

August 20, 2018



Dear [REDACTED]:

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

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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

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.

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](mailto:rhynes@gov.nl.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rod Hynes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Rod Hynes  
ATIPP Coordinator

## Hearn, Cassandra

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**From:** ErinSquires@nlh.nl.ca  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 11, 2018 1:30 PM  
**To:** Quinton, Diana  
**Subject:** Calls

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](mailto:ErinSquires@nlh.nl.ca)  
w. [www.nlhydro.com](http://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?

## Hearn, Cassandra

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**From:** George, Kristina  
**Sent:** Friday, July 6, 2018 4:50 PM  
**To:** GM-GMO Caucus; GM-Ministers; GM-EAs; GM-CAs; GM-GMO Staff  
**Subject:** Caucus Record rate increase protest  
**Attachments:** KMs - Electricity Rates Management for MHAs July 2018.doc; ATT00001.htm; Responses to Questions About Power Rates.docx; ATT00002.htm

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 Newfoundlanders 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:
  - Continuing to purchase and import less expensive power via the Maritime Link and Labrador Island Link;
  - Exporting surplus recall energy from the Upper Churchill;
  - 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.

## Hearn, Cassandra

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**From:** Foote, Carla  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 3, 2018 11:16 AM  
**To:** Quinton, Diana  
**Cc:** Hollett, Nancy; Joyce, Luke; Barfoot, Scott  
**Subject:** RE: push back on rate increases  
**Attachments:** Social Media Report.docx

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](http://www.gov.nl.ca)

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**From:** Foote, Carla  
**Sent:** Friday, June 29, 2018 4:28 PM  
**To:** Quinton, Diana; Stoodley, Amy  
**Cc:** Hollett, Nancy; Joyce, Luke; Barfoot, Scott; Cannizzaro, Michelle; Card, Jason; Clarke, Lesley; Budgell, Marc  
**Subject:** RE: push back on rate increases

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.

### **Carla J. Foote**

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**From:** Foote, Carla  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 28, 2018 3:35 PM  
**To:** Quinton, Diana; Stoodley, Amy  
**Cc:** Hollett, Nancy; Joyce, Luke; Barfoot, Scott; Cannizzaro, Michelle; Card, Jason; Clarke, Lesley  
**Subject:** push back on rate increases  
**Importance:** High

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.

<http://vocm.com/news/we-want-to-make-politicians-nervous-makenldarkagain-protest-planned-as-power-rates-jump/>

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

## Hearn, Cassandra

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**From:** Quinton, Diana  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 3, 2018 11:23 AM  
**To:** Foote, Carla  
**Cc:** Hollett, Nancy; Joyce, Luke; Barfoot, Scott  
**Subject:** RE: push back on rate increases

Thanks Carla.

We have not received related media requests.

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**From:** Foote, Carla  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 03, 2018 11:16 AM  
**To:** Quinton, Diana  
**Cc:** Hollett, Nancy; Joyce, Luke; Barfoot, Scott  
**Subject:** RE: push back on rate increases

Hi Diana, here's the follow-up social media report on the #makeIndarkagain online protest that occurred over the weekend. Did the department receive any related media requests?

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