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Tansi! Welcome. My name is Nick Halcrow. Elder. I greet you all in good health. I thank the Lord for my life. I don't own this knowledge, but I can share it with you. "To practice forgiveness, I will first have to forgive myself."

A reminder from – Proverbs, Chapter 15, verse 1. "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." This is the key to avoiding verbal conflict. A small comment can start a large fight. Let's choose not to retaliate with our words. Let's speak the truth and seek peace through our words. We do not know what the future holds for us or those we love. This reminds me of what many of us do with our lives.

A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, a careless word may kindle strife, a cruel word may wreck a life; a timely word may lessen stress, a loving word may heal and bless.

This is an invitation to plan for a forgiving and forgiven heart in the year 2014. Let's do our homework together which will take you by the hand and walk with you, the road to a peaceful heart as we welcome you to our Land of Pimichikamak Territory today.

Do we wish to continue carrying in this new era the wounds and struggles of our lives? Which we have not had the courage or the time or the know-how to deal them? How do we attend to this time? Is there a reason to live for it in a certain fashion, to put on a new heart or a new consciousness for our future/

The year 1977, 37 years ago since the signing of The Northern Flood Agreement with the Manitoba Hydro, Provincial and Federal Governments and the 5 Northern Communities. All of the above agreed to work cooperatively to implement the N.F.A.

There are many obligations in the N.F.A, which are not fulfilled to date. In the meantime the benefits generated from Jenpeg Station, which the crown parties are getting richer while the Pimichikamak people live in poverty, also our lands and water and animals are destroyed.

N.F.A is worth millions and millions of dollars. The Pimichikamak First Nations want compensations for the impacts of the Jenpeg Generating Station from 1977 to present, and as long as the operation of the Jenpeg Station and the N.F.A exists.

We need proper consultations and negotiations with the Provincial and Federal Governments and Manitoba Hydro and the Crosslake membership as a whole to deal equitably and honorably and fairly relationship with us.

Unless we all agree and have a balanced understanding of our lifestyle and have a good idea of the past history. Then we can come to reach a mutual agreement.

How can this be a time to do homework? What debts of forgiveness do we owe others and do others owe us? Even if the act is a generation ago, we may still be burdened by sadness or guilt. When the injury has come from us, then we need to find a way to ask another for pardon.

Now is the opportunity time to begin sharing the revenues so that we will each be able to heal the wounds which have infected us for a long time.

In the N.F.A a promise was made, and these promises were not kept. The truth to come out is in a legal battle since 1977, therefore let's undo the struggles to right the wrongs done. We need to stand strong together to support each other.

On behalf of the elders, our children, grandchildren, great- grandchildren, and future unborn, youth, and citizens of Pimichikamak. We remain. Thank you, Ekosi! Nina elder, Nick Halcrow.

Nick Halcrow