Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (File # NR-52-2016)

On September 28, 2016, the Department of Natural Resources received your request for access to the following records/information:

Please provide all emails, documentation, briefing notes, and all other electronic or hard-copy material relating to or mentioning budget activism and activists, including but not limited to...

I am pleased to inform you that a decision has been made by the Department of Natural Resources, confirmed by the Deputy Minister, to provide access to some of the requested information. Access to the remaining records, and/or information contained within the records, has been refused in accordance with the following exceptions to disclosure, as specified in the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act):

40 Disclosure harmful to personal privacy
(1) The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose personal information to an applicant where the disclosure would be an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy.

As required by 8(2) of the Act, we have severed information that is unable to be disclosed and have provided you with as much information as possible; in accordance with your request for a copy of the records, the records have been included with this correspondence.
Right to Request Review/File Appeal

As set out in section 42 of the Act you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the department’s decision to provide partial access to the requested information. A request to the Commissioner must be made in writing within 15 business days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner. Your request should identify your concerns with the department’s response and why you are requesting a review. The request for review may be addressed to the Information and Privacy Commissioner as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
2 Canada Drive
P.O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John’s, NL A1B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Toll-Free: 1-877-729-6309
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

Pursuant to section 52 of the Act, you may also appeal directly to the Supreme Court Trial Division within 15 business days after receiving the department’s decision.

Response to be Made Public

Please be advised that responsive records will be published following a 72 hour period after the response is sent electronically to you or five business days in the case where records are mailed to you. It is the goal to have the responsive records posted to the Completed Access to Information Requests website within one business day following the applicable period of time. Please note that requests for personal information will not be posted online.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me by telephone at 729-3214 or by e-mail at andreamarshall@gov.nl.ca. Alternatively, please contact Tanya Noseworthy, the department’s primary access to information coordinator at 729-1466 or tanyanoseworthy@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

Tanya Noseworthy
Departmental ATIPP Coordinator
This budget is an absolute disgrace.

It lacks vision, creates barriers to investment and will remembered as the budget that did the most to stimulate out migration. You are on a path to destroy this province with your government's broken promises and lack of any meaningful vision. You have overwhelmingly lost the support to govern through your demonstrated incapacity to show any innovation or competency. BTW...I have no affiliation with any party.

Let the protests begin!
You obviously didn’t read it. I suggest you print it and shove it up your a** Traitor.

> On Apr 19, 2016, at 4:46 PM, Coady, Siobhan <SiobhanCoady@gov.nl.ca> wrote:
> Dear
>
> Thank you for your email. It is a difficult budget and these are challenging times. It is frustrating that we, as Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, find ourselves in this predicament. I share with you, with my family, and friends that difficulty in understanding how could we have spent all the new money that the resource industries brought to this province over the last ten years.
>
> Sadly even when oil was at $100 a barrel we were still overspending. We have been living way beyond our means and our debt has caught up to us.
>
> This budget is tough. No one wanted it to be but we are now paying more on our debt then we are paying to educate our children. We cannot continue this way or pretty soon that number will be more then we can manage and that will mean even more severe measures.
>
> The increases in tax (including the temporary debt reduction levy) that you find in the budget are equal to, and some are slightly lower than, the same tax you paid in 2006. Please remember when oil was at peak production and peak price taxes were lowered. We no longer have that flexibility and they must go back to 2006 levels to ensure you and your families have the health care, education, roads and services that you need.
>
> To ensure those most vulnerable on low income have reduced impact, we have introduced an income supplement. This supplement will be paid quarterly and is based on family net income. For example a senior couple with net income of $26,000 will receive a cheque for $455.75 every 3 months.
>
> We will get this overspending and debt situation under control. We didn’t get into this mess overnight so it will take some time and hard work but we will get there. We will be better off and able to do more when we do.
>
> We have incredible opportunity in our fisheries, forestry, oil and gas, mining, tourism and service industries to name a few. We just have to manage this opportunity well and ensure we make the right decisions. Even the tough ones.
>
> Sincerely,

> Siobhan
To: Bennett, Cathy (Minister)
Cc: Bennett, Derek; Bragg, Derrick; Brazil, David J.; Browne, Mark; Coady, Siobhan; Crocker, Steve; Davis, Bernard; Davis, Paul A (MHA- District of Topsail); Dean, Jerry; Dempster, Lisa; Edmunds, Randy; Finn, John; GambinWalsh, Sherry; Haggie, John; Haley, Carol Anne; Hawkins, Allan; Holloway, Colin; Hutchings, Keith; Joyce, Eddie; Kent, Steve; King, Neil; Kirby, Dale; Lane, Paul; Letto, Graham; Mitchelmore, Christopher; Osborne, Tom; Parsley, Betty; Parsons, Andrew; Parsons, Kevin; Parsons, Pam; Petten, Barry; Perry, Tracey; Reid, Scott; Trimper, Perry; Warr, Brian; Byrne, Gerry; Rogers, Gerry; Michael, Lorraine

Subject: No Muskrat Falls. No Levy.

On one of the most godawful windy landmasses on the planet, why was there no national conversation about wind energy? It appears that we could have built the wind power output equivalent of 5 times Muskrat Falls for the cost of 1 Muskrat Falls.

Muskrat Falls is intended to generate 824mw, at least $8B total cost. For about $1.68 we could have installed 412 2mw industrial wind turbines. Installed, they're about $4M apiece.

On the environmental side of it, wind farms have a miniature carbon footprint compared the astronomical footprint left by MF. Also, Harvard researchers have concluded that the methyl mercury released when flooding starts at MF will be 3 times what they first thought when the environmental impact assessment was done. Apparently, the Nunatsiavut government doesn't believe it's feasible to go ahead with MF at this point either.

Muskrat Falls is costing the low and middle class $1.3B in 2016 so that we can:
- Soon pay double for electricity
- Lose health care capability
- Pay more for all goods and services
- Force the low-middle class into absolute poverty
- Layoff thousands. We're already at 35,000 unemployed to 220,000 employed and should exceed 20% unemployment by end-of-summer, at a time when EI is running out for many already.
- Drive people who can still afford to get out away from NL before it's too late
- Drive crime rates up, as if it's not bad enough here already
- Drive anomie and mental health problems up
- Force people to poach and steal
- Force people to go without basic necessities to be able to feed their children
- Force people to choose between paying for gas or registration and insurance
- Force people to starve
- Force people to go without heat
- Drive tuition up and cut the affordability of post-secondary education
> Enough is enough. This benefits no one but Nalcor. Muskrat Falls was a sly backroom deal, benefiting only the wealthiest of our population and their political cronies, apparently only given 2 hours to debate. The people of Newfoundland and Labrador will shut this government down if you do not put a hold on this project immediately.
>
> For now, there is one other issue I will bring up - the Levy. This is absolutely unacceptable and must be done away with. There are many obvious issues here:
>
> - Starting the Levy at $20K. Do you even know what it's like to try to survive on $30K, let alone $20K? It's obscene and atrocious that it was even suggested.
>
> - Taxing the lowest earners at the highest rate. Whoever thought this up is absolutely out of their mind and should be arrested and set adrift at the very least.
>
> - The long pause at $750. We understand that this is your income bracket. Shame. Shame.
>
> - A person like Ed Martin will only pay $900. Bravo, we obviously have a greedy fascist government.
>
> This Levy will be removed from the budget now and will never be brought up ever again. Shame on the government for ever suggesting any of it. It goes against basic human decency, and it is absolutely illegal under Section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. It is a vile case of economic discrimination.
>
> Do not underestimate the gravity of the situation you are in. Vote down this budget immediately for all of our sakes. This budget very negatively affects most of our population. Do not dare take it for granted that we will let this slide. We have everything to lose or everything to gain. It's your choice how this turns out. You are supposed to work for us, not oppress us.
>
> Sincerely,

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S. 40(1)
Thank you for the reply Siobhan. I understand that this budget is needed to get us out of debt and make us a have province again but it's just too much at once. The budget will effect everyone but the people who will suffer the most from this are the lower income earners/families like myself. I can do without, but my child shouldn't suffer more because of the budget but she will if it goes ahead. As of now I'm living paycheque to paycheque with little money for anything else. I'm not on government assistance or looking for a handout, I believe you should work and contribute to society but you shouldn't tax a person to the breaking point. It's unjust and unfair. I am only one person, but I do have a voice and plan on using it to protest this budget. It may help, it may be meaningless but at the end of the day I can rest peacefully knowing I stood beside and behind my fellow Newfoundlanders and Labradorians and I hope you will do the same.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 19, 2016, at 4:22 PM, Coady, Siobhan <SiobhanCoady@gov.nl.ca> wrote:
> 
> Dear
> 
> Thank you for your email. It is a difficult budget and these are challenging times. It is frustrating that we, as Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, find ourselves in this predicament. I share with you, with my family, and friends that difficulty in understanding how could we have spent all the new money that the resource industries brought to this province over the last ten years.
> 
> Sadly even when oil was at $100 a barrel we were still overspending. We have been living way beyond our means and our debt has caught up to us.
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> This budget is tough. No one wanted it to be but we are now paying more on our debt then we are paying to educate our children. We cannot continue this way or pretty soon that number will be more then we can manage and that will mean even more severe measures.
> 
> The increases in tax (including the temporary debt reduction levy) that you find in the budget are equal to, and some are slightly lower than, the same tax you paid in 2006. Please remember when oil was at peak production and peak price taxes were lowered. We no longer have that flexibility and they must go back to 2006 levels to ensure you and your families have the health care, education, roads and services that you need.
> 
> To ensure those most vulnerable on low income have reduced impact, we have introduced an income supplement. This supplement will be paid quarterly and is based on family net income. For example a senior couple with net income of $26,000 will receive a cheque for $455.75 every 3 months.
We will get this overspending and debt situation under control. We didn't get into this mess overnight so it will take some time and hard work but we will get there. We will be better off and able to do more when we do.

We have incredible opportunity in our fisheries, forestry, oil and gas, mining, tourism and service industries to name a few. We just have to manage this opportunity well and ensure we make the right decisions. Even the tough ones.

Sincerely,

Siobhan

-----Original Message-----
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 10:17 AM
To: Coady, Siobhan
Subject: Just vote NO

Hi my name is [Redacted] and I urge you to vote NO to budget 2016. It's time to stand behind the people of the province and not let this budget pass, promises made can still be met but not if you support this budget. If budget 2016 is passed it will have a devastating affect on the people in our province, the children and myself. Just say No.

Sent from my iPhone

"This email and any attached files are intended for the sole use of the primary and copied addressee(s) and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. Any distribution, use or copying by any means of this information is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it immediately and notify the sender."
Hello, 

While I do appreciate the fact that you responded to my e-mail, it is so obviously an automated message you send out to all your constituents about this issue. You talk as if it was the decision of the people of NL to spend millions of dollars on the Muskrat Falls project... this was the governments decision and we are forced to pay for it... we don't have a choice. This levy is incomprehensible; to charge people for living in their own province? What has this place come to? I am ashamed for you and for the liberal government. Good luck getting reelected. I know you have lost my vote. Please don't bother responding. I know your position.

On Tue, Apr 19, 2016 at 4:21 PM, Coady, Siobhan <SiobhanCoady@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

Dear [Name]

Thank you for your email. It is a difficult budget and these are challenging times. It is frustrating that we, as Newfoundlanders and Labradors, find ourselves in this predicament. I share with you, with my family, and friends that difficulty in understanding how could we have spent all the new money that the resource industries brought to this province over the last ten years.

Sadly even when oil was at $100 a barrel we were still overspending. We have been living way beyond our means and our debt has caught up to us.

This budget is tough. No one wanted it to be but we are now paying more on our debt then we are paying to educate our children. We cannot continue this way or pretty soon that number will be more then we can manage and that will mean even more severe measures.

The increases in tax (including the temporary debt reduction levy) that you find in the budget are equal to, and some are slightly lower than, the same tax you paid in 2006. Please remember when oil was at peak production and peak price taxes were lowered. We no longer have that flexibility and they must go back to 2006 levels to ensure you and your families have the health care, education, roads and services that you need.
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We have incredible opportunity in our fisheries, forestry, oil and gas, mining, tourism and service industries to name a few. We just have to manage this opportunity well and ensure we make the right decisions. Even the tough ones.

Sincerely,

Siobhan

---

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 11:32 AM
To: Coady, Siobhan
Subject:

Hello Mrs. Coady:

I’m sure by now you have had a number of calls and e-mails concerning the ridiculous budget put forth last week. I URGE your to vote NO to this budget!! The people of this province cannot live under these conditions!! This affects the low-middle income families more than anyone. I’m sure you already know this, but personally, me and my family cannot live in this province under these conditions!! We, along with many other families, will be forced to leave this province. all this budget will do is create MORE debt in the province as its people will not be able to afford to spend any money, therefore, putting all their spending on CREDIT which creates more DEBT! I implore you to please VOTE NO TO THIS BUDGET... We need someone that is going to stand up for the people of this province NOT for the government! As our MHA, I feel you have an obligation to do everything you can for your people. WE voted you in because we had faith in you... PLEASE help us!!!!!!! There will absolutely be a protest over this!!!! I am telling everyone I know to contact their MHA to ask the same thing.

"This email and any attached files are intended for the sole use of the primary and copied addressee(s) and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. Any distribution, use or copying by any means of this
information is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it immediately and notify the sender.
Dear Siobhan,

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to respond to my email. The situation seems to be pretty dire and I understand that it has to be dealt with. I just don’t believe it has to be done in one fell swoop. Surely there had to be a more palatable way of managing this. I’d like to know where the support is from our Federal Government, your Liberal counterparts. Especially considering that the office of the budget just released numbers saying the federal deficit won’t be as deep as the Federal Government calculated. I have difficulty believing the calculations really.

Again, thank you for responding to my concerns. My mind hasn’t changed. There has to be a better way.

Sincerely,

> On Apr 20, 2016, at 10:13 AM, Coady, Siobhan <SiobhanCoady@gov.nl.ca> wrote:
> Dear
> > Thank you for your email. It is a difficult budget and these are challenging times. It is frustrating that we, as Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, find ourselves in this predicament. I share with you, with my family, and friends that difficulty in understanding how could we have spent all the new money that the resource industries brought to this province over the last ten years.
> > Sadly even when oil was at $100 a barrel we were still overspending. We have been living way beyond our means and our debt has caught up to us.
> > This budget is tough. No one wanted it to be but we are now paying more on our debt then we are paying to educate our children. We cannot continue this way or pretty soon that number will be more then we can manage and that will mean even more severe measures.
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> > To ensure those most vulnerable on low income have reduced impact, we have introduced an income supplement. This supplement will be paid quarterly and is based on family net income. For example a senior couple with net income of $26,000 will receive a cheque for $455.75 every 3 months.
We will get this overspending and debt situation under control. We didn’t get into this mess overnight so it will take some time and hard work but we will get there. We will be better off and able to do more when we do.

We have incredible opportunity in our fisheries, forestry, oil and gas, mining, tourism and service industries to name a few. We just have to manage this opportunity well and ensure we make the right decisions. Even the tough ones.

Sincerely,

Siobhan

-----Original Message-----
From: mitchelmore@gov.nl.ca; osborne@gov.nl.ca; Parsley, Betty; Parsons, Andrew; Parsons, Pam; Reid, Scott; Trimer, Perry; Warr, Brian; Davis, Paul A (MHA-District of Topsail); Brazil, David J.; Hutchings, Keith; Kent, Steve; Parsons, Kevin; Perry, Tracey; Petten, Barry; Perry, Tracey
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 4:12 PM
To: Davis, Bernard
Cc: Ball, Dwight; Bennett, Cathy (Minister); Bennett, Derek; Bragg, Derrick; Browne, Mark; Byrne, Gerry; Coady, Siobhan; Crocker, Steve; Dean, Jerry; Dempster, Lisa; Edmunds, Randy; Finn, John; Gambin-Walsh, Sherry; Haggie, John; Haley, Carol Anne; Hawkins, Allan; Holloway, Colin; Joyce, Eddie; King, Neil; Kirby, Dale; Lane, Paul; Letto, Graham; mitchelmore@gov.nl.ca; osborne@gov.nl.ca; Parsley, Betty; Parsons, Andrew; Parsons, Pam; Reid, Scott; Trimer, Perry; Warr, Brian; Davis, Paul A (MHA- District of Topsail); Brazil, David J.; Hutchings, Keith; Kent, Steve; Parsons, Kevin; Perry, Tracey; Petten, Barry; Perry, Tracey
Subject: Recent Budget

I’ve never felt more compelled to write a MHA in Newfoundland and Labrador as I do today. In fact, I’ve copied all MHAs on this note out of pure disgust and distrust for this government. I have never been so appalled about a Government, whom have come to power on a campaign of deceit, as I am now. The magnitude of such a turn of events should prompt every Newfoundlander and Labradorian to march the streets and protest against your course of action to deal with our current financial situation. Every person in the province, by now, have heard your excuses to blame the previous government for their lack of control in spending and the desperate situation we find ourselves in. Well, I truly believe that this situation was under some measure of control before you were put in power. I found it very curious when your government, a day after the election, moved to undertake an effort and prime the people by telling us how irresponsible the Progressive Conservatives have been. Just another political maneuver as far as I’m concerned. It was so predictable and I for one am tiring of political maneuvering. It was actually sickening to watch.

Something else I believe is that our province was so far behind the rest of our country in standard of living that it was, and remains necessary to invest in infrastructure. My kids go to school in buildings that should have long been torn down. The streets and highways in this province are among the worst in the country, it’s actually taking your life in your hands attempting to navigate them in most weather conditions. The health care is so seriously underfunded that but only for the exceptional Nurses, Doctors and support staff in our system, it would have collapsed a long time ago. I know the price of oil was practically everything to do with the current situation. It’s a cyclical industry. It’s not hard to research the history of it. I’ve worked in it, I hope to return to it someday. I don’t blame anyone here for the collapse of this commodity. I think your government would have suffered the same fate given the shoe on the other foot. So, enough about what the situation is and how we got in it, it’s about a plan to get out of it and by what I see you’ve done, it’s not a plan. it’s a knee jerk reaction.

What your government has tabled in this budget is an abomination and an insult to the people that work so hard to build a life here. You’ve straddled all residents with an insurmountable tax and fee burden it’s unbelievable that such a thing was even thinkable. Well, I guess you’ve proven that it is. To hear Dwight Ball and Cathy Bennett, two well known wealthy people in this province, speak about austerity is laughable. I don’t think they even know the true meaning of the word. To tax all people in this manner is just wrong. To tax the poor in this way should be criminal. Especially following one of the highest tax hikes homeowners have seen from municipal governments.
I call upon all members of the Newfoundland and Labrador Government to vote down this budget and express non-confidence in the current government's ability to deal with our present situation. Your party lied to the people of this province and I believe now that we know what your true intentions are it should be put back to the people and see if we would make a different choice. I believe we would.

Sincerely,

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We DO understand how financially unstable our province is!

WE did NOT make the decisions that brought us here!

WE have rallied and protested against SO many decisions the government has made only to be ignored. The government did what they wanted. MAYBE if they listened then our financial crises would be non-existent!!

WE are telling OUR GOVERNMENT that WE do NOT want this deficit to be taken away as quickly as they plan to do it!!!

WE are telling OUR GOVERNMENT that WE want it spanned over more years to keep EVERYONE’S head above water!!!

YOU do NOT get to decide whether it’s OK for US to pay it faster or slower! And when it boils down to it, WE shouldn’t have to pay it at all!! Why? Because when people in companies make mistakes (as I am sure Cathy Bennett is aware of) it gets taken out of their pay until it’s paid off!!!!!!

However, we are not fighting that. We are telling you to redo the budget and reduce the deficit slower over a longer period of time!!

Stop with the “oh you don’t understand this is the best”. What we UNDERSTAND is YOU ALL do not LIVE our lives!!!

And Premier, saying the “impact for some isn’t so bad” is probably the only truth you’ve spoken so far. Because SOME means a small percentage!! As in the higher income percentage of our province!! So your dead on the money there!

STOP THIS BUDGET!!! OR STEP DOWN AND LET SOMEONE DO WHAT WE ARE ASKING!!!

Again these emails are for the ones still supporting this outrageous budget!!! Blows my mind how you think you OWN this province and the People in it. When really your ONLY EMPLOYED by the province and the people in it!!!

Again I apologize to the members who already are saying no to this budget! But I am so upset about this budget and the drastic impact it will have on the families of this province that I just can NOT stop! And I won’t!

Sent from my iPhone
Sheppard, Megan

From:    Thursday, April 21, 2016 10:30 PM
Sent:    Ball, Dwight; Bennett, Cathy (Minister); Bennett, Derek; Bragg, Derrick; Browne, Mark; Byrne, Gerry; Coady, Siobhan; Crocker, Steve; Davis, Bernard; Dean, Jerry; Dempster, Lisa; Edmunds, Randy; Finn, John; GambinWalsh, Sherry; Haggie, John; Haley, Carol Anne; Hawkins, Allan; Holloway, Colin; Joyce, Eddie; King, Neil; Kirby, Dale; Lane, Paul; Letto, Graham; Mitchelmore, Christopher; Osborne, Tom; Parsley, Betty; Parsons, Andrew; Parsons, Pam; Reid, Scott; Trimper, Perry; Warr, Brian; openline@vocm.com
To:      Follow up
Subject: Flagged
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am writing this email to all Liberal MHAs in an attempt to clear a few things up. You seem to have forgotten a few things and need to be reminded. You work for the people. We pay your salary with our tax dollars. We voted you in. You are our representative in the house. You represent the voice of the people. I’m not sure how many of you realize this but you can’t have over half a million Newfoundlanders sit in the house and argue over issues. So we broke the province into 40 districts and elect one person from each district to represent the people within it. So go out to the people and ask them what way they want you to vote. Go ahead, go door to door. Hold consultations. Ask the people you were chosen to represent what they want. I don’t care what Dwight Ball wants you to vote, he is not respecting the voice of the people. The 2016 budget has been universally rejected by the people. There are protests in the streets. How loud do we have to scream for you to hear us? Any representative that doesn’t have the spine to stand up and vote for the people should resign and make room for someone who will. Mr Ball dictating the vote is not democracy, it’s literally a dictatorship. Do the right thing, help restore some of our faith in democracy.

-Signed
A tax paying voter
Members of the House of Assembly,

The people of Newfoundland and Labrador need to be heard; a vast array of petitions, protests, marches, and publications are taking place clear across the province. We encourage each of you to attend these events and listen to the passionate cries of the people you represent!

Remember that this cascade of activism and protest stems from hundreds-of-thousands of men and women who have not been represented by their MHA. Remember that when our designated voice does not speak on our behalf we instead must cry out in chorus to be heard. These are not events for opportunistic publicity or political soap-boxes, these are opportunities for a lesson in humility. Listen as equals so you may yet become the leaders your electorate needs.

For greater certainty we urge each of you to attend the rallies and protests in your area to listen, not to speak. These are events organized by the electorate for the electorate.

St. John's: https://www.facebook.com/events/48665674850424/
Corner Brook: https://www.facebook.com/events/1704109836503493/

In Solidarity,
Coordinated Approach, NL
Sheppard, Megan

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2016 9:39 AM
To: Coady, Siobhan; Crocker, Steve; Davis, Bernard
Subject: Budget 2016 - Anger and Boycott

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Following this invitation to a Boycott of a McDonalds restaurant is an e-mail sent to the Premier and the Minister of Finance with respect to the unfairness of Budget 2016.

Please join us at the Topsail Road McDonalds, corner of Cowan Avenue, on Saturday April 30 starting at 8:30 am for the full Boycott of one of Cathy Bennett's Restaurant. We will block the entrance until 1:00 pm so arrive later if you cannot join at 8:30 am.

You could bring your metal pot and metal spoon to make some noise while saving your voice. Protest signs are welcome.

Please do not park on the McDonalds parking lot. Car pooling is a good idea and there are a couple of parking areas nearby.

We shall form a longish line on the sidewalk in front of the vehicle entrance and walk in a loop so as to keep moving rather than stand still in the entrance. We shall let vehicles exit the McDonalds parking lot but not let any in unless they are truly aggressive since personal safety is more important than stopping a carload from giving their cash to Cathy Bennett.

We shall not obstruct any pedestrians. As long as we keep walking, we should not be requested by the police to disperse.

We shall not enter upon the McDonalds property.

We shall obey any direction given by police or fire officials.

Please share as widely as you wish - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and any other social media are welcome as I, being a Luddite, do not have access to them.

If there are too many of us at Topsail Road McDonalds, we shall send teams to the other St. John's and Mount Pearl locations owned by Bennett Restaurants.
In closing, I share with you a summary of the words of John Stuart Mill from 1867:

Evil needs nothing more to triumph, than good people looking on and doing nothing.

Dear Dwight and Cathy,

Budget 2016 proposes to mutilate your 2015 election promises. I believe you do not understand Democracy.

Budget 2016 proposes to viciously attack the pocketbooks of those struggling to just get by in the current NL economy. I believe you do not understand the economy of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Budget 2016 is also a budget Steve Harper would stand and applaud. I believe you are not true Liberals.

Cathy, you have yet to get back to me about a face to face meeting this week. So how do we communicate with you?

Letters are answered by an Administrative Assistant. Petitions are essentially meaningless. A General Strike simply hurts each and every Newfoundlander and Labradorian. And I am long enough of tooth and short enough of hair to know violence simply breeds violence without solution to the problem.

However, I think you understand the jingle of coin in your pocket.

What do you think of my following snappy Boycott phrases?

Budget 2016 make you sick to your stomach? Boycott Cathy Bennett's McDonald restaurants!

Budget 2016 make you nauseous? Boycott Dwight Ball's Deer Lake Pharmacy!

Budget 2016 killing you with taxes? Boycott Dwight Ball's funeral parlours!

Budget 2016 taking the good out of you? Boycott Dwight Ball's care homes!

I am reasonably sure we can develop similar Boycott phrases for most of the members of Cabinet and Caucus. Please change your direction with Budget 2016.
I wish to make clear I have no concern with paying my fair share of the financial mismanagement but want to do so in a fair and equitable fashion. Budget 2016 relieves those who can afford to pay of their responsibility to do so. This is wrong.

The increase in gasoline tax, HST, and taxes to the $20,000 to $35,000 bracket will give the economy a hard negative push. Please correct this situation.

While I organize the Boycotts, I shall continue my dialogue with His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor as to dismissing the current House of Assembly and setting a date for a new election. Five Premiers were dismissed in Canadian history and Bill van der Zalm resigned before he could be dismissed.

In conclusion, I plead with you to change your course.
Dear Premier Ball,

Although it is wonderful to invest in tourism for our province, the cancellations that are happening because of the drastic increase in gas is showing that tourism will flounder this summer. Motels are receiving cancellations, World reknown places like Fisher's Loft are worried about their season and other places are not hiring due to the a decrease in bookings. It's very sad to see this happening in areas that depend upon tourism for their seasonal revenues.

The latest polls show a decrease of 20% in the Liberals popularity and if this budget passes, I predict a lower popularity rate will show in the next poll.

There is still time to revise this budget to stop the negative impact on our province. Listen to the people who are telling you that this budget will ruin our province. Listen to the people that are protesting how hard this will be on them personally.

It's not too late!!! Please do what's right to allow this province to survive and the people to live in a reasonable lifestyle without having to worry where their next meal comes from!!
Hi Siobhan

I know you have a tough job to do and I respect your commitment to public service. Generally, I don’t voice my concerns or comments to elected public officials - perhaps I am naïve, but I believe that anyone that wants your job is motivated to make a difference and that you are making the best decisions with the information you have to work with.

But, I have to say how totally disappointed I was with the Provincial Budget and your party since they have been elected. I recognize our fiscal reality as a Province, and I think most residents understand that.

I was excited and optimistic that a Liberal budget would include more innovative and progressive measures to get us over the impact of reduced revenues due to the slump in oil prices. That is out of everyone’s control. I see that issue as a temporary setback and we need short term measures to get us through.

One good thing is the appointment of Stan Marshall to head Nalcor; I believe in the concept of Muskrat Falls and the future in renewable energy sources, so if there is a way to sort that out, he will find it. The simple answer to our fiscal woes is not to pull out of that project, particularly, without making rational and evidence based decisions.

This budget will crush our province. And your party is doing nothing to manage the fear and concerns that already existed in the province. Then there is the heightened fear added with "there’s more to come" that escalates the domino and spin off effect of a shrinking economy. It will be mind-boggling, from personal bankruptcies, to business failures, to increased physical and mental health issues, to increased crime, domestic violence, and increased demand on social programs and public services. The newest generation of young families and people in our province have not experienced the "have-not" years and do not know that hard times are. I feel for them and their futures with this budget.

Above all, I think the levy tax is very regressive and inequitable. I am a believer in social justice and I feel this budget hits the less fortunate very hard. I want to pay my fair share of taxes and I want to see public services preserved. We need a progressive fair tax system, not a regressive, inequitable budget that hits people while they are down.

I have been participating in the marches, protests and petitions - we need to get this budget reversed.

Devastated
Good morning --

Good hearing from you. No doubt the budget is a tough and unpopular one. Left unchecked will see each consecutive budget being even more unpopular. We find ourselves here thanks to Tory mismanagement.

I have vented my frustrations and the frustrations of many of my constituents, as well, as the positive overtones forwarded by many constituents regarding the various pros and cons of the recent budget. I will communicate your displeasure to the Premier, Ministers and Caucus. Wishing for you a good day, and looking forward to future dialogue.

Always,

Jerry

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

Dear Mr. Dean;

This is a first for me – writing a letter to a politician! But I feel it must be done.

I met you for the first time while you were on the campaign trail. It was in my backyard as you were going door-to-door. On election night my brother and I came to your headquarters to watch the polls come in. Though when we left you had not been declared elected, I was confident it would come to be. I had such hopes and dreams for the future of NL, for my future.
Listening to the various members over the past days since the budget came down as made me question myself. How could we have elected people who put no forethought into what comes out of their mouths? To hear someone talk about illiteracy and its impact on economic growth and then announce we will be closing libraries across the province because they do not have an impact on literacy is almost beyond comprehension. Maybe Aunt Bettie who cannot read a word does not avail of the library but her grandkids do, so then can be literate and read to Nan. One young citizen not entering the class of illiteracy means we are winning the battle.

The cuts in Education are so deep that the before-mentioned illiteracy rate is not going to be lowered. Increasing class size ensures that the weaker child who needs a little extra attention to meet with success will be the loser. This is the child that will struggle and might eventually see no recourse but to drop out. Another illiterate NLer not helping economic growth.

Lunch hour bussing is gone after this year. Many teachers will no longer be able to offer their lunchtime support as they will have supervision. Lunch hour extra curricular will no longer happen as the vast majority of schools will have to use their gymnasiums as eating rooms. At the end of a day without a break, who will have any energy left to offer after school programs. I could go on and on.

Listening to the Premier talking with the protestors outside CBC last night was the force behind writing you this morning. One person asked if it was fair that he pay 1.2% while the Premier pays 0.2%, the Premier’s answer was so .... I lack a word to describe it. He doesn’t like it either! He created it. I knew you would not be able to avoid the HST increase and there would be other cuts/increases, but to charge a levy to live in NL and to put the heaviest toll on the low income earners while the millionaires grin about the pocket change they have to pay. This has made me regret my choice last election day. I don’t know how you feel about this budget since we have not heard you speak. I think you need to listen to your employers – the people of your district, and let your leader, and I use that term loosely, know how we feel.

My late father said only two types of people could be in politics – those that were rich enough not to care about the laws they brought in and those that were liars and only said they cared about the people that elected them. Disaster was sure to follow when someone who was both found their way into power. Looking at those we elected I am quickly seeing which category each falls into.

Yours truly,
distribution ou autre utilisation de ce courriel est strictement interdit. Si vous avez reçu ce message par erreur, veuillez en aviser immédiatement l'expéditeur par retour de ce courriel et veuillez supprimer immédiatement cette communication. Merci.
Minister Coady:

It is with great regret and shame that I admit that my vote contributed to your Liberal Party forming the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Your consultations with the people of this province mislead me into believing that you actually listened to our concerns and issues and that you would take appropriate actions. I falsely believed that you valued education and literacy. I falsely believed that you were genuinely concerned about the poor, and the working poor of this province. Your actions have proved me wrong.

Imposing an inequitable levy, taxing books, increasing classroom sizes, and closing libraries are just some of the actions you are taking that upset me greatly. You mislead me, and many others into believing that if we voted for you, life in Newfoundland and Labrador would improve. I am angry at myself for being gullible and believing you. “Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me.”

You have demonstrated that your government is not to be trusted; is inflexible, even in the face of province-wide objections and protests to your budget. In my opinion – which matters not to you – you have lost perspective. As government, you are responsible to the people, and responsible to do what is best for the people. The decisions you have made are crippling to this province.

You cannot operate a province as you would a business. We are living, breathing, individuals with diverse needs and we trusted you to respect this. Government is responsible to provide better living conditions for all constituents. Your government is placing more financial burden on the poor while eliminating services that improve quality of life. What amazes me most is that you truly do not seem to understand the negative impact of this budget on the citizens of this province.

I ask that you act responsibly and do the right thing for this province and its people -- show that you can be flexible and truly listen to us. Stop attempting to placate us with your words. Take positive actions by eliminating the levy, keeping the libraries open, keeping books tax-free, and providing sufficient teachers to educate our children.

In conclusion, I ask that you acknowledge and respond to my email. I am tired of being ignored.
Dear MHa Siobhan Coady,

Our finance minister made a statement before the rally. To quote our Finance Minister:

"Today’s rally at Confederation Building is an expression by some Newfoundlanders and Labradorians of their deep interest and passion for our province and its future," she said.

“As Minister of Finance, I hope all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians know that I am listening to them and appreciate how challenging this situation is. The decisions we made follow consultations with hundreds of people in our province. People told us to make the tough decisions and to make them quickly in order to correct the fiscal situation.”

My response/along with many others is:

"OUR version of TOUGH is NOT yours! WE want OUR government cleaned up!! NOT our PROVINCE!!!! Cut your OWN jobs!! CUT your OWN salaries! CUT government OVERHEAD!! THAT is the TOUGH decision!! And by all means if you are NOT able to do it, let ME and others like me go in and DO IT FOR YOU! Why? Because the reality is....OUR PROVINCE can NOT AFFORD OUR GOVERNMENT!!!!"

Stop towing this party line, stop apologizing (there is a logical fallacy buried in heartless sentiment that only business people can express which upsets the public more), stop cutting back public services, start from the top and work your way down. Implement claw backs on the Nalcore Board, for they all resigned when the going got tough. Reduce your services and pay by 50%, and work 50% of the time, because you guys are really doing a horrible job. Start taking attendance and for those that miss so many sessions should be docked pay for lacking commitment to the position that they have been given. Better yet vote against the budget and stand with the people you represent.

Thank you,
To Siobhan Coady and Sherry Gamin-Walsh
In response to your emails dated May 8, 2016
C/c to Cabinet Ministers and MHAs

I have been sending emails and posting reactions to the budget since it came down on April 14th. Up until this weekend very few responses were received with any type of acknowledgement. This weekend I did receive a few replies. It was obvious from those that I received that cabinet must have decided to compile a number of "formal" responses. All of which defended their budgetary decisions with an effort to continue to try and sell it to the general public. Overall their responses to my questions were scripted, defensive and nothing more than rhetoric.

It was oblivious that they were becoming irritated. I imagine this irritation comes from the thousands of emails and letters they receive from the people and this past weekend's protest. It must also come from the line of lies and deceit that Ball and Bennett are forcing them to tow.

I asked them about cutting back government spending and eliminating waste inside the Confederation Building, ie. The lucrative six figure wages, wasteful and unnecessary spending of taxpayers money, perks and allowances.

Minister Siobhan Coady was quick to point out to me that cabinet ministers already "took a 10% decrease in their ministerial salary" and Minister Sherry Gamin-Walsh, in a more nastier tone, referred to it as a "10% decrease in their salary." She forgot to mention "ministerial".

The truth Siobhan and Sherry, is your 10% reduction is only on a portion of your overall "monetary windfall" you receive from the taxpayers of this province. Your cabinet minister's salary of $54 thousand is the portion you allege the 10% reduction comes from. Your MHA base salary of $96 thousand is not affected by this reduction. Neither are any extra funds you receive for allowances, expenses, meetings or perks.

When you total the wages you are receiving your reduction amounts to approximately 3.5% and not 10%. In many instances where you receive extra allowances and perks it would be less than this again.

It's important here for you to be truthful and fully disclose all the facts and refrain from communicating misleading information. We are smarter then you think.

Another obviously scripted response, was how they were "right sizing" government by cutting waste and spending. Sherry Gamin-Walsh suggest, "We are in fact trimming down the political staff and cabinet ministers who work upwards of 60 plus hours per week". Let me say to Ms. Gamin-Walsh, if you are making major concessions inside of government then let us see it. We have no problem in seeing how your cuts will impact us. When you talk of right sizing government and making concessions we need to reflect on the words of Dwight Ball and "Look at the big picture".

His definition of right sizing is:
- closing libraries
- cutting essential services and programs from health care
- overcrowding our classrooms at school
- reducing hours from winter snow clearing putting our lives at danger on our highways
- taxing people at a level they can not sustain
- creating new levies and fees
- attacking the most vulnerable in our society (seniors, students, low and middle income workers)

Your vision of right sizing does not reflect the people's in this province. We want the overspending and waste that is happening inside government to stop. Governments past and present are responsible for handling our provincial economy. It was government who put us in the financial situation we find ourselves. Do not blame the people. You need to address your own waste and mismanagement but for some reason you are not doing it.

James McLeod, March 4, 2016 states in the Telegram, "There are at least, 2,369 people making more than $100,000 annually working for the provincial government." He also says that those numbers are growing fast. McLeod goes on to say that "There has been a large growth in those top earners over the past decade. In 2005, 397 made six figure wages working for government departments and agencies." In the article McLeod states, "Whereas in 2005, only one employee in all of the core civil service made more than $200,000, today there are 22 people making that much or more in the Dept. of Justice and Public Safety alone."

This is the kind of waste and mismanagement we are talking about. This is what we want you to address.

Another example from Budget 2016 dealing with government waste comes from the Departmental Salary Report. The report shows that the Department of Executive Council has 71 employees earning greater than $100,000 per year. It also shows three former premiers' secretaries earning an average annual salary of $80,000.

Is this waste necessary? Ms. Coady states in her response to me, "It is frustrating and alarming that we are in this mess especially considering over the last decade that some $25 Billion in new money came from our offshore oil industry." Well, Ms. Coady, examples like those above would explain some of it. And, this only touches the surface. There is a lot more to be revealed and a lot more will be revealed. You and your colleagues are only poking the bear by continuing to ignore this and the unprecedented uprising occurring in this province.

We will not get out of this situation without dealing with the waste that is within government. All the taxes, levies and fees you impose upon us can not keep up with your indiscriminate spending. The need to kick start our economy and grow it was never more inevitable. You need to consult and listen to someone besides yourselves. Don't be afraid to admit that you are not up to the job or that you made the wrong decision. You had no problem realizing this when you hired outside private legal counsel to handle your negotiations with public sector unions. It will be interesting to see how much this will cost us.

Dwight and Cathy knew they were in over their heads when they took office in December. They were stubborn then and they are now. They met with an independent economist, David Thompson, from British Columbia a few months ago. In an article from, "The Independent", April 14, 2016, Thompson stated, "The government has plenty of room to improve its fiscal situation by increasing revenues and doesn't have to engage in cuts at all." He goes on to tell them in the same article, "They do have choices, they can choose between cuts that are going to have significant impact on recipients of services.....or they can ask everybody to pay their fair share."

The bottom line is that we have a government with no vision. Their budget was built on a request to all departments to cut their spending by 30%. The end result was increased taxes and reduction in services. There was no revenue generated in any other way. Now isn't this a lazy man's budget? The disturbing thing is that we have a premier, minister of finance, eleven cabinet ministers and eighteen back benchers who continue to defend this blunder.
I have never voted liberal in my life but my wife's family have always voted liberal and with this budget you have lost the respect of a long time liberal family. I work 6 days a week for a little more than minimum wage and my wife is disabled. How can you take even more money away from a poor working family like you are doing? A loss of a library I can understand as a lot of people now use eBooks and don't buy paper books anymore but to put a fee on just working in the province makes no sense. It is unfair as I will have to pay 300 while you will not be having the same rate taken out of your pocket. Shouldn't it be the same rate for everyone. If you make 5 times what I make surely you should pay 5 times as much. Considering we have to pay more than half my income on rent for a 2 bedroom apt and we can't afford this regressive tax and you will be taking away a person's right to drive with the increase in fees and the increase in gas tax. People will just sit home on social assistance instead of working and that is what is going to happen.

And your online calculator is a joke as the finance minister said it would be too hard to make a calculator that actually took into account every change that is in this budget, but yet check out cbcnews and what do you see but someone who actually did make one. I understand that this province is having a crisis but take it out on the people who make the most not the working poor. I have not gone to any of the protests because of my working schedule but I feel the premier, you and Mrs. Bennett are ignoring the will of the people which these protests have shown. Show up to one and explain to people why we need these changes, or come over to my place and explain it to me, I will not yell at you or scream but would defiantly like you to explain why things have to be this way without excuses that Danny Williams or the pc's caused all the problems.

Also as I have noticed that some schools are holding lotteries to determine if a child can be have a place in the can enroll in the intensive core French program, education is a right in this country and if you do this it will lead to a lawsuit as education is guaranteed in this country.

I look forward to your reply to my email. Thanks for your time.
Sheppard, Megan

From: Pro-Life NL <nlfriendsforlife@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2016 5:31 PM
Subject: No to Budget 2016, Yes to Life

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

No to Budget 2016, Yes to Life

The Annual March for Life on Confederation Building in St. John’s normally takes place simultaneously with the one in Ottawa. However, this year will be a little different.

Instead of gathering locally on May 12 in solidarity with the 25,000 marchers expected in Ottawa, Pro-Life NL will be hosting the March next week (TBA). This temporary move is in solidarity with the ongoing peaceful budget protests on Confederation Building as Pro-Life NL offers their encouragement and usual space.

Many of the 1,000 abortions committed in NL every year are purely for reasons of finances or convenience. The Liberal tax grab will do nothing but put even more pressure on those facing difficult decisions, especially the lower and middle classes.

With increased taxes on purchases such as gas or insurance, and with the HST increase, many people will find it harder to survive. To make matters worse, businesses will be increasing their prices to recoup their additional taxes paid. The levy-tax only adds insult to injury.

Added to the increased cost of living is the loss of certain government services and programs such as the “baby bonus” and the home heating rebate.

Pro-Life NL implores the Liberal government to scrap this budget and find appropriate cuts and ways to increase revenue. It can start with regulating and defunding the abortions committed at private for profit facilities. It can ensure that the lack of personal finances will never be used as an excuse for killing a child by abortion or an adult by assisted suicide.

Patrick Hanlon
Spokesperson
Pro-Life NL

“Building a Culture of Life ...Upon this Rock!”

unsubscribe? / subscribe?
email prolifenl@gmail.com with “unsubscribe” or “subscribe” in the subject line.
Sheppard, Megan

From: Osborne, Tom
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2016 7:46 AM
To: Ball, Dwight; Bennett, Cathy (Minister); Bennett, Derek; Bragg, Derrick; Brazil, David J.; Browne, Mark; Byrne, Gerry; Coady, Siobhan; Crocker, Steve; Davis, Bernard; Davis, Paul A (MHA- District of Topsail); Dean, Jerry; Dempster, Lisa; Edmunds, Randy; Finn, John; GambinWalsh, Sherry; Haggie, John; Haley, Carol Anne; Hawkins, Allan; Holloway, Colin; Hutchings, Keith; Joyce, Eddie; Kent, Steve; Kirby, Dale; King, Neil; Lane, Paul; Letto, Graham; Michael, Lorraine; Mitchelmore, Christopher; Parsley, Betty; Parsons, Kevin; Parsons, Andrew; Parsons, Pam; Petten, Barry; Rogers, Gerry; Perry, Tracey; Reid, Scott; Trimper, Perry; Warr, Brian
Cc: S. 40(1)

Subject: Re: The Budget and Behaviour in the House of Assembly

Thank you for your suggestions. I was intending to pass along your thoughts to the various ministers, I see you have copied them on this email.

---

Tom Osborne M.H.A.
District of Waterford Valley
Speaker

From: Osborne, Tom
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2016 12:16 AM
To: Osborne, Tom
Cc: Ball, Dwight; Bennett, Cathy (Minister); Bennett, Derek; Bragg, Derrick; Brazil, David J.; Browne, Mark; Byrne, Gerry; Coady, Siobhan; Crocker, Steve; Davis, Bernard; Davis, Paul A (MHA- District of Topsail); Dean, Jerry; Dempster, Lisa; Edmunds, Randy; Finn, John; GambinWalsh, Sherry; Haggie, John; Haley, Carol Anne; Hawkins, Allan; Holloway, Colin; Hutchings, Keith; Joyce, Eddie; Kent, Steve; Kirby, Dale; King, Neil; Lane, Paul; Letto, Graham; Michael, Lorraine; Mitchelmore, Christopher; Parsley, Betty; Parsons, Kevin; Parsons, Andrew; Parsons, Pam; Petten, Barry; Rogers, Gerry; Perry, Tracey; Reid, Scott; Trimper, Perry; Warr, Brian
Subject: Re: The Budget and Behaviour in the House of Assembly

Dear Mr. Osborne,

As per our previous correspondence, I have discussed some potential solutions with my colleagues, and have included the following suggestions for changes to the upcoming budget. They have also recommended that I cc the rest of the MHA's in the house so that it is spread far and wide. Please be advised that I do not represent a group, nor do I represent the province as a whole. This is just what was suggested to me, as well as some of my own suggestions.

1. If the levy is not able to be scrapped completely, then the application of the levy must be examined. One person suggested that we not cap the levy. Another suggested that the levy be scrapped for households making less than $70 000 annually (especially those with children or dependents). Another person stated that how we define...
low income needs to be re-examined. For example, a family with an income of $55,000 combined, but with a total of 5 people (ie. 3 children) living in the household would qualify as low income to most people.

2. Scrap all-day kindergarten. While this is definitely something that should be kept on the table for the future, at the moment, it is not fair to provide this at the detriment of other children. As one person stated, the needs of the many cannot be sacrificed for the benefit of the few. This is a $13,000,000 cost that could eliminate the need for teacher cuts, multi-grade classrooms and even the library closures. And despite what certain MHA’s believe, libraries do have an impact on literacy rates.

3. Another potential suggestion for the libraries would be to reduce funding for the libraries in municipalities that can afford to support them, and then take these funds and apply them to the libraries that are to be closed. Also eliminate the book tax. If we cannot tax junk food because it was never done before, why add the tax on books? One person suggested including a luxury tax on luxury items. The administrative costs cannot be much different to administer these types of tax as opposed to a book tax.

4. Scrap the feasibility study for the Labrador link. This has been done previously, and we do not even have the Trans-Labrador Highway paved at this point. Use this money towards reinstating the Labrador food air lift. This service can literally prevent people from starving.

5. One person suggested that we increase income tax for households earning more than $200,000, reinstate the Emergency Dental Plan, reduce all higher echelon public servant salaries (more than $200,000) by 10% and reduce MHA salary and benefit packages.

6. Another individual stated that the Dental and Prescription Drug Plan needs to remain in effect, as well as the home heating rebate program. These programs support some of the most vulnerable individuals in our communities, and these programs can prevent future health care costs by ensuring that an individual gets the dental and medications they require. People will have to cut their budgets somewhere, and no one should have to choose between dental care or food, medication or rent, heating or electricity. This is demoralizing and degrading for people who already have experienced much adversity.

7. Another person stated that we need to reduce hand-outs to businesses. Specifically, they suggest we cancel the increase to subsidies to other departments and Crown agencies, do NOT double potential loans, advances and investments for private businesses to $10.7 million, do NOT introduce $20 million in grants for businesses to be distributed without any legislative oversight and to increase the corporate tax rate.

8. Municipality 100% incorporation. If water and sewer are not available infrastructure, have that reflected in the mill rates and appraisal process.

9. Do your own negotiations with the unions. We do not need to pay for contracts to be negotiated twice.

10. Re-examine the MHA pension plan. Require a full eight years to earn it and only allow it to be active at retirement age. Cap it out at 50%.

11. Work on agricultural independence, especially in rural areas of the province.

12. Energy self-sufficiency doesn’t have to be via a mega project. Investigate solutions that could be implemented on a community or household basis, and give tax credits to those who install them and let them share excess energy with their community.

13. Do not eliminate the student grant program. We need our young people to stay and stimulate our economy. They will not be able to afford to do so if this budget goes into place in its current configuration.
These are just the suggestions I have for the budget after asking for feedback from some individuals in my circle of friends and acquaintances. This is not a complete list, nor does it include other concerns about recall legislation, transparency in government (especially when it comes to financial and economic concerns), as well as the general concern that the voices of the people of this province are being ignored.

As I have said in my previous email, austerity budgets kill people. They have been linked with poor health outcomes, increases in suicide rates, mental health concerns and heart disease. We cannot survive more of this kind of traditional, slash and cut budgeting. Economists have concluded that austerity does not work, and that it will only worsen recessions and poor economies. We don’t want to see how bad this can get in another 3.5 years.

I appreciate you taking the time to address these concerns, and look forward to you bringing these concerns forward.

Thank you,

On Wed, May 11, 2016 at 3:15 PM, Osborne, Tom <tosborne@gov.nl.ca> wrote:
You are very welcome.

Tom Osborne M.H.A.
District of Waterford Valley
Speaker

From:...
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2016 2:10 PM
To: Osborne, Tom
Subject: Re: The Budget and Behaviour in the House of Assembly

Mr. Osborne,
That would be very much appreciated. I will speak with some of my colleagues so as to have a collaborative response and get back to you.

Thank you again,

On Wednesday, 11 May 2016, Osborne, Tom <tosborne@gov.nl.ca> wrote:
I would welcome your ideas and would be honoured to bring suggestions to ministers but as an independent member of the house I cannot debate the measures taken.

I would be happy to be a voice in bringing other ideas and suggestions forward.

Tom Osborne M.H.A.
District of Waterford Valley
Speaker

From:...
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2016 1:41 PM
To: Osborne, Tom
Subject: Re: The Budget and Behaviour in the House of Assembly

Mr. Osborne,
The first outburst from the gallery is not what I am referencing. I'm referring to the second one where a female shouted for the MHA's to listen. There was no profanity used. At this time, no one was listening or paying attention. This has been reported by numerous people.

I also find it troubling that you want to highlight that one point of my email, but ignore the others. I also find it sad that what was witnessed yesterday is considered an improvement in the decorum of the house. We must obviously be in much worse shape than previously thought.

Can you please address the concerns I have about the austerity measures and the budget?

Thank you.

On Wednesday, 11 May 2016, Osborne, Tom <tosborne@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

I am sorry to contradict you but I never bring my cell phone to the speakers chair and was not texting. Further, it was not Lorraine Michael that was presenting a petition at the time of the outburst from the public gallery it was Gerry Rogers.

I am always attentive in the speakers chair. Their was a very brief moment of less than a minute when a member approached the chair as I had asked them to remove a button that under the rules of our house is considered to be unacceptable. I would consider this to be part of my job in ensuring members follow the rules.

It has been recognized by several people, including members of the house that order and decorum has improved considerably. I have had groups who watch the proceedings, including the council on the status of women, write and express thanks for the improvement.

The outburst of one visitor to the public gallery who shouted and swore as well as throwing something from the public gallery does not make a credible witness to the events of the day.

I thank you for your email.

Tom Osborne M.H.A.
District of Waterford Valley
Speaker

From: S. 40(1)
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2016 1:04PM
To: Osborne, Tom
Subject: The Budget and Behaviour in the House of Assembly

Dear Mr. Osborne,

I am writing to you today to discuss not only the impact of the proposed 2016 budget, but to also discuss the behaviour of you and your Liberal party members in the House of Assembly yesterday. As the Speaker of the House, you are supposed to “maintain order in the House in an impartial manner and serve all MHAs equally”, as per the House of Assembly’s website. Yesterday, while Lorraine Michaels was bringing forth a petition signed by the people of this province, not only were your party members not listening, milling about and
chatting amongst themselves, but you, yourself, were not listening. You were texting on your phone and basically ignoring what Ms. Michaels had to say. This is absolutely unacceptable.

As a constituent of your district and signer of this petition, not only was I disappointed in the cavalier attitude that you displayed as Ms. Michaels was speaking, but even after being called out by protestors in the gallery twice, no one changed their behaviour. I am extremely disappointed by this. You are an elected official. I voted for you in the hope that you would represent me and my community’s interests. You are not doing this, and I regret casting a ballot for you. I will not make this mistake again.

I’m sure you hear all day that this budget is strangling the people of this province, so I won’t bore you with my personal tale of woe. Obviously, these do not seem to be getting through to you or your Liberal counterparts. Instead of trying to work with the people and the groups that have stepped forward, your party seems to have dug in its heels, not willing to make any concessions or compromise. I know that as the majority, you don’t actually have to do so, but at least have the courtesy and decency to pretend to listen. I won’t bore you with the details of my personal and familial experiences and fears with this budget, and I won’t weave you a tapestry of misery and anger and fear. I’m sure this has been done countless times and with more passion and emotion than I am willing to display for you.

But I will say this: Austerity measures kill people. This is not me being histrionic. This is not me trying to grab your attention with drama and extreme word choices. In their book The Body Economic, David Stuckler and Sanjay Basu outline countless examples that link austerity measures with increased suicide rates, increased rates of mental illness and increased rates in HIV transmission. With current expectations of the health authorities to make increasing cuts, you can expect that the mental health crisis that Newfoundland and Labrador currently faces will only worsen. Austerity budgets have also been correlated with increased rates in heart attacks and alcohol-related deaths in other research, as well as an increase in violent crime and drug and alcohol abuse.

We, the people, know this. We know that we cannot survive another decade of slash and burn economics. This is literally a matter of life and death, and as Ms. Michaels and, later Ms. Rogers, attempted to bring forward the petitions against this budget, the Liberal party ignored their words, and in doing so also ignored the words of the people of this province.

Austerity budgets kill. And the blood will be on the hands of every Liberal Member of the House of Assembly. How fitting that the colour of the Liberal Party is red.

So instead of pointing fingers at the PC’s, or the NDP’s, or previous governmental strategies and decisions, point your finger directly at yourself, because while you may not have made this mess, instead of cleaning it up, you are doing little more than smearing it around.

As the Speaker of the House, please have the decency to at least pretend to do the bare minimum of your job requirements. This is what you have been elected to do, and what you have been appointed to do in this role. While I was disheartened to hear and see the behaviour of the house, make no mistake that the people of this beautiful province are listening and watching.

We are watching and what we see is not providing us with comfort or hope for our futures.

Thank you,
Dear Siobhan Coady,

I realize you have already been CC on this, however I feel it is in the best interest that you be notified again by your constituent. I realize you must be very busy, for I have not received a reply regarding my initial email I sent to you, as we near the week marker. I find that deeply troubling since I have already been in conversation with Lorraine Michael, whom took less than 24 hours to reply to me, while I do not even reside in her district. Anyhow I hope that you do have a few minutes to read over this and have a serious discussion with your party.

Thank you,

Dear Mr. Osborne,

As per our previous correspondence, I have discussed some potential solutions with my colleagues, and have included the following suggestions for changes to the upcoming budget. They have also recommended that I cc the rest of the MHA’s in the house so that it is spread far and wide. Please be advised that I do not represent a group, nor do I represent the province as a whole. This is just what was suggested to me, as well as some of my own suggestions.

1. If the levy is not able to be scrapped completely, then the application of the levy must be examined. One person suggested that we not cap the levy. Another suggested that the levy be scrapped for households making less than $70 000 annually (especially those with children or dependents). Another person stated that how we define low income needs to be re-examined. For example, a family with an income of $55 000 combined, but with a total of 5 people (ie. 3 children) living in the household would qualify as low income to most people.

2. Scrap all-day kindergarten. While this is definitely something that should be kept on the table for the future, at the moment, it is not fair to provide this at the detriment of other children. As one person stated, the needs of the many cannot be sacrificed for the benefit of the few. This is a $13 000 000 cost that could eliminate the need for teacher cuts, multi-grade classrooms and even the library closures. And despite what certain MHA’s believe, libraries do have an impact on literacy rates.

3. Another potential suggestion for the libraries would be to reduce funding for the libraries in municipalities that can afford to support them, and then take these funds and apply them to the libraries that are to be closed. Also eliminate the book tax. If we cannot tax junk food because it was never done before, why add the tax on books? One person suggested including a luxury tax on luxury items. The administrative costs cannot be much different to administer these types of tax as opposed to a book tax.
4. Scrap the feasibility study for the Labrador link. This has been done previously, and we do not even have the Trans-Labrador Highway paved at this point. Use this money towards reinstating the Labrador food air lift. This service can literally prevent people from starving.

5. One person suggested that we increase income tax for households earning more than $200 000, reinstate the Emergency Dental Plan, reduce all higher echelon public servant salaries (more than $200 000) by 10% and reduce MHA salary and benefit packages.

6. Another individual stated that the Dental and Prescription Drug Plan needs to remain in effect, as well as the home heating rebate program. These programs support some of the most vulnerable individuals in our communities, and these programs can prevent future health care costs by ensuring that an individual gets the dental and medications they require. People will have to cut their budgets somewhere, and no one should have to choose between dental care or food, medication or rent, heating or electricity. This is demoralizing and degrading for people who already have experienced much adversity.

7. Another person stated that we need to reduce hand-outs to businesses. Specifically, they suggest we cancel the increase to subsidies to other departments and Crown agencies, do NOT double potential loans, advances and investments for private businesses to $10.7 million, do NOT introduce $20 million in grants for businesses to be distributed without any legislative oversight and to increase the corporate tax rate.

8. Municipality 100% incorporation. If water and sewer are not available infrastructure, have that reflected in the mill rates and appraisal process.

9. Do your own negotiations with the unions. We do not need to pay for contracts to be negotiated twice.

10. Re-examine the MHA pension plan. Require a full eight years to earn it and only allow it to be active at retirement age. Cap it out at 50%.

11. Work on agricultural independence, especially in rural areas of the province.

12. Energy self-sufficiency doesn't have to be via a mega project. Investigate solutions that could be implemented on a community or household basis, and give tax credits to those who install them and let them share excess energy with their community.

13. Do not eliminate the student grant program. We need our young people to stay and stimulate our economy. They will not be able to afford to do so if this budget goes into place in its current configuration. These are just the suggestions I have for the budget after asking for feedback from some individuals in my circle of friends and acquaintances. This is not a complete list, nor does it include other concerns about recall legislation, transparency in government (especially when it comes to financial and economic concerns), as well as the general concern that the voices of the people of this province are being ignored.

As I have said in my previous email, austerity budgets kill people. They have been linked with poor health outcomes, increases in suicide rates, mental health concerns and heart disease. We cannot survive more of this kind of traditional, slash and cut budgeting. Economists have concluded that austerity does not work, and that it will only worsen recessions and poor economies. We don't want to see how bad this can get in another 3.5 years.

I appreciate you taking the time to address these concerns, and look forward to you bringing these concerns forward.
Good afternoon Mr. Osborne and members,

I truly appreciated our conversation last week, Mr. Osborne, and I would like to acknowledge your dedication to contacting me and hearing what I have to say. Your compassion for, and interest in, the opinions of dissenters to this budget has impressed me and, as such, you are miles ahead of many others in your party and I would like to thank you for that.

Regarding actions in the House: while I do not condone profanity, I feel like such peaceful acts of protest have been made necessary given your party's disinterest with what the people have to say and their condescending tone when speaking with anyone that has a conflicting opinion. It seems to me that every interaction has the goal of convincing the public that they are wrong and that the budget is necessary, fair, not scary, etc. This is not the role of elected officials. A budget should not have to be SOLD to the public. In fact, it seems that, lately, the budget has gone from being sold to the public to simply being SHOVED down our throats.

One of the talking points now is that "the people told us what they wanted." Yes, you did hold public consultations and, yes, your budget is based on the opinions of hundreds of individuals. But what about the thousands that attended a rally on Confederation Hill? What about the tens of thousands of names on each petition that your fellow Liberal MHAs seem so disinterested in? What about their opinions? In my occupation, I write quite a few budgets and not ONE of them has ever been finalized without a round (or two or three or twenty) of revisions - so why not this budget? Why no revision stage for this budget? It is so painfully obvious that this budget does not reflect the wishes and NEEDS of many so why not re-visit it?

Either way, I'm sure that all my words will fall on deaf ears just like the words of thousands of citizens that fear the repercussions of this unfair budget. Thank you for taking the time to talk to me - I truly believe that you will forward my complaints but, quite honestly, I don't see it doing anything at all. Your government has their majority and they fully plan on using it to further the interests of themselves and the rich elite that they serve.

Please note that I am truly willing to pay my fair share to ensure that we fix this dire situation. I have no problem with paying a temporary levy just to live here and I have no problem with an increased cost of living, among other draw backs of being a Newfoundlander now. What I DO HAVE A PROBLEM WITH, however, is the explicit favoring of higher income earners and businesses found in this budget. Why, for example, in such a terrible fiscal situation, are we introducing $20 million in grants for businesses to be
distributed without legislative oversight?? Why can't this $20 million be used to, oh I don't know, keep our libraries/AES offices open, maintain MUN's operating grant, reinstate the baby bonus, etc, etc., etc.?? Instead of increasing subsidies to department and Crown agencies by over 1,000%, why not increase subsidies to small business owners, residential electricity producers, small farmers to increase food security, etc.? Instead of doubling potential loans, advances and investments for private businesses to $10.7 million, why not abolish the ridiculous tax on books?!!

Decisions like this make it painfully clear to the public who your government wishes to help with this budget and who they fully intend on screwing over for years to come. I guess I'm just mad that I (and everyone around me) fall into the latter group.

I will follow-up with a list of potential improvements to the budget but, for now, I needed this off my chest. At least I know (read: hope) you are truly listening and actually give a crap - unlike many of your colleagues.

Regards,
Thanks for responding Siobhan

Yes, I get it that the previous government were not prudent in their use of government funds and we have to take a hit. I am prepared to pay my fair share. Regardless, the Liberals were given a mandate to turn things around and change the mismanagement of provincial resources - I was optimistic there would be more creative solutions.

I am very concerned about the province as a whole and the negative impact this budget will have on those less advantaged. And it seems as more details emerge, it gets worse.

The tax on books, cutting libraries, then throwing $750,000 away on a consultant for a study for a link to Labrador. Seriously - that is not money well spent when times are tough.

I have to say I admire Paul Lane actually speaking on behalf of his constituents. We are the government, and our MHA's are there to represent us.

I've been busy attending as many rallies and town halls as possible to protest this budget.

And here is the latest to outrage me - an analysis on the gender inequities this budget presents. Women will be hardest hit. Worth the read.


I think it is not too late for your caucus to make some changes that will lessen the impact and earn renewed respect and support.
Siobhan Coady,

My apologies. I presumed East and West touched each other, from the Electoral Map I viewed of the East, it seemed a logical assumption, much like the Liberals rhetoric line of 'We had to make hard decisions, decisions that even we don't like'.

I find it interesting you replied in a record breaking 48 minutes. To bad you never replied to my previous messages in such a manner. Might of changed my opinion about you, but I have seen it all and honestly I'm not impressed anymore. :(

On Wed, May 25, 2016 at 10:07 PM, Coady, Siobhan <SiobhanCoady@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

You MHA is Gerry Rogers and hopefully she has been able to answer your questions.

Sincerely

Siobhan

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.
I do not even want to call you the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador. You have had your blinders on too long and you and your liberals who blindly followed you have really jeopardized their own careers.

You have had numerous chances to make the Levy fairer but you had to resort to the Federal Government to correct your budget's grand snafu, because if anything you fubar the whole thing by not listening to us.

You failed to really pull up your leadership pants and investigate the resignation bonus of Nalcore's Ed Martin. You suggested a $750K study to link to Labrador is a good idea, when the Labrador Highway was not even completed, and there was previous study completed in 2005.

You really do lack leadership and I commend MHA Paul Lane for standing up and siding with his constituents. I am appalled at your minister selection, even my own MHA has not replied to me on two separate occasions, yes, Siobhan Coady, I live in your district I have sent you 2 separate messages and this displays to me a lack of respect on your behalf. I at least expected a generic notification that my message was received and that you were sorry because your team had to make hard decisions. I have heard back from Lorraine Micheal and I find that amazing that she would speak out to people not in her riding.

I also fail to see how the minister of finance can also represent the status of females, because the budget has proven to hit our female population the hardest. I realize I don't see the books like your team does, but who am I to judge? Because I believe 100% in transparency.

I think MHA Paul Lane's admission of having seen the budget only 2 hours before it's release speaks volumes about the rest of the party who tow your sinking ship line and it's already too late for them to now abandon. We remember and for each of you, your career in this arena will come to an unfortunate end.

So Dwight, please resign now, don't even try to get to your pension because we are not letting up, nor are we giving up. We want you gone. You're not fit to lead us. You and Cathy tried to lead us like one of your private businesses, but this is the public you're dealing with and you both have made very poor calculations.

We look forward to applauding you when you step down.

Thank you,

PS: Cathy Bennett you should also follow suit. You do not deserve the roles that you have been granted. I hear the rhetoric each time either of you speak saying we have made hard decisions and we don't like them either.

PPS: To the rest of the liberals, the same applies, you all failed to stand up for your people. It's time to throw your hats in and move on with your lives outside of this arena.

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Hi Heather and Brenda,

Attached, for the attention of your Minister and Deputy Minister, is an email from [REDACTED] regarding the future of our province.

We are requesting both departments to collaborate on a draft response for the Premier's signature. Please email the draft to premier@gov.nl.ca account.

Thank you,
Joanne

---< HP TRIM Record Information >---

Record Number: ICOR2016/3209
Title: Acknowledgement of [REDACTED] email regarding the future of our province

---< HP TRIM Record Information >---

Record Number: ICOR2016/3209-01
Title: Email from [REDACTED] regarding the future of our province
Dear [Name],

Thank you for your email of June 25th to Premier Ball regarding the future of this province. I wish to advise you that your correspondence will be brought to the Premier's attention at the earliest opportunity.

Kind regards,

Joanne Young / Information Management Specialist

Office of the Premier
Executive Council
Government of Newfoundland & Labrador
8th Floor East Block, Confederation Complex
P.O. Box 8700, St. John's NL A1B 4J6

709-729-3570 | mailto:premier@gov.nl.ca

logo-main2
Dear Mr. Ball,

I am writing to you today as one person within this province that has seen progressive despair since you have taken over as leader of our province. We have seen slap after slap to our people that were promised nothing shy of total reform and a stronger tomorrow by your party. What we have been given is unbearable taxation and cuts to our essential services. Our people have protested and fought back but you continue on as if we were a mere annoyance in your political path.

We have endured so many mistruths and scandals, and yet you look directly into the news cameras and assure us that we will have a stronger tomorrow. What we are all faced with are job losses, increased costs right across the board for imported goods and services because of your measures, people fleeing our province because it is now too expensive to live here, seniors deciding between food and medication or heating their homes. Now compound all those measures with the decision to carry on with the Muskrat Falls project that is so riddled with problems in its premise and execution and more so its scheduling and cost overruns that we are facing at least $11.4 billion to complete and at least doubling the residents of NL electricity bills in 5 years is inexcusable.

What I am asking for on behalf of our residents is a full in depth study by an outside auditor to determine the actual costs to completion and the costs for us to exit this boondoggle? We already know what the bare minimum cost to continue is because I am sure that is what we have been presented with as our government always does to best represent the costs. With that analysis done, please present this to the people of the province in the form of a referendum to see if we want to pursue this any further. It is our money, our future and our project that to say the least is a mess.

I would appreciate your response to this enquiry. We have withstood all that we can tolerate. Our lives are in the balances and I personally believe we deserve more accountability towards the governments misguided path for our futures.

Thank you for you time,
RE: Our People’s Future

Thank you for your June 25, 2016, email to the Honourable Dwight Ball expressing concern regarding the costs associated with the Muskrat Falls Project, and suggesting that an outside auditor complete an in-depth study to determine the costs associated with completing and cancelling the project. I appreciate your comments, and the opportunity to respond on behalf of the Premier.

Regarding the Muskrat Falls Project, which our government inherited from the previous administration, we share your concerns about the schedule delays and cost increases. We are committed to opening the books on the project and ensuring it is managed effectively, which is why our government retained the external consultant, EY (formerly Ernst and Young) on December 21, 2015, to conduct an independent review of the cost, schedule, and associated risks for the project. EY’s Interim Report was released on April 12, 2016, and concluded that the September 2015 Muskrat Falls Project forecast was not reasonable. Following Nalcor’s current discussions with Astaldi, the major Muskrat Falls contractor, EY will review the most recent cost and schedule for the project and submit its final report.

On June 24, 2016, Nalcor’s CEO, Stanley Marshall announced revised Muskrat Falls Project baseline information. The project costs are now forecasted to rise to $9.1 billion ($11.4 billion with financing); and it is anticipated the Labrador Island Link and Labrador Transmission Assets will be completed by mid-2018, while first power from the Muskrat Falls Generating Facility will be delayed until fall 2019. Full power is now expected in mid-2020, and in 2021, electricity rates for domestic customers are forecasted to rise to 21.4 cents per kilowatt hour, exclusive of the actions being considered to mitigate the increases. During this announcement, Mr. Marshall indicated “stopping the project is no longer a practical option”. Reasons cited include: 1) the need for a new source of energy to replace the aging Holyrood plant and meet the electricity needs on the island; 2) $6.7 billion has been spent or is contractually committed on the project to date; and 3) Nalcor is contractually bound to provide Emera with a substantial amount of power for the next 35 years at no cost.

Our government is committed to controlling project costs and ensuring all the necessary steps are taken to identify and mitigate any remaining engineering and construction risks as the project proceeds. In addition, we have committed to offset electricity rate increases associated with the Muskrat Falls Project through the sale of excess power; and we have directed Mr. Marshall to identify other opportunities to bring rates closer to those predicted at project sanction.
As part of our commitment to opening the books on the Muskrat Falls Project, our government looks forward to the upcoming release of EY’s final report on the project. EY will finalize and submit this report following Nalcor’s current discussions with the Muskrat Falls contractor, Astaldi, and a review the most recent cost and schedule information. This report will assist government and Nalcor in identifying critical risks in moving forward with the project, and identify opportunities for corrective action, if necessary.

Finally, in regards to your comments about taxation and cuts to essential services, while tax and fee increases are never popular, the government’s immediate actions were necessary to address the serious fiscal situation of the province. Government recognized that certain low income residents in Newfoundland and Labrador would have been adversely impacted as a result of the tax measures included in Budget 2016. This is why our government invested $76.4 million in a Newfoundland and Labrador Income Supplement, a disability benefit and enhancement to the current Seniors’ Benefit that will be paid directly to eligible low income seniors. Even with the measures taken in this year’s budget, the interest we pay and the cost to carry our debt from year to year will exceed $1 billion next year. Without increasing revenue and decreasing spending, we risk losing our ability to borrow to pay for critical programs and services government continues to provide.

While this response may not address all your concerns about the taxation measures included in the budget, the choices we have made were not easy. Doing nothing was not an option, and some very difficult decisions had to be made in light of the fact that the province was facing a $2.7 billion deficit if no action was taken. I can assure you that the tough choices we are making in the short-term will give us flexibility to do more in the long-term, to provide the services our people need without continuing to burden our children and grandchildren with a debt they do not deserve.

I thank you for your suggestions, and for voicing your concerns.

Sincerely,

DWIGHT BALL
Premier
MHA, Humber-Gros Morne

c. Siobhan Coady, Minister of Natural Resources
   Cathy Bennett, Minister of Finance
Charles,

As requested, I am ready to discuss the attached OCOR at your convenience.

-Corey

----< HP TRIM Record Information >----

Record Number: OCOR-23143
Title : Response from Premier to regarding "the future of our province" - requesting an indepth study by an outside auditor to determine the actual costs of Muskrat Falls completion.
RE: Our People's Future

Thank you for your June 25, 2016 email expressing concern regarding the costs associated with the Muskrat Falls Project, and suggesting that an outside auditor complete an in-depth study to determine the costs associated with completing and cancelling the project. I appreciate your comments.

Regarding the Muskrat Falls Project, which our government inherited from the previous administration, we share your concerns about the schedule delays and cost increases. We are committed to opening the books on the project and ensuring it is managed effectively, which is why our government retained the external consultant, EY (formerly Ernst and Young) on December 21, 2015, to conduct an independent review of the cost, schedule, and associated risks for the project. EY's Interim Report was released on April 12, 2016, and concluded that the September 2015 Muskrat Falls Project forecast was not reasonable. Following the interim report, our government committed to take action on all of EY's recommendations, including strengthening project governance and expanding oversight. Minister Siobhan Coady, Natural Resources, also stated at the time that the project was being reforecast for cost and schedule and that EY would assess the reasonableness of the revised forecast and then present a final report.

Following the EY interim report, on April 20, 2016, our government named Mr. Stan Marshall the new CEO of Nalcor. Throughout his extensive career, which included leading Fortis Inc. as President and CEO for more than 18 years, Mr. Marshall successfully led large-scale projects throughout the world. Our government is confident that his leadership and expertise will help develop Nalcor, including the Muskrat Falls Project, for the benefit of the people of the province.

Also, on April 22, 2016, our government announced it had appointed a new Interim Board of Directors for Nalcor with the skills and capabilities needed at this time, including strong knowledge of corporate governance, auditing, law, and business management. The new board members can provide the leadership necessary to support the governance of Nalcor and
oversight of the Muskrat Falls Project. Permanent board appointments will occur through our
government’s newly-created Independent Appointments Commission (IAC). On July 16, 2016,
the IAC released an expression of interest for individuals interested in being a member of the
Nalcor Board of Directors. The IAC will carefully review the qualifications of candidates and
through the use of a merit-based process, will provide recommendations to government on the
potential appointees best qualified to perform this role.

Additionally, to put greater emphasis on Nalcor’s priorities, on June 15, 2016, Nalcor’s
CEO also announced changes to the company’s executive structure. These changes include
making Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro a separate business unit, dividing the Muskrat Falls
Project into two separate components, and restructuring executive positions to strengthen
financial oversight of the Muskrat Falls Project.

On June 24, 2016, Nalcor CEO Stan Marshall announced revised Muskrat Falls Project
baseline information. The project costs are now forecasted to rise to $9.1 billion ($11.4 billion
with financing); and it is anticipated the Labrador Island Link and Labrador Transmission Assets
will be completed by mid-2018, while first power from the Muskrat Falls Generating Facility
will be delayed until fall 2019. Full power is now expected in mid-2020, and in 2021, electricity
rates for domestic customers are forecasted to rise to 21.4 cents per kilowatt hour, exclusive of
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indicated “stopping the project is no longer a practical option”. Reasons cited include: 1) the
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needs on the Island; 2) $6.7 billion has been spent or is contractually committed on the project to
date; and 3) Nalcor is contractually bound to provide Emera with a substantial amount of power
for the next 35 years.

Our government is committed to controlling project costs and ensuring all the necessary
steps are taken to identify and mitigate any remaining engineering and construction risks as the
project proceeds. In addition, we have committed to offset electricity rate increases associated
with the Muskrat Falls Project through the sale of excess power; and we have directed Mr.
Marshall to identify other opportunities to bring rates closer to those predicted at project
sanction.

Finally, I’d like to take the opportunity to address your comments regarding job losses,
increased costs for goods and services, taxation and cuts to essential services, and people leaving
the province. Our government takes these concerns very seriously, and I want to assure you that
our government is committed to making choices that ensure long term sustainability for
Newfoundland and Labrador. While the short to medium term outlook for the province is
challenging, our budget made choices to help ensure a long term sustainable economy
Newfoundland and Labrador. Tax and fee increases are never popular; however government’s
immediate actions were necessary in this year’s budget to address the serious fiscal situation of
the province. Even with the measures taken in our budget, the interest we pay and the cost to
carry our debt from year to year will exceed $1 billion next year. Without increasing revenue
and decreasing spending, we risk losing our ability to borrow to pay for critical programs and services government continues to provide.

To mitigate the impacts of some budget decisions on individuals and families with low income, our government developed the Newfoundland and Labrador Income Supplement. This supplement invests $47.8 million in 2016/17 ($63.7 million annually) to be paid directly to low income individuals and families. The budget also increases the Low-Income Seniors' Benefit (by $9.5 million in 2016/17, $12.7 million annually). Additionally, increases were made to the budgets for the Supportive Living Program ($2.5 million increase), which provides funding to community-based groups that deliver supportive housing and to the monthly fuel allowance for eligible Income Support clients ($3 million increase).

The decisions our government faced in the budget were not easy. However, doing nothing was not an option, and some very difficult decisions had to be made in light of the fact that our province was facing a $2.7 billion deficit if no action was taken. I can assure you that the tough choices we are making in the short term will give us flexibility to do more in the long term, to provide the services our people need without continuing to burden our children and grandchildren with a debt they do not deserve.

I thank you for your suggestions and for voicing your concerns.

Sincerely,

DWIGHT BALL
Premier
MHA, Humber-Gros Morne

c: Hon. Siobhan Coady, Minister of Natural Resources
   Hon. Cathy Bennett, Minister of Finance
   Hon. Sherry Gambin-Walsh, Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development