

MANITOBA CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

LAKE WINNIPEG REGULATION REVIEW

UNDER THE WATER POWER ACT

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Transcript of Proceedings  
Held at NAC Community office  
Norway House, Manitoba  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2015  
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APPEARANCES

CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

Terry Sargeant - Chairman  
Edwin Yee - Commissioner  
Neil Harden - Commissioner  
Beverly Suek - Commissioner  
Cathy Johnson - Commission Secretary  
Joyce Mueller - Administrative Assistant  
Bob Armstrong - Report writer

MANITOBA HYDRO

Dale Hutchison

NORTHERN AFFAIRS COMMUNITY - NORWAY HOUSE

Mayor Cristo Spiess  
Councillor Danny Swanson  
Councillor Gertrude Meikle  
Valeri Brunen  
Danny Mowatt  
Laura Mowatt

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1 WEDNESDAY, April 29, 2015

2 UPON COMMENCING AT 6:30 p.m.

3

4 MR. SPIESS: Okay. I might as well  
5 start. I introduced myself at the airport. My  
6 name is Cristo Spiess, I am the mayor of the  
7 community. This here is Gertrude Meikle, she is  
8 one of the councillors. This is Dan Swanson,  
9 another councillor; and Valerie Brunen, she is a  
10 community member who is going to make a  
11 presentation to you. Valerie grew up -- well, she  
12 is going to speak to you anyway. She actually  
13 grew up in Warren's Landing. So she is going to  
14 come and speak to you about her memories of what  
15 the lake was like before Hydro and where it is at  
16 now. And I think her mother is coming too, and  
17 her brother, her brother was a commercial  
18 fisherman at some point.

19 It is customary that we start things  
20 like this, we open with a prayer. And I'm going  
21 to ask Ms. Brunen here to share a prayer with you.  
22 (Opening prayer)

23 MR. SPIESS: I don't know how you like  
24 to proceed. Any particular order, is that what  
25 you would like to do?

1 THE CHAIRMAN: No, no particular  
2 order. You probably know why we are here, but the  
3 Minister of Conservation asked us, the Clean  
4 Environment Commission, a few years ago to, or a  
5 couple of years ago to conduct a review of Hydro's  
6 application. Hydro has applied to get a final  
7 licence for the Lake Winnipeg Regulation.

8 MR. SPIESS: Sorry to interrupt. This  
9 is Dan Mowatt, this is Valerie's brother, and  
10 their mother Laura Mowatt. They all grew up in  
11 Warren's Landing as well.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mowatt's name  
13 again?

14 MR. SPIESS: Danny Mowatt. Sorry, so  
15 go ahead.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: That's no problem.

17 Welcome, we have just started. So,  
18 Hydro has applied for a final licence for their  
19 controls of Lake Winnipeg. And in a couple of  
20 minutes we will let Mr. Hutchison, Dale, tell us a  
21 little bit about the project. I'm sure you people  
22 all know a lot about it, maybe even more than us,  
23 having lived with it for 40 years now.

24 So we have been traveling all over  
25 northern Manitoba, southern Manitoba, around Lake

1 Winnipeg, and in Winnipeg, holding hearings and  
2 meeting with people in communities like this, and  
3 just hearing some of the concerns that people have  
4 about Lake Winnipeg Regulation.

5 So, that's why we are here this  
6 evening, just to hear from any of you that wishes  
7 to tell us a story, relate your concerns, talk to  
8 us a bit about your concerns about Lake Winnipeg  
9 Regulation.

10 So, Dale, do you want -- I don't know  
11 if we need the full tilt thing, but whatever you  
12 want to talk about in your presentation, just  
13 about where Lake Winnipeg Regulation fits in.

14 MR. HUTCHISON: Sure. Good to be  
15 here. I feel very welcome in this community,  
16 because when I started with Manitoba Hydro 15  
17 years ago, I was working with Norway House  
18 Community Council on their agreement, that's one  
19 of the first things I started with. And the way  
20 the agreement is going, it might be one of these  
21 ones that end my career. It is very good to be  
22 here, and thank you.

23 So I will start just by going into a  
24 very brief overview of the Manitoba Hydro system.  
25 So you can get a better idea, I will use this

1 banner.

2                   You probably know that a huge area of  
3 Canada drains into Lake Winnipeg. And that's what  
4 makes hydroelectric development possible on a  
5 large scale in Manitoba, because you have got so  
6 much water coming from such a huge area, you are  
7 almost guaranteed getting water from somewhere.  
8 Even if there is a drought in one part of the  
9 country, it would be very doubtful to have a  
10 drought everywhere, so you are almost guaranteed  
11 getting water all of the time.

12                   Each of these blue dots represents a  
13 generating station, and there is small, medium and  
14 large, and that shows how much electricity they  
15 can produce. So you can see on the Winnipeg River  
16 we have got six smaller generating stations. At  
17 the mouth of the Saskatchewan River, Grand Rapids,  
18 we have got a medium sized generating station.  
19 And then, of course, the Nelson River branches out  
20 and it flows into Hudson Bay. We have got a small  
21 generating station at Jenpeg. North of the Nelson  
22 River is the Churchill River, which flows in from  
23 Alberta and Saskatchewan, and rather than building  
24 generating stations on the Churchill River, which  
25 also flows into Hudson Bay, instead the idea was

1 to divert the waters from the Churchill River,  
2 through a project called the Churchill River  
3 Diversion. That involved putting a dam at the  
4 outflow at Southern Indian Lake, raising the level  
5 of the lake nine feet, and diverting that water  
6 through the Rat/Burntwood River into Split Lake  
7 where it joins the Nelson River, actually near  
8 Wuskwatim, the newest generating station. That's  
9 the small plant that's on that Churchill River  
10 Diversion route.

11 So from Split Lake downstream you have  
12 got essentially the benefit of two rivers for  
13 hydroelectricity. And that is where all our large  
14 stations, so Kettle, Long Spruce and Limestone,  
15 the three biggest stations, those three alone  
16 produce 70 per cent of all of the electricity in  
17 Manitoba. Keeyask is currently being built, and  
18 it is a medium sized station right -- also on the  
19 Nelson River. To get that electricity down to the  
20 south, there are two high voltage Bipole lines  
21 that run a thousand kilometres from Gillam to a  
22 converter station near Winnipeg, and from there,  
23 there is actually a hundred thousand kilometres of  
24 distribution lines that take that power to homes  
25 and businesses throughout Manitoba.

1                   We also can make electricity using  
2 natural gas at Selkirk and Brandon. In an  
3 emergency we can use coal at Brandon. And we  
4 don't own it, but we purchase wind from wind farms  
5 at St. Leon and St. Joseph. So all together,  
6 about 95 per cent of the Manitoba Hydro system  
7 uses water to produce electricity.

8                   Now, I will kind of take a look at  
9 Lake Winnipeg. So, there are like a dozen rivers  
10 that flow into Lake Winnipeg, and there is only  
11 one natural outflow, and that's the Nelson River.  
12 You have probably been to Warren's Landing, it is  
13 very wide, but it is quite shallow. And what that  
14 means is that ice can really block the water from  
15 leaving Lake Winnipeg over the winter. And over  
16 time that, like historically this has caused a lot  
17 of problems with flooding on Lake Winnipeg, to the  
18 point where highways have been closed, farmers  
19 have lost their crops, people can't get to their  
20 homes and cottages.

21                   Here is a bunch of Winnipeg Free Press  
22 headlines that kind of show some of the impacts of  
23 this flooding on Lake Winnipeg. So these are  
24 Winnipeg Free Press headlines from 1950, '54, '56,  
25 '69, '70, basically showing the impact that all of

1 this flooding had on Lake Winnipeg. And, of  
2 course, people around Lake Winnipeg put a lot of  
3 pressure on government to do something about this  
4 flooding in the late '60s, and at the same time  
5 the demand for electricity was growing. So in  
6 1970 the Premier of Manitoba announced that the  
7 province would proceed with development of Lake  
8 Winnipeg Regulation for two purposes; one was  
9 flood relief on Lake Winnipeg, and two was  
10 hydroelectric development on the lower Nelson.  
11 This is a bit of background to why that project  
12 happened.

13                   So, construction started shortly after  
14 that, and by 1976 Lake Winnipeg Regulation was  
15 completed. And I will show what -- I have to go  
16 back to this one. So, what it involved was,  
17 because this outflow was a problem, it involved --  
18 Lake Winnipeg Regulation involved digging three  
19 channels, 2-Mile, 8-Mile and the Ominawin to allow  
20 50 per cent more water to leave Lake Winnipeg. Of  
21 course, you wouldn't dig those channels without  
22 having a way to control the water, you would drain  
23 the lake.

24                   So that's where Jenpeg came in. There  
25 is a generating station there, but that was almost

1 an afterthought, the main thing is the control  
2 structure. And of course, that regulates water on  
3 the east, sorry, the west branch of the Nelson  
4 River.

5           Just to show the effect that it has, I  
6 will go back to this one over here. I won't  
7 explain this chart, other than to say this chart  
8 uses the information that's on the water level, or  
9 Water Survey of Canada gauging stations that are  
10 around Lake Winnipeg, there is eight of them. You  
11 can, you know, we have got records going back a  
12 hundred years, but this looks to the time that the  
13 project was started, 1977 to now.

14           And what it, the blue line represents  
15 what the water level has been in that time. So  
16 you can see it has gone up and down, there has  
17 been several -- you know, in 2005 there was a  
18 flood, in 2011, 2014. What the red line  
19 represents is what the water level would have been  
20 if Lake Winnipeg Regulation didn't exist. So if  
21 you didn't have this extra channel getting water  
22 out of the lake, the level of Lake Winnipeg would  
23 have gotten much higher during these flood years,  
24 like about two feet higher in '97, '05, and 2011  
25 and 2014. So what this chart is for is to

1 demonstrate that the one goal of the Lake Winnipeg  
2 Regulation project, which was flood relief on Lake  
3 Winnipeg, is actually being achieved.

4           Now, what does that mean for people  
5 downstream? I guess originally I was kind of  
6 separated doing presentations where I talked to --  
7 I showed the Lake Winnipeg, people around Lake  
8 Winnipeg what was happening, this project did for  
9 Lake Winnipeg. And then separately I would talk  
10 about the people downstream, because it is two  
11 very different things.

12           Now, the last little while I realize  
13 it is good to show both situations so that you can  
14 understand a little bit about what is going on in  
15 Lake Winnipeg and what some of the concerns are  
16 there. And at the same time have the people on  
17 Lake Winnipeg understand what is happening  
18 downstream. Because there are 20,000 people that  
19 live downstream of the Nelson River, and you guys  
20 are about 8,000 of them, in your area.

21           And so this, you know, everyone in  
22 Manitoba benefits by having low cost, reliable  
23 electricity. People around Lake Winnipeg benefit  
24 by having this flood relief. However, people  
25 downstream have suffered by having more water flow

1 out of Lake Winnipeg during the winter and any  
2 time there is a flood. And this -- so normally  
3 during the winter, like in a natural situation,  
4 lake levels, river flows gradually decrease over  
5 the course of the winter. But with Lake Winnipeg  
6 Regulation, what happens downstream is that water  
7 levels during the winter, water levels and flows  
8 are much higher, up to 50 per cent higher than  
9 they would have been without this project. So  
10 this additional water causes problems during the  
11 winter, it makes travel on the ice more dangerous,  
12 it is also not very helpful for aquatic fur  
13 bearers, like beaver, mink, muskrat and otter.

14 Then during the summer, any time that  
15 the water in Lake Winnipeg gets to elevation 715,  
16 it approaches that or more, we have to go to  
17 maximum discharge, which means sending this surge  
18 of water down the Nelson River, which causes water  
19 level fluctuations on the lakes and rivers  
20 downstream.

21 So we know that this project has  
22 significantly impacted people downstream. It has  
23 affected their cultural, commercial, recreational  
24 and spiritual pursuits.

25 What these lower pictures show is that

1 by working together, or as you may know it,  
2 witasosketowin -- okay, it is by working together  
3 with people downstream, we are trying to address  
4 impacts, by reaching agreements, by putting in  
5 programming. The Cross Lake Weir was one for that  
6 community. So we have got programs for heritage  
7 resources like archaeology, for access and  
8 navigation, for resource harvesting. And this is  
9 the way that we are looking to address impacts  
10 from this project.

11 So that's really my presentation, and  
12 I hope you have a good meeting with the  
13 commissioners of the Clean Environment Commission.  
14 And I will be around to answer any questions as  
15 well.

16 MS. BRUNEN: When you say it floods  
17 down south, who gets the worst of it, like where  
18 is the worst flooding down south?

19 MR. HUTCHISON: Well, it is the whole  
20 lake really. You know, the lake when it gets  
21 high, it is not so much the lake level is high, it  
22 is what the wind does. Because the wind, when it  
23 blows from -- you probably notice it in your  
24 channel, because I think the water will either get  
25 sucked out of your area or it fills up. For

1 instance, in that weather bomb that happened in  
2 2010, the water -- we have gauges all over the  
3 lake, right -- the water levels at the gauge at  
4 the northern part of the lake went down three  
5 feet, and the one at Gimli and Victoria Beach went  
6 up five feet. So you had an eight foot  
7 difference, and then you have wind and waves on  
8 top of that. So storms really cause a lot of  
9 problems when the lake levels are high in  
10 particular. And you have got all of these  
11 communities that are around the lake, so that  
12 flooding did cause a lot of problems. And as  
13 those newspaper headlines and pictures showed,  
14 there was a fair bit of devastation.

15 MS. BRUNEN: How far south does it go?

16 MR. HUTCHISON: It is the whole lake,  
17 so everywhere from the bottom of the lake -- here  
18 is where you have most of the population, people  
19 that live around the lake, you know, scattered  
20 communities in the north, but the south basin is  
21 pretty heavily populated.

22 MS. BRUNEN: And they haven't cut  
23 through the Dauphin River into Lake Winnipeg yet?

24 MR. HUTCHISON: No, that's coming  
25 right here, the Fairford Dauphin River, and that's

1 Lake Manitoba, it is 100 feet higher than Lake  
2 Winnipeg, and that's something -- that's separate  
3 from Manitoba Hydro, we don't have anything to do  
4 with Lake Manitoba, but I know they are looking at  
5 different schemes called --

6 MS. BRUNEN: Was that about three  
7 years ago that they were making that channel?

8 THE CHAIRMAN: They put in a temporary  
9 channel. It is still there, there is still a bit  
10 of water going through it, but it is not the  
11 permanent channel.

12 MS. BRUNEN: They didn't cut through  
13 there for it to go into Lake Winnipeg, have they?

14 THE CHAIRMAN: They did for a while  
15 in, I guess after 2011, or late 2011 when they had  
16 all of that high water, all of that rain in the  
17 south.

18 MS. BRUNEN: I know because we were  
19 told, now I have forgotten which, I am at a loss  
20 sometimes for words, which one of the -- I don't  
21 think -- maybe it was Jon Gerrard, I don't  
22 remember, that said that they hadn't cut it  
23 through, that they had it cut so it drained into a  
24 swamp.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I think the

1 route, I'm not entirely sure, but I think what it  
2 does is it goes from Lake St. Martin down a partly  
3 natural channel, but in a partly man-made channel,  
4 and it drains into the Dauphin River, which then  
5 drains into Lake Winnipeg, I think.

6 Now, right now the province is doing  
7 engineering studies and they are looking at three  
8 or four, five different possible routes, and to my  
9 knowledge they haven't decided yet which route to  
10 use on a permanent basis.

11 MS. BRUNEN: So you don't know if it  
12 is cut through or not?

13 THE CHAIRMAN: No, I don't. I know  
14 the new channel, the new permanent channel, they  
15 haven't even started it yet.

16 MS. BRUNEN: Would someone be able to  
17 find out that information and let our mayor know?

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, the temporary  
19 channel still does have some water in it, but it  
20 is not a significant amount.

21 MR. HUTCHISON: I think what your  
22 concern is, is it filling up Lake Winnipeg and  
23 then it's flowing downstream?

24 MS. BRUNEN: That's what the concern  
25 is.

1                   MR. HUTCHISON: It is too bad we  
2 didn't -- I have got another one that has these  
3 proportional, but the Dauphin River is a very  
4 small part of the water that goes into Lake  
5 Winnipeg, it is like five per cent. So it is not  
6 going to make -- and that water would be flowing  
7 into Lake Winnipeg anyway, because Lake Manitoba  
8 does naturally drain into Lake Winnipeg, so it is  
9 not a -- I wouldn't be too worried about it. That  
10 water was going to come anyway, it is just the  
11 timing of the water will come a little quicker  
12 than it used to, but it is not going to make a big  
13 difference on Lake Winnipeg or downstream.

14                   MS. BRUNEN: Excuse me, I took some  
15 pictures of that when the water was so high, I'm  
16 just going to go out to my truck for that.

17 (Brief recess)

18                   MS. BRUNEN: This is the first of  
19 Danny's dock down the bank there. That was during  
20 the summer of that.

21                   THE CHAIRMAN: Where are these?

22                   MS. BRUNEN: This is at Warren's  
23 Landing. I got him to take quite a few pictures  
24 because I hadn't seen the water that high in  
25 years.

1 MR. SPIESS: When was this again, Val?

2 MS. BRUNEN: The year they built that  
3 channel.

4 MR. SPIESS: The year that --

5 MS. BRUNEN: The water was very high  
6 that time, that was the first time I had seen it  
7 so high in years. There was no shoreline at the  
8 landing, there was no beaches. The docks, there  
9 was no -- the water took the docks away.

10 MR. SPIESS: Is that washed up on  
11 shore there, the dock? That's what is in the  
12 water there?

13 MS. BRUNEN: Yes. It was a mess.  
14 Even the shed, some of it was partially in the  
15 water.

16 MR. SPIESS: This is high water.

17 MS. BRUNEN: This is down at our  
18 place. Down at our place, there is just a little  
19 inlet there in the river, and weeds and that pool  
20 around there, and this is the algae.

21 MR. SPIESS: This is on the Nelson  
22 River, just up about four kilometres from here, it  
23 is near my place where I live, which is up on the  
24 Nelson River. That's showing the algae that comes  
25 in from the lake.

1 MS. BRUNEN: That's the algae. At one  
2 place there was that aqua colour.

3 MR. SPIESS: Blue algae.

4 MS. BRUNEN: And you can see this  
5 picture, it was like it was bubbling, you know,  
6 and it was so stinking. When people would walk  
7 past our place in the evening, they said it  
8 smelled like a barn. Yeah, like after the wind  
9 would go down, you know.

10 MR. SPIESS: And that's in the river  
11 system, that's not on the lake. That algae bloom  
12 goes all of the way.

13 It is the same down my place, too, I  
14 just don't take pictures. All along the river you  
15 will have the same, after the algae comes in, the  
16 water goes up. It is a north wind, the water goes  
17 down and you will see it on the rocks, it is just  
18 blue-green algae. Just up the river, 500 metres  
19 or so from her dock is my dock. You see the same  
20 thing in the river. When you are traveling in the  
21 boat and the water sprays, it is blue, or green,  
22 it is not like clear water that sprays off the  
23 boat, it is algae.

24 MS. BRUNEN: That year the water  
25 wasn't in very good shape, it was dirty and it was

1 muddy. Because when it is really high, it brings  
2 down the mud, those high banks between Little  
3 Mossy and Big Mossy. And then when it comes  
4 flowing the water is, even in the river here, it  
5 is dirty, muddy. In fact, it dragged down -- the  
6 Coast Guard had a marker in between Little Mossy  
7 and Big Mossy for the fishermen, a big orange  
8 thing, it dragged that down into the water.

9           They also have a tower south of  
10 Playgreen Point, this was last year, the water was  
11 kind of high too last year. It dragged down, the  
12 ice pushed the tower down, the Coast Guard tower.  
13 I believe it is still laying down, eh, Dan? I  
14 don't think they ever recovered that orange  
15 marker.

16           THE CHAIRMAN: Those were two of the  
17 highest years ever I think, 2011 and 2014. There  
18 was just a lot of water that came in, particularly  
19 from the west, through the Assiniboine and the  
20 Souris River, Qu'Appelle River in Saskatchewan, it  
21 brought in a lot of water.

22           MS. BRUNEN: Does Cedar Lake ever come  
23 flowing down, did it ever coming flowing down into  
24 Lake Winnipeg?

25           THE CHAIRMAN: Cedar Lake?

1 MS. BRUNEN: Yeah?

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, it comes into  
3 Lake Winnipeg through the Grand Rapids dam.

4 MS. BRUNEN: That's when the water,  
5 there is a lot of stuff floating in the water,  
6 like limbs and trunks, there is a lot of  
7 driftwood.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: I think that Cedar  
9 Lake, in the recent years, has actually been a bit  
10 low because the water coming through the  
11 Saskatchewan River is lower than through some of  
12 the other rivers. But none of those, I mean,  
13 those are all effects on the lake, but none of  
14 those is related to the Lake Winnipeg Regulation.

15 Do you experience any impacts in your  
16 lives because of Lake Winnipeg Regulation? Do any  
17 of you fish commercially on Playgreen?

18 MS. BRUNEN: Danny does.

19 MR. MOWATT: Yes.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: And have you noticed  
21 any differences or any problems or --

22 MR. MOWATT: Well, the nets seem to be  
23 dirtier in Playgreen Lake.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: How long has that been,  
25 Danny?

1 MR. MOWATT: Well, it didn't start,  
2 actually about '76 I started helping.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, okay. And the  
4 nets have always been dirty at times in Playgreen?

5 MR. MOWATT: Yes, especially in the  
6 fall, yeah.

7 MS. LAURA MOWATT: You don't want to  
8 go to Bird's Point because the nets are always  
9 dirty there.

10 MR. MOWATT: Last year, the water  
11 along the shore there on the east side of Lake  
12 Winnipeg --

13 THE CHAIRMAN: And your nets catch  
14 that?

15 MR. MOWATT: Yes, that brown algae and  
16 that.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: How about the fish, are  
18 there still lots of fish in the lake?

19 MR. MOWATT: Well, I don't fish in the  
20 fall, but the guys that did fish on Playgreen Lake  
21 last fall, they said it wasn't very good.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: We've been told that  
23 the fish have moved, that they are in different  
24 places now than they used to be. Have you  
25 experienced that?

1 MR. MOWATT: Well, Lake Winnipeg, they  
2 seem to be pretty well the same place where they  
3 were before.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Do you fish on Lake  
5 Winnipeg as well as Playgreen?

6 MR. MOWATT: I just mostly fish Lake  
7 Winnipeg now.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: At the north end?

9 MR. MOWATT: Yep.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Do you fish out of  
11 Warren's Landing?

12 MR. MOWATT: Yes, I do.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: You camp there when you  
14 go fishing?

15 MR. MOWATT: Yes.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: How do you get your  
17 fish to market?

18 MR. MOWATT: I deliver it by boat to  
19 Playgreen Point, it is about halfway to Warren's  
20 Landing from here, there is a fishermen's co-op.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: The co-op --

22 MR. MOWATT: Yeah.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: -- you were showing us  
24 that on the map.

25 MS. SUEK: Are you getting different

1 kinds of fish? I mean, did you get whitefish  
2 before? Has that changed, the kind of fish that  
3 you are getting, or is it about the same?

4 MR. MOWATT: We always did get  
5 whitefish.

6 MS. SUEK: And you still are?

7 MR. MOWATT: Yes, whitefish is pretty  
8 good on Lake Winnipeg. The pickerel seems better  
9 now actually than there were years ago. We have  
10 rainbow trout now, we used to never get that  
11 before.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, they are pretty  
13 new now in this lake, only about the last 15 or 20  
14 years, and they moved into the south end, and  
15 probably only about 10 years up here.

16 MR. MOWATT: Maybe a little more than  
17 that, maybe 15 or so.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. How about stuff  
19 in the lake, like logs and floaters, is there much  
20 of that in Playgreen, or in the north end of Lake  
21 Winnipeg?

22 MR. MOWATT: Lake Winnipeg is all  
23 right, but Playgreen Lake you get them, yeah,  
24 there is dead heads floating around.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Is that from erosion,

1 the trees falling in?

2 MR. MOWATT: Yeah, that's what it is  
3 actually, from the shores eroding and the roots  
4 and the trees float out.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

6 MS. BRUNEN: Didn't twice that tower  
7 have to be moved back? I know you moved it a  
8 couple of times.

9 MR. MOWATT: The Coast Guard has a  
10 light from the south end of 2-Mile Channel on the  
11 east side, and it keeps eroding and they have to  
12 keep moving it back further and further.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: The south end, that's  
14 the Lake Winnipeg end?

15 MR. MOWATT: Yeah. But it is being in  
16 there, the channel, it is getting wider and wider.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: We could see it a bit  
18 from the air today, but we were pretty high up, so  
19 we couldn't really see that, whether it was  
20 eroding or not. But it is eroding a fair bit  
21 there?

22 MR. MOWATT: Well, it is eroding  
23 pretty fast. I think about four or five years, it  
24 fell right over the bank, and we moved it about  
25 100 feet back from where it was before.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Now, did you say that  
2 it got moved twice?

3 MR. MOWATT: It was either two or  
4 three times. The Coast Guard moved it too, they  
5 moved it themselves too.

6 MS. SUEK: What about erosion around  
7 your community here, are you getting much? Does  
8 the water go up and down for you or does it stay  
9 the same?

10 MR. SPIESS: It goes up and down, like  
11 when you were talking about that weather anomaly,  
12 you were talking about the wind blew. When the  
13 wind blows from the north two or three days, four  
14 days, it will drop three or four feet.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah.

16 MR. SPIESS: And then same with the  
17 south wind, it will come right back in again.  
18 Along here you are probably not going to probably  
19 see too much erosion, it is all granite, so there  
20 is not much on that. Most of the erosion that we  
21 see is on the Lake Winnipeg side coming to 2-Mile  
22 Channel. I have a video that I would like to show  
23 you later, I took a helicopter ride, and it gives  
24 you a pretty good idea what the erosion looks  
25 like. If you guys don't mind, I will tear into my

1 thing here?

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.

3 MR. SPIESS: I will just speak a  
4 little bit about growing up here in Norway House  
5 and where I grew up, and I showed that to you when  
6 we drove by, in Robinson Bay. And what I  
7 experienced as a young child growing up and  
8 learning fishing from my grandfather, and  
9 trapping, just muskrats and stuff like that in the  
10 bay, just in that bay. I remember when we set the  
11 nets in the fall for whitefish, there was plenty  
12 of whitefish, we filled three tubs, four tubs  
13 every morning with whitefish, which we used for  
14 food for the dogs for the winter. Like I said, my  
15 grandfather, he ran dog teams, so he would have to  
16 feed the dogs, so we would have warehouses full of  
17 fish. We had carp, pickerel, jackfish, goldeye,  
18 mooneye they call them, red suckers, suckers,  
19 there is a whole bunch of different species of  
20 fish in there. I went and set a net in there last  
21 fall, just to see if the whitefish were still  
22 there. I got whitefish, not as many, I got more  
23 jackfish than normally, didn't get any carp,  
24 didn't get any perch -- perch was the other one --  
25 I didn't get any carp, didn't get any perch, no

1 red suckers, got a couple of suckers, no goldeye.  
2 And these were all the fish that were there when I  
3 was younger. So I noticed there was a difference.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Pickerel?

5 MR. SPIESS: Pickerel, I think I got  
6 one. But that was in the fall, like when the  
7 whitefish come in for spawning, and that was one  
8 of their spawning areas was that Robinson Bay.  
9 Growing up too, I trapped muskrats in the bay with  
10 my brother, my grandfather taught us how to trap  
11 muskrats. And there was always push-ups, all the  
12 way along that bay, and we would have plenty of  
13 traps on this side to RCMP Point. We always, as  
14 young kids we made a bit of a living with  
15 muskrats, we did okay, we got to save some money.  
16 Nowadays, I'm lucky if I see one push-up in that  
17 bay. I don't know, I'm not going to say that  
18 everything has to do with Hydro here, but it has a  
19 lot to do with it.

20 Since I got involved in politics, I  
21 have been involved in a lot, like I got involved  
22 in negotiations with Manitoba Hydro for a  
23 settlement for the community council. So I  
24 learned a lot there, you know, going to those  
25 meetings and learning a lot about water

1 fluctuations up and down. And I'm also on the  
2 Norway House Resource Management Board, so I have  
3 learned a few things there too. I've asked a lot  
4 of questions. And I have been really, really  
5 concerned lately, in the last five or six years,  
6 about the 2-Mile Channel erosion, and how much it  
7 is eroding and how fast. And I have been out  
8 there several times, like I said, I have a video  
9 of a helicopter ride that will show you some  
10 erosion.

11                   The last time I went out there was  
12 with Manitoba Hydro, we went to go see the  
13 clean-up there at 2-Mile Channel that was done. A  
14 whole bunch of people came into town and we went  
15 out there in fishermen's boats. There was one  
16 fishermen has a GPS on his boat. And we were  
17 floating around near the west -- the south side,  
18 right, near the mouth. And you could see on the  
19 GPS where the land was, and we were floating where  
20 land was and we were on water. And that erosion  
21 is continuing and it is going to go more and more  
22 and more.

23                   My concern is at some point Hydro  
24 tells us that that erosion is natural. Sure,  
25 there is natural erosion, it is a lake, and there

1 is sand on the north shore. But without that  
2 2-Mile Channel there, I don't think that erosion  
3 would be as bad as it is right now. 2-Mile  
4 Channel is not natural, it was man-made, and it  
5 has caused a lot of changes.

6 One of our former councillors, the  
7 late Andy Mowatt, their relative here, he always  
8 talked about the currents have changed, where they  
9 would always flow north, now at some times of the  
10 year they actually flow the other way. So that's  
11 a big change.

12 When I fished when I was younger, my  
13 mother would send me out with commercial fishermen  
14 to go learn commercial fishing, dressing pickerel  
15 and stuff like that. So I remember fishing with  
16 this gentleman, and we would catch -- at Sandy Bar  
17 close to 8-Mile Channel was where we fish and put  
18 hooks in for sturgeon, and we would catch  
19 sturgeon. But there is no sturgeon now over there  
20 that anybody can catch.

21 Being involved in the Resource  
22 Management Board, like I said, I have been bugging  
23 those guys about the erosion at 2-Mile Channel,  
24 trying to find out as much as I could. One of the  
25 guys from Conservation always tells me, it's

1 natural, it's natural, it is normal, the erosion.  
2 So I asked him about the 2-Mile Channel and the  
3 speed it is eroding, and I asked him, well, could  
4 you consider that unforeseen circumstances, which  
5 is one of the things that Hydro has in their  
6 agreements for unforeseen circumstances. His  
7 comment back right away was, no, it was foreseen  
8 that this erosion was going to happen. And I  
9 asked him, well, if it was foreseen, why didn't  
10 you riprap that channel when you built it back in  
11 the day, if you knew it was going to erode? Like  
12 they did that channel down south there, that  
13 temporary channel, it is riprapped, right? When  
14 they built it, they put rock so it won't erode.  
15 That wasn't down with 2-Mile Channel.

16           And I understand that engineering back  
17 in the day wasn't the same as it is today. And  
18 we've asked Hydro to look into this. And we've  
19 been told, at one point we have heard that they  
20 didn't find any rock close enough to make it  
21 feasible to riprap that 2-Mile Channel. But we  
22 have gone out and we have flown around and we  
23 found rock, and it is fairly close to 2-Mile  
24 Channel, and we think it is feasible, if there is  
25 a will, that they can do this.

1                   Another thing that when I talked to  
2     the same Conservation guy about the speed at which  
3     the water flows through that 2-Mile Channel, we  
4     were talking about -- the subject of water quality  
5     came up. So I asked him if there is -- do you  
6     guys test the quality of the water in these areas?  
7     And his response back was they have a station or  
8     something over by Warren's Landing where they  
9     check the water quality every year. And he turns  
10    and he says, well, I would prefer that water thing  
11    was over at 2-Mile Channel. And I asked him,  
12    well, why do you want it over at 2-Mile Channel?  
13    And his response was, well, 85 per cent of the  
14    outflow from Lake Winnipeg goes through 8-Mile  
15    Channel.

16                   THE CHAIRMAN: 2-Mile?

17                   MR. SPIESS: And I said, you are  
18    telling me it is not eroding? On one hand you are  
19    telling me the speed and amount of water that goes  
20    through that channel is not going to erode? So  
21    this to me, my biggest concern is that channel,  
22    2-Mile. At some point, the way it is eroding in  
23    the future, this side of Playgreen Lake over here,  
24    over here will be the north end of Lake Winnipeg  
25    once all of this gets eroded away. I won't be

1 alive when that happens, none of us will, but it  
2 is a possibility. We need to slow that erosion at  
3 2-Mile Channel as it is going right now.

4 One of the Hydro people, we were at  
5 2-Mile Channel, we were at the shore, you know,  
6 those double lines, those Hydro lines that cross,  
7 they come from Grand Rapids, there's a double line  
8 that goes there. And he had been there before,  
9 and he looked at me and he said, look, the lines  
10 are getting closer to the water. And I said, no,  
11 no, no, the water is getting closer to the lines.  
12 So I corrected him there. For me that's my  
13 biggest concern is that 2-Mile Channel and the  
14 erosion there.

15 I'm going to show you that video if I  
16 can pull it up. I wish I could put this on a  
17 bigger screen for you, but I will pass it around.  
18 And it will show, I will try and stop it and it  
19 will show you some of the erosion that is  
20 happening over at 2-Mile Channel.

21 If anybody else wants to come up with  
22 anything else while I'm looking for the video?  
23 Like I was hoping more of the fishermen would  
24 come, I'm sure you are going to hear from them at  
25 the -- you are here for a couple of days, right?

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Tomorrow and Friday  
2 morning, yeah.

3 MR. SPIESS: You will hear from  
4 trappers and fishermen over there.

5 But there are a lot of changes that  
6 have happened. I remember people talking when  
7 they first came up here, who was Premier then,  
8 Pawley?

9 MR. HUTCHISON: When? In '70?

10 MR. SPIESS: Yeah, like when they  
11 first came up?

12 MR. HUTCHISON: Schreyer.

13 MR. SPIESS: Schreyer, the famous  
14 name, he came here, he had a pencil, a regular  
15 pencil, the pencil guy, this is only how much the  
16 water is going to fluctuate, the length of his  
17 pencil. So that pencil has grown.

18 And I do, like I share the concern  
19 that Valerie has as well for the channel coming  
20 from Lake Manitoba. I understand you say it is  
21 only 5 per cent. Right now the Dauphin River is  
22 small, but when you put a channel that's not  
23 natural, that's going to change that. So I think  
24 the flow might increase and that might then make  
25 our lake a little bit more dangerous.

1                   And I didn't really know that part of  
2    this whole Lake Winnipeg Regulation was to appease  
3    the cottagers down on the south end of the lake,  
4    at our expense. We are the funnel here,  
5    everything that comes into that lake funnels right  
6    through here, Norway House, east channel, north  
7    channel, or west channel. We are the funnel. And  
8    everything the farmers put into the water that  
9    ends up in Lake Winnipeg, that becomes  
10   phosphorous, that becomes algae blooms, it all  
11   ends up here and filters through our community.  
12   Right here, Norway House, this is the main, to me,  
13   we are going to get whatever comes down that  
14   river. Even when Lake Winnipeg -- I mean, when  
15   the City of Winnipeg accidentally put how many  
16   millions of litres of raw sewage, and they  
17   admitted to it, the one they did admit to, into  
18   the water, into the river there, we sent a letter  
19   from our council to Sam Katz telling him to clean  
20   up his act because -- but then, of course, the  
21   Conservation guy, well, you get five miles up the  
22   river, it is okay, it is okay to drink. Go ahead  
23   and drink it I said, you first.

24                   I will give you some still photos  
25    here, if you can pass them around. You can see

1 the banks on the north end of Lake Winnipeg.  
2 This is what some of the erosion looks like.  
3 Sorry, if you can't all see it. And it gets worse  
4 and worse the closer you get to 2-Mile Channel.  
5 The further away you get, it is kind of not so  
6 bad, all the way down to Limestone Bay. This is  
7 the north shore of Lake Winnipeg now. The closer  
8 you get to 2-Mile Channel, the worse and worse  
9 that erosion gets. And you can really see, the  
10 time we were out there with those people in the  
11 fishermen's boat, I wish I could have got a  
12 picture of it, but when you are looking at the  
13 lake on this side, the north side, there was a big  
14 chunk of land. It kind of, it almost reminded me  
15 of the east coast where you see all those rocks  
16 that are kind of out from the land, there is a  
17 chunk of land had trees on top of it, and it was  
18 separated from the mainland, and there was  
19 probably about a 100-foot gap. But it was ready  
20 to fall into that lake.

21 This is the video. I guess, I don't  
22 know if you guys want to gather around and --  
23 sorry, I couldn't put it on a bigger screen for  
24 you.

25 (Video playing)

1                   MR. SPIESS: And I spoke about the  
2 sturgeon earlier, and it is another concern, this  
3 is further up the river and has to do with the  
4 Keeyask. I was up -- I went to a consultation  
5 meeting up in Thompson on the Keeyask project, and  
6 Hydro was doing a presentation and they were  
7 talking about sturgeon spawning area right where  
8 that dam is going to be built. And one of the  
9 gentlemen says, well, we are going to take that  
10 spawning area and we are going to move it over  
11 here. And I said, sturgeon have probably been  
12 spawning there for millions of years. And he  
13 said, no, 8,000. Sorry, I said, 8,000, whatever.  
14 And I said I don't think -- to me, that is going  
15 to damage that population of sturgeon there,  
16 moving, thinking they can move a spawning area.

17                   THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. We conducted a  
18 review of the Keeyask project as well, and that  
19 was a big issue in Keeyask. And our conclusion is  
20 more or less the same as yours, that we hope it  
21 works but we won't hold our breath.

22                   MR. SPIESS: I'm pretty skeptical, I  
23 don't think it is going to work at all. Like I  
24 said, they have been doing it naturally -- it is  
25 like the salmon in B.C., they go up river to spawn

1 in the same place every year, since we have been  
2 here, since anybody has been here, right? So that  
3 was my biggest concern further up the river, but  
4 on this side here, that is my number one thing is  
5 2-Mile Channel and what it is going to do in the  
6 future, very near future too.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, that's a good  
8 question. We actually, until a couple of days  
9 ago, we hadn't heard this concern. When we heard  
10 it a couple of days ago, it was somebody else from  
11 Norway House, but we hadn't heard any concern  
12 about 2-Mile Channel. And it is probably a  
13 question that we are going to have to ask of  
14 Hydro.

15 MR. SPIESS: I know that Hydro has  
16 been operating under temporary licence for, like  
17 you say, over 30 years.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: It's almost 40 now.

19 MR. SPIESS: Almost 40 years, and  
20 that's a temporary licence then.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: An interim licence.

22 MR. SPIESS: Interim licence. Like  
23 there is a lot of devastation everywhere on an  
24 interim licence, and I would hate to see what  
25 happens with a full licence.

1                   THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I think if they  
2 do get the final licence, it won't change  
3 anything, it won't change their operating  
4 procedures or their operating rules. And then in  
5 11 years, in 2026, they have to get a completely  
6 new licence. This one, although it will be called  
7 final, really won't be final, it is -- well, it is  
8 final but only for a total of 50 years. So from  
9 '76 to '26. But when they come back to apply for  
10 a new licence in 2026, there will probably be a  
11 lot more requirements for environmental review,  
12 environmental assessments of what happened, or  
13 what has happened over the last 40, or by then 50  
14 years. But I don't -- you know, the licence that  
15 they get now, if they get a final licence, won't  
16 change anything. It will be a continuation of the  
17 same, put it that way. 2-Mile Channel, if it is  
18 eroding, will continue to erode, but it won't be  
19 dramatic or there won't be any big changes, or  
20 there shouldn't be.

21                   MR. SPIESS: In terms of the  
22 operating, they still have to operate within that  
23 four foot -- the pencil.

24                   THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, the pencil.

25                   MR. SPIESS: The Dollar Store pencil.

1 So, anyway, like I said, I just wanted to --  
2 that's what I know.

3 MS. BRUNEN: I guess it will erode the  
4 same, at the same rate because of the water  
5 flowing north, and then it is coming back, coming  
6 back. Like at one time it flowed north always,  
7 and they always called Hudson Bay the garbage dump  
8 because everything flowed into there. And I guess  
9 that's not true for now for our area, because it  
10 comes back.

11 MR. SPIESS: Every now and then, yes.

12 MR. HARDEN: Do you find Playgreen  
13 Lake and the river here being more susceptible to  
14 changes in levels due to the wind because of the  
15 increased capacity of the --

16 MR. SPIESS: It is a pretty dramatic  
17 drop on a three, four day north wind, it will drop  
18 four feet.

19 MR. HARDEN: Is that greater than it  
20 used to be? That was 40 years ago, I don't even  
21 remember anything from 40 years ago.

22 MR. SPIESS: I don't know. Like I  
23 didn't live on the river that long, but I didn't  
24 see it so much in the day, but, yeah, you can see  
25 some days the rocks will be under water, it goes

1 for four days, they are all exposed. I don't know  
2 whether -- to me, I don't know what happens to  
3 that current or that flow at 2-Mile Channel when  
4 that wind blows, I don't know if it --

5 MR. HARDEN: It has to reverse, I  
6 suppose.

7 MR. SPIESS: It must syphon or  
8 something.

9 Another thing with that 2-Mile  
10 Channel, like you said with the flow increasing  
11 and the more stuff coming in, the silt is building  
12 up at the outflow there. And when you fly over it  
13 you can see that silt trail going around, like the  
14 current going around what is piled up there.

15 MR. HARDEN: We had presentations from  
16 the Fishermen's Co-op here, and they were saying  
17 that right at the outlet of 2-Mile Channel into  
18 Playgreen Lake was a good spawning spot for fish.  
19 Do you know anything about that? Can you --

20 MR. SPIESS: Dan might know.

21 MR. MOWATT: A good spawning place for  
22 fish?

23 MR. HARDEN: Yeah.

24 MR. MOWATT: I know in the fall some  
25 guys used to go on the west side of the channel in

1 Playgreen Lake side.

2 MR. HARDEN: Okay. So then they are  
3 saying when they built the channel, they kind of  
4 disrupted that spawning.

5 MR. SPIESS: The older fishermen would  
6 know. That goes back to the '70s, right?

7 MR. MOWATT: Years ago in the '70s,  
8 the fish used to come into this river here, into  
9 Norway House and spawn here. I don't think they  
10 come, not as much now, or there is hardly anything  
11 in the fall now for spawning whitefish.

12 MR. SPIESS: That's why I did that  
13 little experiment going back to where I grew up  
14 and putting a net in there in the fall. Like I  
15 said, I remember daily me and my grandfather,  
16 three, four of those old tubs full of whitefish  
17 every day, every day. And at one time I sent it,  
18 I left it over night, I got half a tub of  
19 whitefish and other fish too. But not the  
20 species -- there is a lot of species that I didn't  
21 get in there that we got when I was kid. I don't  
22 know if that has anything to do with the water  
23 fluctuations. Even the people talk about that,  
24 Robinson Bay was always the first place to freeze.  
25 It would always freeze flat. People would come

1 from all over the community just to come and skate  
2 there, first time of the year. And now you can  
3 never get a flat surface there, it's all rough,  
4 broken up lake ice.

5 MS. BRUNEN: Well, they used to, there  
6 was a shore there, they used to walk from Robinson  
7 Bay to the Hudson Bay.

8 MR. SPIESS: Yeah, there was a  
9 boardwalk in there.

10 MS. BRUNEN: I think they let the  
11 water down in the winter, and it is something  
12 about the rats breathing holes.

13 MR. SPIESS: Yes, I remember that.  
14 Something happened to the rats one year, like one  
15 guy was trapping, me and my brother at the RCMP  
16 Point, there was two -- we had three traps at the  
17 RCMP Point site. And when we were walking that  
18 morning, you got closer and closer and we could  
19 see all of the black dots on the ice, and as we  
20 got closer and closer, we noticed they were  
21 muskrats. We caught 24 out of those three traps  
22 there that one morning, but we had three in the  
23 traps, the rest were on ice. Some were dead, some  
24 were walking around like they were drunk, so we  
25 just kind of, you know, so got 24 rats that day.

1 Because those rats came out of the water for some  
2 reason. My grandfather couldn't tell me why, and  
3 we don't know why. Somebody said it might have  
4 been water fluctuation. Because they have those  
5 little air pockets when they are under the water,  
6 and if the water came up too high -- but that  
7 probably happens other places too.

8 My really big concern is the future of  
9 that channel. There is an opportunity, I know  
10 because we found rock, and Hydro's excuse over the  
11 past few years is there is no rock close enough to  
12 make it feasible, but there is rock probably --  
13 how far is 40-Mile Portage from there?

14 MR. MOWATT: From 2-Mile?

15 MR. SPIESS: Yes. It is not that far,  
16 ten miles, 15 miles?

17 MR. MOWATT: From 2-Mile?

18 MR. SPIESS: The 40-mile portage?

19 MR. MOWATT: You mean along the  
20 lakeshore where power line comes from?

21 MR. SPIESS: Yes.

22 MR. MOWATT: It is probably about 10  
23 miles, 15 miles.

24 MR. SPIESS: And there is a big amount  
25 of rock that we could utilize. But Hydro has

1 always been saying, well, it is not feasible to do  
2 it. We think it is, and we think it is necessary.  
3 Because like I said, that north end of the Lake  
4 Winnipeg will be on our doorstep somewhere down  
5 the road.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: No more Playgreen?

7 MR. SPIESS: No more Playgreen.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: They will have merged.

9 MR. SPIESS: At some point.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: An unfriendly takeover.

11 MR. YEE: Hostile takeover.

12 MR. SPIESS: Yes, that's my big  
13 concern. I don't know, from what I know of  
14 growing up here, lots has changed, lots has  
15 changed. The Hydro gives little jobs to people to  
16 clean up shore, like they are cutting trees  
17 20 feet back from the shoreline every year. So  
18 obviously it is eroding because every year they  
19 are cutting 20 feet back, 20 feet back. Rather  
20 than having the big full trees falling into the  
21 river, it is just going to be the stumps. Those  
22 are just little fixes. We think that place needs  
23 a big fix.

24 That's my spiel. If anybody else has  
25 anything?

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody else?

2 MS. BRUNEN: At the landing, when we  
3 lived there we always had to strain the water, but  
4 I don't believe the algae was as bad as what it is  
5 now.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: No, the algae has got  
7 much worse in recent years.

8 MR. SPIESS: Has that been pretty much  
9 attributed to phosphorous?

10 MR. YEE: It is phosphorous.

11 MR. SPIESS: Coming in from farms.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Phosphorous and  
13 nitrogen, coming in from farms, some of it comes  
14 in naturally just off land, a lot of it comes from  
15 cities and sewer systems.

16 MR. SPIESS: Did you guys watch the  
17 David Suzuki thing on Lake Winnipeg, and his  
18 notion when they damned the Saskatchewan River,  
19 that Lake Winnipeg actually needs to be a little  
20 bit murky, right, otherwise the sunlight goes  
21 through further and grows that algae. And they  
22 said it has something to do with less flow coming  
23 out of the Saskatchewan River.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Less silt, yeah. The  
25 worst years for algae is when the north basin is

1 really clear. And that's exactly what you just  
2 said, the sun gets down, and algae needs sun to  
3 grow.

4 MR. SPIESS: That's what Winnipeg  
5 means, in our language it means muddy water.  
6 That's just not Winnipeg itself, it is the lake.  
7 It is supposed to be a silty, muddy water.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody have anything  
9 else they want to add? No. Well, thank you very  
10 much for taking the time to come out here today  
11 and talk to us and share your story. Thank you  
12 for hosting us in your offices. We appreciate it.

13 MR. SPIESS: Thank you for coming. We  
14 appreciate you taking the time to come and talk  
15 with us here. I know you are going to be on the  
16 First Nation for two days or one day?

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Day and a half, most of  
18 tomorrow and then Friday morning.

19 MR. SPIESS: And where does this  
20 Commission go to, all along the lake?

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, let me think, it  
22 has been a long expedition. It started off in the  
23 middle of January, in Thompson, Wabowden, York  
24 Factory, then we went down south and -- we have  
25 been to Fisher River, Peguis, Grand Rapids,

1 Ashern, Pine Dock, Gimli, Selkirk, coming up the  
2 other side, Brokenhead Reserve, Grand Marais,  
3 Manigotagan, Black River, Berens River, Sagkeeng.

4 MR. SPIESS: Did you get to Poplar?

5 THE CHAIRMAN: No, we didn't get to  
6 Poplar. We did Berens River, and then we went up  
7 in Cross Lake. We were actually in Cross Lake for  
8 three days, so we were at Cross Lake almost -- a  
9 little longer than here.

10 MR. SPIESS: The chief of Cross Lake  
11 is a good friend of mine.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Who, Cathy?

13 MR. SPIESS: Yes. We were actually on  
14 a Hydro program together, one of the Hydro  
15 Aboriginal programs, we were supposed to be Hydro  
16 employees, but most of us didn't stick around,  
17 right? And we worked in Jenpeg, and that's when  
18 they still had the old camp up, where the old camp  
19 was. And I remember one of the selling points to  
20 new people coming in to Hydro about Jenpeg was  
21 that Jenpeg had the world's largest reservoir,  
22 right?

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, Lake Winnipeg.

24 MR. SPIESS: That's what they called  
25 it, that was a selling point, it was the world's

1 largest reservoir, rather than an eco-system it  
2 was a reservoir. And I haven't forgotten that.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: That's true.

4 MR. SPIESS: Thanks for coming and  
5 thanks for listening.

6 (Concluded at 7:45 p.m.)

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## OFFICIAL EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Cecelia Reid, a duly appointed Official Examiner in the Province of Manitoba, do hereby certify the foregoing pages are a true and correct transcript of my Stenotype notes as taken by me at the time and place hereinbefore stated to the best of my skill and ability.

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Cecelia Reid

Official Examiner, Q.B.

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