



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
Newfoundland and Labrador
Jim Dinn, M.H.A.
St. John's Centre

Tony Wakeham, Premier
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
PO Box 8700
Confederation Building
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

August 25, 2026

Dear Premier,

Re: Request for Independent Oversight of the DCIA

The NDP Caucus is calling for an independent review of the “Definitive Cooperation and Implementation Agreement” (DCIA) similar to what we demanded for the 2024 MOU. Not only must the review be independent, it also must be perceived to be independent. Any review must be arm's length, fully funded, and must report to the House of Assembly and the public. Transparency is paramount if we are to judge the merits of the new deal. There is time to do such a review considering final agreements are targeted to be concluded by the end of 2026 and a deal signed in March 2027.

As we did in 2025, we recommend one of two options:

Option 1: Task the Public Utilities Board with the responsibility to review the DCIA to determine if it is in the public interest. The PUB will engage the necessary expertise, staff, and independent consultants to review assumptions, calculations, projections, etc. of the DCIA and remain involved in the oversight of negotiations up to and including the completion of final definitive agreements. The PUB will report regularly to the HOA and to the public on their analysis subject to commercial sensitivities.

Considering that in 2024, you called on the Liberal government to refer their MOU to the PUB for an “independent and impartial review,” I feel confident you will be open to this option.

Option 2: Establish an independent expert oversight and review Committee to Review the Churchill Falls MOU in the public interest. The committee will be composed of experts and will engage the necessary expertise, staff, and independent consultants to review the assumptions, calculations projections, etc. of the DCIA and remain involved in the oversight of up to and including the completion of final definitive agreements. Liberal, Progressive Conservative, New Democratic Party, and independent members will be responsible for selecting their own

representative on the committee. The House of Assembly will confirm the Committee. The Committee will report regularly to the HOA and provide regular updates to the public on their analysis subject to commercial sensitivities.

While your Independent Review Committee reviewed the 2024 MOU, no such analysis has been done on the DCIA. Since opposition members had no input into the composition of the IRC and its mandate and were unable to question the committee on its findings it can hardly be called transparent.

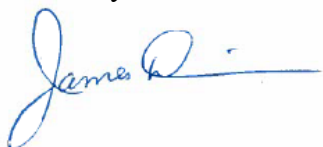
To be clear, we appreciated the opportunity to receive a technical briefing from the DCIA negotiating team. It was informative but left many questions unanswered and raised others. Essentially, we are back to where we were in December 2024, except with more detail and more text. What is lacking – and what is desperately needed – for a deal of this magnitude is analysis, independent of partisan politics. It's what we've been calling for from the beginning.

The way the deal was announced in December 2024, the recent PC Facebook post comparing “The New PC Deal to The Old Liberal MOU,” and your comments at the announcement demonstrates that neither party can be trusted to keep partisan politics out of this important deal.

We have no independent way of judging the financial and economic merits of the deal. We need reassurance this simply wasn't a political exercise. As with the 2024 MOU, NDP support for your MOU will depend on your commitment to an independent and ongoing review of the DCIA.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. MHA Sheilagh O'Leary and I look forward to the opportunity to discuss the details of an independent review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Dinn", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

James Dinn, M.H.A.
St. John's Centre
Leader, NL NDP

Cc. John Hogan, Leader, Official Opposition
Eddie Joyce, M.H.A., Humber - Bay of Islands