



Nfld. & Labrador

Criminal charges to proceed against reporter covering Muskrat Falls protests



Justin Brake followed protesters into the Muskrat Falls site, arguing he was covering a story

[Jacob Barker](#) · CBC News · Posted: Mar 12, 2018 3:19 PM NT | Last Updated: March 12, 2018



Reporter Justin Brake faces charges in both supreme and provincial court after following protesters into Muskrat Falls in October of 2016. (Jacob Barker/CBC)

A provincial court judge has ruled criminal charges against reporter Justin Brake will go ahead.

Brake is facing charges of mischief and disobeying a court order after he entered the Muskrat Falls hydroelectric project along with protesters in October of 2016. At the time, he worked for [theindependent.ca](#).

- [Journalist wants all charges dropped stemming from Muskrat Falls protests](#)
- [Reporter's right to cover story at heart of court case involving Muskrat Falls protest](#)

Brake is also facing civil contempt proceedings in Newfoundland and Labrador Supreme Court based on the same set of facts.

His lawyer Geoff Budden asked that the court stay the criminal proceedings. But Judge Wynne Anne Trahey did not agree.

"There is nothing to preclude civil contempt and criminal contempt actions from proceeding simultaneously," Trahey said in her ruling Monday.

"Civil contempt proceedings are intended to resolve issues between competing parties. Criminal matters are intended to address matters of public interest."

Brake's next date in provincial court is set for April 24.

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