



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
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October 7, 2026

Dear Premier,

Now that the special sitting of the House of Assembly has concluded, I would like to take the time to reiterate the position of the Newfoundland and Labrador NDP on the Definitive Co-operation and Implementation Agreement (DCIA) and ask you to confirm your own position on these matters.

Our approach to the vote during the special sitting was guided by one simple question: Is this agreement in the best interests of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians? To help us answer that, we provided three benchmarks that would have allowed us to vote for negotiations to continue. They were:

- Independent oversight of negotiations up to a final deal by the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities (PUB) and scrutiny of the DCIA by them, or if they were unable to take on this work, have them oversee such work through an arm's length organization like Manitoba Hydro;
- A commitment to return to the House of Assembly with the negotiated deal for debate and a final vote; and
- Meaningful consultation with the Innu Nation and their approval of the DCIA.

I personally appreciated the opportunity to discuss these concerns with you during the week of debate and your commitment to address those concerns. In the days during and after the special sitting, your government has made statements regarding all three points. I respectfully ask you to clarify your position on these matters.

Your government has committed to widening the composition of the Oversight Committee which is welcome. However, its mandate has expired, so new and existing members will need original terms of reference. First, I ask that you allow the PUB to select the new Committee members. These members must be experts in relevant fields such as engineering, finance, or hydroelectric project management. I also ask that the terms of the Committee be expanded to include not merely oversight of future negotiations, but also an analysis of the final deal to ensure that it is

indeed in the best interests of the people of the province, and that they table a report of their conclusions in the House of Assembly before any final debate. Further, I ask that members of the Committee be allowed simultaneously to table dissenting reports should they disagree with the majority opinion. These measures would add transparency to the entire negotiation process and therefore go a long way to gaining the trust of the public in any final deal that your government brings forward.

I also seek a firm commitment to bring the final deal back to the House of Assembly for a debate and vote. I note that in the scrum after the vote on the DCIA on September 17, you stated that once a final deal is reached, "the House Leaders will get together and figure out what we do in the House of Assembly." In the House that evening, you also stated that "we will bring the definitive agreements back into the House." However, I note that neither statement mentions a final vote. I ask that you confirm that any arrangement for debating a final agreement in the HOA includes a vote on the deal by the Members.

For us, no final deal is possible without the support of the Innu Nation. Most, if not all, of the proposed work takes place on their land. They must therefore be fully briefed on all developments and work with the proponents at every step of the negotiations where appropriate. Your government has committed to working with Innu Nation and its representatives. Presumably, that you engage with them to seek their free, prior, and informed consent. Is it your intention to have formal Innu approval before a final agreement is brought back to the House of Assembly for debate and vote by MHAs?

Thank you for your attention to our concerns, and I look forward to your reply. We look forward to engaging with you and your government in good faith to address these items of concern.

Sincerely,

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

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