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Opposition Leader Critical of Premier on Hydro Quebec Controversy



Opposition Leader Yvonne Jones suggests the possible sale of New Brunswick's power utility to Hydro Quebec shows this province is not prepared to deal with the route options for the Lower Churchill development. Jones cites the government's failure to bid on transmission capacity through New Brunswick in 2008. Hydro Quebec bought all excess capacity on the grid. Jones indicates she sees this as the province not completing its due diligence and blaming someone else for that failure. Premier Danny Williams says Quebec is making every effort to gain control of Lower Churchill power.

Former Premier Roger Grimes says Premier Danny Williams' criticism of Hydro Quebec and its reported attempt to buy New Brunswick Power is a smoke screen. Grimes told VOCM BackTalk with Bill Rowe, he doubts Danny Williams is revealing his real plan for the Lower Churchill. Grimes says the Premier is looking for a reason not to do a development deal. Grimes says the first excuse is that Hydro Quebec is in the way and the second is the federal government is not prepared to help. Grimes says it was only a year or so ago that the Premier sold Labrador power to New York using a Nova Scotia company. Grimes says the premier's comments about Quebec are not valid because it still the same line being used regardless of who owns it.