Dear [Name]:

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (File # NR-107-2017)

On July 31, 2018, the Department of Natural Resources received your request for access to the following records/information:

**Any emails, correspondence or other records relating to the protests relating to electricity rate increases the past month, specifically but not limited to the protests this past Friday and the previous Friday at the PUB Offices**

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 the requested records. The records are attached.

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 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 is as follows:

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

P.O. Box 8700, St. John's, NL, Canada A1B 4J6 t 709.729-1466
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.

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.

For further details about how an access to information request is processed, please refer to the Access to Information Policy and Procedures Manual at http://www.atipp.gov.nl.ca/info/index.html.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 709-729-0463 or rhynes@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

Rod Hynes
ATIPP Coordinator
Is gov getting many protest calls today?

Erin Squires
Communications Manager, Hydro
Corporate Communications, Hydro
Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro - a Nalcor Energy company
t. 709 737-1311  c. 709 697-1186
e. ErinSquires@nlh.nl.ca
w. www.nlhydro.com

You owe it to yourself, and your family, to make it home safely every day. What have you done today so that nobody gets hurt?
Good afternoon,

Premier’s Office has prepared a message and Natural Resources Communications staff have prepared key messaging in advance of protest planned for July 11 by FreeNL group in response to rising electricity rates. The group is calling on people to contact MHAs on that day.

Kristina
KEY MESSAGES

Natural Resources  
Electricity Rate Management  
July 6, 2018

Summary:

• The Public Utilities Board has approved a rate increase for Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro and Newfoundland Power, effective July 1. Both Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro and Newfoundland Power customers will be affected by the increase.

• A grassroots movement is asking residents to call, email or fax Premier Ball and Ministers, Nalcor and Newfoundland Power as often as possible on Wednesday, July 11 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to express their concerns with the rate increase.

Anticipated Question:

• What is government’s reaction to the rate increase?

Key messages:

• We recognize the July 1 electricity rate increase, as approved by the Public Utilities Board, is difficult for consumers.

• Government is very concerned with the legacy of the Muskrat Falls project and the long lasting impact it will have on Newfoundlander and Labradorians. We are doing all that we can to reduce the impact on the people of the province.

• We are focused on ensuring that electricity rates are competitive with other Atlantic provinces.

Secondary Messages:

• To date, Government officials from the Departments of Natural Resources and Finance have been discussing rate management opportunities together with officials from Nalcor and NL Hydro.

• The work of the Rate Management Committee has been focused on opportunities within Nalcor activities.

• Government has directed Nalcor to explore all options to manage rate increases to consumers. All options are being explored and may include:
  o Continuing to purchase and import less expensive power via the Maritime Link and Labrador Island Link;
  o Exporting surplus recall energy from the Upper Churchill;
  o Bringing surplus power from Labrador across the Labrador Island Link for use on the island in 2018;
Finding ways to use energy more efficiently, reduce peak demand, to free up capacity for exports and domestic customers; and
Expanding customer base within the province.

- Another opportunity that is being looked at is increased electrification. This could occur through several means including increased use of electric vehicles. Increasing the use of electricity within the province could help reduce rates.

- The work of the Committee is broad. While it looks at rate management broadly, at the end of the day what is presented must be reasonable.

- Officials are working diligently and as approaches and opportunities are finalized we will look to communicate that information.

Prepared by: Nancy Hollett, Media Relations Manager
Approved by: Gordon McIntosh, Deputy Minister
Response RE: Calls about Power Rates

As Premier Ball and Minister Coady have stated publicly many times, the Provincial Government is currently working on ways to lessen the impact of Muskrat Falls on rates.

We are focused on ensuring that electricity rates are competitive with other Atlantic provinces.

As approaches and opportunities are finalized, we will look to communicate that information to the public.

We share the concerns of every Newfoundlander and Labrador regarding increases in energy costs, and are working in your best interests.

More information will follow as soon as we can provide it.
Hi Diana, here’s the follow-up social media report on the #makenldarkagain online protest that occurred over the weekend. Did the department receive any related media requests?

Thanks
Carla

Carla J. Foote
Associate Secretary to Cabinet (Communications)
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Tel: 709-729-4781
Cell: 709-691-6673
www.gov.nl.ca

This email is PRIVILEGED and contains confidential information intended only for the person(s) named above. Any other distribution, copying or disclosure is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify us immediately by return email and delete the original message.

Pls see attached the social media report re: #makenldarkagain
The branch will provide a follow-up report on Tuesday.
Minister Coady is prepared to respond publicly as needed.
Diana, could you connect with Hydro & NF Power on their key messages in anticipation of this? Also develop key msgs for your Minister and send to branch once approved. Looping in JPS, from PUB perspective.


Carla J. Foote  
*Associate Secretary to Cabinet (Communications)*  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Tel: 709-729-4781  
Cell: 709-691-6673  
www.gov.nl.ca
Potential copyright material

If you wish to obtain a copy please contact the ATIPP Office at (709) 729-7072 or atippoffice@gov.nl.ca.
Thanks Carla.

We have not received related media requests.

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Thanks
Carla

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