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For Immediate Release

## **President raises concerns over delays in releasing water from Muskrat Falls reservoir**

Nunatsiavut President Johannes Lampe says he fully expects commitments made by Premier Dwight Ball, during a marathon meeting with Labrador's three indigenous leaders on October 26, 2016 over concerns with the downstream effects of the Muskrat Falls project, will be honored.

In a letter to the President, dated May 25, Nalcor's President and Chief Executive Officer, Stan Marshall, stated that water levels in the Muskrat Falls reservoir will not be lowered until mid-July – a direct contravention to one of the commitments made during the fall meeting.

Based on a scientific evaluation by independent engineers, the three indigenous leaders agreed to allow Nalcor to raise water levels in the reservoir during the winter months in order to protect the physical infrastructure of the project from potential ice damage. In turn, the Premier and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador agreed to direct Nalcor to release water from the reservoir this spring to allow the river to return to a natural flow so that mitigation measures could be carried out to reduce the impact of methylmercury on the ecosystem and downstream populations.

President Lampe expressed the Nunatsiavut Government's concerns in a letter and directly to the Premier this week.

"I advised him that we fully expect him and his government to honor the commitments that were made last fall," he says. "Water levels in the reservoir should be lowered immediately, in a controlled and safe manner, and in consultation with the Nunatsiavut Government, the Innu Nation and the NunatuKavut Community Council, as well as surrounding communities.

"The Premier assured me that all commitments will be fulfilled," added President Lampe, noting that he expects to receive further information next week on when water will be released from the reservoir.

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