



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
Newfoundland and Labrador

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

September 10, 2026

Premier Tony Wakeham
The Office of the Premier
Confederation Building, East Block
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL, A1B 4J6

Dear Premier Wakeham,

On August 26 I sent a letter to you requesting an independent review of the 2026 Definitive Cooperation and Implementation Agreement (DCIA) to which I have yet to receive a response. From the announcement of the 2024 Churchill Falls MOU, the NDP has insisted on a transparent independent review to ensure any deal is in the best interest of the people of our province. Since that letter – and considering the discussion around the rules of the debate for the special sitting of the House of Assembly from September 14-17, 2026 – I wish to further specify that independent review must be undertaken by the Public Utilities Board which is an arm's length organization. You, yourself, insisted they review the 2024 MOU. The PUB would have the financial resources it needs to engage Manitoba Hydro International, BC Hydro, KPMG, or another top tier energy consultant to answer the question: Is the Definitive Cooperation and Implementation Agreement in the best interest of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The PUB would present its report shortly following the conclusion of negotiations of the final legally binding DCIA on December 31, 2026. This would allow time for a final debate and vote of the agreement before the March 2026 execution date. Your own Independent Review Committee was able to complete an analysis of the 2024 MOU in four months. A similar timeline for the PUB should not be a problem. The previous administration committed to a review of the 2024 MOU with a final report and debate in the HOA by Spring 2026.

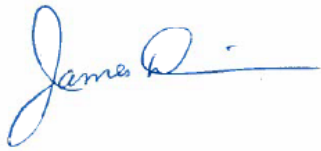
The DCIA is essentially another MOU. We are back to where we were in January 2025 and with just as much uncertainty and just as much government hype. As in the 2025 debate, we will have access to the negotiating team and experts and people closely associated with negotiating the DCIA – people with biases, who indicated the 2024 was the best deal possible and who now promote the DCIA as the best deal. We'll have access to representatives of the federal government who have a vested interest in seeing this project proceed. These are not independent experts. Further complicating matters is your steadfast refusal to make members of your IRC available for questioning.

By taking the time to engage truly independent experts, we will ensure that the people of the province will get the right deal they deserve. Otherwise, as we have learned from the Muskrat Falls debacle, we will be living with the consequences for a long time. As you indicated in a recent interview, the DCIA is not about politicians; it's about the future of the people of this province. For me, it's about my children and grandchildren. The NDP has striven to see beyond the partisan wrangling that has clouded debate on the Churchill Falls MOU. We expect and demand transparency. If this MOU is as good as it's being promoted, it will stand up to scrutiny.

Our support of the 2024 MOU was contingent upon an independent review and debate on the final agreement; our support for the 2026 MOU is contingent on a review by the PUB, the engagement of independent experts, and a debate on the final agreement. Apart from our own conditions, your government must reach out and meaningfully consult with the Innu and have their approval. Without it, any debate in the HOA is meaningless.

Thank you for your attention to our request. We are willing to discuss our request further if you are amenable to doing so.

Take care,

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

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