8, 95:4, 96:6, 97:2, 97:9, 98:17, 98:21, 98:24, 139:14, 139:15, 140:2, 169:22, 171:5 **Easy -** 39:1 Econometric - 18: Economic - 15:8, 15:9, 17:23, 18:2, 165:4 Economics - 186:1 Economy - 19:22, 164:21 Effect - 137:25, 158:12, 171:14 **Effective -** 179:14, 181:5, 181:10 Effectively - 173:1 **Effects - 177:2** Efficiency - 85:2, 85:3 Effort - 57:13 Eight - 22:13, 98:14, 98:15 Eighty - 139:16 Elaborate - 165:2 **Electric - 16:9**, 16:16, 16:25, 24:24, 25:1, 25:5, 81:9, 106:9, 127:16 Electric/ **Utility - 127:2** Electrical - 28:12, 28:20, 116:2, 116:11, 121:10, 121:21, 122:1, 128:3, 141:16, 142:15, 168:19 Electrical/ **Utilities -** 126:13 Electricity - 161:19 , 166:10, 166:22,

179:9, 179:19 Electrification - 16 :8, 16:15, 16:23, 149:5, 149:16, 150:4, 150:15 Emera - 121:23 Emergencies - 57: **Employee - 113:12** Employees - 76:22 , 81:12, 83:12, 110:9, 113:9, 113:11 Employment - 165: Enable - 179:2 **Enables - 168:3** Energy - 6:20, 12:25, 13:13, 21:18, 56:10, 63:24, 119:2, 121:11, 179:15, 179:18, 184:2, 184:3 Energy's - 184:4 Engineering - 21:1 8, 23:17, 112:6 Enhanced - 156:2 **Enjoying -** 184:16 **Ensure -** 38:23, 56:9, 56:15, 57:5, 57:8, 178:24, 180:16 **Ensures - 41:25** Ensuring - 88:6 **Entire - 45:22** Environment - 164 :21 **Equal - 34:17**, 81:19 Equipment - 148:1 **Equities - 176:21 Equity -** 3:17, 4:1, 4:2, 4:10, 4:18, 4:20, 5:5, 6:7, 9:14, 9:15, 9:22, 10:3, 10:4, 11:9, 11:10, 11:19, 11:22, 12:9, 12:20, 12:21, 13:7, 96:14, 96:18, 137:18, 137:21, 137:22, 141:1, 141:15, 162:24, 163:3, 163:9, 163:10, 167:14,

170:6, 176:9,

176:20, 176:24, 177:9, 177:15, 178:10, 182:23, 183:12, 183:17, 183:20, 183:24, 184:4, 184:5, 185:3, 185:4, 194:1. 194:13. 208:6 Essentially - 89:19 , 133:24, 154:24 Establishing - 130: Estimated - 181:6 **Estimates - 205:17** Et - 137:14 **Evaluate - 15:1**, 59:24, 60:7, 88:15, 144:15, 144:19, 175:4, 178:3 Evaluated - 62:6, 88:14, 103:7, 103:9, 110:3, 110:4, 110:20, 111:1, 130:4, 134:19 Evaluating - 104:9 Evaluation - 46:1, 46:3, 88:23, 89:2, 103:14, 105:3, 105:16, 110:5, 110:24, 117:20, 117:22, 130:17, 131:6, 131:20, 132:21, 132:25, 133:11, 134:9, 142:23 **Events -** 66:10 Eventually - 111:9 Everybody - 39:9, 195:21 Everyone - 1:3, 98:2 Everything - 40:25, 112:9, 140:7, 142:25 Evidence - 6:13, 11:15, 14:20, 14:24, 15:1, 15:6, 17:10, 19:8, 20:16, 31:5, 144:2, 167:25, 173:16, 173:22, 174:11, 191:10, 203:20, 209:12 **Evolve - 151:14** Examination - 40:5 **Examine - 173:6**

Example - 32:5, 32:8, 35:24, 36:5, 37:18, 39:2, 44:22, 63:6, 64:24, 67:4, 70:9, 81:17, 92:12, 107:14, 109:4, 109:6, 112:5, 132:23. 183:22. 184:2, 198:13 **Examples - 202:14 Exceed -** 72:19, 148:6, 152:23, 156:4 Exceeded - 148:9 Exceeding - 92:24, 146:9, 197:22 Except - 81:4, 82:23, 108:9, 208:23 Exception - 2:6 Excess - 89:22. 140:19, 157:5 Execution - 110:15 Executive - 21:9, 21:15, 21:22, 22:6, 22:12, 25:16, 25:19, 26:25, 27:7, 27:18, 29:1, 33:21, 33:22, 38:8, 38:9, 41:15, 42:11, 45:7, 46:5, 46:16, 46:17, 47:21, 77:3, 83:13, 83:16, 85:11, 87:24, 103:12, 106:3, 107:1, 107:12, 108:21, 111:10, 111:19, 115:4, 115:19, 118:11, 118:12, 118:18, 119:21, 119:22, 120:3, 123:15, 124:4, 124:21, 125:12, 128:2, 128:20, 129:7, 129:25, 130:4, 130:18, 131:7, 136:1, 136:8, 136:17, 141:12, 156:12 Executives - 26:4, 27:16, 27:20, 83:25, 84:8, 113:24, 114:19, 117:5, 117:12, 119:10, 122:7, 123:1, 134:17, 156:11 **Exhibit - 90:3**,

90:5, 139:19, 195:1, 203:25 **Exhibits - 160:18 Expand -** 181:24 **Expect -** 197:19 Expectation - 170: **Expected -** 16:14, 112:20 Expenditure - 156: 23. 156:24 Expenditures - 20 8:22, 209:1 Expense - 196:10, 204:2, 204:11, 204:13, 204:24, 205:21, 206:2 **Expenses -** 40:10, 195:4, 195:9, 196:8, 196:20, 197:21, 198:2, 198:4 Experience - 154:2 2, 166:9 Experienced - 161: 10, 181:17 Experiencing - 170 **Expert -** 6:16, 6:17, 11:10, 13:6, 115:13, 124:25, 141:23, 163:6, 173:1, 173:2, 174:11, 176:4 Expertise - 32:12, 37:1, 37:4, 45:25, 175:6, 175:7, 175:9, 175:11 **Experts - 6:14 Expert's - 145:9 Explain - 33:16**, 35:14, 44:15, 49:11, 62:5, 62:24, 85:9, 87:7, 88:14, 89:13, 91:9, 96:4, 96:14, 97:2, 104:7, 107:15, 108:22, 110:3, 111:21, 117:25, 131:13, 134:3, 136:25, 195:5, 201:15, 203:16, 205:1, 206:12 Explained - 130:6 Explaining - 140:1 7, 204:16 **Explains - 152:24**

Examiner - 172:2

Explanation - 172: 13, 174:14, 197:23, 203:16, 204:7, 205:6 Explore - 19:13 Exports - 179:18 Express - 96:18 Extended - 50:15 Extra - 42:10

F Facility - 208:8 **Factored - 202:5**, 208:18 Factors - 46:13, 49:25, 75:19, 102:3, 103:14, 161:6, 161:13, 167:8. 168:22. 169:5, 169:6, 169:16, 170:1 Fail - 56:25 Failures - 57:2 Fair - 11:23, 12:1, 12:15, 14:5, 14:13, 19:20, 19:21, 20:3, 43:8, 79:7, 141:5, 141:24, 141:25, 144:20, 153:1, 162:11, 163:12, 167:17, 169:22, 174:1, 177:11, 178:15, 179:3, 185:5, 194:8, 201:7 **Fairly -** 28:4, 43:1 Fall - 21:15 Falls - 164:23, 165:12, 165:16, 165:19, 166:6, 166:13, 166:15, 167:1 Family - 24:14, 25:6 Far - 34:2, 35:22, 72:19, 175:3, 204:3, 204:23 Fashion - 170:20 **Fathers - 210:13** Father's - 210:13 Feed - 86:24 Feel - 55:25, 128:11, 141:17 Feeling - 198:20, 199:10

Fees - 73:15,

75:16, 146:18

Felt - 87:22, 88:5

Ferry - 25:21, 26:11, 26:17, 27:3, 31:11, 31:23, 32:9, 32:15, 37:3, 37:7, 107:7, 114:8, 114:16, 116:4, 117:3, 128:18, 129:12, 130:7. 131:13, 131:22, 132:22, 133:3, 134:11, 142:8, 142:20 Ferry's - 26:2, 32:11, 128:25 Fieldwork - 62:18 **Fifty -** 140:4 Figure - 74:17, 97:24, 146:2, 195:20, 203:13, 203:15 File - 179:13 Filed - 1:25, 2:8, 2:9, 49:10, 64:11, 74:3, 91:24, 160:18, 173:16, 195:2, 195:18 Filing - 191:1, 192:1 Filings - 88:22, 88:24 Final - 10:2, 10:19, 32:7, 45:21, 89:7, 111:10 Finalize - 86:1 Finance - 21:17, 132:3, 132:16, 135:5, 136:10, 160:7, 160:11, 189:25, 206:10, 206:15, 206:17, 207:5, 207:7, 207:11, 207:19, 207:23, 208:9 Finances - 189:9, 207:25 Financial - 40:23, 41:21, 42:10, 71:13, 89:11, 92:15, 97:19, 106:14, 108:9, 138:1, 138:2, 160:8, 160:24, 161:2, 161:4, 161:13, 162:2, 162:14, 163:19, 163:21,

167:11, 167:19,

167:20, 167:25,

170:6, 177:18, 178:16, 178:23, 179:4 Financially - 178:2 Financing - 168:4, 168:18, 171:18, 171:20, 178:7. 194:11, 206:18, 207:10, 208:12, 209:3, 209:5, 209:18 Financings - 208:7 . 209:21 Find - 40:10, 43:20, 59:15, 63:9 Fine - 33:15, 152:19, 174:4, 175:3, 175:12, 205:4 Firmly - 42:17 **First -** 1:7, 4:7, 14:17, 25:10, 26:10, 41:13, 43:17, 50:7, 51:12, 59:22, 62:3, 65:18, 77:10, 78:2, 80:18, 85:5, 88:2, 89:11, 93:21, 107:14, 137:25, 149:24, 166:17, 171:5, 171:11, 171:18, 178:11, 189:13, 207:8, 207:20 Fitzgerald - 83:19, 158:25, 182:14, 182:19, 183:2, 183:8, 183:21, 184:7, 184:13, 185:8, 185:14, 185:19, 185:23, 186:2, 186:6, 186:14, 186:18, 187:1, 187:7, 187:12, 187:16, 187:20, 187:24, 188:10, 188:14, 188:21, 189:6, 189:12, 189:20, 190:8, 190:14, 190:20, 191:4, 191:9, 191:15, 192:2, 192:12, 192:22, 193:2,

195:16, 196:1, 196:5, 196:19, 197:7, 197:20, 198:10, 198:18, 199:8, 199:18, 200:3, 200:9, 200:20, 201:3, 201:14, 202:2. 202:9, 202:15, 203:11, 203:23, 205:5, 205:18, 205:25, 206:8, 206:23, 207:21, 208:13, 209:9, 209:25, 210:6 Five - 16:5, 56:5, 94:24, 95:6, 97:5, 97:8, 100:17, 100:19, 100:23, 101:3, 101:7, 101:14, 101:16, 119:22, 147:14, 147:16, 147:21, 149:20, 151:17, 151:21, 154:25, 159:7, 159:9, 182:4, 209:4 Fixed - 207:9 Flexibility - 11:20, 167:11, 171:11, 178:11 Flow - 54:11, 62:21, 63:2, 63:7, 87:12, 87:14, 87:16, 88:5, 88:7, 108:12, 169:7, 169:22, 180:14, 181:16 Flows - 161:24, 177:14 Focus - 14:10, 61:11, 147:14, 147:20, 149:2, 155:9, 162:20 Focused - 43:2. 104:16, 104:19, 104:21, 112:11, 112:15, 157:17, 178:22 Follow - 49:4, 52:4 **Followed -** 173:9, 195:6 Following - 3:11, 37:25, 49:21, 51:14, 173:11 Footnote - 80:5 Forecast - 9:1,

15:12, 16:5, 16:10, 16:21, 17:2, 17:3, 17:6, 18:6, 18:13, 18:15, 18:19, 19:3, 20:3, 20:5, 20:10, 20:11, 37:25, 40:9, 66:16, 67:10, 68:7, 69:1, 70:15, 71:23, 72:6, 72:11, 73:1, 73:6, 73:23, 74:19, 84:22, 90:4, 90:8, 90:12, 90:24, 91:18, 92:2, 93:2, 93:17, 94:5, 95:13, 139:18, 139:20, 158:3, 162:2, 162:5, 165:8, 190:1, 195:4, 196:9, 196:11, 198:5, 198:8, 204:6, 205:15, 206:16, 207:13 Forecasted - 66:22 . 84:14 Forecasting - 21:6, 90:13, 93:19 Forecasts - 16:2, 123:17, 195:7 Forget - 94:21 Form - 157:14, 208:21 Former - 131:18, 188:4 Forms - 49:15 Formulate - 174:6 Formulating - 202: Forth - 172:22, 189:4 Fortis - 22:23, 23:23, 24:3, 24:8, 24:14, 25:6, 25:14, 27:19, 118:19, 119:11, 120:4, 120:8, 127:18, 132:11, 132:13, 184:2, 184:3, 184:4, 187:9, 188:22, 189:2, 189:5, 189:9, 190:9, 190:12, 190:22, 191:5 Fortunately - 50:19 Forum - 192:15 Forward - 15:15, 59:13, 85:17, 141:18, 153:11,

193:11, 193:23,

194:16, 194:24,

195:10, 195:15,

158:4, 162:12, 166:10, 181:22, 195:5, 208:23 Four - 9:25, 21:14, 21:19, 25:13, 45:7, 50:14, 56:5, 75:3, 123:19, 165:20, 182:4 Framework - 169:1 7, 169:21, 179:8, 179:10, 179:21, 180:3, 181:3 Frequency - 61:4, 62:11 **Fro** - 5:11 Front - 14:8, 14:20, 137:1 Fulfil - 171:22 **Full -** 14:11, 77:17, 106:11, 106:18, 169:23 **Fully -** 41:9, 52:5, 113:2 Function - 132:7 Further - 58:9, 153:10, 153:13, 166:4, 167:2 Future - 8:20, 16:12, 19:12,

G

143:24, 149:22,

167:3, 179:4

Gary - 131:1

Gas - 184:10 Gave - 20:16 **GDP -** 66:14, 66:15, 70:21, 196:13, 198:5 General - 2:1, 9:25, 10:5, 14:25, 68:10, 135:24, 162:13, 170:10, 196:17 Generally - 46:24, 81:2, 81:19, 82:21, 123:19, 183:18, 190:6, 192:18, 197:8, 198:15, 199:3, 201:21, 205:24, 206:17, 207:8, 208:21, 209:1 Generation - 166:2 Get - 45:24, 46:3, 51:12, 53:10, 58:20, 77:17,

150:1, 154:7, 174:10, 195:21, 203:4 Gets - 62:6, 88:13, 101:6, 101:9, 106:5, 110:3, 140:7, 208:10 **GIS -** 151:8 **Give -** 5:11, 26:21, 33:11, 54:1, 55:16, 70:8, 73:8, 77:16, 78:11, 91:5, 94:9, 94:14, 110:14, 172:21, 172:24, 183:22 Given - 14:5, 27:6, 28:19, 39:5, 47:19, 73:19, 97:5, 144:4, 144:15 Gives - 78:10, 131:6 Global - 161:6 **Glynn -** 1:7, 1:9, 94:16, 98:1, 152:5, 158:15, 158:23, 159:4, 159:14, 159:18, 210:16 **Go -** 1:7, 3:10, 3:13, 3:17, 4:5, 7:16, 19:18, 25:21, 25:22, 33:4, 33:6, 36:14, 37:2, 37:3, 37:12, 40:9, 42:21, 43:14, 64:21, 65:9, 68:3, 71:8, 71:18, 72:2, 72:3, 74:11, 76:15, 77:11, 77:23, 83:13, 85:6, 86:20, 89:4, 89:22, 90:3, 90:20, 101:3, 102:17, 107:10, 115:25, 116:3, 116:8, 116:18, 129:11, 130:5, 130:23, 133:21, 136:2, 136:4, 137:17, 139:12, 139:18, 145:11, 145:12, 147:12, 152:14, 158:16, 167:18, 186:7, 195:3, 196:4, 196:23, 203:12,

81:25, 91:12,

94:21, 101:11,

108:24, 111:2,

123:6, 123:22,

203:25, 204:5, 209:18, 209:19, 210:12 **Goals - 42:11 Going -** 3:19, 3:21, 4:4, 8:18, 8:23, 15:15, 18:16, 19:20, 21:3, 31:15, 33:6, 33:7, 33:9, 47:18, 63:20, 64:11, 70:2, 72:17, 72:19, 74:21, 82:12, 85:5, 91:6, 91:14, 97:23, 102:8, 102:10, 102:11, 102:12, 123:18, 129:11, 140:19, 144:23, 149:21, 153:11, 158:3, 159:23, 166:10, 172:14, 172:25, 174:10, 181:22, 185:9, 190:4, 195:4, 205:21, 206:3, 206:12, 208:16 Gone - 12:10 Good - 1:3, 1:5, 1:14, 1:16, 34:14, 48:23, 49:1, 87:23, 90:17, 124:24, 152:25, 155:4, 160:6, 174:10, 182:15, 182:18, 210:3 Got - 33:16, 34:24, 101:9, 152:13, 153:23, 172:4 Governance - 45:2 Government - 16:2 4, 17:25, 18:11, 20:23 **GRA -** 2:5, 2:8, 3:11, 3:23, 4:3, 4:4, 7:25, 8:19, 11:5, 12:22, 14:1, 66:15, 72:5, 91:24, 180:4, 189:13, 189:14, 189:22, 189:24, 190:10, 190:16, 190:23, 191:6, 191:10, 191:16, 191:22, 192:9, 192:14, 193:7,

Graduation - 187:6 Grant - 16:24 **Gras -** 5:7, 11:6, 14:6, 17:20, 29:17, 59:6. 70:24. 144:12, 190:13 **Greater - 38:9.** 198:9 **Greening - 149:15** Grew - 22:25 Grid - 149:15 Gross - 68:17, 68:20, 202:19 **Group - 27:14**, 28:8, 28:11, 28:21, 28:24, 29:10, 29:12, 29:13, 29:17, 31:4, 31:6, 31:14, 31:23, 31:24, 31:25, 32:8, 32:10, 32:17, 32:22, 77:2, 77:3, 78:13, 83:11, 83:12, 113:25, 114:3, 114:7, 114:11, 114:16, 114:22, 116:6, 116:15, 116:21, 117:18, 118:4, 118:19, 119:11, 120:4, 120:8, 120:23, 121:3, 121:9, 121:10, 121:20, 122:5, 124:12, 124:20, 125:21, 126:9, 126:12, 126:13, 126:23, 126:25, 127:2, 127:3, 127:8, 128:4, 128:20, 129:5, 129:13, 129:23, 153:4, 184:12 Groups - 76:22, 77:2, 77:5, 77:13, 77:24, 78:1, 120:24, 121:2, 121:8, 121:13, 122:2, 122:14, 123:23, 123:24, 124:9, 125:18, 127:14, 128:5, 130:1 Growth - 11:21,

Graduate - 185:24

Graduated - 186:2

3. 187:4

15:6, 15:14, 16:7, 18:2, 19:11, 110:18, 150:4, 150:15, 161:12, 164:2 Guess - 49:25, 93:18, 98:20, 101:18, 125:7, 133:7. 141:11. 142:19, 143:21, 144:14, 174:9, 194:25, 195:1, 197:10, 202:3, 208:15, 209:10 Guidance - 89:6 Guide - 33:9 Guided - 110:11, 110:13, 110:14

Н

Haldar - 49:24 **Half** - 98:14, 98:16, 105:24, 108:23, 113:17, 169:13 Hand - 167:18 **Handler - 81:5 Handlers -** 81:17 **Hands -** 81:21 Happy - 210:13 **Hard -** 66:5, 71:17, 157:6 Harms - 204:15 **Harsh -** 164:20 Hasn't - 129:12, 138:19, 144:4 Haven't - 9:5. 32:20, 65:14, 121:17, 129:21, 173:21 Hay - 117:4, 117:13, 117:19, 129:6, 129:24, 133:23, 133:25, 134:2, 135:12, 135:25, 136:7, 136:24 Head - 203:22 Headed - 3:16, 35:10 Health - 41:21 **Hear -** 7:8, 149:13 Heard - 46:15, 137:20, 191:10 Hearing - 6:16, 6:17, 8:24, 99:11, 144:8, 172:18 **Hearings - 119:16**, 193:13

193:17, 194:1

Grade - 168:2,

168:13, 168:17

199:21, 200:7,

Heating - 16:8 **Held -** 24:2, 50:6 Help - 167:20, 174:6 **Helpful - 19:5**, 39:13 **Helping - 155:16 Helps -** 168:19. 209:23 Here's - 153:15 **He's -** 7:14, 14:13, 23:6, 24:21, 27:12, 111:12, 125:3, 144:2 High - 66:22, 81:10, 82:4, 114:15, 150:2, 153:23 Higher - 4:2, 11:21, 38:16, 41:15, 66:24, 67:3, 69:19, 72:7, 73:14, 81:8, 82:14, 82:22, 83:6, 100:21, 101:9, 101:11, 133:23, 136:8, 139:17, 139:18, 143:25, 146:15, 161:19, 171:8, 171:19, 178:6, 178:13, 198:15 **Highest -** 81:3, 81:13, 81:21, 141:15 **Highly -** 87:17 Hired - 120:14 Hiring - 113:9, 113:13 Historical - 37:15 Historically - 15:11 **History -** 47:19, 50:13, 143:23 Hit - 35:25 Hold - 25:17 Holders - 3:3, 3:5 Holyrood - 50:1, 50:20 Honest - 30:19 Hourly - 82:21 **House -** 174:24 Household - 165:6 Housing - 15:12, 16:14, 16:20, 17:15, 18:3, 165:6 **HR -** 45:20, 115:13, 119:24, 120:14, 120:18, 124:25, 125:8, 131:19,

131:21, 132:1, 132:13, 132:16 Hughes - 118:25, 119:5, 119:15 Human - 132:7 Hundred - 140:3 Hydro - 2:9, 9:20, 18:10, 49:10, 49:20, 50:8, 53:11, 81:9, 121:23, 121:24, 156:20, 161:16, 165:22, 179:12, 180:11 Hydro's - 179:22, 179:25

I

IBEW - 48:17 Ice - 50:16 l'd - 9:17, 21:8, 25:22, 58:24, 91:12, 93:13, 93:20, 96:12, 113:23, 116:3, 118:11, 137:17, 152:13, 172:13, 210:12 Identified - 8:10 **I'II -** 12:25, 24:14, 25:6, 29:23, 33:11, 41:7, 54:1, 78:2, 100:1, 125:10, 175:20, 205:13 **I'm -** 1:10, 2:7, 3:19, 3:20, 3:21, 4:4, 18:6, 18:22, 21:3, 26:8, 30:24, 33:5, 33:7, 33:9, 33:23, 35:13, 38:12, 39:16, 47:13, 47:18, 55:9, 64:4, 80:7, 82:11, 88:2, 90:4, 90:24, 91:5, 91:12, 99:2, 106:9, 109:13, 114:24, 114:25, 115:13, 121:3, 122:15, 122:16, 123:6, 124:16, 124:25, 125:16, 126:16, 141:11, 145:11, 154:8, 157:8, 160:6, 173:17, 173:23, 175:3, 186:12, 192:11, 195:11,

195:17, 199:13,

209:11 **Immediately - 187**: **Immigration - 161**: 12 **Impact -** 9:7, 38:7, 56:6. 57:22. 58:2. 58:4, 63:13, 66:20, 150:19, 154:18, 154:21, 164:13, 176:2, 179:25, 180:3, 180:6, 180:22, 180:24, 181:8 Impacted - 63:7, 65:19, 65:20, 161:7, 161:13, 183:16 Impacting - 184:21 **Impacts** - 66:18, 151:4, 151:6, 166:2 **Implications - 149**: 23, 151:18 **Implies - 202:23** Importance - 170:1 Important - 11:21, 41:22, 41:23, 88:6, 113:8, 114:3, 124:12, 128:1, 163:16, 168:8, 168:14, 169:12, 171:6, 179:19, 181:12 Importantly - 181:1 **Improve -** 152:23, 153:10, 153:17, 154:3, 154:13, 154:20 **Improved -** 43:8. 102:14, 156:7, 157:18 **Improvement - 37**: 16, 102:3, 155:23, 202:24 **Improvements - 15** 3:13 **Improving -** 155:16 Incent - 64:18 **Incented -** 45:8, 154:13 Incentive - 33:4, 33:13, 33:17, 37:8, 42:10, 43:11, 43:16, 61:16, 61:20,

62:24, 84:2, 84:4, 85:6, 87:23, 106:20, 107:1, 107:2, 107:11, 112:25, 153:6, 154:5, 154:9, 156:4, 156:9, 157:7. 157:17 Incentives - 42:17, 45:9, 88:20, 135:15, 152:22, 153:7, 153:9, 157:9 Incentivise - 41:16 Income - 165:7 Incorrectly - 209:1 Increase - 12:20, 13:8, 16:16, 51:23, 52:9, 52:19, 53:10, 53:13, 53:20, 54:6, 54:19, 55:2, 55:5, 59:21, 67:23, 68:19, 68:22, 70:1, 72:11, 74:24, 75:14, 80:21, 84:20, 135:4, 135:6, 137:23, 139:5, 140:5, 140:8, 140:10, 140:18, 140:20, 143:17, 145:5, 145:6, 145:20, 147:3, 162:8, 163:10, 165:24, 166:5, 177:16, 177:19, 181:6, 191:11, 191:12, 197:1, 197:5, 198:9, 198:21, 200:18, 200:22, 202:5, 202:11, 204:20, 205:2, 205:7, 205:10, 205:20, 205:21, 207:4 Increased - 150:11, 154:8, 158:10, 167:23, 176:23, 184:5, 201:12, 201:23, 203:6 **Increases -** 51:13, 54:9, 54:13, 57:12, 58:9, 67:8, 75:23, 76:8, 76:10, 122:24, 124:18, 139:22, 146:23, 161:9, 182:6, 183:19, 199:5,

200:16, 206:25, 207:6 Increasing - 16:15, 74:9, 74:25, 75:4, 75:17, 75:20, 144:18, 182:24, 183:10, 183:24, 201:5. 201:6. 201:22, 204:4 Incumbent - 135:1 Incur - 166:21 **Incurred -** 161:15 Indicated - 9:4, 21:21, 47:25, 48:2, 49:7, 51:22, 62:8, 64:15, 69:15, 83:2, 87:13, 93:6, 102:6, 112:4, 116:17, 120:7, 124:25, 125:16, 128:8, 129:24, 140:25, 142:8, 146:13, 182:22 Indicator - 62:12, 62:14, 87:23, 143:23, 170:8 Indicators - 15:9, 34:15, 62:4, 62:15, 165:5, 165:8 Indirectly - 190:9 Industrial - 26:13, 26:24, 31:7, 31:24, 114:11, 116:6 Industries - 130:10 **Industry -** 62:13 Inference - 201:7 Inflate - 196:13 Inflated - 70:20 **Inflation -** 66:19, 66:20, 66:22, 66:23, 67:5, 69:17, 69:24, 70:17, 73:16, 73:17, 74:14, 85:2, 145:21, 146:3, 146:4, 146:9, 146:10, 146:16, 157:14, 161:10, 196:15, 197:12, 197:13, 198:7, 198:9, 202:20, 203:5 **Inflationary -** 75:11 , 76:2, 198:16, 199:7 Inflict - 209:16

Influence - 87:19 Informed - 29:25, 169:15 Infrastructure - 15 **Initiative - 149:15**, 150:16 Initiatives - 149:5. 149:17 **Injury -** 62:11 Input - 103:2, 115:4, 209:8 Insensitive - 209:1 Instructions - 55:1 **Insurance - 70:19**, 75:16, 146:16, 198:13, 198:15, 198:19, 198:20, 198:24, 199:2, 199:3, 199:23, 200:2, 200:12, 200:17, 200:24, 201:7, 201:10, 201:12, 201:21, 202:5, 202:10 Insured - 199:21 Integrity - 138:2, 161:4, 162:15, 163:21, 167:21, 178:16, 178:23, 179:4 **Intend -** 162:17 Interactions - 46:5, 103:10, 103:11 Interest - 41:7, 99:17, 138:15, 161:9, 169:8, 169:11, 171:7, 197:11, 207:10, 208:17, 208:18, 208:21, 209:2, 209:14 Interesting - 92:7, 174:8 **Internal - 188:1** Introduce - 160:3 Introduced - 59:8, 173:22 Invest - 138:13 **Investigations - 62** Investment - 154:3 , 155:15, 156:10, 158:10, 165:21, 168:2, 168:12,

18, 153:25, 154:4, 154:16, 154:19, 154:23, 166:24, 168:18, 185:7, 194:11, 206:6. 208:2, 209:21 Investor - 29:9, 127:19, 167:22, 176:22, 177:9 Investors - 3:4, 138:13 Involvement - 191: Island - 166:18, 179:17 **Isn't -** 42:13, 64:2, 112:20, 124:12, 134:22, 141:12, 159:15 Issue - 18:20, 19:7, 20:6, 21:10, 162:20, 162:22, 171:9, 171:11, 171:18, 173:12, 178:11, 191:20, 192:7, 192:9, 193:4, 193:7, 193:12, 193:16, 193:25, 194:2, 208:11 **Issued -** 207:16 Issues - 29:25, 51:11, 191:19 Items - 70:12, 75:15, 152:20 It'II - 174:8 It's - 3:15, 4:19, 5:16, 7:14, 8:3, 8:16, 9:19, 10:8, 11:18, 14:12, 17:18, 18:17, 19:20, 19:21, 21:1, 25:6, 26:18, 28:4, 29:7, 31:4, 32:23, 33:6, 33:22, 34:7, 38:25, 41:2, 44:4, 44:5, 44:8, 45:9, 45:20, 47:25, 48:21, 52:3, 54:13, 63:3, 63:4, 63:7, 63:10, 64:14, 64:17, 67:3, 68:5, 71:11, 71:17, 71:20, 72:24, 73:19, 75:10, 79:12, 83:2,

168:13, 168:17,

Investments - 153:

206:19

83:5, 84:14, 98:7, 99:4, 99:20, 99:23, 102:11, 102:13, 104:1, 106:13, 107:7, 107:8, 108:8, 109:8, 109:13, 109:14, 109:17. 110:10. 110:11, 110:14, 110:21, 112:1, 121:7, 124:24, 126:21, 128:8, 129:15, 130:25, 134:3, 134:4, 134:6, 136:4, 136:24, 143:18, 151:23, 152:14, 153:3, 154:25, 155:7, 155:16, 172:22, 172:24, 174:10, 174:23, 189:17, 195:23, 200:17, 201:19, 202:14, 204:15, 205:1, 205:6, 210:1 I've - 33:16, 94:19, 152:13, 160:9, 189:18

J **January -** 179:14, 181:5 Jeopardizes - 177: 25 **Job -** 42:13, 62:17, 112:24, 188:6, 188:9, 188:17, 188:18 Jocelyn - 188:13 Joined - 118:22, 118:23, 120:14, 187:8 Jointly - 174:16 Judgmental - 136:

July - 37:22, 51:23, 53:1, 53:2, 53:12, 53:15, 57:20, 67:11, 91:16, 91:22, 93:7, 93:8, 140:21, 161:21, 165:25, 181:7, 181:10, 181:21, 182:4 Jump - 30:15, 203:24 June - 131:9 Jurisdiction - 144:

Jurisdictions - 106 Justifications - 20 8:22 Justified - 209:2 Justifies - 11:6

K **Karl - 119:12 Key -** 3:12, 79:18, 148:25, 162:20, 163:19, 164:6, 165:5, 170:6, 178:4, 193:25, 194:12, 194:17 **Knowing - 140:19**, 141:13 Knowledge - 31:20 31:21, 32:19, 33:1, 128:23, 129:12, 129:17, 138:22, 143:5, 147:7 **Known -** 70:16, 70:21, 92:18, 135:18, 196:11, 196:16 Korn - 25:21, 26:2, 26:11, 26:17, 27:3, 31:11, 31:23, 32:9, 32:11, 32:15, 37:3, 37:7, 107:7, 114:8, 114:16, 116:4, 117:3, 128:18, 128:25, 129:12, 130:7, 131:13, 131:22, 132:21, 132:22, 133:2, 134:11, 142:8,

Labour - 70:3, 72:25, 73:2, 75:13, 76:15, 85:1, 146:14, 146:19,

L

196:14, 196:15, 198:3 **Labrador - 15:10**,

142:20

28:15, 28:23, 166:18, 179:17, 185:16 Lack - 28:19,

28:21, 28:22

Lag - 15:10,

161:24, 165:8 Lagging - 62:12, 62:13 Large - 26:15, 59:16, 73:15, 76:4, 82:13, 156:18, 169:15, 207:18 Largely - 1:24. 46:8, 53:5, 63:3, 63:5, 66:10, 73:2, 75:10, 75:12, 83:2, 102:23, 104:12, 104:15, 110:9, 148:17, 155:2, 164:16 Larger - 27:9, 83:4, 119:21, 135:6, 150:20, 182:3, 205:13, 206:1, 206:2 **Late -** 119:7. 123:20 **Lateness - 73:19** Later - 55:24, 93:11, 127:9 **Latter - 150:25** Layperson's - 201:

Lead - 76:9, 81:20, 178:5

Leading - 62:4, 62:14, 62:15 **Leads -** 124:18 Learned - 88:8 Leave - 175:20 **LED -** 59:11,

132:25, 135:6 Left - 1:18, 2:21, 3:9, 111:3, 210:7

Let's - 92:21, 163:14, 167:14

Letter - 131:1. 133:5

Level - 28:18, 31:8, 35:4, 46:23, 70:10, 77:12, 82:4, 89:19, 96:16, 106:16, 111:4, 112:3, 114:15, 118:5, 120:11, 120:13,

123:15, 145:3, 150:2, 154:24, 155:15, 175:6,

175:7, 175:8, 175:11, 178:3, 208:5, 208:11

Levels - 28:25,

151:2, 151:18,

155:12, 161:10, 199:7 **Liability - 100:16** Liaison - 188:23 **Light -** 59:11, 60:3, 61:6 **Likewise - 39:19** LIL - 2:12, 2:19. 8:17, 11:3, 49:9, 49:12, 49:21, 50:2, 50:5, 50:16 Limit - 44:10, 89:20, 90:1 **Limited -** 11:20, 116:1, 138:13, 171:11, 178:10 Line - 6:5, 7:17, 8:3, 9:10, 26:12, 56:10, 78:9, 79:20, 81:14, 81:15, 81:20, 107:14, 123:2, 124:7, 202:17, 204:2 **Lines -** 4:7, 4:25, 6:6, 18:22, 112:10, 150:22 Link - 166:18, 179:17 **List -** 26:19, 63:15, 116:7 Listed - 134:22 **Lists -** 10:1, 10:2, 10:3 Load - 15:5, 16:6, 16:12, 16:16, 18:13, 19:11, 20:3, 20:4, 150:14 **Lockstep -** 205:22 London - 24:2, 121:5, 122:21, 123:7, 131:22, 138:22, 138:25, 147:3, 159:6, 159:24, 160:3, 160:5, 160:6, 160:14, 160:20, 160:23, 161:1, 162:4, 162:19, 163:5, 163:17, 164:15, 165:2, 165:3, 165:15, 166:14, 167:7, 167:16, 168:11, 168:25, 170:3, 171:4, 171:16, 173:7, 176:1, 176:6, 176:14,

177:4, 177:22, 177:23, 178:20, 179:6, 179:11, 180:5, 181:2, 181:14, 182:1, 182:10, 182:17, 182:25, 183:6, 183:14, 184:1, 184:9, 184:23, 185:12, 185:17, 185:21, 185:25, 186:4, 186:9, 186:16, 186:22, 187:3, 187:10, 187:14, 187:18, 187:22, 188:3, 188:12, 188:19, 188:25, 189:10, 189:16, 189:23, 190:11, 190:18, 190:25, 191:7, 191:13, 191:21, 192:10, 192:17, 192:24, 193:9, 193:18, 194:5, 194:20, 195:8, 195:12, 195:22, 196:7, 197:3, 197:16, 197:24, 198:12, 198:23, 199:15, 199:24, 200:6, 200:14, 201:1, 201:8, 201:17, 202:7, 202:13, 203:1, 203:18, 205:8, 205:23, 206:4, 206:14, 207:3, 207:24, 208:20, 209:17 Long - 3:4, 3:6, 11:3, 11:18, 23:6, 42:2, 42:19, 45:4, 45:6, 45:10, 49:14, 50:7, 56:9, 57:10, 61:8, 101:12, 102:6, 104:17, 106:19, 107:2, 122:13, 123:17, 157:14, 169:10, 185:11, 207:1, 207:12, 207:13, 208:12, 209:22 Longer - 2:20, 8:11, 50:18, 51:4,

99:4, 104:23,

147:18, 150:17,

158:12, 209:5 Longstanding - 17 :18, 21:2, 85:16, 163:8, 176:17 Look - 3:4, 3:6, 5:17, 9:6, 10:4, 14:24, 15:17, 20:22, 21:25, 29:6, 29:11, 33:14, 39:1, 39:2, 41:13, 42:18, 43:7, 44:21, 44:25, 47:1, 50:13, 55:16, 59:5, 59:7, 60:5, 61:1, 61:3, 61:4, 63:19, 64:23, 65:2, 65:19, 65:24, 66:11, 67:14, 70:14, 72:24, 73:5, 73:12, 74:8, 74:10, 75:11, 75:13, 76:23, 79:16, 81:1, 81:11, 82:2, 82:10, 82:18, 86:15, 86:16, 88:21, 89:10, 95:15, 99:16, 101:13, 102:2, 102:5, 107:13, 108:14, 109:4, 112:3, 113:4, 116:21, 116:24, 123:12, 123:23, 128:19, 129:8, 141:2, 143:23, 144:2, 148:2, 148:3, 151:18, 153:22, 157:7, 171:1, 181:24, 196:9, 196:17, 209:3, 209:5 Looked - 7:11, 55:14, 58:16, 60:2, 62:3, 69:21, 73:11, 73:12, 73:25, 74:22, 75:3, 76:22, 81:23, 83:22, 84:3, 93:16, 97:18, 99:17, 100:7, 100:10, 105:21, 106:2, 106:4, 136:14, 203:7, 203:9 Looking - 4:2, 4:12, 5:22, 11:23, 12:8, 12:15, 20:1,

45:2, 45:6, 45:8, 45:9, 52:9, 54:19, 55:20, 56:14, 57:19, 58:24, 66:6, 69:25, 74:25, 79:6, 85:17, 85:18, 97:1, 116:22, 116:23, 117:5, 139:7, 145:5, 151:6, 151:13, 152:21, 156:2, 157:13, 162:12, 195:17, 196:20 Lot - 37:15, 42:22, 50:25, 56:18, 57:2, 57:5, 57:11, 65:20, 66:3, 73:17, 82:13, 83:3, 85:15, 88:9, 88:20, 102:4, 113:10, 127:11, 147:24, 148:10, 148:22, 149:13 **Low -** 13:24, 15:11, 42:3, 55:22, 57:13, 71:5, 164:1, 168:20 Lower - 16:20, 38:8, 38:15, 101:4, 101:20, 124:3, 133:24, 144:10, 158:2, 158:4, 158:6, 177:15, 181:19, 198:6 Lowest - 38:12, 42:1, 176:24, 183:3, 183:4, 184:19, 184:20

М

Ma - 27:12, 29:3,

29:19, 29:23, 30:7,

114:14, 114:20, 116:17, 117:25, 124:25, 127:12, 127:22, 128:9, 129:18, 133:6, 134:3, 136:25, 137:8 Magic - 173:3 Magnitude - 53:22, 161:23 Main - 146:18, 146:21, 162:22, 194:2, 202:10 Mainly - 150:5, 150:6, 161:12

Maintain - 148:16,

154:14, 155:11,

155:16, 157:2,

157:3, 167:20, 168:1, 168:8, 185:1 Maintained - 161:4 Maintaining - 41:2 3, 154:23, 155:10, 167:9, 178:23, 179:3 Make - 13:25. 14:22, 29:10, 30:1, 32:7, 38:16, 56:23, 58:8, 63:20, 66:4, 71:4, 85:20, 88:23, 89:7, 93:20, 105:13, 105:14, 111:13, 153:20, 154:16, 160:17, 172:9, 174:25, 179:7, 204:18, 204:22 **Making - 11:7**, 14:11, 17:14, 20:20, 38:24, 38:25, 43:3, 46:1, 55:20, 55:25, 56:11, 57:12, 58:25, 59:2, 98:17, 116:25, 134:11, 153:18, 153:24, 154:19, 154:23, 192:25 Manage - 88:7, 112:22, 148:22, 154:10, 156:9 Management - 63: 12, 64:18, 75:21, 77:3, 87:15, 87:18, 88:9, 103:12, 110:11, 123:14, 148:21, 148:24, 154:7, 155:22, 193:12, 193:15, 193:19 Management's - 6 3:5, 63:8, 63:11, 64:16, 100:5 Manager - 110:21, 111:8, 112:3, 121:3, 128:4 Managerial - 110:8, 113:4, 120:22, 121:13 Managers - 84:7, 105:22, 110:1,

37:16, 37:25, 39:4,

32:21, 33:23,

111:18, 120:25,

122:3, 122:6,

122:25, 124:3,

124:20, 125:4,

125:5, 125:13

Managing - 75:22,

140:3, 140:8,

112:23, 156:14, 208:5, 209:20 Manufacturing - 11 6:10 Many - 17:20, 44:13, 54:25, 118:18, 122:14, 125:17, 199:20 Marginal - 56:1, 56:5, 56:11, 57:17, 179:15, 179:17, 181:19 **Maritime -** 24:24, 25:1, 25:5, 81:9, 106:9 **Market - 27:9**, 82:10, 113:5, 114:18, 123:12, 123:16, 123:23, 124:7, 124:8, 163:23, 168:16, 198:14, 208:17 Markets - 12:22, 163:22, 168:16, 199:3, 201:13 **Matched - 10:14** Material - 7:20, 7:24, 50:17 **Materials - 73:18,** 81:5, 81:16, 190:2, 190:3 **Math -** 196:24, 197:4, 202:22 **Matters -** 1:8, 1:10, 159:13, 162:17, 188:23 Maturing - 206:21 Maureen - 91:6 **Maximum -** 34:16, 35:13, 40:19, 111:4, 152:22, 153:7, 156:8 Means - 44:16, 149:17 **Meant - 113:5** Measurable - 70:1 6, 196:12 Measure - 60:16, 61:8, 62:22, 105:5, 169:9 Measurements - 3 6:13 Measures - 60:6. 61:15, 70:22, 90:22, 100:8, 104:5, 108:15, 108:17, 108:20

Mechanisms - 142: 24 **Medium - 165:9** Meet - 47:9, 63:18, 63:25, 65:1, 65:5, 65:10, 65:22, 93:2, 100:12, 100:18, 101:1. 101:2. 101:19, 101:20, 101:22, 108:16, 108:19, 108:23, 109:5, 132:22 Meeting - 37:22, 37:24, 41:24, 65:12, 65:15, 91:9, 92:23, 93:23, 95:20, 97:21, 98:15, 101:5, 134:11, 172:5 **Meetings -** 46:4, 46:5, 103:11 **Members -** 1:17, 118:18 Memorial - 186:11, 193:3 **Memory -** 173:4 Met - 36:16, 41:11, 41:12, 44:18, 45:13, 48:4, 65:14, 66:7, 86:7, 86:8, 86:10, 89:3, 100:9, 133:2, 133:5 **Metering - 151:9** Methodology - 25: 25, 169:2, 204:13 Metric - 62:6, 63:18, 65:5, 89:3, 171:7 Metrics - 19:22. 20:1, 41:23, 42:5, 60:7, 61:7, 63:19, 64:22, 168:2, 168:9, 169:6, 169:8, 169:11, 170:25, 171:2, 177:18, 178:2, 185:1 Midyear - 72:23, 73:4 Mike - 119:7 Million - 35:25. 36:6, 59:9, 59:12, 68:18, 68:21, 69:13, 89:13, 89:17, 90:24,

93:20, 105:23,

113:17, 139:16,

140:9, 156:22, 156:23, 161:17, 162:9, 177:7, 177:11, 196:23, 196:24, 197:5, 204:5, 204:6, 206:11 Minimum - 35:4, 35:10, 36:6, 93:1, 93:2, 93:22, 94:4, 94:8, 94:12, 95:17, 96:5, 96:15, 97:1, 97:16 Minus - 95:5, 95:6, 134:6 Missed - 155:7 Misunderstand - 9 3:23 Misunderstood - 2 00:21 Mitigation - 2:17, 2:25, 53:12, 165:23 Model - 21:6 Modified - 32:10 Monday - 210:17 **Monitor -** 151:11 **Monitors - 171:3** Months - 74:4. 74:5 Moody's - 164:6, 170:16, 170:17 **Morning -** 1:3, 1:5, 1:14, 1:16, 48:23, 49:1, 49:5, 193:25, 210:17 **Mortgage - 171:6**, 171:12, 171:19, 178:11, 207:8, 207:20 Mounted - 150:7, 150:10, 151:7 Mouth - 58:15 **Move -** 6:3, 21:8, 30:21, 48:17, 59:19, 85:16, 113:23, 131:21, 134:5 Moved - 23:12, 23:16, 23:17, 23:18, 24:8, 24:22, 132:13, 187:17 Moving - 132:2 Much - 1:16, 7:11, 20:10, 48:11, 50:14, 57:22, 66:23, 69:19, 83:20,

136:18, 141:16, 146:15, 151:22, 210:2 Mud - 98:4 Mulcahy - 119:8, 119:17 Mullins - 23:5, 135:19, 135:21 MUN - 185:24 Municipal - 29:8 Muskrat - 164:23, 165:12, 165:16, 165:19, 166:6, 166:13, 166:15, 166:25

Ν **National - 31:8.** 114:11. 118:5. 121:9 **Native - 185:15 Natural - 201:22 Naturally - 205:20** Near - 148:19, 150:3, 166:3, 181:25 **Nearer - 150:25** Nearing - 148:11 Necessary - 42:9, 59:1, 138:9, 163:25, 168:4 **Needed - 13:8** Negotiated - 5:12 **Net -** 208:25 **New -** 17:7, 61:9, 62:5, 81:7, 81:10, 134:18, 139:21, 157:3, 173:21, 179:8, 180:15, 181:18 **Newer -** 92:16, 153:20 **NEWMAN - 152:8 News -** 149:13 **NFP -** 26:24 Nine - 74:4, 74:5 **NLH -** 9:19, 74:12, 107:10, 145:13 **Non -** 40:7, 40:12, 40:19, 72:25, 73:2, 75:12, 75:13, 107:8, 108:5, 146:14, 146:18, 153:8, 196:13 **Normal -** 52:5, 52:8, 58:19, 156:21, 173:17

Normally - 58:16, 92:21, 93:22, 95:14, 95:17, 95:19 North - 12:9 **Notes - 6:6** Noticing - 152:19 **Nova -** 81:5, 81:6, 81:10. 121:24 November - 74:3, 91:24, 123:21 November/ **December -** 123:22 **NP -** 9:19, 15:23, 27:24, 28:4, 30:13, 33:5, 60:1, 71:8, 74:12, 77:11, 77:14, 83:22, 85:7, 107:10, 145:13, 147:11 NP173 - 115:24 **Numbers - 7:2.** 36:21, 37:23, 47:3, 53:17, 55:15, 73:21, 74:22, 101:10, 111:13

0

Objection - 171:24, 175:15 Objective - 82:8, 136:20, 136:23 Objectives - 44:17. 103:19, 104:17, 105:6, 105:17 Obligation - 171:2 Obligations - 169: 10, 177:16 O'brien - 1:4, 14:4, 18:14, 19:4, 19:17, 19:23, 20:8, 94:18, 96:24, 97:14, 98:3, 152:10, 152:16, 158:19, 159:17, 159:22, 160:1, 160:2, 160:10, 160:16, 160:22, 162:1, 162:16, 163:1, 163:13, 164:10, 165:1, 165:10, 166:11, 167:4, 167:13, 168:7, 168:21, 169:25, 170:24, 171:13, 172:16, 174:19, 175:24, 176:11, 177:1,

177:20, 178:18, 179:5, 180:2, 180:21, 181:11, 181:23, 182:9, 195:14, 195:18, 195:19, 195:24, 196:3, 204:9, 204:17. 204:21. 205:3 **Obtained - 186:25 Occurred - 131:24** Occurrence - 120: 20 Occurs - 208:19 Odd - 97:20 **Offering -** 13:9, 138:14 Officer - 160:8 Offset - 16:10, 16:15, 17:7, 158:13 Offsetting - 16:19 Oil - 16:25 One - 2:6, 2:15, 3:12, 3:15, 9:17, 9:19, 18:17, 20:14, 25:10, 25:14, 26:10, 28:4, 30:9, 30:15, 30:16, 30:18, 31:15, 40:1, 41:13, 41:14, 44:24, 49:3, 52:3, 57:15, 62:15, 62:20, 63:17, 65:7, 77:16, 83:11, 83:22, 85:2, 91:13, 94:14, 99:16, 100:15, 105:23, 110:14, 116:19, 118:3, 121:8, 121:24, 122:1, 128:5, 128:25, 136:13, 140:4, 149:7, 149:19, 149:21, 152:13, 153:22, 156:3, 156:15, 156:24, 157:6, 158:5, 174:23, 182:20, 184:2, 184:20, 185:4, 194:9, 195:2, 195:3, 195:25, 198:13, 201:9, 202:14, 203:8, 203:21 **Ones -** 40:8, 40:12, 41:8, 60:15, 61:22, 73:14, 84:16, 86:5

Ongoing - 191:23 **Ontario -** 121:25 **Opebs** - 100:3 Opening - 18:22, 172:11, 173:14, 173:22, 174:1, 174:2, 183:15, 188:17 **Opens - 4:7** Operating - 37:19, 38:2, 48:3, 56:15, 59:3, 59:9, 59:11, 59:13, 62:21, 64:24, 66:12, 67:4, 67:11, 67:14, 67:23, 68:6, 68:17, 68:20, 68:23, 69:24, 70:2, 70:22, 71:21, 73:11, 74:1, 74:9, 74:10, 74:13, 74:23, 75:10, 76:8, 76:16, 99:18, 109:5, 145:19, 145:22, 147:4, 149:24, 153:12, 153:14, 153:16, 153:19, 153:23, 153:24, 154:2, 155:25, 157:18, 157:24, 158:2, 158:6, 158:11, 164:20, 194:10, 195:4, 195:9, 196:8, 196:10, 196:20, 197:21, 198:2, 198:4, 198:8, 202:11, 202:19, 203:4, 203:14, 204:3 Operational - 50:2 Operations - 21:17 22:18, 22:20, 23:5, 23:14, 23:18, 131:18, 132:2, 132:8, 133:22, 134:1, 135:11, 135:13, 136:10, 136:16, 142:17, 206:20, 208:9

Operator - 79:21,

81:4, 81:8, 82:24

Opinion - 13:6,

13:10, 115:15,

163:6, 170:16,

Opinions - 173:18

173:1, 173:3

Opposed - 200:18, 209:7 **Option - 14:17** Order - 3:10, 4:7, 10:24, 14:12, 36:14, 42:18, 126:20, 126:21, 177:5. 177:13. 180:13 **Ordered -** 21:2 **Orders - 179:1**, 192:14 Organization - 13: 5, 21:15, 22:23, 23:1, 23:23, 24:16, 25:14, 25:16, 27:8, 43:2, 117:7, 136:7 **Organizations** - 26 :13, 26:20, 26:22, 27:1, 28:14, 28:15, 28:20, 28:22, 28:23, 31:8, 116:5, 116:12, 117:6, 117:21 **Original - 31:18** Originally - 31:10, 122:18, 163:24 Otherwise - 56:25, 135:7, 174:23 Outage - 8:23. 166:17 Outages - 49:20, 50:16, 50:22, 61:3, 61:4, 61:6, 66:2, 66:8 Outcome - 194:12 Outcomes - 43:10, 88:23, 112:1, 112:12, 112:15, 113:14 **Outline -** 3:19 Outlined - 179:20, 197:25 Outlook - 15:8, 15:14, 164:21, 165:4, 170:17 **Output - 209:6** Overloaded - 150: 23, 151:10 Overloading - 150: Overstating - 199: 13 **Overtime - 208:5 Own -** 86:1, 110:17, 169:1

29:9, 30:2, 127:19, 127:25, 128:1, 167:22, 176:22, 189:2

Р Package - 113:3, 113:12 Paid - 40:11, 40:13, 42:14, 46:16, 46:24, 78:12, 79:9, 81:3, 81:8, 84:1, 106:2, 153:8, 177:8, 177:12 Paige - 125:10, 159:24, 160:6, 182:16 Pairs - 115:8 **Panel - 1:17** Participated - 188: **Parties -** 5:3, 5:15, 5:22, 14:9, 158:17, 180:10 Partook - 188:16 **Parts - 151:9** Passed - 178:7 Past - 6:11, 14:23, 27:16, 27:21, 55:4, 55:10, 75:24, 100:11, 118:12, 129:15, 145:1, 192:14 **Pay -** 54:14, 83:24, 84:6, 84:14, 106:5, 110:1, 110:7, 110:25, 111:4, 113:17, 115:19, 131:25, 169:10, 177:8, 198:25, 206:3 Paying - 41:9, 41:14, 44:5 **Payment -** 41:5, 47:19, 105:24, 107:17 **Payments - 33:17**, 33:18, 84:2, 84:4, 84:6, 107:11, 108:21, 111:18, 111:24, 113:18, 113:19 **Payout - 35:5.**

44:14, 48:9

Pays - 82:3

Payouts - 156:8

Pdf - 3:14, 33:7

Peak - 50:24 Peer - 113:25, 114:3, 116:14, 117:18, 122:2, 122:4, 127:2, 127:3, 127:8, 128:4. 128:5. 128:19, 129:13, 184:12 **Pegged - 197:14 PEI -** 106:11, 106:18 People - 21:14, 22:3, 39:12, 46:17, 81:13, 110:11, 110:22 Percent - 4:10. 4:13, 4:18, 4:21, 5:6, 6:8, 6:23, 6:25, 7:10, 9:14, 9:15, 9:16, 11:12, 11:18, 33:24, 33:25, 34:8, 34:9, 35:5, 35:6, 35:11, 35:12, 35:13, 35:23, 36:1, 36:2, 40:24, 41:2, 41:11, 47:5, 47:10, 47:11, 47:14, 47:16, 48:9, 51:23, 52:10, 52:19, 53:3, 53:10, 53:13, 54:6, 55:5, 55:6, 58:5, 66:17, 67:15, 67:20, 67:22, 68:22, 69:18, 70:1, 70:2, 70:3, 72:8, 72:11, 75:14, 76:16, 85:2, 89:17, 91:12, 92:23, 95:6, 95:10, 96:2, 98:7, 98:16, 103:18, 104:19, 105:12, 107:16, 107:21, 107:23, 107:24, 108:2, 108:8, 109:7, 137:22, 137:23, 137:24, 139:6, 140:9, 140:20, 141:14, 145:5, 145:6, 146:13, 148:3, 148:6, 148:8. 150:11. 153:3, 163:9, 163:11, 163:15, 163:18, 165:24, 166:5, 170:5,

Pdfs - 25:22

Owned - 29:8,

176:8, 176:9, 176:10, 177:6, 177:14, 178:8, 178:9, 181:7, 182:5, 183:24, 184:3, 184:6, 191:12, 197:1, 197:14, 198:6. 202:24, 203:7, 203:8 Percentage - 34:19 , 35:15, 197:22 Percentages - 33:1 8, 35:15, 36:22, 37:9 Perception - 2:11 Perform - 112:21 Performance - 33: 20, 33:22, 33:25, 34:1, 34:7, 34:15, 34:23, 35:4, 36:22, 42:18, 42:19, 59:23, 59:25, 60:6, 60:16, 61:14, 61:23, 62:23, 71:13, 84:4, 84:6, 85:10, 87:5, 88:13, 88:15, 90:21, 99:10, 100:8, 102:7, 102:14, 102:18, 104:5, 104:9, 104:18, 104:19, 104:22, 105:4, 105:6, 106:1, 108:10, 108:15, 108:17, 108:20, 110:2, 110:8, 110:10, 111:5, 112:4, 112:17, 122:8, 136:15, 138:2, 160:24, 161:2, 161:14, 162:2, 167:19, 168:1 Performed - 71:10 Performing - 60:8 **Perhaps -** 89:12, 192:14 Period - 7:22, 50:20, 53:22, 54:20, 55:3, 68:7, 75:6, 75:7, 100:10, 101:12, 101:16, 118:17, 162:15, 182:7, 207:13, 209:5 Periodic - 208:7

Periods - 206:22 Peripheral - 191:19 Permanent - 208:1 Permissible - 171: 25 **Perry -** 118:23, 132:11. 132:12. 188:13 Person - 76:6. 121:4, 135:18, 188:8 Personal - 33:21, 34:1, 43:16, 43:19, 44:17, 46:12, 86:9, 86:11, 102:18, 102:23, 103:18, 103:19, 104:7, 104:13, 104:15, 105:5, 105:11, 105:13, 105:17, 107:23, 110:17, 142:16, 145:2 Personally - 142:2 Perspective - 111: 22, 123:8, 147:17, 147:19, 174:9, 184:24, 201:4 Perspectives - 166 :17 **Philip -** 118:25 Pick - 95:17 **Picking -** 182:20 Picture - 78:12, 82:20 **Pie - 134:4** Piece - 194:19, 194:21, 194:23 Place - 180:19, 207:14 Plan - 15:25, 33:4, 37:20, 38:1, 60:4, 61:16, 61:20, 62:24, 64:22, 64:25, 65:3, 67:10, 81:25, 85:6, 91:15, 93:9, 106:20, 107:1, 107:2, 116:8, 147:10, 149:20, 151:17, 151:21, 165:23 **Planned -** 63:22. 66:1 **Planning -** 62:17, 136:11, 147:22,

200:5, 208:14,

208:19 **Plans - 97:20**, 149:4 **Plant - 156:20**, 208:1 **Play -** 2:4, 105:3, 170:12 **Plea -** 210:9 **Pointed -** 63:21 **Points -** 3:20, 4:6, 33:12, 117:4, 117:13, 117:19, 129:6, 129:24, 130:8, 131:25, 133:15, 133:23, 133:25, 134:2, 134:5, 134:23, 135:5, 135:12, 135:25, 136:3, 136:7, 136:24 **Pole - 150:7**, 150:10, 151:7 **Poles -** 148:3, 148:4 **Political - 170:23** Poor - 82:23 Population - 161:1 **Portion -** 43:16, 43:18, 194:18, 206:24 Pose - 164:24, 166:19 Posed - 9:20 Position - 7:23, 16:11, 22:17, 22:24, 23:22, 24:15, 130:8, 130:9, 130:11, 134:22, 135:8, 188:7 Positions - 22:6, 22:25, 23:12, 24:3, 24:23, 25:16, 46:17, 79:18, 79:22, 117:9, 117:10, 117:21, 130:3, 130:18, 131:7, 131:8, 136:8 Potential - 55:7, 83:14, 164:2, 177:21 Power's - 1:23, 3:25, 6:15, 6:17, 7:20, 7:23, 10:6, 10:13, 10:15, 15:25, 16:3, 16:11,

40:9, 53:24, 137:16, 141:3, 161:2, 162:14, 162:21, 163:18, 165:18, 166:16, 167:25, 168:9, 170:2, 170:5, 174:9. 176:23. 177:17, 177:25, 180:4, 180:6, 190:13 **Practical - 171:14**, 177:2 **Practice - 17:19,** 21:2, 27:14, 52:5, 52:8, 62:10, 62:12, 106:6, 125:17, 173:17, 186:19 **Practices - 122:13** Pre - 160:18. 172:2, 172:3, 172:10, 173:16 **Predictability** - 169 :18 Preferred - 177:9 Preliminary - 1:8, 1:10, 159:13 **Premise - 50:10** Preparation - 189: 22, 190:10, 190:16, 190:23, 190:24, 191:3 **Prepare - 151:3** Prepared - 27:4, 174:4, 191:17 **Prepares - 37:21** Preparing - 69:21, 149:18, 189:24, 190:2, 190:12 Preplanned - 172:1 0. 174:4 Present - 11:17. 29:20, 208:25 Presentation - 182 :21 Presented - 206:15 **Presents - 173:19** President - 45:4. 85:9, 111:2, 134:24, 138:3, 140:16, 140:21, 160:7 Presidents - 34:9. 86:6. 86:13. 86:15. 86:17, 86:22, 104:1, 104:6, 104:12, 104:22, 105:7, 105:12,

133:14 Presidents' - 86:23 , 105:16 Pressure - 150:13, 166:9, 167:2, 170:21, 199:4 **Pressures - 75:11**, 76:2. 149:14. 198:1 **Prevent - 150:22 Previous -** 2:1, 2:8, 2:14, 4:4, 5:7, 11:5, 37:21, 38:21, 39:3, 66:9, 69:17, 75:7, 82:19, 85:19, 87:7, 91:3, 100:13, 101:22, 119:16, 132:12, 138:16, 188:11 Previously - 8:3, 87:21, 132:16, 132:19, 133:21 **Price -** 56:9 **Prices - 73:17** Principles - 5:19 Prior - 8:8, 47:2, 49:18, 93:17, 118:25, 119:12, 120:15, 132:10, 132:17, 134:17, 190:15 **Priorities - 147:16**, 147:20 **Private -** 26:23. 30:3, 127:19, 186:19 Privately - 29:9, 127:25 Privilege - 174:22 **Problem - 117:2**, 130:11, 136:5, 136:18, 137:13, 138:20, 184:16 **Proceed - 175:13**, 175:23, 208:11 Proceedings - 88:1 **Product - 200:12 Productivity -** 70:2 3, 202:24 Professional - 186: **Profile - 11:24 Profit -** 140:10. 145:3 **Program -** 33:13, 37:9, 39:6, 43:11, 43:17, 59:11

17:6, 20:17, 27:6,

62:11, 63:7, 63:9,

71:12, 80:5, 80:19,

68:10, 68:24,

Progress - 191:25 Progressed - 103: Progressive - 24:2 Project - 112:11, 112:22, 156:19, 164:23, 165:16. 167:1 Projections - 17:24 , 18:1 **Projects - 56:16**, 82:13, 83:4, 112:8, 112:13, 156:25, 157:1 **Property - 199:1**, 200:2, 200:19, 201:20 **Proposal - 4:19.** 68:21, 80:10, 85:20, 85:24 Proposals - 14:21, 51:15, 55:17, 57:20, 162:13, 163:11, 178:14, 192:25 Propose - 88:14, 139:21, 156:16, 157:1, 157:4, 163:2 Proposed - 4:9. 5:4, 5:17, 5:23, 6:6, 53:21, 55:2, 55:23, 68:24, 69:18, 80:19, 80:20, 83:10, 162:7, 180:7, 180:23, 191:11, 192:18 **Proposing -** 56:16, 67:21, 78:21, 140:6, 148:20, 163:7, 179:13 **Provide - 19:1**, 29:19, 32:15, 42:10, 56:17, 86:17, 89:6, 103:15, 114:21, 115:12, 115:14, 123:17, 123:20, 127:14, 134:15, 143:3, 157:16, 167:10, 182:5, 190:15, 207:11, 209:23 **Provided -** 6:13, 14:25, 126:10, 133:10, 134:16, 165:17

Provides - 166:2, 168:15, 207:9 Providing - 43:5, 134:10 **Province - 165:4**, 185:10 Provinces - 83:5 **Province's - 164:2** Provincial - 15:7, 17:25, 18:2, 18:11, 20:23, 161:11, 165:23 PUB - 3:11, 15:22, 27:24, 28:4, 30:13, 33:5, 60:1, 68:3, 71:8, 77:11, 77:14, 83:22, 85:7, 115:24, 126:21, 130:23, 147:11, 152:14 Public - 30:2, 30:3, 60:20, 61:22, 128:3 **Publicly -** 30:2, 128:1

Q

Qualitative - 169:4, 169:16, 178:4 Quality - 62:4, 62:15, 62:17 Quantify - 36:14 Quantitative - 46:8, 104:15, 104:18, 169:4, 169:5 Quebec - 121:24 Questioning - 83:2 0, 94:21 Quickly - 22:2

R

Raise - 176:15 **Raised -** 92:6 Range - 182:4, 197:18 Ranges - 114:12, 115:2 Rare - 120:20 Rate - 2:1, 2:17, 2:25, 5:5, 6:7, 6:10, 6:11, 9:25, 10:5, 12:10, 13:23, 14:25, 49:8, 52:14, 52:22, 53:12, 53:20, 55:1, 55:5, 55:7, 55:24, 56:1, 56:2, 57:16, 57:22,

80:20, 82:19, 125:13, 126:2, 135:24, 137:19, 139:22, 144:10, 160:11. 160:24. 161:5, 161:18, 161:21, 162:6, 162:7, 162:13, 164:12, 164:18, 165:23, 166:2, 167:21, 170:10, 170:21, 179:9, 179:14, 179:20, 179:21, 179:25, 180:9, 180:16, 180:19, 180:24, 181:4, 181:6, 181:8, 181:9, 181:13, 181:18, 181:21, 182:2, 182:3, 182:6, 184:14, 189:17, 191:2, 191:11, 191:20, 191:23, 192:20, 193:22, 194:3, 194:15, 194:18, 196:15, 197:13, 197:18, 198:7, 198:9, 198:16, 199:10, 199:16, 199:23, 200:17, 200:21, 201:11, 201:15, 201:16, 201:23, 208:1, 209:23 Ratepayer - 41:7 Ratepayers - 5:21, 40:12, 41:18, 140:17 Ratepayer's - 30:4 **Rates -** 6:9, 6:12, 8:14, 8:25, 9:23, 40:25, 41:2, 43:20, 53:14, 54:20, 57:6, 57:18, 68:8, 68:12, 68:24, 71:15, 72:9, 72:18, 78:21, 80:9, 82:22, 83:9, 106:12, 139:22, 140:20, 161:9, 165:24, 166:5, 167:2, 171:10, 180:23, 182:23, 183:4, 184:20,

207:6, 207:10, 208:17, 208:18, 208:21, 209:2 Rather - 8:11, 20:22, 157:17 Rating - 41:24, 42:5, 63:21, 164:8, 168:10, 168:14. 168:17, 168:23, 169:1, 169:2, 169:3, 169:14, 169:15, 170:2, 170:4, 170:9, 171:1, 178:2, 184:17, 184:22, 184:24 **Ratings - 168:3**, 168:13, 178:1, 178:6, 185:2 **Ratio -** 4:18, 4:20, 6:7, 9:14, 170:6, 177:15, 184:4, 185:3 Rationale - 11:17, 114:21, 118:4, 122:17 **Re -** 30:24, 131:6, 132:25, 158:20, 173:15, 178:3 **Reached -** 80:11, 80:15 Reaching - 148:1 **Realize -** 72:16. 72:18 **Realized -** 72:23, 73:4 Reapprove - 31:14 Reason - 12:19, 12:23, 13:9, 20:11, 20:19, 55:23, 63:14, 63:25, 69:23, 76:1, 92:15, 131:16, 145:21, 157:10, 205:9 Reasonable - 5:19, 5:25, 17:12, 26:18, 113:18, 123:9, 127:8, 140:22, 141:17, 163:23 Reasonableness -115:18, 128:19, 144:24 **Reasons - 26:21.** 52:3, 52:7, 63:17, 78:11, 200:16 Rebase - 63:23. 64:2, 64:11, 180:9,

180:13 **Rebased -** 180:17 Rebasing - 52:5, 52:12, 64:5, 181:1, 181:3, 181:9, 182:2 Rebuilding - 112:8 **Receive -** 61:17, 107:1. 110:1. 111:5. 111:17, 186:15 Recent - 100:11, 120:18, 121:18, 128:21, 129:14, 150:11, 181:17, 183:18, 192:4, 193:5, 196:10, 197:11, 199:4 **Recently - 32:19**, 120:13, 129:25, 170:15, 184:5 Recognize - 155:1 Recognized - 11:1 8. 164:5 Recommend - 31:2 4, 91:1, 104:12, 115:3 Recommendation **-** 6:22, 6:24, 11:10, 11:14, 13:2, 13:17, 32:16, 85:21, 85:24, 86:17, 89:7, 141:1, 141:7, 141:9, 141:14, 141:21, 141:24, 141:25, 145:9, 177:24 Recommendations - 9:12, 10:2, 10:12, 10:14, 26:2, 32:13, 86:20, 86:23, 103:2, 105:14, 105:15, 117:15, 134:12, 134:15, 144:6, 144:25, 162:25, 176:3, 176:5, 176:12, 176:16, 177:3 Recommended - 7 :10, 29:15, 31:11, 111:2, 114:17, 122:25, 143:25, 144:3, 144:10, 176:7 Recommending -7:12, 7:14, 86:3,

115:1

Reconsider - 13:21 . 13:24 Recover - 63:22, 63:23, 166:6, 169:19, 170:19 Recovered - 206:7 **Recovery - 161:24**, 162:9, 169:23. 179:2, 194:8, 194:13 Recruited - 22:22, 23:21, 24:13, 25:15, 27:9, 27:17, 27:19, 27:21, 187:25, 188:16 **Reduce -** 57:18, 57:22, 59:8, 59:10, 73:9, 73:20, 153:16, 153:19, 154:2, 158:11, 177:5, 177:13, 181:15, 181:20 **Reduced -** 55:18, 74:13, 177:14, 202:19 **Reduces - 168:17 Reducing -** 66:1, 153:22 Reduction - 135:10 176:7, 176:17 References - 192:6 Referred - 15:7, 28:8, 39:22, 57:15, 85:8, 191:19 **Refers -** 6:12, 35:18 Refinancing - 206: **Reflect - 56:1,** 57:17, 91:18, 92:2, 92:17, 179:15, 179:20, 206:20 Reflected - 101:6, 157:22 Reflecting - 200:15 Reflective - 56:4, 207:1 Reflects - 137:15, 170:17 Regarded - 200:12 Regimented - 136: Regulated - 43:20, 43:25, 66:11, 67:4, 84:16, 107:4, 107:8, 108:3, 108:5, 108:8, 153:9

Regulating - 64:24 Regulation - 136:1 1, 169:18 Regulatory - 40:7, 40:8, 40:12, 40:20, 40:24, 41:12, 87:5, 87:21, 88:13, 88:18. 88:19. 88:22, 99:9, 108:10, 109:5, 132:4, 161:23, 169:17, 169:21, 170:8, 170:23, 178:3, 179:1, 189:25 Rehashing - 19:3 **Reinvest - 58:18** Reiterated - 170:15 Rejection - 86:21 **Relate - 207:22 Relation - 191:22 Relative -** 96:15 Relatively - 21:22, 38:15, 161:3 Reliabilities - 105: Reliability - 2:9, 2:12, 8:5, 8:17, 11:4, 41:10, 42:8, 42:12, 42:20, 42:22, 43:6, 44:21, 44:25, 45:5, 47:8, 47:9, 48:4, 49:6, 49:12, 49:22, 59:3, 59:4, 92:13, 105:4, 148:16, 152:20, 154:12, 154:13, 154:14, 154:24, 155:12, 155:13, 156:3, 156:7, 157:4, 157:18, 165:17, 166:8, 166:12, 166:15, 166:24 Reliable - 5:21, 50:6, 178:24 **Reliance - 144:5**, 144:24 **Rely -** 20:21, 32:12, 32:15, 115:10, 115:14, 142:25 **Relying -** 125:20, 145:8 Remain - 1:23, 164:16

Remained - 15:8

Remains - 32:24,

164:22 **Reminded - 94:16 Removal - 132:1 Remove - 75:2,** 88:3, 127:18 **Removed -** 62:22, 62:25, 63:2, 63:14, 87:7. 87:8. 87:11. 87:14, 87:20, 88:3, 88:11, 100:4 **Removes - 99:24 Repaid - 207:17** Replace - 87:20, 150:9 Replaced - 87:12 Replacement - 56: 21, 148:15, 148:18, 201:23 Replacing - 56:24, 148:23 **Reply -** 127:24 **Report -** 2:10, 7:11, 8:5, 8:6, 25:21, 25:23, 25:24, 26:5, 27:4, 28:9, 49:22, 49:24, 60:15, 61:22, 107:7, 116:4, 116:19 **Reported - 132:16** Reporting - 189:3 **Request -** 9:21. 12:20, 33:11, 68:4, 97:4 Requested - 9:23 Requesting - 51:22 , 137:21 **Require - 137:12** Required - 50:2, 50:5, 50:9, 56:16, 112:21, 112:22, 156:17, 157:2, 162:10, 166:7, 206:19, 208:7 Requirement - 67: 16, 73:8, 83:21, 83:24, 105:23, 106:6, 111:23, 162:8, 179:23, 180:7 Requirements - 16 0:12, 180:18, 180:23 **Requires - 171:7**, 174:14 Requiring - 150:20

Resource - 49:22 Resources - 26:25, 132:7 Respect - 8:4, 37:24, 56:14, 71:13, 77:10, 83:16, 86:6, 86:10, 100:7. 105:3. 112:13, 114:4, 126:10, 143:17, 147:13, 149:15, 149:16, 175:20, 189:13 **Respond - 47:23**, 94:22, 167:11 Responded - 29:5, 30:9 **Response - 33:10.** 58:11, 58:22, 61:3, 61:5, 61:6, 66:6, 66:8, 96:13, 120:10 Responses - 127:2 3, 128:25, 173:16 Responsibilities -117:9, 117:10, 131:21, 131:23, 133:9, 134:5, 134:17, 134:19 Responsibility - 13 1:17, 131:19, 132:14, 190:7 Responsible - 122: 8, 132:3, 132:12 **Result -** 5:2, 40:17, 49:9, 50:22, 66:19, 66:24, 67:22, 82:15, 109:9, 131:24, 135:17, 170:11, 170:22, 171:19, 177:17, 178:6, 178:13, 180:25, 181:5, 206:18 Resulted - 48:8, 135:10 Resulting - 150:15 **Results - 43:4**, 43:12, 45:4, 46:10, 110:16, 113:6, 126:24, 131:6, 154:18, 170:10, 196:10 **RESUME - 109:20.** 159:11 **Retail -** 116:9 Retention - 113:8, 113:13

Return - 3:16, 3:25, 4:2, 4:10, 5:5, 5:20, 6:7, 9:15, 9:22, 10:3, 11:9, 11:10, 11:21, 11:23, 12:1, 12:2, 12:15, 12:16, 12:20, 13:7, 13:23, 52:22, 65:15, 96:2, 96:14, 137:18, 137:21, 141:1, 141:5, 141:24, 141:25, 144:10, 144:20, 162:6, 162:11, 162:23, 163:3, 163:10, 163:12, 167:14, 167:17, 169:23, 176:9, 176:20, 176:21, 176:23, 177:10, 177:11, 177:16, 178:9, 178:15, 179:3, 182:23, 183:4, 183:17, 183:20, 184:4, 184:15, 185:3, 185:5, 194:1, 194:9, 194:13 **Returns - 12:9**, 144:17, 144:18, 167:22, 169:20, 170:20, 183:9 **Revenue -** 67:15, 73:7, 83:21, 83:23, 105:23, 106:6, 111:23, 160:12, 162:5, 162:8, 179:23, 180:7, 180:18, 180:23 **Reviewed -** 31:22, 32:20, 129:1, 129:12, 144:8, 164:2 **Reviews - 31:16 Revise - 181:12** Revised - 179:21, 181:4, 182:2, 195:2 **Revision - 179:13** RFI - 15:22, 27:24, 29:4, 30:8, 30:13, 31:1, 33:5, 33:15, 83:25, 127:23, 129:8. 173:16 **Rfis -** 9:19, 201:20 **Risk -** 2:18, 3:3, 3:4, 9:4, 9:6, 9:7, 11:24, 12:17, 18:18,

Residential - 16:7,

17:8, 19:10

19:7, 19:12, 19:21, 19:25, 20:10, 20:18, 42:5, 47:21, 49:6, 49:13, 49:15, 49:20, 49:23, 50:23, 51:4, 51:5, 98:17, 98:20, 141:3. 142:3. 142:10, 142:21, 142:23, 143:2, 143:6, 164:16, 164:25, 166:16, 166:19, 167:9, 177:18, 185:7 **Riskier - 143:10 Risks -** 1:23, 1:24, 2:4, 2:13, 2:20, 7:21, 7:25, 11:3, 13:15, 164:12, 164:18, 165:11, 165:13, 166:12, 167:5, 167:12, 176:19 Road - 18:17, 154:21, 204:23 **ROE -** 97:3, 97:14, 98:7, 98:8, 140:18, 141:15, 183:25 **Roes - 143:25** Role - 23:19, 32:4, 85:9, 85:12, 85:14, 86:3, 86:5, 86:9, 102:19, 102:20, 104:8, 105:2, 110:18, 114:25, 115:1, 115:13, 116:13, 117:4, 117:6, 119:17, 119:20, 131:18, 134:1, 134:10, 135:14, 135:19, 141:12, 160:9, 170:12, 188:5, 189:21, 190:2 Roles - 112:6, 131:20, 132:23, 134:7 **Roll -** 111:8, 111:9 **Room -** 51:21, 59:22 Round - 6:23, 7:9, 83:10 Routinely - 170:9 **Row -** 65:5 **RSA -** 53:2, 53:6, 54:10 Ruling - 175:21

Run - 22:2, 56:9, 57:10

S Safety - 36:13, 36:16, 36:22, 39:2, 39:6, 41:9, 42:8, 42:11, 43:7, 62:10, 65:9, 92:12, 109:6 **SAIDI -** 65:7, 65:9, 65:18, 65:19, 65:20, 100:7, 101:1, 101:13, 102:6, 152:23, 152:24, 153:10, 153:17, 154:4, 154:20, 154:21 **Salaries - 76:25.** 114:5. 115:19. 123:11, 123:13, 123:18, 135:15 **Salary -** 33:19, 34:8, 34:17, 35:6, 42:14, 77:13, 78:10, 78:12, 78:15, 78:16, 78:20, 78:22, 106:1, 110:2, 111:19, 112:21, 113:23, 114:2, 114:12, 115:1, 115:6, 117:15, 123:2, 135:6, 137:16 Sales - 63:9, 161:20 Satisfaction - 41:1 0, 42:9, 42:12, 42:25 Satisfied - 9:12, 115:6, 138:1 **Satisfy -** 140:22 Saving - 59:16 **Savings -** 59:7. 59:14, 70:21, 70:23, 153:16 Saw - 2:12, 28:8, 73:16, 74:21, 100:8, 108:16, 135:25 Scenario - 14:17 **Schedule -** 68:5. 112:14

Scoring - 107:21,

Scotia - 81:5, 81:6,

81:10, 121:24

108:1

Screen - 28:5, 34:24, 90:21, 130:5, 195:21 Scroll - 71:15, 74:16, 90:6, 90:10, 90:16, 90:18, 130:25, 133:3, 133:13. 139:13. 139:19, 147:12 **Seat - 13:4 Second -** 16:1. 26:12, 26:22, 56:3, 77:16, 83:12, 91:5, 91:7, 94:9, 94:14, 100:15, 110:14, 121:9, 121:20, 133:4, 166:23 Secondary - 150:5, 150:7, 151:7 **Sections - 160:11** Sector - 26:24, 29:6 **Sectors - 27:2 Security - 146:17** See - 1:7, 10:8, 35:18, 36:20, 39:5, 44:12, 55:17, 64:23, 64:25, 65:3, 65:8, 65:11, 67:2, 67:5, 68:9, 68:18, 71:16, 71:17, 71:19, 72:4, 72:10, 73:5, 74:16, 74:19, 74:20, 75:3, 75:24, 78:9, 81:1, 89:11, 90:4, 90:6, 93:13, 101:18, 107:11, 107:16, 108:20, 133:4, 133:13, 139:14, 140:3, 145:20, 146:11, 147:16, 147:20, 148:6, 149:22, 150:3, 151:9, 196:22, 197:4, 204:3, 210:1 Seeing - 16:19, 16:20, 66:20, 75:23, 137:1, 137:7 **Seek -** 145:3, 171:17 **Seen -** 16:22, 55:1, 82:20, 138:15, 148:12, 150:10, 165:5, 173:21, 198:14, 199:5, 200:17

Selected - 26:14, 184:11 Selecting - 25:25 Selection - 26:16, 31:7, 31:10, 122:17, 124:11 Self - 110:17 **Senior -** 103:12. 154:7, 155:21 September - 80:15 **Serious -** 166:19, 176:15 **Serve - 166:21**, 168:4, 171:22 **Service - 43:6**, 44:22, 45:1, 45:5, 56:17, 61:1, 61:9, 61:11, 119:24, 155:12, 157:2, 165:17, 178:25 **Sessions - 174:3 Set -** 6:2, 6:8, 8:13, 13:24, 33:18, 36:24, 37:4, 37:7, 37:23, 38:8, 38:15, 38:22, 66:13, 66:18, 66:21, 67:9, 68:8, 68:12, 71:15, 72:10, 77:24, 78:21, 79:6, 85:22, 89:12, 91:15, 91:22, 91:23, 92:22, 93:7, 93:8, 93:18, 94:4, 95:5, 95:14, 95:15, 95:19, 96:5, 97:2, 97:17, 98:13, 98:18, 99:20, 99:23, 100:11, 100:18, 100:23, 101:23, 102:23, 104:8, 105:13, 108:18, 114:1, 120:24, 134:4, 136:14, 137:15, 137:21, 154:14, 181:3 Sets - 36:21, 36:22 **Setting -** 8:25, 28:25, 37:12, 37:18, 56:7, 76:24, 85:10, 97:17, 102:19, 102:20, 104:8 **Settled -** 17:3, 18:15, 20:6, 204:11, 204:15

Settlement - 5:1, 5:2, 5:14, 5:18, 9:13, 14:6, 14:9, 14:11, 18:21, 144:11, 180:10, 204:12 Settlements - 5:12, 10:24 Seven - 139:16 **Share - 177:6** Shareholder - 41:1 41:3 Shareholders - 40: **Shares - 139:15**, 140:3 She's - 159:23, 172:8, 172:25 **Shift -** 188:2 **Shock -** 55:6, 55:7 **Shorter - 8:11** Shortfall - 162:6 **Shouldn't -** 29:14 **Show -** 137:2 **Showed -** 116:1, 126:24 **Showing - 136:9 Shown -** 73:21, 87:5, 108:4 **Shows -** 34:22, 43:1, 43:15, 79:17, 116:4, 139:13, 155:14, 203:15 **Side -** 72:25, 75:13, 150:5, 157:20, 200:18, 200:21 **Signal -** 56:9, 75:5 Signed - 133:4 Significance - 127: 25 Significant - 38:6, 55:2, 66:3, 70:18, 75:23, 76:9, 105:2, 108:21, 108:24, 122:5, 136:12, 140:18, 151:23, 161:9, 176:19, 207:6 Significantly - 58:4 , 73:20, 75:18, 143:25 Similar - 7:2, 11:25, 13:15, 31:4, 37:2, 66:9, 70:23, 82:20, 106:13,

106:14, 117:5,

120:10, 141:4,

185:7 **Similarly -** 42:25, 104:11, 106:12, 148:7, 155:24 **Simmons - 1:12**, 1:14, 1:15, 3:8, 4:16, 4:24, 5:10, 6:1. 6:21. 7:3. 7:7. 7:15, 8:9, 8:21, 9:8, 10:11, 10:18, 11:1, 12:3, 12:12, 12:18, 13:3, 13:18, 15:3, 15:21, 17:4, 17:13, 17:22, 18:9, 19:1, 19:6, 20:13, 21:7, 21:13, 21:24, 22:11, 22:16, 22:21, 23:4, 23:10, 23:20, 24:1, 24:7, 24:12, 24:19, 25:4, 25:12, 25:20, 26:9, 27:23, 28:3, 29:21, 30:12, 30:22, 32:2, 32:18, 33:2, 34:5, 34:13, 34:20, 35:3, 35:9, 35:19, 36:3, 36:11, 36:19, 36:25, 37:11, 38:3, 38:14, 39:8, 39:18, 39:24, 40:16, 41:4, 42:7, 43:13, 44:3, 44:11, 45:11, 45:16, 45:23, 46:14, 46:22, 47:12, 47:17, 48:10, 49:5, 60:3, 83:14, 85:7, 111:16, 112:19, 113:24, 115:24, 118:3, 127:24, 128:8 Simply - 177:8 Single - 156:25 **Situation - 166:20 Six -** 72:10, 108:19, 119:22, 140:3 Size - 11:20, 74:24, 156:24, 164:1, 164:19, 199:22, 200:23 **Skip -** 9:9 **Skirt -** 57:8 Slightly - 71:22, 82:14, 83:6, 100:21, 101:9, 101:11, 133:23, 133:24 **Slip -** 59:4 Small - 11:20,

21:22, 149:8, 164:1, 164:19 **Smaller - 119:23 Smith - 119:12** Smoothing - 182:6 **Software -** 70:19, 75:16, 146:17 **Solely -** 76:1, 104:19, 157:17 **Solicitor - 174:22** Solidified - 50:10 **Solutions - 121:11** Solving - 117:2, 130:12, 136:5, 136:18, 137:14 Sooner - 55:24, 56:7, 58:7 Sorts - 36:4 **Sound -** 53:17 **Sounds -** 13:5, 197:18 **Speaks -** 25:25 **Specific -** 58:12, 70:8, 76:8, 146:23, 147:4, 151:16, 183:22, 189:4, 193:4, 193:21, 209:2 **Spend - 154:5 Spending -** 151:16, 156:22, 166:7, 207:23 **Split -** 43:22. 43:24, 44:9 **Stability - 209:23** Stabilization - 161: 22 Stabilized - 155:20 Stable - 161:3, 169:21, 170:17, 178:22 Staff - 55:16. 65:13, 70:9, 86:24 Stage - 172:24, 173:5, 173:24 Staged - 171:25, 172:2, 172:3, 172:10 **Stand -** 111:12 **Standard - 11:24**, 12:2, 12:15, 79:21, 141:5, 141:24, 163:12, 178:15, 185:5 **Standing -** 122:13 **Stands -** 175:15

Start - 51:12,

159:6, 182:15, 186:20 **Started - 23:17**, 186:23 **Starts -** 15:12, 16:14, 17:15, 18:3, 165:6 **State - 174:5** Statement - 1:22, 7:18, 27:11, 172:12, 172:20, 172:21, 172:23, 173:14, 173:23, 174:1, 183:15, 202:18, 203:3 Statements - 174:1 2, 174:15, 197:11 **Stating -** 173:15 **Stay -** 92:21. 155:22 STI - 60:4, 101:24, 154:8 Stick - 20:9 Stis - 137:16 STI's - 87:7 **Storms -** 50:16, 66:3, 66:4, 155:3, 201:22 Strategy - 37:8 **Street -** 59:11, 61:6 Strength - 163:19, 164:6, 170:6 **Stretch -** 35:12. 40:18, 89:12, 89:15, 89:17, 89:23, 90:23, 91:10, 95:20, 96:5, 97:17, 97:21, 152:21, 156:7 **Stretched - 153:7**, 153:13, 155:21 Stretches - 97:2 **Strong - 43:3 Stronger - 153:20** Structure - 3:16, 9:16, 162:23, 163:3, 163:9, 163:14, 163:15, 163:16, 163:19, 163:24, 164:5, 164:14, 167:10, 167:18, 176:8, 176:18, 177:6, 177:13, 178:9, 183:17, 183:20,

Struggling - 154:9 Subjective - 44:14, 45:2, 104:14 Subsidiary - 189:2 Substantial - 165:1 Substantially - 4:1 1. 6:24. 10:7. 11:8. 57:18, 181:8, 201:12 Substations - 112: 9, 148:8 **Success -** 88:24 Successful - 112:1 2, 188:8 Suggested - 192:1 **Suggests - 177:10 Summary - 172:24 Sums - 130:12 Sunny -** 210:1 Supervisor - 110:2 0. 111:8 Supervisors - 111: Supervisory - 111: **Supply - 21:18,** 52:6, 53:6, 54:10, 63:24, 73:18, 161:16, 166:15, 166:19, 166:22, 180:9, 180:14, 180:17, 181:4, 181:17, 181:20 **Support - 113:19**, 164:1, 168:2, 170:8, 170:23, 178:3, 179:2 Supportive - 169:2 0. 185:2 **Surface - 164:19** Sustained - 166:9 **Swear -** 159:19 **System - 16:6.** 16:24, 41:14, 56:19, 79:21, 81:4, 81:8, 82:23, 117:22, 148:21, 148:24, 150:6, 151:8, 151:9, 151:10, 153:20, 168:19, 205:12 **Systems - 16:9** Т

Table - 33:8, 34:21,

36:21, 43:15, 68:6, 77:11, 79:16, 79:17, 116:24, 152:19 Taking - 18:24, 101:21, 149:19, 188:5, 209:11 Target - 34:6. 35:11, 35:23, 35:25, 36:7, 36:16, 37:17, 37:23, 38:13, 38:15, 38:17, 39:5, 41:6, 44:23, 44:24, 47:9, 47:10, 47:16, 48:4, 63:14, 63:20, 64:7, 64:17, 64:18, 65:2, 65:6, 65:12, 65:14, 65:15, 65:22, 65:23, 65:25, 66:5, 66:7, 66:13, 66:18, 66:21, 67:3, 67:9, 85:18, 85:20, 85:22, 86:4, 87:5, 87:6, 87:13, 87:17, 87:18, 87:21, 89:12, 89:15, 89:16, 91:14, 91:16, 91:17, 91:20, 91:22, 92:1, 92:15, 92:22, 93:7, 93:19, 93:22, 94:4, 94:8, 94:12, 95:4, 95:10, 95:13, 95:15, 95:16, 95:18, 96:5, 96:15, 96:16, 97:1, 97:9, 97:16, 98:13, 98:16, 98:18, 99:20, 99:23, 100:11, 100:13, 100:16, 100:18, 100:20, 101:3, 101:4, 101:6, 101:19, 101:20, 101:21, 102:4, 102:13, 106:14, 107:24, 109:7, 109:8, 136:14, 153:10, 155:7, 156:15, 157:6 Targeted - 156:6 **Targets - 36:5**, 37:7, 37:10, 37:12, 37:18, 38:8, 38:21, 38:22, 38:24, 40:18, 41:2, 43:19, 46:8, 46:12, 47:6,

Struggle - 153:15

208:3, 208:6

48:5, 48:7, 60:4, 61:2, 61:11, 61:16, 61:19, 63:11, 64:9, 64:16, 66:24, 85:10, 85:15, 86:1, 86:9, 86:11, 86:15, 89:11, 91:2, 92:8, 92:13. 93:15. 94:23, 101:23, 102:2, 102:4, 102:18, 102:19, 102:21, 102:23, 104:13, 104:16, 104:21, 104:24, 105:11, 105:13, 107:20, 108:9, 108:24, 109:9, 152:15, 152:21, 152:22, 153:13, 154:14, 155:21, 156:3, 156:4, 156:10, 156:12, 157:22 Team - 21:23, 22:12, 25:19, 27:18, 103:13, 119:21, 119:22, 189:25 **Teams - 133:7 Technical - 110:12**, 110:13, 110:15 Technically - 83:6 Technician - 79:20. 81:14 Technicians - 81:1 6,81:20 Ten - 74:15, 154:25, 155:14 Tended - 82:13. 83:5 Tentative - 80:15 Term - 2:18, 2:20, 3:5, 3:7, 8:11, 8:12, 11:3, 33:4, 33:13, 33:17, 42:2, 42:19, 45:4, 45:6, 45:9, 45:10, 49:7, 49:13, 49:14, 51:4, 57:11, 57:25, 61:15, 61:19, 62:23, 64:22, 85:6, 96:18, 101:12, 102:6, 104:17, 104:23, 106:20, 106:24, 107:2, 107:11, 123:17, 147:19, 148:19, 150:3,

150:17, 151:2, 151:18, 157:14, 158:12, 161:25, 165:9, 166:3, 169:10, 181:25, 207:1, 207:2, 207:6, 207:9, 207:12, 207:13, 207:18, 208:10, 208:12, 209:23 Terms - 14:7, 18:18, 18:19, 37:9, 37:10, 48:6, 49:20, 56:12, 67:11, 111:10, 120:21, 122:20, 129:23, 134:9, 138:19, 142:24, 149:1, 172:20, 172:22, 189:24, 196:8, 209:18 **Territory -** 164:19 **Test -** 4:8, 8:12, 40:10, 68:9, 68:11, 68:23, 69:4, 69:16, 71:14, 71:17, 71:19, 71:20, 71:22, 72:4, 72:9, 139:23, 171:5, 173:4, 173:5, 179:23 **Testimony - 11:15**, 160:13, 160:18 Thanks - 30:21, 39:14, 158:13 **Theme - 9:18** There'll - 175:9 **There's -** 2:5, 2:16, 3:1, 16:2, 28:11, 28:12, 28:13, 28:14, 29:8, 30:5, 35:10, 35:11, 35:12, 36:4, 36:13, 44:23, 47:21, 47:25, 50:15, 57:4, 57:11, 60:10, 60:11, 61:10, 62:2, 63:12, 75:9, 80:5, 82:12, 97:23, 100:3, 113:10, 116:9, 121:2, 121:23, 127:16, 151:16, 152:22, 153:6, 153:9, 153:12, 154:5, 155:1, 156:4, 158:16, 159:13,

172:20, 173:3,

173:18, 174:21, 180:22, 190:21, 199:20, 201:6 These - 14:21, 22:3, 29:25, 31:16, 36:20, 37:5, 38:6, 40:5, 41:6, 41:8, 43:9. 44:13. 58:16. 59:20, 60:2, 60:6, 60:10, 60:15, 61:14, 61:19, 61:22, 62:3, 64:23, 65:7, 76:9, 77:13, 77:24, 79:21, 85:10, 85:15, 91:1, 92:8, 95:19, 102:19, 102:20, 103:16, 111:24, 113:18, 116:25, 122:13, 148:22, 151:3, 153:6, 154:18, 161:8, 161:13, 161:20, 161:23, 163:11, 165:7, 165:12, 167:1, 167:5, 167:8, 167:12, 169:6, 169:16, 170:1, 172:6, 172:10, 174:2, 174:7, 174:12, 176:12, 178:14, 183:9, 195:6, 207:10 They're - 5:22, 18:12, 38:23, 41:8, 46:9, 46:23, 51:22, 53:24, 105:12, 110:4, 110:25, 112:14, 112:22, 116:22, 116:23, 116:25, 117:4, 117:7, 117:8, 121:12, 128:5, 145:5, 153:8, 172:14, 174:10, 184:10, 190:23, 191:8, 196:22, 204:4 They've - 13:16, 31:22, 138:8 **Thickness - 183:12 Third -** 189:17 **Thousand - 139:16** , 140:4 Three - 6:11, 10:5, 28:12, 28:13, 39:3,

45:6, 50:14, 50:15, 72:7, 75:15, 76:21, 77:1, 77:4, 77:25, 82:19, 108:16, 120:3, 120:14, 123:19, 124:2, 131:7, 133:14, 136:8. 146:15. 146:21 **Thus -** 175:3 **Tied -** 99:21, 110:9, 112:5, 112:7 **Tight -** 102:13 **Tighter - 102:5** Time - 1:25, 2:4, 2:14, 3:22, 6:22, 6:25, 7:9, 7:22, 12:5, 12:9, 14:10, 14:12, 24:22, 24:24, 31:15, 37:16, 39:4, 50:1, 50:7, 50:11, 50:19, 53:19, 53:22, 54:18, 54:21, 54:23, 54:25, 55:3, 59:15, 59:16, 59:22, 61:3, 66:6, 66:8, 68:17, 72:16, 88:5, 88:8, 93:11, 93:14, 95:12, 97:8, 97:9, 109:17, 111:21, 118:17, 118:22, 119:2, 119:20, 119:23, 119:25, 123:19, 126:8, 126:22, 127:7, 132:5, 135:25, 138:3, 145:4, 151:14, 160:19, 161:8, 173:6, 176:18, 176:21, 187:8, 188:4, 194:25, 203:10, 206:22, 209:6 Timeframe - 148:2 **Timelines - 112:14 Timely -** 56:23, 56:25, 151:12, 169:23, 170:20, 179:2 **Times -** 61:5, 61:6, 108:2, 129:14, 150:12, 164:3, 165:20, 171:8 **Tiny -** 90:17

Today - 42:23, 51:11, 110:1, 149:13, 162:18 **Tonight - 98:5** Took - 60:3, 113:24, 115:24, 118:3 **Top -** 59:2, 71:18, 203:22 Topic - 30:25, 137:17 Topics - 103:16, 145:12 **Toronto - 121:23** Total - 26:14, 38:1, 72:2, 84:13, 105:21, 107:21, 107:24, 108:3, 109:8, 144:5, 144:24, 166:4 Touch - 152:13 Touched - 40:4 **Touching -** 188:24 **Tough -** 156:14 Toward - 110:12, 110:13, 110:15 Towards - 156:6 Trade - 81:12, 81:13 Trades - 79:9. 79:18, 79:22, 82:3, 82:22, 83:5 Traditionally - 82:1 **Training -** 70:11 Transcript - 15:17, 40:1, 98:4 **Transfer - 133:25 Transformer - 150**: Transformers - 14 8:9, 150:7, 150:18, 150:20, 150:21, 151:8 Translate - 110:24 Transmission - 11 2:10, 143:12 **Travel - 70:11 Treat -** 40:6, 77:25 Treated - 40:19, 44:5 Tremendous - 116: **Trend -** 74:11. 74:25, 75:4, 145:18, 146:5, 146:11

Trending - 99:19

Trendline - 74:17 **Trends -** 39:4, 81:2 **Tribunal - 172:1 Trust -** 171:7 **Tuned - 197:10** Turn - 1:11, 15:25, 147:10, 182:11, 194:25, 202:16 **Turning - 145:12 Twenty - 99:7** Two - 6:9, 11:6, 14:6, 26:21, 30:5, 42:21, 43:9, 45:6, 50:15, 59:9, 62:14, 65:4, 71:17, 78:3, 101:2, 101:5, 101:6, 101:22, 108:19, 120:14, 121:8, 122:2, 123:18, 144:12, 156:24, 162:22, 166:17, 168:13, 171:8, 210:7 **Types -** 111:24, 150:8, 150:12 **Typically -** 123:21, 196:9, 196:12, 207:7, 208:8

U

Unable - 171:18, 171:21 **Unaware - 190:23 Underlying - 12:19 Underpinned - 169** Understands - 39: Understood - 19:9. 88:2, 91:2, 193:24, 194:17 Undertaking - 94:1 7, 94:22, 95:24, 96:4, 98:2, 139:12 **Unfolding -** 149:22 175:16 **Unfortunately -** 70: 18, 99:19 **Union -** 77:10, 78:3, 78:10, 78:13, 78:22, 79:7, 79:19, 80:10, 80:12, 80:21, 81:3 Unionized - 77:2 **Unique -** 169:1,

201:24

Unit - 78:4

Units - 78:3 University - 185:20 186:12, 186:23, 187:4, 193:4 **Unless - 117:21**, 137:11 **Unlikely -** 143:18 **Unnecessary - 209** :16 Unregulated - 44:1 **Upcoming - 123:21 Update -** 49:10, 49:21 **Updating - 49:15 Upgrade - 156:19 Upgrades - 149:9**, 150:21 **Upper -** 89:19 **Upward -** 166:9 **Urban - 16:8 Used -** 6:8, 6:12, 8:13, 26:12, 27:4, 27:15, 31:13, 31:15, 34:22, 68:11, 79:22, 82:4, 97:3, 101:10, 114:1, 114:11, 120:24, 121:3, 121:13, 122:2, 124:20, 128:6, 129:15, 190:5 **Uses -** 17:16, 18:10 **Using -** 28:24, 66:13, 122:14, 139:21, 196:13 **Utilities - 11:25.** 13:15, 28:13, 29:8, 29:9, 30:3, 30:4, 60:20, 61:23, 79:10, 79:14, 79:24, 82:1, 116:2, 116:11, 121:11, 121:21, 122:1, 122:6, 127:16, 127:20, 128:3, 141:4, 142:15, 142:22, 142:24, 143:2, 157:8, 167:23, 176:22, 201:21, 202:1 **Utility -** 28:20, 29:6, 79:19,

141:17, 143:6,

165:21, 184:8

143:11, 143:13,

٧ **Vale -** 120:15 **Value -** 165:20, 208:25 Variability - 102:8, 102:11, 102:12, 155:2 **Variable - 156:17 Variance -** 63:24. 205:13 Vehicle - 16:9, 16:25 **Vehicles - 16:16 Verify -** 91:20 Versus - 14:11. 18:11, 20:5, 39:11, 106:6, 125:13, 127:25, 203:6, 207:2 Vice - 34:9, 86:6, 86:13, 86:14, 86:16, 86:22, 86:23, 104:1, 104:6, 104:11, 104:22, 105:7, 105:12, 105:16, 111:2, 133:14, 160:7 View - 3:3, 14:20, 17:6, 30:5, 49:6, 50:5, 50:6, 50:11, 50:12, 50:22, 51:2, 56:20, 76:1, 87:15, 116:14, 142:14, 142:16, 143:3, 145:2, 157:5, 209:11 Viewed - 170:7 Views - 3:25. 103:15 **Volatility - 181:16**, 181:21 Volume - 202:17 **VP -** 21:16, 21:17, 21:18, 22:18, 23:5, 23:13, 23:21, 24:15, 119:24, 131:18, 132:1, 132:2, 133:22, 133:23, 135:5, 135:11, 135:13, 136:9, 136:10 **Vps** - 33:24

W

Wage - 82:22

Wages - 79:17, 82:14 **Waiting - 94:19** Wants - 30:25 Warmer - 50:20 Wasn't - 23:21, 24:13, 49:19, 50:21. 58:21. 126:16, 129:5, 192:23, 193:6 Watching - 65:23 Ways - 57:16, 65:24, 76:23, 172:21 Weak - 15:9, 164:22 Weakened - 161:2 **Weaker - 178:1** Weather - 50:20. 50:24, 65:21, 66:10, 155:4, 155:5, 155:8 **Website -** 22:1 We'd - 81:19 Week - 27:12, 50:18 Weighting - 33:24, 35:18, 35:22, 35:24, 36:1, 109:3 Weightings - 108:2 **We'll -** 6:16, 7:8, 30:21, 33:4, 48:17, 59:19, 64:21, 69:23, 95:24, 97:24, 144:1, 159:9, 182:15, 210:5, 210:17 We're - 6:10, 14:22, 14:23, 18:18, 19:2, 20:4, 21:22, 38:25, 43:3, 51:21, 53:13, 55:13, 55:14, 55:20, 55:21, 56:12, 56:13, 56:15, 58:24, 58:25, 59:2, 65:22, 66:5, 82:7, 97:1, 112:8, 119:4, 136:9, 141:22, 144:14, 144:19, 145:8, 148:20, 151:9. 154:13, 155:7, 155:15, 174:3, 175:12, 195:20, 203:3, 204:22,

210:9 Weren't - 22:22, 63:17, 63:19, 64:11, 76:14, 188:16, 189:7, 192:25 We've - 16:22, 34:24, 50:6, 60:2, 71:4. 99:17. 103:16, 122:14, 137:19, 140:14, 151:6, 184:25, 191:10, 196:21, 197:25, 198:14 What's - 3:21, 3:23, 5:17, 8:13, 8:24, 11:4, 32:7, 34:6, 80:18, 97:17, 98:16, 111:4, 112:21, 130:7, 206:12, 208:16 Whatsoever - 190: Whereas - 2:19, 104:18 Where'd - 186:7 Where's - 154:9 Whole - 33:21, 45:18 Wholesale - 52:14, 55:24, 55:25, 56:2, 57:16, 63:6, 63:9, 161:18, 179:8, 179:14, 179:19, 179:21, 180:16, 180:19, 181:4, 181:9, 181:13, 181:18, 182:2 Wholly - 189:2 Who's - 44:4 Wiclif - 133:6 **Will -** 1:7, 11:16, 11:22, 27:13, 30:23, 38:6, 38:16, 40:8, 40:10, 51:13, 52:6, 54:13, 56:6, 56:22, 57:21, 57:25, 58:1, 58:8, 65:24, 76:7, 78:22, 84:13, 85:6, 85:23, 90:13, 92:3, 93:13, 96:4, 96:8, 99:11, 114:24, 116:17, 121:16, 123:7, 125:5, 127:23, 138:25, 143:19, 146:22,

147:3, 147:16,

148:6, 148:23,

Julie 14, 2024				NP GRA 2025-2020
1500 454 44	00.0.07.00.00.4	00 0 400 0 404 0		
150:3, 151:14,	36:8, 37:22, 38:1,	99:2, 100:9, 101:2,		
154:17, 158:4,	39:3, 44:24, 44:25,	101:5, 101:6,	7 0 r 0 47.0	
159:5, 160:3,	46:4, 46:10, 46:18,	101:22, 102:10,	Zero - 47:8	
161:20, 162:15,	47:7, 47:11, 48:1,	102:12, 118:12,		
165:24, 166:3,	48:3, 48:6, 53:2,	118:24, 120:2,		
166:6, 166:8,	53:7, 53:11, 59:9,	120:15, 120:17,		
167:1, 167:24,	65:2, 65:16, 65:24,	121:18, 122:15,		
1				
170:18, 170:22,	65:25, 66:4, 66:17,	122:19, 123:19,		
173:6, 173:7,	68:9, 68:11, 68:23,	124:2, 125:17,		
175:4, 179:3,	69:2, 69:4, 69:5,	127:9, 127:12,		
180:16, 180:18,	69:16, 70:15,	128:21, 147:15,		
181:15, 181:18,	71:14, 71:19,	147:17, 147:21,		
181:20, 181:24,	71:21, 71:22, 72:4,	149:1, 155:6,		
188:17, 194:19,	72:9, 72:16, 73:19,	163:21, 173:10,		
194:25, 199:20,	78:21, 80:16,	180:20, 181:17,		
208:8, 208:11,	85:17, 85:23,	183:18, 185:13,		
209:4	89:16, 91:15,	185:15, 199:4,		
I .		l · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Winter - 50:15,	91:23, 92:8, 92:9,	199:6		
166:18	93:3, 93:4, 93:15,	Yesterday - 1:18,		
Wire - 150:7, 151:7	93:16, 94:11, 95:14,	3:9, 8:4, 15:7,		
Wish - 160:17,	97:10, 97:20,	15:18, 19:8, 20:16,		
210:12	99:12, 100:12,	21:22, 22:13, 40:4,		
Witness - 14:16,	100:13, 100:17,	41:20, 46:15, 47:4,		
146:22, 172:8,	100:19, 100:21,	56:18, 62:9, 66:15,		
172:11, 173:7,	100:23, 101:3,	83:19, 83:23,		
173:19, 174:5,	101:14, 101:16,	106:2, 147:24,		
174:15, 174:20,	102:8, 102:9,	l		
		150:9, 180:8,		
182:11, 204:16	104:20, 108:12,	195:18		
Witness's - 172:25	108:18, 110:16,	You'd - 176:1,		
, 175:5	123:11, 123:13,	178:19, 179:7		
Won't - 57:18,	123:16, 123:20,	You'll - 95:8,		
57:25, 58:4, 58:7,	123:21, 123:25,	173:19		
125:4	139:14, 139:20,	You're - 4:1, 13:9,		
Words - 58:15	139:23, 140:6,	18:3, 22:24, 29:24,		
Work - 13:15,	149:20, 151:17,	39:10, 54:5, 64:4,		
132:21, 186:20,	151:21, 154:15,	66:19, 68:8, 69:1,		
186:23, 188:23,		73:6, 76:24, 78:21,		
	154:17, 154:25,			
189:4	155:1, 155:4,	81:8, 90:13, 90:23,		
Worked - 185:10,	155:6, 155:14,	95:16, 96:1, 96:17,		
186:24	155:22, 155:23,	102:8, 102:10,		
Worker - 81:3	156:17, 156:18,	102:12, 110:7,		
Working - 187:5	158:5, 161:15,	115:17, 125:20,		
Works - 33:13,	162:11, 165:25,	139:6, 142:14,		
44:16, 136:20	179:17, 179:23,	154:19, 184:19,		
Worse - 42:22	186:3, 187:2,	185:24, 198:20,		
Worthiness - 168:2	187:21, 196:23,	199:9, 199:10,		
4, 170:14, 184:17	202:25, 203:8,	200:4, 201:4,		
Wouldn't - 30:1,	203:9, 207:9, 209:4	202:11, 208:14		
1		l ·		
63:25, 71:3, 75:9,	Years - 4:9, 8:13,	Yours - 156:2		
93:1, 184:10,	16:6, 22:13, 31:21,	You've - 8:10, 16:6,		
194:6, 194:21,	38:21, 40:10, 45:7,	22:7, 22:12, 26:5,		
197:17, 203:7,	47:2, 48:1, 50:14,	31:5, 81:23, 92:6,		
209:15	63:4, 65:4, 65:21,	120:3, 138:18,		
Writing - 94:19	66:7, 66:9, 66:25,	153:23, 185:10,		
"	67:9, 71:17, 71:19,	189:14, 197:9		
Υ	74:15, 75:3, 85:19,	,		
	94:23, 97:5, 97:8,			
Year - 3:6, 8:18,	5 1.20, 07 .0, 07 .0,			