

Dispute over Sale of Seismic Data

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A Calgary-based seismic data company says it was very interested to hear recent comments from Premier Kathy Dunderdale about the province earning money from the sale of seismic data. GSI has collected data in the Newfoundland offshore and claims that through unfair competition, the province has forced the company's marine division out of business. Dunderdale told the St. John's Board of Trade last week that the province has already recovered \$30 million spent on offshore data collection through the sale of that data. GSI spokesperson Paul Einarsson claims government has an unfair advantage in that it has given the data his company collected away for free to promote the province, while it is selling its own data.

[\(listen to audio clip: 29S \)](#)

"The comment was made that it's very unrealistic to get a profit back in four months, well I can tell you that's absolutely true. Without the totalitarian leverage that a government has there's no way that anyway would get sales like that and get a return in such a short time frame, we're normally talking in the commercial world years before we even break even."

He accused the government of unfair, 'totalitarian' leverage.

The company has launched lawsuits against a number of government agencies, including regulatory bodies like the C-NLOPB. GSI is also appealing with the Supreme Court of Newfoundland, two failed Access to Information requests to see if Nalcor had access to, or possession of, any of their copyrighted and confidential information.