

1 February 2017

Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities
P.O. Box 21040
St. John's, NL A1A 5B2
By e-mail to ito@pub.nl.ca

Attn: Ms. Cheryl Blundon, Director, Corporate Services & Board Secretary

Dear Commissioners:

Re: Net-Metering Applications before the PUB

I am writing to offer comment on the two recent applications made respecting net metering, specifically:

1. **Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro's** request dated 2 December 2016 to revise its rates, rules and regulations in order to implement a Net Metering Program for rural customers; and,
2. **Newfoundland Power's** request dated 19 December 2016 respecting a net metering service option for its customers.

Municipalities Newfoundland & Labrador stands fully in support of net metering implementation in Newfoundland and Labrador and sees both these applications as important steps forward in this regard.

The lack of a net metering system in this Province represents a major impediment to the development of alternative energy sources and technologies here. It also presents some serious challenges to our competitiveness – nationally and internationally – as we remain one of the few jurisdictions where this critical enabling framework is lacking. This has ramifications not solely for entrepreneurial interests here, but also for more general access by provincial stakeholders to federal programs and funding geared to accelerating a diverse array of GHG-reducing initiatives over the next 2-5 years. There's a tremendous window of opportunity right now nationally that we need to be making the most of and we are starting from behind.

As a primary benefit of installing alternative energy resources is in reducing one's electricity costs, there are significant opportunities here for municipalities to offset their energy use. Town halls, community centres, hockey rinks – operating costs for all of these facilities could conceivably be reduced as our energy sector diversifies, lowering public service costs.

It has been a decade now since the provincial government first committed to undertaking a net metering program. Firm timelines have been lacking along the way so we will continue to advocate for an ambitious net metering implementation timeline.

We hope that you will give these timely applications positive and expeditious reviews.

Yours sincerely,



Karen Oldford
MNL President
&
Mayor, Town of Labrador City

CC. Hon. Perry Trimper, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Hon. Eddie Joyce, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Mr. Dennis Browne, Consumer Advocate c/o bbailey@bfma-law.com