
From: MW
Sent: September-10-19 3:48 PM
To: NL Public Utilities Board
Subject: Post-Muskrat Rate Mitigation

Hello,

I have just now seen that there is an open call for suggestions for rate mitigation in the post-Muskrat electrical era. I have some thoughts, and I appreciate the time it takes to read carefully the words that I have.

First and foremost, an immediate forfeiture of any and all bonus structures within the Nalcor company and any associated employees. This should allow for several millions of dollars within the first several years, offsetting the costs for clients. It is an extremely justifiable action based on this:

Bonuses are monetary incentives for a job *well done*. At no point in the last ten years since this project began could anyone convince me or any other taxpayers in this province that company executives have done a job deserving of any extra pay. There should be no bonus pay until the rates no longer require mitigation. There should be no bonus pay until the inquiry into corruption and gross incompetence has been completed. There should be no bonuses until there is **accountability in the appropriate divisions**. How can anyone justify to me why I must pay for the massive blunder of the people that we have *no choice* but to trust?

Next up, increased tax on the top percentile of earners in the province. Incomes over \$100,000 or even \$150,000 per year should see an increase in taxation. An increase of 2% at income above the \$100,000 threshold would be hardly noticeable. Another threshold at \$300,000 and again at half a million.

Another thought would be to incentivise electricity use. I have installed a heat pump and ultra-efficiency home equipment to keep electricity costs down, as has many of the province. If you want to convince people to use more electricity, make it worthwhile. Rebates on electric vehicles is one place to start. Imagine the extra electricity use if sales of EVs or even plug in hybrids increased 10%. There are two new dealerships opening in the next year that are fully equipped for sell and service of EVs.

On the same topic of vehicles, implementing mandatory inspections every three years as is done in other provinces would generate revenue. There would be the revenue of inspections and registrations (especially for delinquent drivers) and increased tax revenue for repairs otherwise left undone. This has the added benefit of removing unsafe vehicles from the roadways.

The bottom line is this:

You cannot put this burden on the lower and middle class.

I know whoever it is that's reading this (If you are), you probably don't care about me, my family, my coworkers, we don't matter. I understand, however I *implore* you: this cannot fall on the middle and lower class. It took me five years to save up barely enough for a down-payment on a house that cost less than some of the bonuses paid to the Nalcor executives. I moved in last October with my significant other, my sister and her significant other. Having all of us living there mitigates costs quite nicely, but the constant anxiety over electricity rates has been hovering over my head like the Sword of Damocles. We don't set the thermostat over 20 degrees in the winter, choosing instead to cocoon ourselves in heavy blankets. I run all LED bulbs and have new vinyl windows, well sealed exterior doors and new insulation in the attic. I've taken all these measures to keep costs down. You can imagine my panic when, despite my best efforts, my bill may double anyway. I'm a very frugal person. I consider every purchase I make very carefully and I squirrel money away whenever I can. If electricity rates go up as much as they are forecasted to, I'm looking at paying an extra \$2000 or more on my yearly bill. **Two. Thousand. Dollars.** This takes

away any chance of me owning a new vehicle, it takes away the ability to make improvements to my home. It takes away any nest egg building I can do, which means I'll be in trouble when/if my home should need repairs.

This is the tip of the iceberg of anxiety and panic. It has gotten to the point where we have to seriously consider leaving the province in the event that power costs double. We are middle class, and we are the most disproportionately taxed bracket. I pay in every year, I lose 38% of every cheque. And for what? To have to choose between packing up my whole life and start over, or going back to struggling to make a paycheque last from week to week? I know "life isn't fair" but what isn't fair is that everyone in and around my social class and below are going to suffer. Some of us won't even have the option to leave the province because just leaving this place is *obscenely* expensive.

I sincerely believe that the upper class executives neither know, nor care about the effect this is going to have on the 90% of us that don't make hundreds of thousands a year. These people that have two or three luxury brand vehicles in their massively expensive houses don't care about the cost of electricity because they can afford it. It isn't right to make the poor pay for the blunders of the rich. Search your feelings, you know it to be true.

There are a lot of mitigation strategies that we can incorporate that would take into account the majority of the province that can't afford the extra cost, it's on you and the government to protect us.

MW