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Town of Charlottetown



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TO:

Tarrie c/o Gary Bolger

FROM:

Biller

DATE:

Nov-26/03

PAGES:

3 (including cover page)

SUBJECT:

Public Utility Board Meeting9-
944
1114

COMMENTS:

Drop off at Aurora

From the desk of....

Zillah Kippenhuck
Town Clerk

GB #2

Nov. 27, 2003

Presented To: Public Utility Board

Date: November 26, 2003

Presented By: Mr. Gary Bolger

Purpose: Presentation Against Hydro Rate Increase

Ladies and Gentlemen thank you for giving the community of Charlottetown the opportunity to voice our concerns regarding the issue of increased **electricity rates**. The following are some key concerns voiced by the residents and business in our Town.

- ▶ Basic utilities for the average household exceeds \$200.00 a month, this does not include heat. As a result most homes heated with wood furnaces are much higher during the winter months. This is especially difficult for single parents who have to rely on one income and equally as difficult for seniors who are living on fixed monthly incomes. Very often having to give up their independence and move in with their relatives during these cold months.
- ▶ A survey conducted on local businesses in our community show the average commercial monthly Hydro bill to be \$1000.00 making it very difficult for these businesses to operate. An increase could easily cause some of these businesses to close.
- ▶ Charlottetown is home to a state of the art Shrimp Processing Facility. The hydro cost to operate this plant averages \$8000.00 per month. Any increase may pose a threat to the continuation of this plant because our town can not afford to pay any more for hydro due to the fact that we have a tax agreement with the shrimp company. This plant employs some 100 people from Charlottetown and the surrounding communities an increase in electricity may cause those people to lose their jobs.
- ▶ Economic Development is essential to all municipalities. Why would we even bother to strive and promote our communities when energy costs are a clear disincentive to locating and remaining here. We are prohibited to attract new industry as a result of not enough power and the high cost to use what is available to us already.

At present we are serviced by diesel generated electricity which is and should be in the past. What the Town of Charlottetown is proposing to you as the Public Utility Board is to not support an increase in electricity rates. Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro should consider uniform rates across the province or for all Labrador,

especially those communities connected via the new Trans Labrador Highway be connected by a grid. It is possible since the Labrador Straits is already connected to a major power source. An increase to the already high cost we are paying for electricity is totally insulting and unacceptable! How do you expect communities such as ours to survive? Thank you.