



NUNATSIAVUT
Senani jarini kajusimanik pivallianimmut
10 Years of Continued Progress

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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Muskrat Falls concerns need to be addressed now, says President Lampe

Nunatsiavut President Johannes Lampe has written both Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Premier Dwight Ball calling for the immediate suspension of plans to initially flood the Muskrat Falls reservoir.

“Our concerns over methylmercury contamination must be addressed immediately,” says the President. “The civil unrest we are currently witnessing because of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s poor handling of the Muskrat Falls fiasco appears to be escalating, and it is time the Premier show some leadership and direct Nalcor Energy to delay flooding of the reservoir until all concerns are meaningfully addressed.”

In his letter to the Premier, President Lampe noted the Province’s unwillingness to initiate a robust monitoring program (using the best science currently available) to measure the amount of mercury entering into the ecosystem after initial flooding takes place in order to provide a better understanding of the potential impacts.

“This monitoring program is essential in ensuring we are ready to deal with any impacts before they arise,” says the President. “The Province has indicated that the work carried out by Harvard University is not being used to inform the monitoring program. That is extremely disappointing, and has added to the level of frustration we have had with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador on this whole issue.”

As well, there has been no movement on fulfilling the Nunatsiavut Government’s other three asks, as outlined in the Make Muskrat Right campaign, namely an Impact Management Agreement, an Independent Advisory Committee, and granting Inuit joint decision-making authority over the downstream area.

The Government of Canada, adds President Lampe, can also intervene through the Department of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard and delay flooding until all concerns have been addressed accordingly.

“We have asked the Prime Minister to take the necessary action to amend the Fisheries Act authorization which permits flooding of the Muskrat

Falls reservoir. Independent scientific evidence, which was not available when the authorization was granted, overwhelmingly demonstrates that flooding of reservoir, under current clearing conditions, will violate the terms of that authorization.

“Once flooding occurs, it will be too late to mitigate the methylmercury impacts on the downstream environment that the authorization currently prohibits,” states the President in his letter to the Prime Minister. “Once flooding is suspended, we request to meet according to our nation-to-nation relationship to discuss a way forward that respects the Fisheries Act and protects the environment and the health of thousands of Inuit.”

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