NDP Caucus News

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NDP Says Government Failure in Transparency Shown at Town Hall for Churchill Falls Deal

On the final day of the House of Assembly's Fall Session, NDP Leader Jim Dinn (St. John's Centre) and MHA Sheilagh O'Leary (St. John's East-Quidi Vidi) demand government truly listen to the people of the province regarding the Churchill Falls deal and call for a town hall tour across the province where people can get their questions answered.

Last evening at the Holiday Inn, over 1500 concerned citizens both online and in person congregated for a town hall discussion on the Churchill Falls deal and outlined the issues they have presented which they have not had answered by this government. O'Leary asked the Premier why his government refuses to acknowledge the lack of trust his government has created by refusing to meaningfully engage and respond to many of the issues raised at the event.

"The town hall held last night on the Churchill Falls deal speaks volumes about the level of mistrust this government has created among the public. People have serious questions about this deal, which are not being answered. Instead, people are left trying to piece together what this deal actually means for them and for the future of our province. There is confusion, frustration, and anxiety. The public's concerns are not being heard or taken seriously," said O'Leary. "I ask the Premier: How can he stand here and not recognize the situation created by his government's failure to engage with the public around this deal?"

Dinn followed, highlighting how from the beginning, the NDP have called for a truly independent review of the deal, while both Liberals and Conservatives making it a political football, with both parties using the deal during election as fodder. Dinn believes the government should tour the deal across the province and answer question's from the public before the deal is signed.

"The NDP remains committed to three conditions we need to make a final decision on the Churchill River deal. Last night's town hall illustrates the saying, "Nature abhors a vacuum," and it is the direct result of the PC's failure to deliver on its referendum promise or to engage meaningfully with the public," said Dinn. "I ask the Premier, will he arrange for a series of town halls (virtual and in person) across the province to engage the public and allow them to ask questions of government, its experts, and the negotiating team?"

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