

February 19, 2006

Premier Danny Williams
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

Dear Premier Williams:

In the past and present history of man there has always been sectors of our society who have an insatiable need to domesticate our Wild heritage. They have tried in every way to exploit ecosystems on both land and sea bringing about some of the most devastating impacts the world has ever known.

Newfoundland's history of grossly underestimating environmental impact and its ramifications is paramount to its own demise, in particular, outport Newfoundland. In an area of mass unemployment and generations of environmental abuse, corporate greed and corruption, Newfoundland has finally succumbed to both foreign and domestic barbarism. The northern cod on the threatened list, Caplin that were slaughtered in the billions for a few females, whales, the great auk, the wolf and last but not least, the gentle Beothuck Indian. They all paid the price of progress in a world where profit took precedence over respect; reverence and conservation of nature.

I feel Newfoundland like many other parts of the world, is walking on dangerous ground. As different species and ecosystems become weak, so will we. We look to fossil fuels as our boat to prosperity, but really we are only on borrowed time. The clock of extinction is ticking ever so slowly, once the fossil fuels are gone, so will we.

The North Shore of Conception Bay Is a dire example of habitat destruction and economic collapse. You can't even catch a cod for your own personal use. This legacy that our forefathers have left will take years to fix, maybe even hundreds of years. I like many Newfoundlanders and global citizens, are the ones who have to inherit this carnage.

The remote cabin or wilderness development issue is another example of how previous Government's grossly underestimated environmental impact... Too much of our wild area's are becoming havens for the elite. We are taking the adventure out of our wild heritage, harming the character of the land and probably impairing other species' ability to evolve in the web of life.

Like the northern cod, our leaders gave every fish plant owner a quota, every boat owner a quota. but the words "Conservation and Habitat Destruction" were never used. By the time everyone got their share of the cod, the cod were gone, possibly forever. If being fair politically means the devastation and annihilation of a species and ecosystem, for the

short-term personal gain of Homo sapiens, then we are in really big trouble. I think it would be devastating to see our last few wild areas we have go the way of the northern cod or the great auk. Outport Newfoundland is certainly an example of this along with the remote cabin development issue. The loss of even one ecosystem or species is a threat to all humans. It is time that all levels of Government and concerned citizens work diligently to keep our wild areas free for all. You can never have too many natural systems, Clifty Pond being a perfect example.

In conclusion, are we going to continue to treat the remote cabin development issue the same way we treated the northern cod and the caplin? A choice that transformed rural Newfoundland into a desert of empty homes and lifeless waters. Newfoundland is a prisoner of it's past; an example of what can go wrong if the appropriate checks are not in place. Indiscriminate dumping of car wrecks the bureaucratic red tape one has to go through to get results. It just shows how faulty the system can be. Can we afford to overlook issues that harm the character of the land anymore? The price for environmental mistakes could last generations. If we can't clean up, put legislation in place or afford to clean-up indiscriminate dumping, why should we put other natural systems at risk. This environmental nightmare has gone on long enough.

Objectives

1. To see legislation put in place protecting rural and wild areas from indiscriminate dumping, ex:: car wrecks, bus wrecks and organic garbage.
2. The More wild areas the better for future generations would help keep more of our wild areas free from the encroachment or remote cabin development. Even 1 cabin can be harmful to the character of the land.
3. If Government can't get handle of the car wreck problem, why would environment issue more remote cabin permits to places like Clifty Pond. Putting these areas at risk of further indiscriminate dumping. Clifty Pond perfect example.
4. Parking old buses in the woods, building and developing the limited tree line on the North Shore, is very harmful to the character of the land.
5. Like I said, I inherited this environmental mess from generations gone by.
6. I want to know how Government allotted thousands of dollars of taxpayers' money to railway bed restoration while the land in rural Newfoundland has become a dumpsite. Why a certain individual is allowed to put luxurious cabins in areas where

caribou have been calving for thousands of years. Adding to the problem is the constant low-level helicopter flights to and from the cabin (Gisborne Lake).

7. How did a certain individual drive a city bus in the middle of Western Bay, park it and get power hook up, without any running water, outhouse or approved Government inspected field bed? This man lived in third world conditions, washing his portable toilet in the brook or by the brook. For the time he lived there, he would defecate in shopping bags, tie them over and dispose of in a 5 gallon tar bucket. He would then bring the human waste up to Western Bay dump and bring a load of garbage back with him. The bus and wrecks have been there for 15 year's this was harmful to the character of the land. I myself have witnessed this.

8. Also, Western Bay Falls has been a prime swimming hole for generations. Its prime water source is Clifty Pond area. Any development in Clifty Pond area could impair water quality.

Yours in Conservation,

ANTHONY J. O'LEARY

cc:

Honorable Tom Osborne Department of Environment
(In response to your letter from October 11, 2005) Ms. Charlene Johnson, M.H.A.
Trinity-Conception

Mr. Shane Mahoney All Town Councils

The Evening Telegram

The Compass