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## Liberals surge with Lower Churchill questions

BY DAVE BARTLETT  
THE TELEGRAM [dbartlett@thetelegram.com](mailto:dbartlett@thetelegram.com)

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Danny Williams



Yvonne Jones

Liberal Leader Yvonne Jones says it's difficult to follow the government's logic on the Lower Churchill project.

Jones continued to raise questions about the feasibility of the project in the House of Assembly Monday.

She said while Premier Danny Williams has said he prefers the Maritime route to take power to the United States and the rest of Canada, Nalcor Energy is supporting a private company's bid to build a transmission route from the Quebec-U. S. border to New York City.

Jones then asked Williams if the province will pre-buy power capacity on that line.

"This province is not prepared to enter into commitments unless it has, actually, something to go on," the premier said.

"What we are going to do is proceed and we are going to look at all our options. We have not ruled out any of the options."

Williams said the province may look at buying capacity on the private company's line "at some point in time," and may also consider building its own transmission line through Quebec.

Then Jones pointed out that Quebec has recently signed a longterm contract with the state of Vermont to supply it with power.

"While everyone else is signing long-term agreements, what meaningful actions is this province taking to secure potential customers?" she asked.

Williams then blamed the previous Liberal government for not marketing the province's power potential properly.

He said he's been to Calgary, Ottawa, Toronto and New York promoting the Lower Churchill and talking to potential customers.

But Jones retorted that the province is "no closer today than we were seven years ago when (Williams) walked into office," on picking and developing a route