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Premier Kathy Dunderdale
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O Box 8709
St. John's N.L
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Dear Mrs. Dunderdale

As an avid outdoorsman who has had the opportunity to travel this great province and country of ours I can't help but feel a sense of awe when it comes to the teachings of our ancient First Nations people. They had a connection to the land and it's creatures that the English speaking folk of the 21st century should take a serious look at. Why not incorporate respect, honor, and stewardship of our remote wilderness areas as the ancient Elders of First Nations people instilled in their youth and make it a part of our English school curriculum. At the end of the day it doesn't matter if you're a white, black or First Nations if we continue to destroy remote wilderness areas like Clifty Pond with indiscriminate dumping and remote cabin development we will eventually seal the fate of our own humanity like we did to the Beothuk Indian.

Let's finally show some respect here. The First Nations people 10,000 yrs ago new even then the only true legalities are showing respect for the powers of nature. When I see people destroy remote wilderness areas like Clifty Pond and treat their communities like a sewer I have to ask the question what have we done to the land of the Beothuk and the indigenous creatures that inhabited here?

I had the opportunity to chat with a First Nations man just east of Winnipeg Manitoba a couple of years ago and we started talking about wilderness and its benefits. In the simplest terms he stated, "there's good medicine in wild things" and what nature can provide. What great advice for the 21st century urbanite and man kind in general. Out of respect for the Beothuk Indian who we no longer have with us and the many creatures that once inhabited this land in peace let's incorporate some of this First Nations wisdom into government policies and education. Rescind remote cabin development in Clifty Pond and remote wilderness areas, show our youth there is a sense of connection in nature and a better way. The fate of the Beothuk Indian and how we treated them is a dire example of much needed change not excuses. Those brooks, ponds and gullies that were once the life blood of the Beothuk people should be respected with dignity, which is why the obituary of the Beothuk Indian is bad enough let alone add more to a already convoluted history of environmental mismanagement.

Yours in conservation Tony O'Leary

Cc: Minister of Environment Mr. Wiseman
Mr. Shane Mahoney
The Compass
The Evening Telegram
E.P.O Tammy McDonald
The Herald