

1     **Q.     Re: Response to PUB-NLH-089.**

2             Since NL Hydro has indicated that it is not in a position to phase-in the proposed  
3             rate increases for the Labrador Interconnected System customers, has it considered  
4             concentrating its CDM expenditures in the first year of the price increase, or even  
5             prior to then, in order to ease the rate shock? Has NL Hydro considered offering  
6             more generous rebates on thermostats, energy-saving replacement windows,  
7             insulation etc. to give ratepayers the incentive and ability to adjust to the proposed  
8             rate shock?

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11    **A.**     Hydro has offered increased incentive promotions on both thermostats and  
12             insulation for Labrador Interconnected Customers. Hydro has also made additional  
13             programs available that target Labrador Interconnected Customers, including  
14             coupons for ten residential technologies including Energy Star light fixtures, hot  
15             water tank wraps and CFLs offered in 2010 and 2011 and block heater timers  
16             launched in 2012, which is currently active. Hydro works with retailers,  
17             Newfoundland Power and other partners to implement creative and innovative  
18             marketing and promotions to encourage increased participation in the takeCHARGE  
19             rebate programs.

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21             In 2012 and 2013 Hydro partnered with local retailers throughout the province to  
22             provide double rebates through takeCHARGE and coordinate timing with retailer  
23             promotional discounts to provide significant cost reductions for the purchase of  
24             programmable thermostats. Hydro also worked with retailers to promote their  
25             insulation sale offers in conjunction with takeCHARGE rebates for customers to  
26             again increase uptake in the insulation program. A pilot project was also  
27             implemented that provided assistance to customers who purchased Energy Star

1 windows. This engaged staff at select window retailers to help customers complete  
2 their rebate applications at the time of sale.

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4 With the launch of the Block Heater Timer (BHT) program in 2012, 500 BHTs were  
5 distributed free of charge to customers to encourage people to use the technology.  
6 In 2013, Hydro in partnership with the Community Food Sharing Association (CFSA)  
7 and local retailers made BHTs available at 75% discount when a charitable donation  
8 was made to the CFSA with each purchase.