



For immediate release

April 22, 2016

FemNorthNet to NL Government: Appoint directors who will make a difference at Nalcor

The recent resignations of Nalcor Energy's board offer a golden opportunity for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to appoint people who can respond to the significant concerns the community has raised about the Muskrat Falls.

Jane Stinson, project director of the Feminist Northern Network, says her organization has been amplifying the concerns local women have about the negative impacts the new hydro dam is having on them and the nearby town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

"Women have complained about the loss of access to water and land around the falls where they used to gather food and for recreation," Stinson says. "As well, the influx of workers has pushed housing costs so high that people are forced out of their homes; and the growth in transient male workers has increased the risk of violence against women and more."

Petrina Beals, who works with FemNorthNet in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, says flooding for the new hydro dam will endanger fish and wildlife that local people rely on for food. She points to a recent study commissioned by the Nunastivut government which concluded hundreds of Labrador Inuit will be exposed to dangerous levels of toxic methyl mercury as a result of the planned reservoir.

"Nalcor's response has been to deny social and environmental impacts and responsibility for them. This is unacceptable," says Beals. "The government must appoint a board of directors who will take seriously the full range of local impacts on the environment, women and the community."

FemNorthNet will monitor the appointment process to ensure the new provincial government will uphold its longstanding policy to ensure gender equity in appointments to all boards, agencies and commissions (<http://pch.gc.ca/eng/1356719838364/1356719932851#Article7>).

FemNorthNet (<http://fnn.criaw-icref.ca/en>) is a network of researchers within and outside of universities and colleges working together with representatives of community-based organizations in northern Canada as well as across Canada.

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