



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
Newfoundland and Labrador

James Dinn, M.H.A.
District of St. John's Centre

January 14, 2026

Dear Premier Wakeham (Tony),

We are deeply concerned about your decision to hold a referendum on the Churchill Falls agreement, especially in the context of Quebec Premier François Legault's announcement that he is stepping down as leader of the Coalition Avenir Québec.

If referendum is not done thoughtfully in a transparent manner and without adequate public engagement, it could unnecessarily jeopardize an agreement and impact generations of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians to come. It is a complex agreement requiring specialised knowledge, information, and analysis. A year ago, MHAs spent four intense days reviewing the MOU, asking questions of NL Hydro negotiators, experts, and advisors, and debating and voting on the MOU.

Many Newfoundlanders and Labradorians have not had that opportunity. For that reason, and to ensure the new deal offers Newfoundlanders and Labradorians the best possible return on their resources, the NL NDP along with the Independent MHAs demanded independent oversight to ensure transparency and confidence.

You are anticipating the report of the Churchill Falls MOU Oversight Committee to be publicly available at the end of April and have stated you are committed to holding a referendum on the agreement. Considering the above we are seeking answers to the following questions:

Regarding the report of the committee:

1. Your news release indicated the report will be made public and will be debated in the House of Assembly. Will MHAs receive an advance copy of the report as well as a technical briefing?

Regarding the Referendum:

2. When will the Referendum be held?
3. Will the results of the referendum be binding or simply advisory?
4. Will the question require a simple yes/no vote or will there be multiple parts?
5. What measures will be put in place to ensure the public is fully informed about the MOU and the report of the committee so that they know What they are voting on? Will there be information sessions, mailouts, online events, etc.?

6. What is the estimated cost of information sessions?
7. How will the referendum take place? Will it take place similar to a provincial election? Will it be online?
8. What is the estimated cost of a referendum?
9. What is the threshold for acceptance? 50% plus 1? 60? 75%
10. What is the threshold for voter turnout? For example, if only 30% of eligible voters vote, is that enough to consider the result of the referendum valid?
11. What would the release date and review, and referendum at some point thereafter, mean for the deadline of April 30th for the final signature? That date has been committed to in the signed MOU approved by QC and NL. Is NL Hydro contractually able to break that date, or are they negotiating to gain more time so they and the provincial government can do all the consulting they need before signing any final agreement?
12. If for some reason the final agreements are not ratified and the deal falls through, what are your government's plans to ensure Labrador West accesses the power it needs to grow and sustain itself?

Like you, the NDP seeks transparency and the best possible deal for the people of our province. Transparency also applies to the referendum process. The people of the province need assurance that you have a well thought out plan for the referendum and informing the public. In light of Premier Legault's resignation, we ask for the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our concerns and questions with the purpose of working together to get the best deal for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

Take care,



James Dinn, MHA
St. John's Centre
Leader, NL NDP

CC Eddie Joyce, M.H.A. for Humber-Bay of Islands
John Hogan, Leader of the Opposition