

Presentation By:

**Displaced Residents of South Indian Lake,
Justice Seekers of Nelson House**

Dennis Troniak
Carol Kobliski
~~Joshua Flett~~
~~Frank Moore~~

**CEC Hearings
Wuskwatim Projects**

March 17, 2004
Winnipeg, Manitoba

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CAROL KOBLISKI CEC PRESENTATION NOTES: WINNIPEG

HELLO MY NAME IS CAROL KOBLISKI AND I AM HONORED TO COME HERE TO THE CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION HEARINGS ON THE WUSKWATIM GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION PROJECTS ON BEHALF OF THE TRADITIONAL ELDERS AND MANY CONCERNED MEMBERS OF NELSON HOUSE. I ALSO HAVE TWO TRADITIONAL ELDERS FROM NELSON HOUSE HERE WITH ME JOSHUA FLETT AND FRANK MOORE. WE ARE HERE TO VOICE A NUMBER CONCERNS WE HAVE ABOUT THE WUSKWATIM PROJECTS AND THE PROCESS FOLLOWED TO DATE TO FASTTRACK DECISIONS IN OUR COOMUNITY REGARDING THESE PROJECTS.

WE HAVE FORMED AN ASSOCIATION CALLED JUSTICE SEEKERS OF NELSON HOUSE TO ADVOCATE FOR FAIRNESS, OPENNESS, TRANSPARENCY AND HONESTY ABOUT ALL ASPECTS OF THE WUSKWATIM PROJECTS. THE LEADERSHIP OF OUR CREE NATION MUST ANSWER QUESTIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY AND TO OUR PEOPLE. THEY MUST ALSO PROVIDE CLEAR INFORMATION ABOUT THE BUSINESS DEALS THEY ARE MAKING WITH MANITOBA HYDRO.

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE IT VERY CLEAR THAT THE TRADITIONAL ELDERS AND MANY MEMBERS OF NELSON HOUSE HAVE SERIOUS CONCERNS AND RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES AND THE IMPACTS OF THE WUSKWATIM DAM AND THE TRANSMISSION PROJECTS. DESPITE WHAT JERRY PRIMROSE SAYS – WE ARE NOT ECONOMIC TERRORISTS FOR EXPRESSING OUR CONCERNS. WE LIVE IN CANADA, A COUNTRY THAT IS OFTEN REFERED TO INTERNATIONALLY AS A PLACE THAT HIGHLY CHERISHES ITS TOLERANCE, FAIRNESS, FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ITS PROTECTION OF DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS.

WE – THE JUSTICE SEEKERS OF NCN- ARE FIGHTING FOR THESE THINGS FOR ALL MEMBERS OF NCN AND IT IS VERY SAD AND UNFORTUNATE THAT WE ARE BEING BRANDED. MANY OTHER CONCERNED PEOPLE WHO ARE ENDURING VERY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES BECAUSE THEY ASK QUESTIONS ARE WITH US IN BEING BRANDED.

WE SUPPORT THE PUBLIC REQUEST BY THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE DISPLACED RESIDENTS OF SOUTH INDIAN LAKE THAT CHIEF PRIMROSE PUBLICLY APOLOGIZE FOR HIS WORDS AND ACTIONS. THIS APOLOGY BY CHIEF PRIMROSE SHOULD BE MADE TO THE CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION AND ALL THOSE WHO ARE PARTICIPATING IN THESE HEARINGS. COMMENTS LIKE THESE ONLY

SERVE TO DIVIDE AND ALIENATE PEOPLE WHEN WE SHOULD BE CONSULTING AND DISCUSSING OUR DIFFERENCES IN A MATURE AND CIVILIZED MANNER.

I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT CHIEF PRIMROSE WAS ONLY SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF HIMSELF AND POSSIBLY THE COUNCIL OF NCN AND NOT THE PEOPLE OF NCN. FOR THE RECORD IT WAS NOT THE FUR LOBBY BUT MANITOBA HYDRO'S CHURCHILL RIVER DIVERSION THAT FLOODED OUT AND DESTROYED MANY OF THE TRAPLINES IN NORTHERN MANITOBA, INCLUDING THOSE OF NCN AND SOUTH INDIAN LAKE FAMILIES.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE DISPLACED RESIDENTS OF SOUTH INDIAN LAKE FOR ALLOWING ME TO PRESENT WITH THEM TODAY. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THEM AND CASIL FOR THEIR STRONG CROSS EXAMINATIONS OF OUR LEADERSHIP AND MANITOBA HYDRO EARLIER IN THESE PROCEEDINGS. THE NCN MEMBERS AND OTHERS OF SOUTH INDIAN LAKE AND THOSE REPRESENTED BY THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE DISPLACED RESIDENTS OF SOUTH INDIAN LAKE, LIKE MANY OF US HAVE SUFFERED GREATLY FROM PAST HYDRO DEVELOPMENT. THE ACTIONS OF MANITOBA HYDRO AND THE PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS WHO EITHER ALLOWED OR ENCOURAGED HYDRO DEVELOPMENT TO

HAPPEN IN THE NAME OF PROFIT SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE. THE CONTINUING ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THESE PAST HYDRO PROJECTS - WERE TO BE ADDRESSED UNDER THE SPIRIT, INTENT AND TERMS OF THE NORTHERN FLOOD AGREEMENT - HAVE LARGELY BEEN IGNORED AND NOT ADDRESSED. MANITOBA HYDRO AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA AND MANITOBA HAVE EMBARKED ON A POLICY OF BUYING OUT THEIR OBLIGATIONS AT AS LOW A PRICE AS POSSIBLE. IN NELSON HOUSE WE SIGNED OUR BUY OUT AGREEMENT IN 1996 AFTER, AS OUR CHIEF HAS SAID, WE WERE TIRED OF FIGHTING. BUT EVEN THE MASTER IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT IS NOT BEING IMPLEMENTED. WHERE ARE THE JOBS AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS THAT WERE TO ACCOMPANY OUR NFA IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK DR. PETER KULCHYSKI FOR HIS PRESENTATION YESTERDAY. I AM GLAD THAT A NUMBER OF NCN MEMBERS AND THE OTHERS ATTENDING THIS HEARINGS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR HIM SPEAK. HIS COMMENTS WERE NOT PATERNALISTIC AND IT IS UNFORTUNATE, BUT NOT SURPRIZING, THAT ELVIS THOMAS IS ATTEMPTING TO PLAY THE RACE CARD TO TRY TO DEFLECT AND DETER QUESTIONING OF THE WUSKWATIM PROJECTS AND THE DEALS BEING MADE BY CHIEF PRIMROSE, NCN COUNCIL AND MANITOBA HYDRO.

WE CAME HERE TODAY TO THE WUSKWATIM HEARINGS, WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER NCN BAND MEMBERS BECAUSE WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT OUR TREATY AND ABORIGINAL RIGHTS AND THE POTENTIAL NEGATIVE SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS THE WUSKWATIM DAM AND TRANSMISSION PROJECTS WILL HAVE ON OUR PEOPLE. WE ARE ALSO VERY CONCERNED WITH THE PROPOSED LIMITED PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT THAT IS BEING SOLD TO OUR PEOPLE. THIS SALES PITCH INCLUDES THE AGREEMENT ITSELF AND THE THINGS BEING DONE TO ENSURE THAT WE AGREE TO IT.

WE HAVE GRAVE CONCERNS WITH HOW OUR CHIEF AND COUNCIL HAVE BEEN CONDUCTING THEMSELVES IN THIS PROCESS. THEY ARE PUSHING THESE PROJECTS TOO FAST WITHOUT PROPER AND THOROUGH CONSULTATION WITH THE PEOPLE. OUR PEOPLE ARE NOT READY TO FULLY ASSESS AND UNDERSTAND THE ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES AND CHANGES THAT WE WILL FACE AND HAVE TO DEAL WITH. WE HAVE NOT BEEN PROVIDED WITH FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND THANK THE CEC FOR MAKING MORE OF THAT INFORMATION AVAILABLE. *WE ALSO THANK THE CEC FOR ASKING, AND ALLOWING, TOUGH QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED AT THESE HEARINGS ON THE BUSINESS DEALS BEING MADE BETWEEN OUR CHIEF*

AND COUNCIL AND MANITOBA HYDRO. THESE ARE OF INTEREST TO ALL MANITOBANS NOT JUST NCN MEMBERS.

WE ALSO STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT OUR CHIEF AND COUNCIL ARE IN A CONFLICT OF INTEREST. HOW CAN CHIEF AND COUNCIL DEFEND OUR ABORIGINAL AND TREATY RIGHTS WHEN THEY ARE CO-PROPONENTS AND PARTNERS WITH MANITOBA HYDRO? WHO WILL ENSURE THAT OUR ENVIRONMENT WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF AND RESPECTED. THESE ISSUES WERE RAISED IN THE PRESENTATION BY DR. PETER KULCHYSKI YESTERDAY

THE CO-PROPONENT STATUS OF NCN ON THIS PROJECT WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WE VOTED ON AND BEING A CO PROPONENT WAS NEVER PUT TO OR AGREED TO BY NCN BAND MEMBERS. *I WOULD LIKE ANYONE TO SHOW ME WHERE IN THE AIP IT MENTIONS CO-PROPONENT STATUS FOR NCN.* I FEEL THAT THIS MAKES ANY CLAIMS OF NCN BEING CO PROPONENTS ILLEGITIMATE. *THIS QUESTION SHOULD HAVE BEEN PUT TO THE NCN BAND MEMBERSHIP IN A CLEAR AND FAIR MANNER TO DECIDE.*

THE CONSULTATION PROCESS FOLLOWED TO DATE ON WUSKWATIM WITH NCN MEMBERS HAS BEEN SRIOUSLY DEFICIENT. ANY TRUE DEBATE AND QUESTIONNING OF THE WUSKWATIM AGREEMENT AND

DEALS BETWEEN OUR CHIEF AND COUNCIL AND MANITOBA HYDRO HAS BEEN STIFLED. RESOURCES PROVIDED TO CONSULT WITH OUR PEOPLE ONLY GO TO THOSE WHO APPEAR TO SUPPORT THE PROJECT OR ARE PAID TO SUPPORT THEIR POSITION AND TRY TO SELL IT TO OTHER NCN MEMBERS. INFORMATION THAT HAS BEEN PROVIDED HAS BEEN VAGUE WITH NON COMMITMENTS OR OBLIGATIONS QUALIFIED WITH WORDS SUCH AS "MAY" OR "CAN". FOR EXAMPLE, THE OCTOBER 2003 WUSKWATIM SUMMARY OF UNDERSTANDINGS SIGNED BY NCN AND MANITOBA HYDRO IS NON BINDING WITH NO GUARANTEES TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF NCN.

THE SUMMARY OF UNDERSTANDINGS AGREEMENT HAS BEEN CRITICALLY EXAMINED DURING THESE HEARINGS AND FROM MY READING OF THE TRANSCRIPTS HAS SHOWN TO BE INADEQUATE AS A BASIS FOR ANY FINAL PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT TO BE PROPERLY CONSIDERED.

IT IS STATED BOTH IN THE DOCUMENT, AND CONFIRMED DURING THESE HEARINGS, THAT THE SUMMARY OF UNDERSTANDINGS IS NON BINDING BUT IS EXPECTED TO GENERALLY BE WHAT THE FINAL PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WILL BE. ELVIS THOMAS HAS STATED THAT ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT, BASED ON THE SUMMARY OF UNDERSTANDINGS

DOCUMENT WIL BE SHARED AND EXPLAINED TO ALL NCN MEMBERS. IS THIS THE REASON WHY THE WUSKWATIM SUMMARY OF UNDERSTANDINGS, AND ULTIMATELY THE FINAL PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT, ARE VAGUE AND GENERAL WITH THE REAL IMPORTANT BINDING AGREEMENTS TO BE NEGOTIATED AFTER WE VOTE, AND PRESUMABLY ACCEPT, THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT? ALL NCN BAND MEMBERS ARE ENTITLED TO KNOW ABOUT AND VOTE ON ALL AGREEMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE WUSKWATIM GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION PROJECTS PRIOR TO PROJECT APPROVAL AND CONSTRUCTION STARTS. WE ARE BEING ASKED TO PROVIDE OUR CONSENT TO SOMETHING THAT WILL HAVE TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON OUR LIVES AND FUTURES WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT WE ARE ACTUALLY AGREEING TO AND THE POTENTIAL FUTURE CONSEQUENCES. WE SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW AND VOTE ON THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT AND ALL THE ASSOCIATED AGREEMENTS IDENTIFIED IN THE SUMMARY OF UNDERSTANDINGS AT THE SAME TIME AND PRIOR TO ANY APPROVALS OR LICENCES ARE PROVIDED FOR WUSKWATIM. *WE WANT THIS IN WRITING FROM THE PROVINCE AS WE DO NOT TRUST THE WORD OF MANITOBA HYDRO AND OUR CHIEF AND COUNCIL.*

THERE HAVE NOT BEEN ANY OPEN BAND MEETINGS WHERE OUR PEOPLE CAN OPENLY DEBATE THE PROS AND CONS OF THE PROJECT OR NCN BEING CO-PROPONENTS. NO FORUM EXISTS FOR NCN MEMBERS TO HAVE THEIR VOICES AND CONCERNS HEARD. *THERE HAS NOT BEEN A GENERAL BAND MEETING IN NELSON HOUSE SINCE JULY OF 2003.* SMALL MEETINGS WITH ISOLATED GROUPS AND THE WINING AND DINING OF INDIVIDUALS TO GIVE THEM THE HARD SELL WITHOUT BEING ALLOWED TO ASK QUESTIONS TO ME DOES NOT CONSTITUTE ADEQUATE CONSULTATION. THIS CLEARLY IS NOT A DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND WAS NOT INTENDED TO BE ONE.

MANY QUESTIONS ARE BEING ASKED. WHO IS PROTECTING OUR ABORIGINAL AND TREATY RIGHTS? WHY IS THERE NO NFA COMPENSATION AGREEMENT IN PLACE REGARDING WUSKWATIM? CERTAINLY , OUR CHIEF AND COUNCIL AND THEIR LAWYERS, WHO ARE NEGOTIATING WITH MANITOBA HYDRO AND THE GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA ARE NOT ENSURING THAT OUR RIGHTS AND BEST INTERESTS ARE BEING PROTECTED? I AM NOT A LAWYER BUT IN MY OPINION IT CERTAINLY CAN BE STRONGLY ARGUED THAT CLEARLY IF NOT LEGALLY, MORALLY AND ETHICALLY OUR CHIEF AND COUNCIL AND THEIR LEGAL COUNSEL ARE IN A CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

WE ALSO NEED TO KNOW WHETHER THE PROCESS FOLLOWED FOR THE WUSKWATIM PROJECTS IS IN BREACH OF ARTICLE 8.4.3 OF THE NELSON HOUSE NFA MASTER IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT WHICH STATES:

“IT IS THE BEST INTEREST OF NELSON HOUSE AND HYDRO TO FULLY ASSESS AND FINALIZE COMPENSATION ISSUES PRIOR TO FORMAL COMMENCEMENT OF ANY FEDERAL OR PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND LICENSING PROCESS”

THIS INCLUDES ARE NCN BAND MEMBERS INCLUDING THOSE AT SOUTH INDIAN LAKE AND THE DISPLACED RESIDENTS OF SOUTH INDIAN LAKE. WE WANT INDEPENDENT LEGAL COUNSEL, SEPARATE FROM CHIEF AND COUNCIL TO PROVIDE AN INDEPENDENT LEGAL OPINION AS TO WHETHER OUR CHIEF AND COUNCIL AND MANITOBA HYDRO ARE IN BREACH OF ARTICLE 8.4.3.

MANY OF US ARE VERY CONCERNED AND TROUBLED WITH THE THINGS BEING DONE AND THE MONEY BEING THROWN AROUND TO TRY TO BUY SUPPORT FOR THIS PROJECT. THE PROCESS AND ACTIONS TO SELL WUSKWATIM TO OUR PEOPLE ARE BEING DRIVEN BY THE OUTSIDE SUPPORTED BY CHIEF AND COUNCIL AND THEIR LEGAL COUNSEL. MANITOBA HYDRO PAYS ALL CONSULTANTS AND THEIR ADVISORS TO DO WHAT IS NECESSARY IN THEIR MINDS TO SELL

WUSKWATIM. THIS IS NOT INDEPENDENT LEGAL COUNSEL OR CONSULTING SUPPORT.

WHAT WE NEED IS A HEALTHY DEMOCRATIC DEBATE WITH HONESTY, FAIRNESS AND TRANSPARENCY. ALL NCN BAND MEMBERS ARE ENTITLED TO BE TREATED WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY AND HAVE ACCESS TO ALL RELEVANT INFORMATION ON THIS PROJECT. WE SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO THE SHAM CONSULTATION PROCESS THAT HAS BEEN FOLLOWED TO DATE. OUR NCN MEMBERS WHO ARE CONCERNED AND WANT TO RAISE QUESTIONS AND HAVE OUR VOICES HEARD ARE PROVIDED NO RESOURCES TO PROPERLY VOICE OUR OPINIONS AND CONCERNS. THE FACT IS IT SEEMS THAT MANITOBA HYDRO AND THE MANITOBA GOVERNMENT ARE SPENDING UNLIMITED PUBLIC FUNDS TO SELL THIS PROJECT.

WE HAVE ASKED HOW MUCH OF THE OVER \$4.2 MILLION OUR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION RECEIVES ANNUALLY FROM MANITOBA HYDRO AND THE GOVERNMENT IS BEING USED FOR WUSKWATIM PROMOTION PURPOSES. ON THE FIRST DAY OF THESE HEARINGS MR. MAYER MADE REFERENCE TO THE CURRENT FEDERAL SPONSORSHIP SCANDAL. I HOPE WE DO NOT HAVE A SIMILAR SITUATION WITH WUSKWATIM. MANY NCN MEMBERS ARE AFRAID TO RAISE THEIR CONCERNS AND QUESTION FOR FEAR OF REPRISALS.

ALL OF YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND OUR CONCERNS GIVEN THAT OUR CHIEF HAS BRANDED ANYONE WHO DISAGREES WITH HIS SUPPORT OF THE WUSKWATIM PROJECT AN ECONOMIC TERRORIST.

I WOULD LIKE TO SPEND A FEW MINUTES TALKING ABOUT HOW OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN MISLED BY OUR CHIEF AND COUNCIL AND MANITOBA HYDRO ABOUT THE WUSKWATIM HYDRO AND TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECTS. MANY OF THESE CONCERNS I RAISED IN MY LETTER IN SEPTEMBER 2003 TO MR. TERRY DUGUID, FORMER CHAIR OF THE CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION. THE LETTER WAS WRITTEN IN SUPPORT OF THE REQUEST OF MR. ANGUS DYSART, PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE DISPLACED RESIDENTS OF SOUTH INDIAN LAKE, TO HAVE THE CEC GRANT THE MOTION OF PIMICHIMAK CREE NATION TO HAVE THE SCOPE OF THESE HEARINGS INCLUDE A REVIEW OF PAST HYDRO DEVELOPMENT IN MANITOBA AND THEIR CUMULATIVE IMPACTS. AT THAT TIME I REQUESTED THAT MY LETTER BE PLACED ON THE RECORD FOR THESE HEARINGS AND I HAVE COPIES OF MY LETTER AND I AM FORMALLY REQUESTING AGAIN THAT IT BE PLACED ON THE RECORD FOR THESE HEARINGS. AS EVIDENCE, MR. DENNIS TRONIAK, AND THE EXECUTIVE FOR THE DISPLACED RESIDENTS OF SOUTH INDIAN LAKE, SUPPORT AND ENDORSE MY REQUEST.

FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE TO CLARIFY A FEW THINGS ABOUT THE WUSKWATIM AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE (AIP) AND THE VOTE TO RATIFY IT. *AS I MENTIONED EARLIER*, NO WHERE IN THE AIP OR AT ANY TIME IN THE CAMPAIGN LEADING UP TO THE VOTE WAS THE POSSIBILITY OF NCN BEING CO PROPONENTS WITH MANITOBA HYDRO ON WUSKWATIM EVER MENTIONED!! CHIEF AND COUNCIL AND THEIR LEGAL COUNSEL, MADE THIS DECISION WITHOUT CONSULTING OR ASKING FOR THE CONSENT OF NCN MEMBERS. MANY OF US HAVE ASKED THE HYDRO CONSULTANTS WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON WUSKWATIM TO US ABOUT THIS, WE WERE TOLD DON'T WORRY IT DOES NOT MEAN ANYTHING IT IS ONLY FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEARINGS.

OUR CHIEF AND COUNCIL ARE MISLEADING THE CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION AND THE PUBLIC BY SAYING THAT THE REFERENDUM OUR PEOPLE RATIFIED FOR THE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE (AIP) SHOWS THAT WE AS NCN MEMBERS ARE SUPPORTING THE WUSKWATIM PROJECT AND US BEING CO PROPONENTS OVERWHELMINGLY. *I UNDERSTAND THAT TWO DAYS AGO UNATHORIZED REVISED AIP VOTING RESULTS WERE TABLED WITH THIS HEARING TO REPLACE THOSE PREVIOUSLY FILED. IN REVIEWING A COPY OF THE NEW FILED RESULTS I NOTICED THAT THEY WERE NOT AUTHORIZED BY AN ELECTION RETURNING OFFICER OR TOTHER*

INDEPENDENT ELECTION OFFICIAL AND I AM REQUESTING THAT THE CEC ASK FOR VALIDATION OF THOSE RESULTS.

FROM THE INFORMATION AND ASSURANCES PROVIDED BY OUR CHIEF AND COUNCIL OUR PEOPLE WERE LED TO BELIEVE THAT RATIFICATION OF THE AIP ONLY MEANT THAT WE WOULD ALLOW OUR LEADERS TO DISCUSS WITH MANITOBA HYDRO THE POSSIBILITY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION. IN TURN, THEY WOULD PROVIDE US WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS AND THE COMPENSATION PACKAGE THAT WOULD BE PART OF ANOTHER REFERENDUM TO ACCEPT THE PROJECT OR NOT.

ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE AIP REFERENDUM IS ALSO TROUBLING AND CAUSING WIDESPREAD CONCERN IN OUR COMMUNITY. ALL OF US WERE LED TO BELIEVE THAT WE WERE BEING ASKED TO PROVIDE PERMISSION FOR OUR CHIEF AND COUNCIL TO CONTINUE PRELIMINARY NEGOTIATIONS ON THE WUSKWATIM PROJECT AND ITS ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES TO ONLY DELIVER POWER TO THE NEAREST POWER GRID, THE PROPOSED BIRCHTREE STATION. NOW WE HEAR THAT THE WUSKWATIM PROJECTS WILL HAVE ANOTHER NEW TRANSMISSION LINE THAT'S CUTS ACROSS OUR TRADITIONAL TERRITORY. HOW MANY TRANSMISSION LINES ARE THERE – AND HOW MANY TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES AND TRAPLINES

WILL BE AFFECTED? WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT ONE LINE IS THE WIDTH OF THE LENGTH OF A FOOTBALL FIELD. WHAT IMPACT WILL THESE CLEAR-CUT LINES HAVE ON OUR RESOURCE AREA? WILL THE MOOSE AND WHITETAIL DEER MIGRATE WITH THOSE TICKS THAT AFFECT THE POPULATION DOWN SOUTH? WILL THEY AFFECT OUR WOODLAND CARIBOU POPULATION? WILL MORE HUNTERS FROM THE SOUTH TRAVEL IN THESE NEW TRANSMISSION CORRIDORS DURING THE WINTERS?

MANITOBA HYDRO AND THEIR CUSTOMERS HERE AND IN THE UNITED STATES ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ISSUE OF "SYSTEM RELIABILITY". *I UNDERSTAND THAT THE ISSUE OF WHETHER MANITOBA HYDRO HAS SYSTEM RELIABILITY AVAILABLE TO THEM TO ENSURE UNINTERRUPTED POWER FROM THE NORTH TO SOUTHERN MANITOBA AND FOR EXPORT WILL BE DISCUSSED LATER IN THESE HEARINGS. A FEW YEARS AGO WE REMEMBER WHEN A TWISTER CROSSED HIGHWAY NUMBER 6 AND MANITOBA HYDRO LOST 75% OF THEIR GENERATION THROUGH THESE TRANSMISSION CORRIDORS, WHICH RUN PARALLEL TO THE HIGHWAY. WHAT IS "SYSTEM RELIABILITY" TO MANITOBA HYDRO? WHAT IS THE VALUE OF SYSTEM RELIABILITY? IT MAKES YOU WONDER IF THE REAL MOTIVE OF MANITOBA HYDRO TO FASTTRACK THE WUSKWATIM PROJECTS AND ADD EXTRA TRANSMISSION LINES IS TO HAVE AN ALTERNATE*

TRANSMISSION ROUTE TO DELIVER POWER DOWN SOUTH. IT SEEMS ALL THE FOCUS IS ON THE WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION BUT WHAT ABOUT THE NEW TRANSMISSION CORRIDOR FROM BIRCHTREE STATION THROUGH OUR TERRITORY DOWN TO THE PAS? WHY ARE THERE THREE TRANSMISSION LINES ASSOCIATED WITH WUSKWATIM WHEN ONE SHOULD BE ENOUGH?

WE ARE HOPING AND COUNTING ON THE CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION TO ENSURE THAT ALL THESE ISSUES AND THE MANY OTHERS RAISED ARE THOROUGHLY ASSESSED AND ENOUGH TIME IS PROVIDED EVEN IF IT MEANS EXTENDING THESE HEARINGS.

OUR CHIEF AND COUNCIL, MANITOBA HYDRO AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES LIKE MINISTER TIM SALE ARE STATING PUBLICLY THAT WE AS NCN MEMBERS FULLY SUPPORT THIS PROJECT. HOW CAN WE, OR BE EXPECTED TO, BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE A REASONED DECISION ON WHETHER WE SUPPORT THE WUSKWATIM PROJECT IF WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT THE IMPACTS ARE, WHEN AND IF FIRM PROFITS CAN BE EXPECTED AND THE AMOUNT, THE FINANCIAL RISKS INVOLVED, POTENTIAL ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND WHAT COMPENSATION WE WILL RECEIVE.

THE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO NCN MEMBERS FROM NCN CHIEF AND COUNCIL, MANITOBA HYDRO AND THE CONSULTANTS HIRED TO COMMUNICATE WITH US IS OFTEN VAGUE, INCOMPLETE AND OFTEN CONTRADICTORY. THIS, PLUS THE ACTIONS TO FASTTRACK THIS PROJECT HAS CREATED A LOT OF ANXIETY, FEAR AND SUSPICION IN OUR COMMUNITY. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT OUR FUTURE AND OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS AND WE REMEMBER THE FALSE PROMISES OF HOPE AND PROSPERITY MADE BY MANITOBA HYDRO AND THE GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA. WE DO NOT WANT IT TO HAPPEN AGAIN. THESE PAST FALSE PROMISES WERE ACCOMPANIED BY CLAIMS THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE CHURCHILL NELSON RIVER HYDRO PROJECT WERE NOT REALLY KNOWN BUT MANITOBA HYDRO WAS CONFIDENT THAT THEY WOULD BE LIMITED AND MANAGEABLE. IN READING THE TRANSCRIPTS OF THESE HEARINGS, READING THE WINNIPEG FREE PRESS, AND TALKING TO THOSE WHO HAVE ATTENDED HERE IN PERSON I SEE A LOT OF THE SAME ASSURANCES BEING MADE BY MANITOBA HYDRO. THEY APPEAR CONFIDENT IN THEIR FORECASTS AND ASSESSMENTS OF ANY POTENTIAL FUTURE IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE WUSKWATIM PROJECT. *I HOPE THE ACCURACY OF THESE FORECASTS WIL BE THOROUGHLY EXAMINED AND QUESTIONED DURING THESE HEARINGS.*

I ALSO QUESTION WHETHER OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN MISLED TO BELIEVE THAT INCOME PROJECTIONS FOR NCN FROM THE WUSKWATIM DAM BY 2035 WILL BE UP TO \$35 MILLION A YEAR. YET MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT MANITOBA HYDRO'S MAIN CUSTOMER FOR EXPORTS, XCEL ENERGY RENEWED ITS CURRENT CONTRACT ONLY UNTIL 2015. WHEN I ATTENDED THE XCEL ENERGY ANNUAL SHAREHOLDERS MEETING IN JUNE 2003 IN MINNEAPOLIS WITH A NUMBER OF ELDERS AND CONCERNED NCN BAND MEMBERS FROM OUR COMMUNITY AND SOUTH INDIAN LAKE I LEARNED THAT FOR MANITOBA HYDRO AND XCEL ENERGY TO GET REGULATORY APPROVAL FOR THE CONTRACT THEY HAD TO CONVINCED THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION THAT THE CONTRACT DID NOT INVOLVE ANY NEW CONSTRUCTION OF HYDRO. THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION WAS ASSURED THAT THE EXTENSION OF THE EXISTING EXPORT CONTRACT BETWEEN XCEL ENERGY AND MANITOBA HYDRO WOULD NOT INVOLVE MORE HYDRO DAM CONSTRUCTION SUCH AS WUSKWATIM AND ONLY INVOLVED THE SELLING OF POWER BEING GENERATED FROM EXISTING DAMS. I BELIEVE THE APPEAL HEARING IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY, PERHAPS THE CEC SHOULD FIND OUT ITS STATUS.

THE PRESS IN MINNESOTA, INCLUDING THE ST. PAUL PIONEER PRESS, THE WINNER OF THREE PULITZER PRIZES FOR JOURNALISM, HAS

REPORTED THAT XCEL ENERGY IN THE UNITED STATES, MANITOBA HYDRO'S BIGGEST EXPORT CUSTOMER PURCHASING OVER 40% OF THEIR POWER, HAS STATED THAT THEY ARE PLANNING TO PURCHASE LESS AND NOT MORE POWER FROM MANITOBA HYDRO IN THE FUTURE. DURING THESE HEARINGS AND PUBLICLY MANITOBA HYDRO AND THE PREMIER OF MANITOBA HAVE STATED THAT FURTHER HYDRO DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS LIKE WUSKWATIM ARE BEING BUILT FOR THE EXPORTING OF POWER, WITH WUSKWATIM BEING BUILT TO EXPORT POWER TO THE UNITED STATES, PRESUMABLY PRIMARILY TO XCEL ENERGY. WHY ARE TWO DIFFERENT STORIES BEING TOLD DEPENDING ON WHAT SIDE OF THE U.S. / CANADA BORDER YOU LIVE IN? I UNDERSTAND THAT ON MARCH 15, 2003 AT THESE HEARINGS MR. KEN ADAMS STATED THAT IN MEETINGS HE HELD WITH XCEL ENERGY ON FRIDAY MARCH 12, 2003 HE WAS ASSURED THAT XCEL WAS PLANNING TO BUY MORE POWER FROM MANITOBA HYDRO IN THE FUTURE. *I AM REQUESTING THAT MANITOBA HYDRO HAVE THAT CONFIRMED IN WRITING IMMEDIATELY AND TABLE IT WITH THE CEC FOR THESE HEARINGS. VAGUE ASSURANCES AND PROMISES OR THE WORD OF MANITOBA HYDRO SHOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED AS FACT THAT XCEL WILL SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE IT POWER PURCHASES FROM MANITOBA HYDRO.*

WE SHOULD ALSO MAKE SURE THAT BOTH MANITOBA HYDRO AND THE GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA ARE SAYING THE SAME THINGS ABOUT EXPORTING POWER FROM WUSKWATIM.

DURING THE EVENING DEBATE OF THE FEBRUARY 23, 2004 HYDRO FORUM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG MINISTER TIM SALE REPEATEDLY STATED THAT WUSKWATIM AND OTHER HYDRO PROJECTS ARE BEING PLANNED TO PROFIT FROM FUTURE EXPORT MARKETS. I HAVE A RECORDED AUDIOTAPE OF THE FEBRUARY 23 EVENING DEBATE PROVIDED BY THE FORUM ORGANIZERS WHICH I WOULD LIKE NOW TO SUBMIT TO THE CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION TO BE PLACED ON THE RECORD OF THESE HEARINGS. I WOULD ALSO STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO LISTEN TO THE PRESENTATIONS MADE BY ROMEO SAGANASH OF THE QUEBEC GRAND COUNCIL OF CREES, DAVID CHARTRAND, PRESIDENT OF THE MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION, AND DR. PAUL CHARTRAND, LAW PROFESSOR FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN WHO WAS ONE OF THE PRIMARY AUTHORS OF THE NORTHERN FLOOD AGREEMENT. THE QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS POSED TO MINISTER TIM SALE ARE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT, THEY REPRESENT A WIDE CROSS SECTION OF DIFFERENT VIEWS AND OPINIONS ON THE WUSKWATIM PROJECT, PAST HYDRO DEVELOPMENT AND WHAT MANITOBA HYDRO AND THE GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA SAY THEY

ARE DOING TO REDRESS THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVASTATION THEY HAVE CAUSED AND REFUSE TO ADEQUATELY DEAL WITH. THE TONE OF THE QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO MR. SALE RANGED FROM FRUSTRATION TO ANGER AS HE DEFENDED MANITOBA HYDRO AND TRIED TO SELL THE MERITS OF WUSKWATIM TO THE AUDIENCE.

A FEW NCN MEMBERS, NOT SUPPORTED BY OUR CHIEF AND COUNCIL, WERE ABLE TO COME TO THE FORUM TO LISTEN AND LEARN ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON IN MANITOBA AND QUEBEC IN REGARDS TO HYDRO DEVELOPMENT. WE ALSO WERE ABLE TO LEARN ABOUT THE NEW PARTNERSHIPS AND WAY OF DOING BUSINESS BETWEEN HYDRO QUEBEC AND THE CREE OF QUEBEC. UNFORTUNATELY MANITOBA HYDRO DID NOT ATTEND THE FORUM SO WE WERE UNABLE TO LEARN AND QUESTION THE WAY THEY ARE PLANNING TO FOSTER NEW PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE CREE OF NORTHERN MANITOBA. I UNDERSTAND ASSURANCES WERE GIVEN TO THE FORUM ORGANIZERS BY MR. VIC SCHROEDER, CHAIRMAN OF THE OF THE BOARD OF MANITOBA HYDRO THAT THE UTILITY WOULD PARTICIPATE. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY ORGANIZERS OF THE FORUM THAT MANITOBA HYDRO EVEN TRIED TO GET HYDRO QUEBEC NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE AND TRIED TO HAVE THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG NOT TO HOST THE FORUM. THIS FROM A

CROWN CORPORATION THAT PROFESSES TO BE OPEN, FAIR AND TRANSPARENT WITH NOTHING TO HIDE FROM THE PUBLIC.

IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT OVER 20 NCN MEMBERS, OUR CHIEF AND COUNCIL ARE SUPPORTING TO COME DOWN TO THIS HEARING AND GO TO THE UNITED STATES TO SAY WHAT MANITOBA HYDRO WANTS THEM TO SAY WERE NOT SENT TO THE FEBRUARY FORUM. THEY WOULD HAVE LEARNED WHAT IS HAPPENING IN PLACES LIKE QUEBEC. THIS IS THE TYPE OF EDUCATION AND INFORMATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES OUR PEOPLE NEED AND DESERVE - NOT THE INCOMPLETE, VAGUE AND OFTEN QUESTIONABLE INFORMATION THAT IS BEING FED TO US AS PART OF THE "HARD SELL" OF WUSKWATIM.

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY A FEW THINGS ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG FORUM. *I STRONGLY DISAGREE WITH THE STATEMENTS MADE AT THESE HEARINGS ON MARCH 15, 2003 BY ELVIS THOMAS AND MANITOBA HYDRO THAT THE QUEBEC EXPERIENCE IS NOT RELEVANT FOR NCN. DR. PETER KULCHYSKI MENTIONED A FEW OF THEM IN HIS PRESENTATION YESTERDAY. LIKE MANITOBA, QUEBEC HAS AN OVERALL MASTER AGREEMENT TREATY BETWEEN FIRST NATION PEOPLE AND A CROWN OWNED HYDRO UTILITY TO DEAL WITH THE IMPACTS AND CONCERNS OF HYDRO DEVELOPMENT. IN MANITOBA THIS IS THE*

NORTHERN FLOOD AGREEMENT AND IN QUEBEC IT IS THE JAMES BAY AGREEMENT. AT THE FORUM I LEARNED THAT THERE ARE A LOT SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE EXPERIENCES AND SITUATION IN QUEBEC AND MANITOBA. IN BOTH PROVINCES LARGE AGGRESSIVE HYDRO DEVELOPMENT EXPANSION IN THE 1970'S LED TO GREAT ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS FOR THE LOCAL ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES AND PEOPLE. BOTH PROVINCES HAVE MAJOR AGREEMENTS TO DEAL WITH THE IMPACTS, IN MANITOBA – THE NORTHERN FLOOD AGREEMENT TREATY, IN QUEBEC – THE JAMES BAY AGREEMENT. IN BOTH PROVINCES THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE CROWN OWNED HYDRO UTILITIES WERE SUCCESSFUL IN EFFECTIVELY TYING UP COMPENSATION CLAIMS AND COMMITMENTS MADE UNDER THE AGREEMENTS IN COSTLY AND TIME CONSUMING MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION. IN BOTH PROVINCES THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE PUBLIC UTILITIES EMBARKED ON A POLICY OF TRYING TO NEGOTIATE SEPARATE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS WITH INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITIES, IN MANITOBA THESE WERE THE SO CALLED MASTER IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENTS IN THE 1990'S WHICH MANY OF US CHARACTERIZE AS “BUY-OUT” AGREEMENTS. IN FACT, IN QUEBEC IN 1990, AFTER 15 YEARS OF FRUSTRATION, THE QUEBEC CREE WENT TO COURT AND SUED HYDRO QUEBEC AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF QUEBEC AND CANADA FOR FAILING TO HONOR THE JAMES BAY AGREEMENT.

IN HIS REMARKS TO THIS HEARING ON MARCH 15, 2003 ELVIS THOMAS STATED THAT THE QUEBEC SITUATION HAD BEEN EXAMINED AND DISCUSSED WITH OUR PEOPLE. THIS IS NOT THE CASE. I CHALLENGE MANITOBA HYDRO AND OUR CHIEF AND COUNCIL TO PROVIDE SUBSTANTIVE REASON, BACKED UP CREDIBLE ANALYSIS, AS TO WHY THE QUEBEC EXPERIENCE AND HOW THEY HAVE COME TO A NEW WAY OF COOPERATING ON FUTURE HYDRO DEVELOPMENT IS NOT APPLICABLE TO MANITOBA.

NCN MEMBERS AND THE CEC SHOULD NOT HAVE TO RELY ON THE SUBJECTIVE STATEMENTS MADE AT THESE HEARINGS BY ELVIS THOMAS AND MANITOBA HYDRO THAT THE MANITOBA AND QUEBEC SITUATIONS ARE NOT COMPARABLE.

THE FORUM SESSIONS PROVIDED VALUABLE INFORMATION ON THE NEW RELATIONSHIPS AND AGREEMENTS BEING DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE CREE AND INNU ABORIGINAL PEOPLE OF QUEBEC AND THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC AND HYDRO QUEBEC.

I WILL NOT TAKE UP TIME AT HERE GOING OVER THE FORUM IN DETAIL. HOWEVER, THERE ARE A FEW THINGS I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT:

AS MR. TRONIAK STATED ON MARCH 15TH IN 1990 THE QUEBEC CREE WERE OFFERED A WUSKWATIM LIKE DEAL WHERE THEY WERE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO BORROW MONEY FROM HYDRO QUEBEC AND INVEST EQUITY INTO FUTURE HYDRO PROJECTS. THEY TURNED THIS DEAL DOWN FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

1. THE CREE FELT THAT BY ALLOWING THE USE OF THEIR TRADITIONAL RESOURCES AND RESOURCE AREA WERE ALREADY PUTTING EQUITY INTO FUTURE HYDRO DAM PROJECTS AND THEY SHOULD NOT HAVE TO BORROW MONEY, ESPECIALLY FROM HYDRO QUEBEC, AND TAKE THE RISK OF GETTING A RATE OF RETURN FROM FUTURE SPECULATIVE PROFITS.
2. THE CONSULTATIONS THAT TOOK PLACE ON A PURELY COMMERCIAL DEAL AND ITS TERMS SHOOK CREE UNITY AND CREATED PROBLEMS IN THE COMMUNITIES.
3. THE DEALS THAT WERE OFFERED, LIKE THE WUSKWATIM DEAL, WERE STRICTLY COMMERCIAL RISK DEALS THAT DID NOTHING TO SOLVE THE SEVERE SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF PAST HYDRO DEVELOPMENT AND THE JAMES BAY AGREEMENT BETWEEN HYDRO QUEBEC AND THE CREE.

HIGH LEVEL, NATION TO NATION CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE PREMIER OF QUEBEC AND TED MOSES, THE GRAND CHIEF OF THE

COUNCIL OF CREES IN QUEBEC LED TO A NEW WAY OF DOING THINGS. IN QUEBEC, THE CREE NATIONS REFUSED TO EXTINGUISH THEIR TREATY RIGHTS IN SIGNING ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS TO THE JAMES BAY AGREEMENT AS OUR CHIEF AND COUNCIL DID WITH OUR NFA IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT IN 1996.

IMPORTANTLY FOR US, AFTER THE QUEBEC CREE TURNED DOWN THE OFFER OF INVESTING IN FUTURE HYDRO DAM DEVELOPMENT IN A WUSKWATIM LIKE DEAL, THE QUEBEC GOVERNMENT AND HYDRO QUEBEC CAME BACK WITH A NEW AND BETTER DEAL THAT MADE THE CREE A TRUE PARTNER IN HYDRO DEVELOPMENT RESPECTING THEIR TREATY AND ABORIGINAL RIGHTS. THE CREE IN QUEBEC TOOK THEIR CASE TO THE UNITED STATES, AND THE FEAR OF LOSING A \$17 BILLION DEAL TO NEW YORK STATE, BROUGHT BOTH THE GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC AND HYDRO QUEBEC TO THE TABLE TO NEGOTIATE ON A FAIR AND EQUITABLE BASIS. THEIR OPPOSITION, COUPLED WITH A COURT ACTION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA AND QUEBEC AND HYDRO QUEBEC FOR NON COMPLIANCE TO THE JAMES BAY AGREEMENT LED TO THE CANCELLATION OF THE GREAT WHALE HYDRO PROJECT. THESE ACTIONS BY THE CREE OF QUEBEC WERE KEY IN FORCING HYDRO QUEBEC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC TO COME TO THE TABLE AND DEAL WITH THE CREE OF QUEBEC FAIRLY.

THIS IS THE TYPE OF LEADERSHIP, VISION AND COURAGE THAT IS SORELY LACKING AS OUR CHIEF AND COUNCIL WORKING FOR MANITOBA HYDRO AND THE GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA IN TRYING TO SHOVE THIS WUSKWATIM TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT DEAL DOWN OUR THROATS.

I WILL NOT GO OVER THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY HYDRO QUEBEC AND THE CREE AND INNU PRESENTERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG FORUM IN DETAIL. HOWEVER THIS INFORMATION WILL BE SHARED WITH AS MANY PEOPLE AS WE CAN, ESPECIALLY NCN MEMBERS, BUT THIS IS DIFFICULT AS WE ARE NOT PROVIDED RESOURCES OR HELP FROM OUR CHIEF AND COUNCIL OR MANITOBA HYDRO TO DISTRIBUTE THIS TYPE OF IMPORTANT AND RELEVANT INFORMATION.

HOWEVER, I WOULD JUST LIKE TO STATE THAT NOT ONLY ARE THE FINANCIAL REWARDS, TRAINING AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES WITH JOB GUARANTEES, OF THESE QUEBEC AGREEMENTS ARE FAR SUPERIOR TO ANYTHING THAT WE WOULD RECEIVE UNDER WUSKWATIM BUT THERE IS ONE ANOTHER IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION, CONTROL. FOR EXAMPLE UNDER THE NADASHTIN AGREEMENT-EASTMAIN 1 HYDRO PROJECT IN QUEBEC ON THE

PROJECT BOARD OF DIRECTORS THERE IS A CREE MAJORITY WITH 5 CREE REPRESENTATIVES AND 4 HYDRO QUEBEC REPRESENTATIVES EFFECTIVELY GIVING THE CREE FINAL SAY ON DECISIONS MADE THAT WILL AFFECT THEIR TRADITIONAL LANDS AND RESOURCE AREA. \$70 MILLION A YEAR IS GUARANTEED INDEXED TO INFLATION FOR THE NADASHTIN CREE PLUS PROVISIONS FOR ADDITIOANL MONEY IF MORE REVENUE IS GENERATED FROM THE HYDROELECTRICITY, FORESTRY, FISHING AND MINING PRODUCED IN THEIR TRADITIONAL TERRITORY. THEY CAN INVEST OR SPEND THE MONEY AS THEY SEE FIT WITH NO CONTROL BY HYDRO QUEBEC OR THE GOVERNMENT. A CREE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY HAS BEEN CREATED GUARANTEERING 150 FULL TIME JOBS FOR THE CREE. MOST OF THESE JOBS ARE TECHNICAL POSITIONS AND SKILLED JOBS NOT THE LOW PAYING AND LOW SKILLED JOBS THAT WE WILL BE GETTING WITH WUSKWATIM. ON MARCH 15TH AT THESE HEARINGS MR. KEN ADAMS OF MANITOBA HYDRO ADMITTED THAT THERE ARE NO JOB GUARANTEES FOR NCN MEMBERS WITH WUSKWATIM AND ALL HIRING DECISIONS WILL BE MADE BY THE CONTRACT COMPANIES HIRED BY MANITOBA HYDRO THROUGH THE PROJECT GENERAL PARTNER.

UNDER THE NADASHTIN AGREEMENT AT LEAST \$300 MILLION IN CONTRACTS WILL BE INVOLVED WITH THE \$2 BILLION 770 MEGAWATT

NADASHTIN –EASTMAIN 1 HYDRO PROJECT AGREEMENT (I WONDER WHY \$1 BILLION IS BEING PROJECTED TO BE SPENT FOR ONLY 200 MEGAWATTS FOR WUSKWATIM). THE NADASHTIN PROJECT ALSO INCLUDES FUNDING FOR REMEDIAL MEASURES, INFRASTRUCTURE, ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURE FUND, WILDLIFE FUND, TRAINING FUND AND A MERCURY FUND TO DEAL WITH THE EFFECTS OF MERCURY CAUSED BY HYDRO FLOODING. WE WERE TOLD THAT WITH THESE NEW AGREEMENTS THERE IS ALMOST FULL EMPLOYMENT AND ANY QUALIFIED CREE THAT WANTS A JOB IS HIRED.

THIS IS ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL AGREEMENTS BEING NEGOTIATED WITH THE CREE AND INNU IN QUEBEC. AT THE FORUM WE WERE INFORMED THAT THE LATEST AGREEMENT WITH THE 7,000 INNU IN QUEBEC GUARANTEED A MINIMUM OF \$100 MILLION A YEAR IN REVENUE. ALL PROFITS ARE SHARED WITH 50.1% GOING TO THE INNU AND 49.9% GOING TO HYDRO QUEBEC. AS WITH THE CREE OF QUEBEC NO RISK INVESTMENT WAS REQUIRED OF THE INNU TO BE PART OF THIS PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT. THESE AGREEMENTS INCLUDE FIRM GUARANTEES OF FULLTIME SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT THAT WILL LEAD TO GOOD FUTURES FOR CREE YOUTH.

ONE VERY IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE NEW AGREEMENTS IN QUEBEC ARE THAT IT IS THE TRADITIONAL ELDERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO

HAVE THE FINAL SAY ON WHAT IS TO BE NEGOTIATED AND THEY HAVE TO AGREE WITH THE TERMS OF ANY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT. THIS IS DONE BECAUSE IT IS STRONGLY BELIEVED THAT A LONG TERM APPROACH FOCUSING ON THE TOTAL WELFARE AND FUTURE OF THE COMMUNITY MUST BE EMPHASIZED. THIS APPROACH GUARDS AGAINST DEALS AND AGREEMENTS MADE BY TRANSITORY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES FOR SHORT TERM GAINS OR POLITICAL SELF INTEREST. IMPORTANTLY, THESE AGREEMENTS HAVE CLAUSES TO REOPEN THEM TO ENSURE THAT THEY CONTINUE TO BE RELEVANT AND MEET THE NEEDS OF THE CREE AND INNU.

I WONDER WHY OUR CHIEF AND COUNCIL HAVE NOT LOOKED INTO THESE TYPES OF AGREEMENTS FOR NCN. IF THEY HAVE THEY HAVE KEPT EVERYTHING SECRET FROM US. IT CERTAINLY CAN BE CONVINCINGLY ARGUED THAT THEY CERTAINLY HAVE NOT BEEN NEGOTIATING IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL NCN MEMBERS IN THEIR CLOSED DOOR MEETINGS WITH MANITOBA HYDRO AND GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA.

IN CONTRAST TO WHAT THE CREE AND INNU HAVE OBTAINED IN QUEBEC, WHAT WE ARE BEING OFFERED IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BORROW MONEY FROM HYDRO, PRODUCING SIZEABLE DEBT, CEDING CONTROL OF OUR FUTURES, ALLOWING THE EXPLOITATION OF OUR

LAND AND RESOURCES FOR THE PROMISE OF FUTURE SPECULATIVE PROFITS AND PROMISED SOME LOW SKILLED AND LOW PAYING SHORT TERM CONSTRUCTION JOBS FOR THE HONOR OF BEING LIMITED PARTNERS WITH MANITOBA HYDRO. I ALSO WONDER WHAT OUR GUARANTEED SHARE OF ANY FUTURE PROFITS WILL BE AND HOW THE TRANSFER TO GENERAL REVENUES OF MANITOBA HYDRO PROFITS WILL AFFECT OUR SUPPOSED REVENUE FROM WUSKWATIM.

EVEN WITH 33% EQUITY OWNERSHIP WE WILL ONLY HAVE ONE THIRD BOARD SEATS ON THE GENERAL PARTNERSHIP COMPARED TO MANITOBA HYDRO'S TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY. MANITOBA HYDRO WILL HAVE TOTAL CONTROL OF ALL DECISIONS AND ASPECTS OF THE WUSKWATIM PROJECT AND PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT. THIS WILL INCLUDE ALL HIRING AND EMPLOYMENT RELATED TO THE PROJECT. THE WUSKWATIM BOARD CAN MEET AND MAKE DECISIONS WITHOUT ANY CREE MEMBERS PRESENT.

BEFORE I FINISH MY COMMENTS TODAY I WOULD LIKE TO RAISE IMPORTANT CONCERNS WE HAVE WITH THE PROMISED REFERENDUM VOTE ON THE WUSKWATIM PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT. FIRST OF ALL WE STRONGLY FEEL THAT THE VOTE SHOULD BE HELD PRIOR TO THE CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION CLOSING ITS HEARINGS AND PROVIDING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MINISTER OF

CONSERVATION AND THE ISSUING OF ANY PERMITS OR LICENCES FOR THE WUSKWATIM HYDRO GENERATING AND TRANSMISSION PROJECTS. IT IS UNFAIR TO PUT ENORMOUS PRESSURE ON NCN THAT BY VOTING NO THEY WILL STAND IN THE WAY OF THE PROJECT GOING AHEAD. *THERE IS ENOUGH STRESS AND PROBLEMS IN OUR COMMUNITY WITHOUT FORCING THIS ENORMOUS BURDEN ON US.*

ON THE FIRST DAY OF THESE HEARINGS THE ISSUE OF THE TIMING OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT REFERENDUM VOTE WAS DISCUSSED WITH A PANEL MEMBER OF THE CEC EXPRESSING RELIEF THAT ELVIS THOMAS STATED THE EXPECTED AUGUST OR EARLY SEPTEMBER DATE FOR THE VOTE WOULD FIT INTO MANITOBA HYDRO'S CONSTRUCTION PLANS FOR WUSKWATIM. I TAKE OFFENCE THAT IT SEEMS THAT ONLY THE CONCERNS OF MANITOBA HYDRO SEEM TO BE RECOGNIZED AND WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION. THE REFERENDUM VOTE SHOULD ONLY BE HELD AFTER PROPER CONSULTATION AND ALL ISSUES, INCLUDING COMPENSATION AND TREATY AND ABORIGINAL RIGHTS OF NCN MEMBERS ARE PROPERLY ADDRESSED.

WE WANT AN INDEPENDENT LEGAL COUNSEL TO EXPLAIN THE WUSKWATIM PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS TO ALL NCN BAND MEMBERS TO ENSURE ALL ASPECTS

OF AGREEMENT ARE APPROPRIATELY EXPLAINED. ALL AGREEMENTS SHOULD BE TRANSLATED IN CREE AND PRESENTED IN A MANNER SO THAT ALL OF US CAN PROPERLY UNDERSTAND WHAT IS BEING VOTED ON. *THE ENTIRE AGREEMENTS AND RELEVANT INFORMATION SHOULD BE TRANSLATED NOT JUST WHAT OUR CHIEF AND COUNCIL AND MANITOBA HYDRO WANT TO BE TRANSLATED AND EXPLAINED.*

THE CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION SHOULD CONSIDER ALL OF THESE ISSUES ALONG WITH THE VOTE AND HOW IT IS CONDUCTED IN ITS DELIBERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MINISTER OF CONSERVATION WHETHER THE PROJECT SHOULD PROCEED.

MANY NCN MEMBERS ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE REFERENDUM VOTE ON THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT. THESE CONCERNS ARE WELL FOUNDED AND STEMS FROM OUR LAST NCN CHIEF AND COUNCIL ELECTIONS, WHERE THERE WERE VOTING IRREGULARITIES AND OUR TRADITIONAL NCN ELECTION CODE WAS VIOLATED. OUR ELECTION APPEAL COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY CHIEF PRIMROSE CALLED FOR A REVOTE. OUR CHIEF AND COUNCIL REFUSED TO FOLLOW OUR TRADITIONAL WAYS AND ABIDE BY THE DECISION OF THE ELECTION APPEAL COMMITTEE.

THIS COUPLED WITH THE CONTROVERSY AND CONCERNS WITH THE WUSKWATIM AIP VOTE LEAVE US VERY CONCERNED AND SUSPICIOUS OF THE UPCOMING PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT VOTE. WE HAVE NO FAITH OR TRUST IN OUR CHIEF AND COUNCIL OF HOLDING A FAIR AND HONEST REFERENDUM VOTE. AS ELVIS THOMAS STATED TO LESLIE DYSART OF SOUTH INDIAN LAKE IN CASIL'S CROSS EXAMINATION ON MARCH 8TH THERE WERE NOT EVEN ANY INDEPENDENT SCRUTINEERS FOR THE WUSKWATIM AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE VOTE TO ENSURE THAT THE VOTES WERE COUNTED PROPERLY. FOR THE WUSKWATIM PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WE ARE DEMANDING THAT ELECTIONS MANITOBA, ELECTIONS CANADA OR ANOTHER TRULY INDEPENDENT PARTY, FOLLOWING APPROPRIATE RULES AND PROCEDURES, OVERSEE ALL FACETS OF THE REFERENDUM VOTE. WE ARE ALSO VERY CONCERNED ABOUT REPRISALS FROM OUR CHIEF AND COUNCIL TO THOSE SPEAKING OUT OR VOICING THEIR CONCERNS IN THE TIME LEADING UP TO THE REFERENDUM VOTE AND AFTER. WE WILL BE MAKING THESE CONCERNS KNOWN TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF MANITOBA AND CANADA. I AM ALSO PUTTING THOSE CONCERNS ON THE RECORD OF THESE HEARINGS.

THANK YOU