

## Manitoba Clean Environment Commission Presentation

Grand Marais February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015

- Future Licences granted to Manitoba Hydro should be of a shorter duration and should be flexible enough to address climatic changes that may result in significant water volume increases in within the watershed.
- We know that we are in a period of climate change and Manitoba Hydro has to be in a position to maximize outflows from Lake Winnipeg while utilizing a downstream retention program.
  - The weather bomb of late October 2010 caused much damage in the south basin of Lake Winnipeg and many of the municipalities have expended a great deal of money to address the problems that resulted from the storm and the property damage. My community, Victoria Beach has suffered real property damage and has expended in excess of one half million dollars for a study done by Baird Shoreline Engineers that outlined engineering solutions to reduce the impact of future storms on the municipal shorelines. These remedial structures are expensive and I believe that Manitoba Hydro should be required to assist in providing funding to address the recommendations in the Baird Study. Hydro will continue to use Lake Winnipeg as a reservoir and participation in shoreline protection is a cost of doing business.
  - Manitoba Hydro is a valued resource for the people of Manitoba and our government, but I believe it must participate in the protection of another public resource, Lake Winnipeg.
  - The marshes of the south basin of Lake Winnipeg have been a proven filter for the waters of Lake Winnipeg over the centuries but controlling the water above 713 ft above sea level has resulted in the marshes being unable to regenerate the very important plant life necessary to be the lake's filter. As the commission moves forward in its review of the licence terms for Manitoba Hydro should be required to participate in the funding of study of possible methods of constraining water flows into the marshes to promote rejuvenation of the plant life.
  - Manitoba Hydro is not responsible for the recent storms that have caused so much damage but when the level of the Lake is at 715 ft above sea level when a storm occurs then some responsibility must rest with the licence.