

SEP
9
2009

Opposition Won't Hold Up Debate on Water Rights Act



The Opposition parties say they do not intend to hold up debate of the province's [Water Rights Act](#), but the Leader of the New Democrats is questioning why the issue wasn't discovered sooner. Members of the House of Assembly are meeting this week to amend the definition of 'Lower Churchill waters' after CF(L) Co. lawyers voiced concern over how the current legislation could be interpreted. To the extreme, lawyers felt it could extinguish the company's rights to the Upper Churchill. NDP Leader Lorraine Michael wonders if foresight was an issue, but Natural Resources Minister Kathy Dunderdale says the problem was only realized after intense scrutiny. Dunderdale says it was never the intention of the legislation to infringe on the water rights of CF(L) Co. She says the special sitting is in an effort to move along negotiations on a water management agreement between the company and Nalcor Energy. Debate resumes this afternoon.