



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 13, 2026

Dear Premier,

Re: Special Debate on Churchill Falls MOU Deal

It is troubling to learn of a potential Churchill Falls deal from a Quebec newspaper rather than directly from you as Premier of our province. There is uncertainty about whether this is an MOU or a final deal. In the interest of transparency and following any announcement next week, we call on your government to hold a special debate in the House of Assembly on the negotiated deal, similar in format to the one that was held in January 2025 on the original MOU.

Transparency is a prerequisite for public trust and confidence. This is an issue of transparency. Apart from releasing Michael Wilson's unredacted resignation letter and the letter from the Clerk of the Executive Council to the Chair of the Churchill River Negotiation Oversight Panel, your government has been evasive and anything but transparent about the Churchill Falls negotiations. Given that your government has spent the better part of a year apologizing for being relatively new to being in power, the public needs to be confident that this deal is in the best interest of the province as you promised.

From the beginning the NL New Democratic Party has urged all sides to leave partisan politics out of the process and judge any deal on its financial merits and economic benefits to the province, environmental protection, and discussions with Indigenous people.

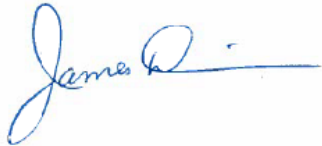
You criticised the 2024 MOU negotiated by the former Liberal government as lacking and promised to negotiate a much better deal. From the beginning we have been concerned that anti-Quebec and partisan politics have played an outsized role in your government's approach to the MOU. Since being elected, your government has made a practice of cancelling Liberal initiatives. We truly hope your approach to the Churchill Falls negotiation was in the best interest of the people of the province and not just intended to put a PC stamp on the deal.

You also promised to hold a referendum on any deal. We have always believed that such a proposal was incredibly naïve unless it was preceded by an extensive public awareness campaign. With a Quebec provincial election looming and time running out, holding a referendum would be impossible. However, a special debate in the House of Assembly would be possible, allowing MHAs to question and scrutinise the deal. It would help inform the people of the province about it as well.

If you do recall the legislature we would again request funding for opposition parties and the independent member to engage our own experts to help us assess how this deal is different from the 2024 MOU and whether it is indeed in the best interest of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns, and I look forward to your reply.

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