The Council of the Innu of
Pessamit

BY EMAIL : premierministre@quebec.ca
July 24, 2020
Mr. François Legault
Premier of Quebec
Honoré-Mercier Building, 3rd floor
835, boul. René-Lévesque East
Quebec (Quebec) GIA IB4

Dear Premier Legault,
Over the past hundred years or so, First Nations have borne the brunt of successive
hydroelectric developments that have allowed Quebec to industrialize and the majority of
its citizens to access a better quality of life. These successive and massive hydroelectric
developments in traditional territories have never translated into a better quality of life
for the members of the communities involved. On the contrary, the occupation without
warning and the irreversible industrialization of traditional territories has disrupted the
way of life and the socioeconomic balance of the communities.

These changes by Hydro-Québec have also profoundly changed the course of history by
violating, with impunity, ancestral rights and the spirit of the historic treaties entered into
with France and England. What is more, the contemptuous manner in which these projects

The Innu and Atikamekws have never been conquered, have never ceded their rights, nor
accepted the extinction of these rights. Currently, 33% of the total hydroelectric power
installed by Hydro-Québec comes from our territories protected by ancestral rights and
treaties. The illegitimate and unconstitutional seizure of these lands on the part of the
Quebec government and its Crown corporation for nearly a century must end. The same
is true of the appropriation of production income.
The opportunity to re-establish the balance of power between our First Nations,
governments, and Hydro-Québec has now arrived. This opportunity is even more
important given that Hydro-Québec’s export intentions are contested in the United States.
This is easily explained when we see that the residents of Maine would have to experience
the long term impacts of a transmission line to Massachusetts when they would derive
little or no benefit from it. The people of Maine find thems5(4(n)4t)5(r6(smi5oa4(o 9)-6o(e) Tm
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