
'We want to see a deal'

Jones says she's lost confidence in Williams on Lower Churchill

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"Unless you've got a power project to sell, you're no power broker," Jones said.

The Liberal leader doesn't buy Williams' argument that the province didn't want to tie up money on that capacity when the Lower Churchill project is still years from completion.

She said if that's the case, why is the province investing in oil exploration on the province's west coast, when there's no way of knowing if any will be found?

Liberal

Leader Yvonne Jones has little faith Premier Danny Williams can pull off the Lower Churchill hydroelectric project.

After the province's newest MHA — Liberal Marshall Dean — was sworn in Tuesday morning, Jones was asked about the Hydro-Quebec deal to buy NB Power.

"The Lower Churchill is one of the biggest files that's ongoing in the province today," Jones said.

"I think the future for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, from a financial perspective, is really going to be linked to that development.

"We want to see a project, we want to see a deal," she said. "However, I've almost lost confidence in the ability of Danny Williams to be able to deliver that."

Jones said Williams has alienated everyone he should be negotiating with to make the deal a reality.

"He's chosen to pick fights where there doesn't need to be fights and he's (fallen) down on the job in being able to access transmission on the lines through New Brunswick."

Jones said this province should have bid on access on those transmission lines last year, but didn't.

"If (the Lower Churchill) was a priority, if the route through New Brunswick was the way this government was going to go, they had every opportunity to secure access and they failed to do it."

Instead, she said, Williams was too busy building a profile for himself as a power broker.