

TL #1

**GREAT HUMBER JOINT COUNCIL**  
**PRESENTATION TO**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**  
**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR HYDRO**  
**2003 GENERAL RATE APPLICATION**  
**NOVEMBER 25, 2003**  
**GLYNMILL INN**  
**CORNER BROOK, NL**

(1)

The Great Humber Joint Council is comprised of Mayors, Deputy-Mayors, and Councilors representing some 21 communities. Our region takes in the communities of both the North and South Shore of the Bay of Islands, the Humber Valley, and White Bay Region. We have also recently had the Communities of Glenburnie, Birchy Head, Shoal Brook come on side as they see the importance of being united when it comes to regional issues.

The mandate of the Great Humber Joint Council is to promote and protect this region and to provide safe and sustainable communities for the people we represent.

Any increase in expenses, are hard felt by the Cities, Towns and Communities of this province. Due to an out migration by many of our young people and individuals having to go away for employment many Towns are faced with decreasing tax bases. Unfortunately this smaller tax base does not mean less expenses to the towns budget. The trash still has to be picked up; roads require repairs and snow clearing. And for the importance of this hearing the Street lights still have to be lit, Water & Sewer facilities have to run, and our Town Halls and Fire Department, and Recreation buildings have to have the power running. The proposed increase of 13.5% to the hydro will be detrimental to the up coming budgets of all municipalities and even more so too our smaller more Rural communities

(2)

We have all heard of Communities having to turn off streetlights, basically trying to make do with the resources they have.

Many smaller communities are still dependent on the revenue generated from the fishery. A 13.5% increase in the commercial rate for hydro may well be the final act that determines the future of a fish processing plant in some of our communities.

Besides the direct effect of this large increase on the Municipal level, we also have to consider the effect on the economy of the region. Here on the West Coast the major corporate employers Corner Brook Pulp and Paper and Abitibi Consolidated will be hit extremely hard by these increases.

Increases of 28.5% in a corporate setting will usually come down cut backs of some form or another. With Corner Brook Pulp and Paper and Abitibi Consolidated being such large players in the economic stability of this region any cut backs will cause a ripple effect that will travel through this entire region. Logging road construction, wood harvesters, trucking, then down the line to non-paper related occupations. Corner Brook Pulp and Paper employs approximately 1100 in this region. We can not afford to have job losses of any sort. These increases will cause job losses for this region.

In closing we ask that the Board of Commissioners to reject this Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro 2003 General Rate Application.

(4)

Great Humber Joint Council Executive

Chair - Terrance. W. Locke - Deputy Mayor, Town of Massey Drive, NL

Vice Chair – Leona Gillette – Mayor, Town of Steady Brook, NL

Treasurer – Malcom Turner – Councilor, Town of Pasadena, NL

Secretary – Mary Diamond – Councilor, Town of Steady Brook, NL

Past Chair – Priscilla Boutcher – Mayor, City of Corner Brook, NL

Director – Tony Blanchard – Mayor, of Irishtown Summerside, NL

Director – Alton Whalen – Councilor, City of Corner Brook, NL

Presented by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_