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June 30, 2011

Premier Kathy Dunderdale
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O Box 8709
A1B 4J6

Dear Mrs. Dunderdale,

Ever since the white man has taken Newfoundland from the First Nations Beothuk people, this island and province has seen one extinction after another with a steady decline of many other animal species - most recently the George River caribou.

The Government officials, both past and present, seem to do what they want after being elected in. With all the environmental evidence to date, it is not just about a few more cabins in our remote wilderness areas like Cliffty Pond, it is about Newfoundland's terrible track record in always increasing quotas with no regard for the damage we have already done. When will Government learn?

Every generation of Newfoundland politician continues to make the same profound mistakes. Remote cabin development is no different than the quotas set for the northern cod fishery. It was never based on solid, objective, scientific research with a safety first culture. It was a conundrum of power hungry individuals with a need for profits at all costs. Because of this, my respects are to the Beothuk people, the Great Auk, the Newfoundland wolf and the many other creatures who inhabited here, for without them my life is and would be considerably less.

Thanks for the letter of democracy sent June 07 2011. At least there is some communication and dialog between government and the public. However, by making the same mistakes in issuing remote cabin permits for Cliffty Pond and other remote wilderness areas you are making the same mistakes as your predecessors. There is no such a thing as a few cabins, a few caribou or a few fish in Newfoundland. Six cabins in Cliffty pond one year means 60 more once the seeds are set and a new crew of politicians take over. It is written in our history, that the white man won't stop in this province till the last bog, fish and like the Beothuk Indian, is gone. I guess that's why you issue cabin permits knowing our remote wilderness is already a dump site from the start in many places.

It's the principle of it all and the government decisions, the environmental misery our race has caused since the extinction of the Beothuk people that must end here, for future generation won't have any wilderness left. Also your integrated management scheme, with a view towards sustainability is no different than the first treaty signed with the First Nations. It has been breeched a million times like our cod fishery. If you still think arrogance is still the 1600's way to sustainability, your only bull shitting your grand children. Milking the political cow will come to a sweet end at some point I just hope you can look in the mirror. What a shame of our times.

Yours in Conservation Tony O'Leary

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