

The Belize Times

Support For Chalillo Dam Construction

Dear Editor:

Please publish this letter to assure your people that in spite of current efforts by environmental radicals and self servers, not all Newfoundlanders are opposed to your Chalillo Dam Project.

Most of us Newfoundlanders like to mind our own business and we wish you well, because if it were not for electricity we would still be floundering around in the darkness and ignorance that plagued this lovely place for so many years.

Dear Sir, having read your publication in the Globe and Mail of Sept. 25th, 2001, I wish to add my voice in support of your undertaking at Chalillo. (Letter from Belize Government printed in the Globe) I come from a long line of hydro electrical power developers here in Newfoundland, specifically, what used to be The United Towns Electric Company and the Avalon Telephone Company. Both of these companies were developed by my Grandfather and my Father from the early 1900's to 1953. What is important here is the fact that it was electricity that really made the most significant impact, for good on the life of the people of Newfoundland.

It facilitated communication in a land whose development was hindered severely by the crushing isolation of its outport communities. With communication came education, economic development and a social interaction that brought this land out of the feudal state.

The isolation of your villages renders them weak, as was the case in Newfoundland before the coming of electricity and therefore, they are without the "basic amenities", as was our case here. Our health services were almost non-existent, and were left to the wiles of folk medicine, in many of our communities for the want of proper communication in time to save lives.

I taught Newfoundland Culture for many years in our high schools and it is not hard to see our similarities with Belize prior to hydro development. This is a reason why I am so disappointed to learn that there is an opposition to your efforts in Belize to improve the human condition. It is sad indeed to see Newfoundland entertainers like Greg Malone get involved with groups like NRDC and their self-centred views; views, which for the most part, are financed by the naive who, like the anti-seal hunt folks, ended up paying out a pension plan of several million dollars to Brian Davis their founder and chief executive officer. I hope you do not let these people exercise the same formula and make fortunes on the backs of your people who are in need of electricity.

People here in Newfoundland, who are protesting, should know, more than anyone, how demeaning it is to be with-

Continued on page B

The Belize Times

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Continued from page 4

out the benefits of electricity in this day and age of the computer, distance education and global communication. That they should contribute to such a backward effort and attempt to stifle your people, is reprehensible in the extreme and a disgrace to our community. It is unfortunate that we have to apologize for them.

It is to be hoped that you will stay the course and not be deterred by those who

would think only of their own well being, as they sit in their armchairs, clip their coupons and care not for the human condition of those less fortunate than themselves. Such people have extreme egos that need feeding and they care not whose way of life they ruin, as long as they get to look good on the evening news.

Kind regards,

David Murphy.

e-mail: djmurphy@roadrunner.nf.net

Attn: Ari

FAX # 202 289 1060