

# MEDIA RELEASE

City of Williams Lake



## For Immediate Release

February 18, 2025

450 Mart Street  
Williams Lake, BC  
V2G 1N3

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### **Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions Adrian Dix Requests Additional Discussions Between Atlantic Power Corporation and BC Hydro**

The City of Williams Lake was encouraged to receive a letter from the Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions, Adrian Dix, during the weekend indicating he has requested BC Hydro to engage Atlantic Power Corporation to find a workable solution to the pending closure of its Williams Lake power plant.

“With just weeks remaining to secure a path forward for Atlantic Power Corporation, Council has exhausted every avenue to bring attention to the importance of this facility to our community and the province,” said Mayor Surinderpal Rathor. “With the assurance of the Minister and Premier, we are now leaving this in their hands to ensure a viable solution is found for not only our community, but for all British Columbians.”

As a result, the City has cancelled its planned delegation to Victoria to advocate on behalf of the community, which would have included Council members, staff, First Nations leaders, community business leaders and union representatives.

Rathor noted the City has been working tirelessly with the Province for the past year to resolve the issue and is disappointed just weeks remain before the plant is forced to permanently close.

“This was the key request of our Council and the community and, in good faith, we are taking the minister at his word that this will be dealt with appropriately with the speed and attention it requires,” Rathor said, expressing gratitude that the matter is now in the hands of the appropriate minister.

Atlantic Power Corporation’s Williams Lake plant supports approximately 30 full-time direct jobs and serves as a critical economic driver for local contract businesses, including those owned by First Nations.

In 2024, BC Hydro imported 13,600 gigawatt hours of electricity, at a cost of nearly \$1.4 billion.

“It makes sense to save a fully operational source of renewable energy within our jurisdiction rather than relying on purchasing power from Washington State during peak demand times,” Rathor said. “We have tremendous cross-sector support for finding a solution for the Williams Lake Power Plant.”

Rathor said if meaningful discussions do not materialize he wants the community to know the City has done everything possible to facilitate a positive, common-sense outcome based on the current and uncertain economic climate.

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February 15, 2025

Their Worship Mayor Surinderpal Rathor  
City of Williams Lake  
Email: [mayor@williamslake.ca](mailto:mayor@williamslake.ca)

Dear Mayor Rathor:

Thank you for your recent letters to the Ministers of Jobs, Economic Development, and Innovation; Energy and Climate Solutions; Forests; and Environment and Parks regarding Atlantic Power's Williams Lake Power Plant. I am pleased to reply on behalf of myself and my fellow Ministers. We understand the important role Atlantic Power's Williams Lake facility has played in your community, and we appreciate you sharing your concerns.

We have asked BC Hydro to engage in an additional discussion with Atlantic Power in an effort to determine whether the plant owners can operate the facility in a manner that would ensure it can meet its next four years of contractual obligations. We anticipate BC Hydro will seek assurance that the plant owners have identified adequate fuel sources and secured or will be securing the contractual deliveries of fuel they need to meet their generation requirements.

Low cost, reliable, sustainable electricity supply is an important priority for British Columbia, and my colleagues and I are working to support a variety of avenues and business opportunities across the Province, including Atlantic Power's continued operation. We will continue to work with Atlantic Power to support their discussions with relevant partners and fuel suppliers as Atlantic Power makes the economic decision that is right for them given the many values and considerations involved.

Their Worship Mayor Surinderpal Rathor  
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Thank you again for sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,



Adrian Dix  
Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions

pc: Honourable David Eby, KC  
Premier

Honourable Diana Gibson  
Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Honourable Ravi Parmar  
Minister of Forests

pc: Honourable Tamara Davidson  
Minister of Environment and Parks

Honourable Ravi Kahlon  
Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs

Honourable Jennifer Whiteside  
Minister of Labour