

## What's next for Grand Falls-Windsor, Liberals ask?

**Williams says AbitibiBowater should give timber, water rights back to province**

*BY DAVE BARTLETT dbartlett@thetelegram.com*

*THE TELEGRAM*

---

The

Opposition Liberals asked about the fallout of the closure of the Grand Falls-Windsor paper mill during question period at the House of Assembly Monday.

Premier Danny Williams replied to some of the questions from the Liberals on the mill's closure.

He said he had a curt discussion with company CEO David Paterson Thursday morning. Williams wasn't happy the province and the people of the town found out about the closure in *The Globe and Mail* newspaper.

"In the same breath, I indicated to him that the government of Newfoundland and Labrador would be prepared to fight for those assets, the timber assets and the power assets to the full extent of our ability and to the full extent of the law," he said.

"The ideal situation would be that this company did the right thing and basically transferred over those timber assets and those water assets to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador," Williams continued.

Leader Yvonne Jones also wanted to know who would be on the task force to help laid off workers in Grand Falls-Windsor and what its mandate would be.

"This task force has been up and operational for the last three months, Mr. Speaker," replied Natural Resources Minister Kathy Dunderdale.

She said Innovation, Trade and Rural Development Minister Shawn Skinner will be the chairman of the task force which will also include a number of other ministers including her and Human Resources Minister Susan Sullivan, who represents the area.

Jones also wanted to know if people from the town would be part of the task force.

Dunderdale said she and Skinner plan to be in Grand Falls-Windsor today and will meet with the union and other local people.

Jones then asked what will happen to AbitibiBowater's hydro and timber rights in addition to the mill — an asset itself.

Dunderdale repeated what she told reporters Thursday that the province is looking at all its options including the possible expropriation of some of those rights.

"Our main objective, always, is to see that what ever infrastructure there is, what ever natural resources we have available to us, that we can continue to use them for the well-being of the people in central Newfoundland," she said.

Jones also asked if loggers and forestry workers would be included in task force plans

"Those workers have been included in all our discussions from Day 1," said Dunderdale.