

Mitchell Shnier

From: Fargher, Jess
Sent: Thursday, August 30, 2018 11:37 AM
To: Mitchell Shnier
Subject: Regarding North Bala Hydro Project

Dear Mr. Shnier,

I am sorry to say that we are unable to cancel the North Bala Hydro Project. I know that many people have put a great deal of time and effort into fighting this project, I respect the efforts of everyone involved.

Unfortunately, being in government sometimes means making difficult decisions, in this case I know the Premier and the Ministers involved struggled. I made sure the Premier and Ministers were fully aware of the opposition to this project. They looked for every opportunity to cancel the project but it was far too advanced.

Our party would not have signed the contracts on this project if we had been in government at the time. However, those contracts were signed, the permits and approvals were already granted and the project was well underway when we came into government.

Our party also promised to be fiscally responsible. Unfortunately, what we found when we got access to all the information is that there is no fiscally responsible way to cancel this project. We were informed it would cost between \$40 million and \$100 million or more to cancel this project now.

While our government has been unable to cancel this project however we are doing our best to address many of the concerns we have heard about it. We are investing \$5 million plus matching donations of up to another \$5 million to study and protect the Muskoka Watershed. As well, I have spoken to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry about the safety plan for the hydro plant and have been informed that Swift River has agreed to make that plan public.

Thank you again for your email.

Norman Miller, Member of Provincial Parliament

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