

March 31/2009

Dear Premier Danny Williams,

Thanks for the return letter. It's great to hear that the government of Newfoundland and Labrador has established a new social studies course outlining sustainability as one of the major themes of the curriculum. We really have to teach our youth that a little act of green does go a long way and that sustainable resource management is our provinces responsibility to future generations.

The preservation of Newfoundland's Woodland Caribou and it's many remote wilderness areas is paramount, as human populations swell. This gives young and old folk alike the chance to experience wilderness as it should be. (As a life support system that even the common slug can survive in.) In discriminative dumping, remote cabin development and the many other unsustainable resource management schemes that butchered our fine province since colonialism may still haunt us if we are not vigilant. The United Nations has projected a human population of 9 billion by 2050. We need more places like Clifty Pond, not less.

Preserving Newfoundland's biodiversity is what's critical here and in the long run future generations will reap the benefits. As a colony and now a feeder province to many parts of Canada and the world we have seen our share of unsustainable resource management. Many of our raw natural resources have been exported leaving our land and economy in shambles. That's why our dear province is no stranger to recession; we have been in one for 500 plus years. The big question I have for all our political leaders in Canada, United States is this. With 300 million plus North Americans eating up energy, producing waste on a daily basis.

How can we keep everyone going at a sustainable level without destroying the few brooks, wildlife and bogs we have left? Or have we become to high maintenance? Sustainability means life support systems, like it or not. It's just a matter of when. Also to Premier Williams, who took on the daunting task of leading our province out of 500 plus years of recession and unsustainable resource management? You will go down in history, as a man with guts. E.g.: Cod Fishery

Yours in Conservation Tony O'Leary

CC: Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Ms Charlene Johnson: Minister of Environment, Bob McDonald: C.B.C, Mr. Shane Mahoney, The Compass, The Evening Telegram, Newfoundland Sportsman, Toronto Sun