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For immediate release

LABRADOR FIRST: ENSURING GULL ISLAND DELIVERS LASTING IMPACT FOR UPPER LAKE MELVILLE

(Happy Valley-Goose Bay) – The Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, the Labrador North Chamber of Commerce, and the Goose Bay Airport Corporation today released a joint position paper outlining priorities to help ensure the proposed Churchill River developments create lasting benefits for the town and region.

At nearly $70 billion, the Churchill Falls expansion, Gull Island hydroelectric development, associated transmission infrastructure, and proposed wind energy project represent the largest clean energy investment in North American history. Together, these developments are expected to support approximately 23,000 jobs and nearly triple the current generating capacity of Churchill Falls.

The position paper highlights the significant opportunities these developments present for economic growth, business development, infrastructure investment, and long-term prosperity. It also emphasizes the need for early planning and investment to address pressures on housing, healthcare, public safety, municipal services, transportation and regional infrastructure, and workforce capacity.

Drawing on lessons from Muskrat Falls, the paper argues that lasting benefits are not guaranteed and that governments, project proponents, Indigenous governments, businesses, and communities must work together to ensure the town and region are prepared for growth.

Key priorities identified in the paper include:

- Long-term investments in housing, healthcare, public safety, and municipal infrastructure;
- Maximizing employment and procurement opportunities for Labrador workers and businesses;
- Establishing Happy Valley-Goose Bay as the region's transportation, logistics, procurement, and workforce mobilization hub;
- Securing a block of power to support future industrial, commercial, and residential development in Labrador;
- Long-term electricity rate protection for Labrador customers; and
- Respect for the Innu as rights holders on the Churchill River and fulfilment of commitments made to the Innu Nation, including commitments arising from the New Dawn Agreement.

"The scale of these developments presents a tremendous opportunity for our town and region, but it also requires planning and investment before construction begins," said Happy Valley-Goose Bay Mayor Bert Pomeroy. "The lessons of Muskrat Falls are clear.

We need to ensure our communities have the infrastructure, services, and capacity required to support growth and that the people closest to these developments experience meaningful and lasting benefits from them."

“The LNCC continues to emphasize the importance of transparency, planning and timely engagement to ensure local businesses are adequately informed, prepared and supported for the Churchill Falls development,” says Wyman Jacque, Chairperson of the LNCC. “Collectively, we have an expectation for clear commitments prior to project sanctioning including developing local workforce capacity and addressing infrastructure deficits. To be transformational for the region, economic benefits of this project must reach communities and businesses."

"These projects provide an opportunity to strengthen Labrador's economic and social fabric now and into the future," said Rex Goudie, CEO of the Goose Bay Airport Corporation. "People must be able to look back on these projects decades from now and say we did it right. That the people and communities next door to these massive resources built an economy that is strong and resilient."

Attached is our position paper, which was forwarded on Friday, November 20 to the Premier, other ministers, and the President and CEO of NL Hydro.

The position paper is developed by:

The Goose Bay Airport Corporation
The Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay
The Labrador North Chamber of Commerce

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