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Nov. 27, 2003

**A Presentation to the Public Utilities Board Hearings in Response
to an Application by Newfoundland & Labrador Hydro
for Changes to the Power Rates Charged to its Customer Base**

**Nina Pye, Mayor
Mary's Harbour Town Council**

November 2003

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Ladies and Gentlemen, my name is Nina Pye and I am the Mayor of Mary's Harbour. Mary's Harbour is a small community, with a population of about 450 people, in southeastern Labrador.

The only source of electricity available to Mary's Harbour is provided by Newfoundland & Labrador Hydro through diesel generators. The cost of electricity to our Town is outrageous.

The Town Council of Mary's Harbour has five sewer pumping stations (each station is equipped with two pumps) a water pumping station (equipped with three pumps), a recreation centre, a fire hall, 20 street lights and a water meter building. We are presently paying \$0.09389 for the first 700 KWH and \$0.20035 for each additional KWH. Over the period of one year, we pay approximately \$60,000.00 for electricity costs alone.

In our last adopted budget, which was for 2003, our revenue from taxation was a mere \$182,293.00. About 33% of our taxation revenue was spent on electricity. Electricity is our single most extravagant expense.

Because of our high electricity costs, expansion in our Town has been hindered. Our residents pay the highest mill rate for property tax and business tax in all Labrador. It is unfair to tax our residents more than they are already paying. A cheaper electricity rate would enable us to install more water and sewer services, create a much needed new subdivision, and who knows - maybe we could even look at paving our Town roads.

I am begging you to put yourself in our shoes. Is it fair to us to pay these enormous electricity costs and somebody in central Labrador or on the Island portion of the province pay significantly less? Should we be penalized because we live in coastal

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Labrador? I think it is time that all people of Newfoundland & Labrador be treated equal.

I would like to thank you for listening to my views, and I sincerely hope that consideration will be given to lower our rates, to be in line with that of the rest of the Province, or at the very least, keep our rates as they are.

Thank you.