

MANITOBA CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

LAKE WINNIPEG REGULATION REVIEW  
UNDER THE WATER POWER ACT

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Transcript of Proceedings  
Held at Berens River School  
Berens River, Manitoba  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 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  
Melissa Hotaine - Community Liaison

MANITOBA HYDRO

Dale Hutchison

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1 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2015

2 UPON COMMENCING AT 1:00 P.M.

3

4 CHIEF JACKIE EVERETT: Good morning, I  
5 guess we will start. We are going to start with  
6 an opening prayer first, as we always do before  
7 any kind of meeting that we open, we always open  
8 with a prayer. And then after the prayer, I will  
9 hand you back to the principal and then back to  
10 me, and then we will explain what this is all  
11 about. If I can ask for a volunteer to come and  
12 do the opening?

13 (Opening Prayer)

14 CHIEF JACKIE EVERETT: So before the  
15 meeting starts, I will just give you a quick  
16 breakdown in how we are going to do this today.  
17 So, our guests are only here until 3:00, I  
18 believe, 3:00 o'clock. So this morning the plan  
19 was to open the meeting and to have entertainment  
20 by our own local entertainers here. And then we  
21 are going to give the opportunity for the grade 7  
22 to 9, they have been doing some research on this  
23 same topic, and they have come up with questions.  
24 Then we will break for lunch. Lunch is going to  
25 be provided here. And then the panel is going to

1 do some presentations, along with Chief and  
2 Council, and then we will open it up to the  
3 community.

4 So I ask our guests to provide as much  
5 information to you today so everybody is fully  
6 informed of what this is all about. So I'm going  
7 to pass it over to Principal Batenchuk for this  
8 morning.

9 MS. KAREN BATENCHUK: Thank you,  
10 Chief. I want to thank the community members for  
11 getting involved, and also our students, and also  
12 I would like to welcome our guests from  
13 Stewardship, Water and Stewardship. The grade  
14 seven to nine students have been working hard this  
15 week on researching about all of this, what is  
16 going to be happening. I have been telling them,  
17 you guys are our future leaders, you are going to  
18 be the principals and the chief and councils some  
19 day. It is affecting you, so you need to do your  
20 work and prepare yourself. Is it what we want or  
21 what is going to come forward to us? So they have  
22 been doing a wonderful job, so thank you, along  
23 with the teachers, thank you for working with the  
24 students.

25 So, anyways, I just wanted to provide

1 entertainment because, as you know, we have our  
2 very own fiddlers, they have been fiddling since  
3 they were in grade 2, so I think all of these five  
4 students are in grade 8 now, so they have been  
5 fiddling for a number of years already. So they  
6 are going to play three tunes for us that they  
7 have been practising. So we have Emanuel McKay,  
8 Mika Everett, Jamon Worms, Tyron McKay and Ovide  
9 Denecheze. So let's give them a warm welcome.

10 By the way, I am going to start  
11 fiddling too, because they don't have a fiddling  
12 teacher here full time, so I have been working  
13 with them. So next time.

14 (Music by the fiddlers)

15 MS. KAREN BATENCHUK: We usually have  
16 our guitar player along with them, but we don't  
17 have our guitar player today. Thank you. I will  
18 hand it over to the chair.

19 Let's give them another hand, it is  
20 hard to fiddle. Who is the teachers? Maybe I can  
21 introduce you, stand up. I recognize Maureen  
22 O'Neil is grade 8, and Angela Hood. Just the two?

23 Jackie Everett, can I get the council  
24 to come up here and join us? So this is how we  
25 are going to do it, the seven to nine are going to

1 ask the questions. And there is two microphones  
2 here, you can move around. So, if the teachers --  
3 you want to start? Use the mic over here.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Can I just ask, do you  
5 want them to ask the question and then we will  
6 respond to each question, as best we can anyway?  
7 Okay. And we ask them to just state their names  
8 as well and then fire away.

9 JASMINE HOOD: I'm Jasmine Hood. Why  
10 are you working on these projects?

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Why are we working on  
12 this project?

13 JASMINE HOOD: Yes?

14 THE CHAIRMAN: We were asked, actually  
15 about three years ago, four years ago by the  
16 Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship to  
17 provide a forum to hear from people who live  
18 around Lake Winnipeg and downstream of Lake  
19 Winnipeg, about any concerns they might have about  
20 the regulation of Lake Winnipeg by Manitoba Hydro.  
21 So we are traveling around a number of  
22 communities, we have been in the north, we have  
23 been in the central Interlake, and we have been  
24 down around the south basin of the lake. So we  
25 have been in a number of communities already

1 listening to people like you from other  
2 communities.

3 JASMINE HOOD: Will this open more job  
4 opportunities?

5 THE CHAIRMAN: The work that we are  
6 doing will not have any impact on job  
7 opportunities, but I can't speak for Manitoba  
8 Hydro, but they do have a number of job  
9 opportunities in various places around the  
10 province.

11 MIKA EVERETT: I'm Mika. What would  
12 happen if the water level goes higher?

13 THE CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, I couldn't  
14 hear all of your question. What would happen if  
15 the water levels?

16 MIKA EVERETT: What would happen if  
17 the water levels were all high?

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Were always high -- is  
19 that what it says? Okay. Well, that's obviously  
20 not good for anybody if the water level is always  
21 high. We have heard stories in a number of  
22 communities about the water being higher than  
23 normal, particularly in the last few years. And  
24 that's not good because it floods out many  
25 communities. And we haven't heard yet, but I

1 expect that we will hear today from people in your  
2 community telling us a similar thing, that the  
3 water is higher than it usually has been.

4 I know that Manitoba Hydro, as part of  
5 their licence, is required to do everything it can  
6 to get the water level back down when it is high.  
7 Does that answer your question? Thank you.

8 JAMON HARMS: What happens if our  
9 water gets contaminated?

10 THE CHAIRMAN: What happens if the  
11 water gets contaminated? That's a real problem  
12 too. And as you probably know, Lake Winnipeg  
13 already has some issues with contamination. There  
14 is too much phosphorous and nitrogen in Lake  
15 Winnipeg which affects -- well, it causes blue  
16 green algae, which is not good for the lake. And  
17 if it stays in the lake for a long enough time, it  
18 can cause harm to the fish. So we, and that's all  
19 of us in this room and all of us who actually live  
20 throughout the Lake Winnipeg basin, which  
21 stretches from about Thunder Bay to the Rocky  
22 Mountains, and down south into Minnesota and North  
23 Dakota, all of us in that area really have to be  
24 more careful about what we put into the water to  
25 try to clean up Lake Winnipeg.

1 Does that answer your question?

2 JAMON WORMS: Yeah.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

4 OVIDE DENECHÉZE: Hello, I am Ovide.

5 What is the project about?

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, what this project  
7 is about, it was built in the early 1970s, long  
8 before any of you folks were born, and it was  
9 built to help Manitoba Hydro, to give them enough  
10 water to run major generating stations on the  
11 lower Nelson River. And if you look at some of  
12 those boards over there, the board that's on the  
13 left end, it shows some generating stations at  
14 Kettle and Long Spruce and Limestone. And they  
15 provide most of the power for the Province of  
16 Manitoba, and they need water to run them. So by  
17 controlling, by putting controls at the north end  
18 of the lake, it helped Manitoba Hydro have the  
19 water to run those stations. But there was a  
20 secondary reason for building it, and that was to  
21 reduce flooding on Lake Winnipeg. Lake Winnipeg  
22 has a long history of flooding, and by building  
23 more outlets at the north end of Lake Winnipeg,  
24 they were able to get more water out more quickly  
25 and bring the flooding down a bit. We still get

1 flooding but not as often as before.

2 OVIDE DENECHÉZE: I have got one more  
3 question.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.

5 OVIDE DENECHÉZE: How is this going to  
6 benefit our community?

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I suppose the  
8 biggest benefit for your community, and for really  
9 all of the communities in the Province of  
10 Manitoba, is that we have probably the lowest  
11 hydroelectric rates in Canada. I know sometimes  
12 it can seem pretty expensive, especially in cold  
13 winters it can seem expensive to be paying your  
14 electric bill every month, but we still have, if  
15 not the cheapest, among the cheapest in Canada.  
16 And all of this is part of allowing us to have  
17 cheaper electricity. And there are benefits to  
18 have cheaper electricity aside from our own Hydro  
19 bills, it also encourages businesses that create  
20 jobs to come into Manitoba because they are  
21 attracted by lower electric rates. Does that  
22 answer your question?

23 OVIDE DENECHÉZE: Thank you.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Next.

25 TYRON MCKAY: Hi.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Hi.

2 TYRON MCKAY: I am Tyron. Does it  
3 cost us anything?

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Probably not. Well,  
5 maybe I should go back a little bit. When it was  
6 first built, which was about 40 years ago, they  
7 started construction around about 1971 or '72, and  
8 it was finished in 1976. At that time it cost,  
9 obviously cost money to build these controls. And  
10 that was paid off by people who were paying their  
11 Hydro bill, so it probably, it might have added a  
12 cent or two to your Hydro bill over a number of  
13 years. But at this point it doesn't cost you  
14 directly. Where there are negative effects, then  
15 it certainly costs the community. And that gets  
16 more complicated. And some of the communities  
17 downstream of these projects, the Cross Lake First  
18 Nation in particular, they have a lot of ongoing  
19 costs because of periodic flooding. But  
20 whether -- how it would affect your community, it  
21 probably does a little, but I don't think it would  
22 be a huge cost.

23 TYRON MCKAY: I got one more question.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.

25 TYRON MCKAY: How do you plan on

1 reassuring the next generation?

2 THE CHAIRMAN: How do we plan on  
3 reassuring the next generation? That's actually a  
4 really good question, and it is probably one of  
5 those really good questions that doesn't have a  
6 really a good answer.

7 I think what we look to do, as part of  
8 the Clean Environment Commission when we are  
9 conducting these reviews, is we try to ensure that  
10 projects are built, or in this case an existing  
11 project, that they have as little environmental  
12 impact as possible, and that helps future  
13 generations. If we can keep the environmental  
14 damage down, if we can clean up the pollution in  
15 the lake, which was asked in an earlier question,  
16 then we will help future generations have a better  
17 life.

18 TYRON MCKAY: Thank you.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

20 LUKE BERENS: Hello, my name is Luke  
21 Berens. What happens if the project fails?

22 THE CHAIRMAN: What happens if the  
23 project fails? Well, that would be very serious.  
24 If the dam were to give out, then there would be  
25 serious damage downstream of where the dam is at

1 Jenpeg. The first community that would get hit  
2 would be Cross Lake, and it would be very  
3 seriously damaged.

4           Having said that, though, in the  
5 history of hydroelectric generating stations in  
6 North America, especially in the Canada, I don't  
7 believe there has been a hydroelectric generating  
8 station that has failed. There are some cases in  
9 recorded history in other parts of the world where  
10 there have been dam failures, and it caused  
11 serious damage and serious loss of life, but it  
12 has never been known in Canada. So we have that  
13 reassurance.

14           LUKE BERENS: Will the community come  
15 to any harm from this project?

16           THE CHAIRMAN: Will this community  
17 come to any harm from -- I don't think it will be  
18 serious. As long as there is high water, I'm sure  
19 it has effects on your community, both in loss of  
20 land, but also it could affect some of the  
21 fishermen who work out on the lake. But a lot of  
22 the current high water is probably not because of  
23 the Hydro project very much, but mostly because in  
24 recent years, with climate change, there is a lot  
25 more water coming into the lake than is going out.

1 So I suspect there is not much negative impact on  
2 your community, on Berens River, and there  
3 probably won't be, but we do have to get the lake  
4 levels under control somehow.

5 LUKE BERENS: Thank you.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

7 ISAIAH FLETT: Hi, my name is Isaiah  
8 Flett. How will the environment be affected?

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, for this project,  
10 when this project was built in the early '70s,  
11 early to mid '70s, environmental assessment was a  
12 new science and it wasn't required for projects  
13 such as this. In fact, environmental assessment  
14 probably didn't really become a major component of  
15 development until 15 or 20 years after this  
16 project was built. The first Manitoba Hydro  
17 project that required a full environmental  
18 assessment before it was built was Wuskwatim,  
19 which wasn't built until just about ten years ago.  
20 So it is hard to say after the fact what impacts  
21 there were on the environment, but we do know that  
22 there certainly were impacts. We know  
23 particularly downstream of the project, and I have  
24 mentioned already the Cross Lake First Nation,  
25 they have had problems with flooding, with ice

1 problems, some loss of wildlife, and some effect  
2 on their fishing. So there have been  
3 environmental effects. There will continue to be  
4 environmental effects, but it is hard to assess  
5 them now because nobody looked at it beforehand to  
6 see what was there before they built this.

7 It might not be a fully satisfactory  
8 answer, but sort of after the fact, that's about  
9 the best I can give.

10 ISAIAH FLETT: I have one more  
11 question. Why does Hydro want to look after the  
12 water?

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Why doesn't Hydro not  
14 want to look after the water?

15 ISAIAH FLETT: Why does it want to  
16 look after the water?

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Why does it want to  
18 look after the water? Well, as I said a few  
19 moments ago in response to another question, Hydro  
20 needs this water to drive the generating stations  
21 down river from the project. Without enough  
22 water, then they wouldn't be able to generate all  
23 of the electricity that they do, and we all  
24 benefit from that electricity.

25 ISAIAH FLETT: Okay. Thank you.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

2 KASH BAPTISTE: Hi, what will happen  
3 to the water?

4 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry, I didn't  
5 hear your question?

6 KASH BAPTISTE: What will happen to  
7 the water?

8 THE CHAIRMAN: What happens to the  
9 water?

10 KASH BAPTISTE: What will happen to  
11 the water?

12 THE CHAIRMAN: What will happen to the  
13 water? Well, the water -- the water comes  
14 through, it comes into Lake Manitoba. If you look  
15 at I think the second panel there on the left, the  
16 green one, I think that's green, there are, I  
17 think it is four major rivers that flow into Lake  
18 Winnipeg, there are about a dozen reasonably major  
19 rivers, and then there is hundreds of small creeks  
20 and smaller rivers. So it all comes in, it flows  
21 through, it goes out through the Nelson River up  
22 near Warren Landing and north of that. And it  
23 just flows down the river to generating stations  
24 and then out into Hudson Bay. At times such as  
25 the last few years, there is more water, and

1 that's what we have to try and get control of  
2 right now. I'm not sure if that fully answers  
3 your question, but I think that might be the best  
4 I can do.

5 KASH BAPTISTE: Thank you.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

7 NICOLAS EVERETT: How would the water  
8 level affect animals and fish?

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, there is -- we  
10 have heard in a number of communities already that  
11 the high water level has affected in particular  
12 muskrat and beaver, which are important parts of  
13 the economy in a number of communities around this  
14 lake. I'm not sure that it would affect fish all  
15 that much. If the lake continues to get more  
16 polluted, that would certainly affect the fish,  
17 but simply because the water is a bit higher in  
18 recent years, I'm not sure that it would affect  
19 fish that much. But it can have negative impacts  
20 on muskrat and beaver, and even other animals that  
21 live near the shore, if there is more wetlands  
22 near the shore, they could be negatively impacted.

23 NICOLAS EVERETT: Okay. And how would  
24 water and flooding affect our traps?

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I think -- I

1 think I partly answered that. If there is more  
2 flooding, it can flood out muskrat houses and  
3 beaver houses and cause, in particular in winter,  
4 kill off, and that would affect your ability to  
5 trap. Also in areas, if the water goes up too  
6 high and floods the traplines, then it's going to  
7 be impossible for you or your family or your  
8 neighbours to go out and work on the traplines, at  
9 least in those areas that are flooded.

10 NICHOLAS EVERETT: Nicholas Everett is  
11 my name.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

13 AVERY BOULANGER: Hi. Will these  
14 projects affect our drinking water?

15 THE CHAIRMAN: I don't think so, it  
16 shouldn't affect your drinking water at all.  
17 Where do you get your drinking water from? Does  
18 it come from the lake or from wells or -- from the  
19 lake? Then I assume that you have a water  
20 treatment plant that treats the water before --  
21 yes. So it shouldn't affect your drinking water  
22 at all. Again, going back to the earlier question  
23 about pollution, if that continues and gets worse,  
24 then it might have an affect, it might mean that  
25 you have to spend more money on water treatment,

1 which is not good for anybody. But just by  
2 itself, higher water levels shouldn't affect the  
3 drinking water.

4 AVERY BOULANGE: Will Manitoba Hydro  
5 help in cleaning up Lake Winnipeg?

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Will they help to clean  
7 up lake Winnipeg? They do. I know that they make  
8 contributions to a number of research  
9 organizations and scientists that work at trying  
10 to study the lake to see what the problems are and  
11 what might be done to clean it up. And Hydro does  
12 participate in that. Thank you.

13 AVERY BOULANGER: My name is Avery  
14 Boulange.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

16 REANNA ANDERS: Hi. Will this affect  
17 the jobs for people who fish for a living?

18 THE CHAIRMAN: It has in the past,  
19 certainly in areas where there was a lot of  
20 flooding. In some of those areas -- and again in  
21 an earlier question I said that back in the '70s,  
22 when this was built there wasn't much  
23 environmental assessment done. They also didn't  
24 clear a lot of debris where they flooded. So  
25 trees would pop up for years after and float, and

1 they often ended up in nets, which hurt fishermen.  
2 We have heard from some people in some communities  
3 in the last few weeks about added silt coming into  
4 the lake which gets into, sort of clings to algae  
5 and stuff and really fouls their nets and affects  
6 them.

7 Higher water by itself, unless it is  
8 bringing in silt or other debris, shouldn't affect  
9 the fishermen, but there could be occasions where  
10 it does. That's not a fully satisfactory answer,  
11 I'm sure, but it is one of those, it may and may  
12 not type of questions.

13 REANNA ANDERS: Would Manitoba Hydro  
14 ask Aboriginal communities on any future  
15 decisions?

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Will Manitoba Hydro  
17 involve Aboriginal communities in decisions, is  
18 that your question?

19 That's, again, a very good question.  
20 I'm not, I'm not employed by Manitoba Hydro, so I  
21 can't really speak for them, but I do know that  
22 Manitoba Hydro has a division that focuses solely  
23 on Aboriginal affairs and working with Aboriginal  
24 communities, with consulting with them, with  
25 trying to find employment opportunities in many of

1 those communities. So I think, yes, they do and  
2 they will continue to work with Aboriginal  
3 communities and seek their advice.

4 REANNA ANDERS: My name is Reanna.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Is that  
6 all?

7 So I think we are done with all of the  
8 questions. I would just like to say, those were  
9 fabulous questions, you guys did some good work in  
10 researching them. Thank you for that. I hope my  
11 answers were half as good as your questions. So  
12 thank you all, and thank you to the teachers who  
13 offered their guidance in getting the students to  
14 put this together. Thank you very much.

15 Also thanks and congratulations to the  
16 fiddlers, that was quite fun.

17 CHIEF JACKIE EVERETT: Okay, thank you  
18 seven to nine. Those were, like he said,  
19 excellent questions. With those questions, more  
20 questions are going to arise, because you are just  
21 opening doors right now. So we are going to go  
22 after you, and we welcome you to stay and listen  
23 right to the end, if the school will allow you.

24 I guess right now we are going to have  
25 some lunch, and then we will get back to the panel

1 as soon as we are done.

2 (Lunch recess)

3 CHIEF JACKIE EVERETT: Okay. We are  
4 going to get started. Time is limited, I know  
5 there is going to be a lot of discussion,  
6 questions from the community, so I'm going to hand  
7 it over to the panel here, and they are going to  
8 let us know, give us information right from the  
9 beginning, who they are, what this is about, and  
10 what is it that they are seeking from the  
11 community. But I will tell you, the leadership  
12 does have a position paper in place, we are not in  
13 agreement, and we will tell you why. Like we  
14 worked hard on a paper. It took longer, like it  
15 took a long time. That's why we kept postponing  
16 these meetings because we weren't ready. This is  
17 a very important issue that's going to impact not  
18 only us here, but the next generation coming, and  
19 the next. So that's why we didn't rush it.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,  
21 Chief Everett.

22 Good afternoon. My name is Terry  
23 Sargeant, I'm the chair of the Manitoba Clean  
24 Environment Commission, as well as the chair of  
25 the panel conducting this particular review. At

1 the outset, I would like to acknowledge that we  
2 are holding today's meeting in the traditional  
3 territory of the Berens River First Nation, a  
4 Treaty 5 First Nation. I would like to thank the  
5 leadership of your community for accepting our  
6 invitation to host the Commission so that we can  
7 hear from as many of you as wish to share your  
8 thoughts or stories.

9 I would also, before I go any further,  
10 I would like to thank whoever put the lunch  
11 together, it was excellent. I'm a big fan of  
12 hearty soups, especially on cold wintery days like  
13 today, and the soup I had was outstanding. Thank  
14 you very much for whoever put that together, we  
15 appreciate it.

16 I would like to introduce the other  
17 members of the panel. To my left is Bev Suek, to  
18 my right is Neil Harden and Edwin Yee. In  
19 addition to the panel, we have some staff with us,  
20 our Commission secretary, Cathy Johnson, our  
21 community liaison, Melissa Hotain, and our  
22 recorder, Cece Reid.

23 We are here today because in 2011 the  
24 Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship  
25 asked the Clean Environment Commission to provide

1 a forum to hear evidence from the public about the  
2 impacts of Manitoba Hydro's regulation of Lake  
3 Winnipeg.

4           Let me tell you a little bit about  
5 what the CEC is. We are a Provincial Government  
6 agency, but we do not represent the Government of  
7 Manitoba. We do not represent the department of  
8 Conservation and Water Stewardship. We are what  
9 is known as an arm's length organization. It is  
10 our job to provide independent, unbiased advice to  
11 the Minister on specific questions, policy  
12 matters, project matters, but certain questions  
13 that the Minister asks us to look into. We are  
14 also not representative of Manitoba Hydro. The  
15 project that we are examining right now happens to  
16 be a Manitoba Hydro project, as were our last two  
17 projects. So for about the last three years all  
18 of our work has been focused, three years or more  
19 has been focused on Manitoba Hydro projects, but  
20 we do not represent Manitoba Hydro.

21           When the Minister asked us to conduct  
22 these hearings, he asked that we hold meetings in  
23 communities around both the north and south basins  
24 of Lake Winnipeg, as well as in the City of  
25 Winnipeg. We are now in, I believe it is week

1 five of our hearings. We have been in the north  
2 in Thompson, we were -- the next week we were in  
3 the central Interlake, Pine Dock, Peguis, Fisher  
4 River, Ashern. The following week, Grand Rapids.  
5 Where were we last week? Last week was Gimli,  
6 Selkirk, Brokenhead and Grand Marais. And earlier  
7 this week we in Manigotagan, yesterday in Black  
8 River, today here, and on Friday we will be in  
9 Sagkeeng. Then next week we are back up in Cross  
10 Lake First Nation. In early March we will start  
11 what we think will be five weeks of hearings in  
12 the City of Winnipeg. And following that we will  
13 be back on the road in Norway House, and perhaps  
14 Split Lake as well.

15                   What we -- what the Minister  
16 specifically asked us to do was to look at the  
17 reasons why Lake Winnipeg Regulation came into  
18 being in the early '70s, with the issuance of the  
19 first licence in 1970. We were also asked to look  
20 at whether Lake Winnipeg Regulation has succeeded  
21 or failed in meeting those goals. And we were  
22 asked to look at the impacts and effects of Lake  
23 Winnipeg Regulation since it first went into full  
24 operation in 1976.

25                   We try to make the community hearings

1 as informal as possible, to encourage as many of  
2 you as possible to come forward and share your  
3 opinions or your stories. The hearings are  
4 recorded, this is required by the Environment Act.  
5 Within a few days, a verbatim transcript of  
6 today's hearings, including all of the questions  
7 that we heard from the students this morning, will  
8 be posted on our website. Anyone in the room who  
9 wishes to make a presentation or who wishes to ask  
10 questions is more than welcome to come forward.  
11 If you want to do it jointly with another person,  
12 that's quite all right.

13                   What we are looking for is, well, we  
14 would like you to identify yourselves and then  
15 tell us how Lake Winnipeg Regulation might have  
16 impacted you or your community. We would like to  
17 know your views on whether or not the project has  
18 been good for the province as a whole. And we  
19 would like to know what decisions you think the  
20 panel should make in this regard.

21                   I would also like to say that if  
22 anybody feels more comfortable or wishes to make a  
23 presentation in your own language, that is quite  
24 all right, although we would ask that you have  
25 someone translate for those of us who don't

1 understand your language.

2                   Finally, there are options to an oral  
3 presentation, that is we accept written  
4 submissions. A written submission need not be any  
5 more than just a letter or an email sent to us.  
6 You will find our addresses on our website at  
7 cecmanitoba.ca. The panel members will read all  
8 of the written submissions that come in, they  
9 become part of the formal record, and they will be  
10 part of our thinking when it comes time to  
11 deliberate and come to some conclusions and  
12 recommendations about this project.

13                   That's all I have by way of opening  
14 comments. I would now like to ask Dale Hutchison  
15 from Manitoba Hydro to come forward and just give  
16 us a brief presentation on what this project is  
17 all about. And he will be working from these  
18 banners off to the side.

19                   Dale?

20                   MR. HUTCHISON: Thank you, Terry.

21                   So my name is Dale Hutchison,  
22 respected elders, Chief Everett, council, Mayor  
23 Altookan, students of course, thank you for  
24 inviting me to your territory to speak about Lake  
25 Winnipeg Regulation.

1                   I have been working with Manitoba  
2 Hydro for 5 years to understand our impacts on the  
3 waterways and on the people that we share them  
4 with. So I will be going through a 10 to 15  
5 minute presentation, and I will talk about the  
6 Manitoba Hydro system, Lake Winnipeg and the Lake  
7 Winnipeg Regulation project.

8                   So a huge area, west to the Rocky  
9 Mountains, east to the edge of Lake Superior, and  
10 south into the Red River Valley of the United  
11 States flows into Lake Winnipeg. The shape of the  
12 land is like a million square kilometre bowl, and  
13 this is what makes hydroelectric development  
14 possible on a large scale in Manitoba. There are  
15 15 generating stations that make use of the water  
16 as it flows through the province. And on this  
17 banner they are shown by the blue dots, and the  
18 size of the dot, small, medium and large, shows  
19 how much electricity each of these generating  
20 stations can make.

21                   So on the Winnipeg River we have got  
22 six small generating stations. Across the lake on  
23 the Saskatchewan River, we have got a medium-sized  
24 station at Grand Rapids. The Nelson River, as  
25 many of you probably know, flows north out of the

1 lake and into Hudson Bay. We have got a small  
2 generating station 100 kilometres north of the  
3 lake on the west branch of the Nelson River.

4 North of the Nelson is the Churchill  
5 River. It also flows into Hudson Bay. Now,  
6 rather than building generation stations on this  
7 far northern river, instead its waters were  
8 diverted into the Nelson through what is called  
9 the Churchill River Diversion project. This  
10 involved building a dam at the outflow of Southern  
11 Indian Lake, raising the level of the lake nine  
12 feet, and then diverting most of the water into  
13 the Nelson at Split Lake.

14 Wuskwatim, which is the newest  
15 generating station, is a small station shown by  
16 the small blue dot on this Churchill River  
17 Diversion route. So the main hydroelectric  
18 benefit of Churchill River Diversion is that from  
19 Split Lake downstream to Hudson Bay, the Nelson  
20 has the benefit of two rivers. And you can see  
21 that our largest generating stations, shown by  
22 these large blue dots, Kettle, Long Spruce and  
23 Limestone, are all located downstream of Split  
24 lake. These three stations alone produce 70 per  
25 cent of all of the electricity in Manitoba.

1                   Keeyask is a medium-sized generating  
2     station and it is currently being constructed on  
3     this stretch of river downstream of Split Lake.

4                   To move the electricity from these  
5     northern stations to the south, there are two high  
6     voltage bipole lines that go 1,000 kilometres from  
7     Gillam to a converter station near Winnipeg.  
8     There is a third bipole line that's currently  
9     being constructed as well. From the converter  
10    station near Winnipeg, electricity is sent over  
11    100,000 kilometres of distribution lines to homes  
12    and businesses throughout Manitoba. Manitoba  
13    Hydro can also produce electricity using natural  
14    gas at stations in Brandon and Selkirk, shown by  
15    these orange dots. In an emergency we can burn  
16    coal at the station in Brandon. And we don't own  
17    them, but we purchase electricity from wind farms  
18    at St. Leon and St. Joseph. If any of you have  
19    driven to the United States, you can see these  
20    sort of windmills on the edge of the highway  
21    there.

22                  All together Manitoba Hydro uses water  
23    to produce over 95 per cent of the electricity  
24    that is made.

25                  So now we will look at Lake Winnipeg.

1 There are over dozen rivers that flow into Lake  
2 Winnipeg, however, there is only one natural  
3 outflow, the Nelson River. This can make it easy  
4 for the lake to flood. The mouth of the Nelson  
5 River is wide, but it is very shallow, which means  
6 that ice can block the flow of water out of the  
7 lake. This has caused problems for people living  
8 around the lake, to the point where highways have  
9 been closed, crops have been lost, homes and  
10 cottages have been damaged.

11           These are Winnipeg Free Press  
12 headlines and photographs of flooding events in  
13 recent history, years like 1927, 1954, 1955, 1966,  
14 1968, 1969, 1970. This put a lot of pressure on  
15 the government to do something about this  
16 flooding.

17           At the same time the demand for  
18 electricity was growing in Manitoba. And in 1970,  
19 the Premier of Manitoba announced plans to proceed  
20 with Lake Winnipeg Regulation for flood control on  
21 Lake Winnipeg and for power production on the  
22 Nelson River.

23           So before we could build LWR, first we  
24 needed a licence from the Province, similarly if  
25 you are going to build a house, first you get a

1 building permit. Well, this initial licence is  
2 called an interim licence, and to get it we had to  
3 show the Province what we wanted to build and the  
4 effect it would have on rivers and flows -- or  
5 river flows and lake levels, I should say.

6 In 1970, the Province granted us an  
7 interim licence which gave us the approval to  
8 build Lake Winnipeg Regulation. They also gave us  
9 rules for how it could be operated. And there  
10 were three types of rules. The first one were  
11 operating ranges on Lake Winnipeg and some of the  
12 downstream lakes. For instance, on Lake Winnipeg  
13 between 711 and 715 feet above sea level, Manitoba  
14 Hydro could decide how much water to flow through  
15 Jenpeg. If the water level of Lake Winnipeg gets  
16 above elevation 715, we have to let as much water  
17 as possible out of Lake Winnipeg. This is called  
18 maximum discharge. And if the level of the lake  
19 gets below 711, then it is the Minister of  
20 Conservation and Water Stewardship that tells us  
21 how much water to let out of lake.

22 The second set of rules is that we  
23 have to have a minimum flow of water out of Lake  
24 Winnipeg all of the time.

25 And the third rule is, we can't change

1 the rate of water flow at Jenpeg too fast.

2 So we agreed with these rules and  
3 built LWR by 1976. Now, the interim licence is  
4 good from -- that was the first step.

5 The second step is we have applied for  
6 a final licence. We did that in 2010, after doing  
7 a lot of negotiations and coming to agreements  
8 with communities, resource users groups, First  
9 Nations, all down the Nelson River in order to  
10 address impacts from LWR.

11 The final licence expires 50 years  
12 after the date of project construction was  
13 completed. So in this case, from 1976, 50 years  
14 goes ahead to 2026. So it means we are only 11  
15 years away from the final licence expiring.  
16 Before this happens, Manitoba Hydro will again  
17 apply for a renewal of this licence, which should  
18 be good for up to another 50 years.

19 So to build LWR it involved making a  
20 second outlet for Lake Winnipeg, along with two  
21 other channels to increase the flow of water out  
22 of the lake. Now, these three channels alone  
23 would drain the lake, so it was necessary to put a  
24 control structure or a dam at Jenpeg on the west  
25 Nelson River.

1                   Using the example of a faucet, sort of  
2 a tub and a drain, if all of these rivers coming  
3 into Lake Winnipeg are represented by the water  
4 drop under the faucet, then the drain represents  
5 the natural outflow. You can see that the water  
6 drop under it, this is the Nelson River outflow  
7 I'm talking about, of course, this water drop is  
8 much smaller than the water drop representing the  
9 faucet, or under the faucet. This means that  
10 during flood, a lot more water will enter Lake  
11 Winnipeg than can leave it, which causes the lake  
12 level to rise and the lake to flood.

13                   In this lower diagram, you guys at the  
14 back probably can't see this, but this will be up  
15 here afterwards as well. In the lower diagram  
16 there is a second drain, and the droplet under it  
17 represents the water that can flow out of the Lake  
18 Winnipeg Regulation channel. You can see that  
19 it's half the size of the water drop representing  
20 the natural channel, because it can flow half as  
21 much water as the natural channel can. You can  
22 also see that still together, these two water  
23 drops are still smaller than the water drop  
24 representing all of these rivers that flow into  
25 Lake Winnipeg. So even now with Lake Winnipeg

1 Regulation, during floods more water will enter  
2 the lake than can leave it, only now the lake  
3 won't get quite as high and the lake won't be in  
4 flood as long.

5 I'm afraid I have to use a graph, so I  
6 will kind of quickly try to explain what this is,  
7 but it is the only real way to explain water  
8 levels over time. So what this graph shows is  
9 that Lake Winnipeg Regulation has reduced flooding  
10 on Lake Winnipeg. It compares what the water  
11 level would be without Lake Winnipeg Regulation  
12 and what it has been with Lake Winnipeg  
13 Regulation.

14 The one side of the graph is the  
15 elevation above sea level. The bottom of the  
16 graph is 40 years since 1977, the first full year  
17 that LWR was in operation, up to today in 2015.  
18 The blue line is actual water level, what the  
19 water level on the lake has been with LWR. The  
20 red line represents an estimate of what the water  
21 level would be if LWR did not exist.

22 Now, you probably noticed, living so  
23 close to the lake, that the lake level has been  
24 very high the last 10, 12 years or so. There has  
25 been a lot of water flowing into Lake Winnipeg and

1 down the Nelson River. It has been a very wet  
2 period. What the information on this graph shows  
3 is that in flood years like 1997, 2005, 2011 and  
4 2014, is that the lake would have gotten two feet  
5 higher during each of these floods, and the  
6 flooding would have lasted a lot longer. So the  
7 information here is showing that Lake Winnipeg  
8 Regulation is meeting its goal of reducing  
9 flooding on Lake Winnipeg.

10 Now, what happens downstream of Lake  
11 Winnipeg? 20,000 people live along the Nelson  
12 River. Land and water are extremely important to  
13 their identity and their livelihoods. The  
14 additional water flow from Lake Winnipeg  
15 Regulation has caused significant impacts  
16 downstream of Lake Winnipeg. Normally during the  
17 winter, lake levels and river flows gradually  
18 decrease, they go down. With Lake Winnipeg  
19 Regulation, water flows in the winter can be much  
20 higher, up to 50 per cent higher than they would  
21 be if this Lake Winnipeg Regulation didn't exist.  
22 This additional water causes problems with ice on  
23 the waterways, which can make it dangerous to  
24 travel. Also, it can negatively affect aquatic  
25 mammals like beaver, mink, muskrat and otter. And

1 during the summer, any time the elevation of Lake  
2 Winnipeg gets close to or above elevation 715,  
3 Jenpeg goes to maximum discharge, which means it  
4 sends a surge of water down the Nelson River  
5 causing water level fluctuations on the river  
6 levels and the lake levels. So ultimately, Lake  
7 Winnipeg Regulation has affected the cultural,  
8 commercial, spiritual and recreational pursuits of  
9 people living downstream of Lake Winnipeg.

10 Now working together, in Cree this is  
11 called witasosketowin, with the people who live  
12 and work along the Nelson River, Manitoba Hydro  
13 has been working to address these impacts, through  
14 agreements and other arrangements with all of the  
15 First Nations and communities on the Nelson River,  
16 through projects like the Cross Lake Weir, and  
17 through programs for access and navigation,  
18 resource harvesting, archaeology and heritage  
19 resources, and recreation, as shown by the photos  
20 on this banner.

21 So that's my presentation. I will be  
22 available afterwards if you want to talk. And I  
23 wish you a productive meeting with the  
24 Commissioners of the Clean Environment Commission.  
25 Thank you.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Thank you  
2 Dale.

3 I would now like to invite Chief  
4 Everett and Council to make their presentation?

5 CHIEF JACKIE EVERETT: So I guess you  
6 will be hearing from our part here. We are going  
7 to be presenting to the panel. And I said  
8 earlier, the position of leadership is that we are  
9 not in agreement for granting the permanent  
10 licensing, so I'm going to tell you why. Okay.  
11 But I just need to ask you for your patience, it  
12 is quite a lengthy document, but it is very, like  
13 it provides information. And we have asked the  
14 school to see if they could make copies for each  
15 one of you. Okay. So you keep the document at  
16 home and share with as many people, and we will  
17 provide more documents to the community.

18 So I'm going to go back in history and  
19 then come back to this day and age and then  
20 forward. Okay. So I just ask for your patience.  
21 So this is to you, okay.

22 Berens River First Nation is a growing  
23 community along the east side of Lake Winnipeg.  
24 The community relies heavily on Lake Winnipeg for  
25 its existence. The lake has been the very heart

1 and soul of the community from time, eternally.  
2 Fishing, trapping, hunting, travel, ceremonial,  
3 spiritual usage have been the historical economic  
4 relevance of Lake Winnipeg to the people of Berens  
5 River First Nation. The lake had been -- has been  
6 and continues to be the pride of our community,  
7 our people.

8           Today the lake is sick. Lake Winnipeg  
9 is now listed as one of the most threatened and  
10 polluted lakes in the world. And yet we were the  
11 cleanest, think about the boreal forest. Our  
12 people have not caused this sickness for the lake.  
13 Our people have never harmed the lake. Today the  
14 lake is no longer the same lake as prior to 1970.  
15 You all heard their presentation, you know, how  
16 they came to be and all of that. When Manitoba  
17 Hydro began to use lakes as a reservoir to store  
18 water for hydro power generation, the lake levels  
19 have steadily increased since 1970, which has  
20 caused heavy damage to the shorelines all around  
21 the lake, to our lands in Berens River. You know,  
22 our community is small and we are probably not  
23 recognized, not like Cross Lake and Nelson House,  
24 but we believe that we still matter. You know,  
25 like you have all of these floods happening all

1 over the river. Yes, you see it, you know,  
2 because it is all over in the media and  
3 everything. But what we are saying here is we  
4 suffer the consequences of what happens up there  
5 because it trickles down. Okay. So we are kind  
6 of sharing our story with the panel.

7           Since our community is situated on the  
8 east side of Lake Winnipeg, we deal with northwest  
9 winds, you know, a lot of northwest. And it  
10 drives these high waters against our shore causing  
11 much destruction and damage to our community and  
12 its livelihood.

13           Our people were told back in 1970 that  
14 the lake would rise very little and that the  
15 increased water levels would hardly be noticeable.  
16 The opposite is true, given all damages that we  
17 see today.

18           The dam erected at Jenpeg near Cross  
19 Lake is akin to putting a plug in the bath tub.  
20 You heard that, he just did his presentation using  
21 the bath tub cycle. The lake can no longer drain  
22 itself properly and it becomes a toxic pool of  
23 wastewater from the cities like Winnipeg.

24           You've all seen how the lake looks in  
25 Winnipeg. I'm sure you have traveled over those

1 bridges. You know, the Red River, it is all  
2 toxic. And recently Lake Winnipeg has been a  
3 dumping ground for flood waters diverted through  
4 the Portage la Prairie Diversion channel into Lake  
5 Manitoba. Furthermore a new drainage channel from  
6 Lake St. Martin -- that's the community that's  
7 been flooded out for a couple of years now -- Lake  
8 Winnipeg was constructed in 2012 to increase water  
9 drainage into Lake Winnipeg. Our community of  
10 Berens River was never consulted with in terms of  
11 the impact of these additional waters being dumped  
12 into Lake Winnipeg. It is troubling for our  
13 people and our community that we have to suffer  
14 these high waters in order to save people in the  
15 south parts of Manitoba that would normally suffer  
16 the consequences of living on flood plain. The  
17 problem is not of our choosing, but our people who  
18 decided to live in these high flood areas. Today  
19 these extra burdens are being placed on Lake  
20 Winnipeg and the communities all along its shore  
21 to suffer from the extra waters being unnaturally  
22 diverted from south Manitoba flood plain areas.

23           You know, we are not being mean, it is  
24 not that. But we have to think, like we are a  
25 growing community, you see our children, and it is

1 time that somebody thinks about us too.

2 Our position on Lake Winnipeg is based  
3 on Treaty number 5, signed on September 1875. In  
4 our Treaty the Queen, now the Crown in Right of  
5 Canada, nothing was said about waters of Lake  
6 Winnipeg. We did grant the Queen the right to  
7 sail ships on Lake Winnipeg, through our waters,  
8 which is stated in Treaty number 5. The fact  
9 points to our ownership of Lake Winnipeg and its  
10 water. We were promised lands suitable for  
11 farming, but more than half of our lands are swamp  
12 today. The survivors back in 1875 -- the  
13 surveyors back in 1875 to 1877, we believe didn't  
14 do their surveying properly, they took shortcuts,  
15 because they wouldn't be bothered to cut down  
16 trees so they could see where the proper lines  
17 were supposed to be. And this is proven through  
18 written documents by the missionaries that were  
19 here, you know, people, stories, telling stories.

20 So I believe documents from other  
21 people than our own elders are accepted because  
22 they wrote them on paper. We didn't. We just  
23 told the stories. Okay.

24 So in saying that at that time our  
25 lands were suitable for farming -- we are in a

1 muskeg and swamp. The Chief and Council of today  
2 is protesting this fact to no avail. This issue  
3 is still outstanding to people today. People have  
4 their stories, but they are not being heard  
5 because our past generation, our forefathers  
6 before us didn't write stuff down. But we share,  
7 like we know the stories.

8                   Since signing of Treaty number 5 in  
9 1875, the farmers of Canada have received hundreds  
10 of billions of dollars to create a social farming  
11 economy for mainstream Canada farmers. To date,  
12 our people have received no such help to create  
13 farming to our reservation, except an ox granted  
14 in 1877, but of course he died a long time ago.

15                   Today our people are accused of being  
16 a social burden of Canada, on Canada. But if you  
17 add up all of the billions of dollars spent on  
18 farming and creating value added business for  
19 them, shipping ports, railroads, grain storage  
20 facilities and so on, our social costs are petty  
21 in comparison.

22                   Since 1970, Manitoba Hydro has  
23 compounded our losses of lands by the fact that  
24 higher water, higher water tables and erosions  
25 have taken more of our land. For hundreds of

1 years, if not thousand of years, the shorelines of  
2 Lake Winnipeg in our community remained unchanged.  
3 Since 1970, we have seen points become islands,  
4 didn't we? Many beaches destroyed and rivers and  
5 creeks that our people used to navigate boats are  
6 now blocked, Canoe Making Creek, Leaf River, Four  
7 Creek, et cetera. And yet in the 1970s, our  
8 people were told that increased water levels by  
9 Manitoba Hydro would hardly be noticeable.  
10 History has proved this claim wrong.

11           The lands on our reservation have  
12 become water logged to a point where many of our  
13 houses are molded and rotting underneath. In  
14 2009, our First Nation identified 108 houses with  
15 rotten floors and mold due to high groundwater  
16 tables. We have approximately 320 homes in our  
17 reservation at this time, therefore, one-third of  
18 our housing stock is being destroyed by high water  
19 tables. Our land, along with area we call the  
20 point are severely impacted by high water levels  
21 and high groundwater tables.

22           This part of our reserve is along the  
23 shore of Lake Winnipeg, and it is clear to see it  
24 is no longer safe to build along the shore like  
25 our people did in historic time and prior to the

1 1970s. Our commercial fishers in our community  
2 had a lot of problems with docks being washed away  
3 due to high waters. We have watched as other  
4 communities have been granted financial  
5 compensation, land compensation, revenue sharing,  
6 new housing, dykes, docks, new roads, recreation  
7 centre, business partners and so on, to compensate  
8 for loss and suffering during the Hydro  
9 development by the Province of Manitoba and  
10 Manitoba Hydro.

11 To date we have never been compensated  
12 for any damage or hardship to our community that  
13 has suffered due to unnaturally high water on Lake  
14 Winnipeg created by Manitoba Hydro in 1970. Our  
15 lake has a natural ebb flow of high water and low  
16 water periods, we all know that, which could last  
17 for a decade. This natural fluctuation allows for  
18 stable shoreline and habitat for wildlife. This  
19 is all gone now. Prior to the 1970s, muskrats  
20 were abundant and empty clam shells were piled  
21 high on the shores in the spring by feeding  
22 muskrats. This is no longer the case. We have  
23 land at Pigeon River, 10 miles south of Berens  
24 River, that used to be hay lands, these lands are  
25 now all willows and unusable.

1                   So our position, panel, the current  
2 application by Manitoba Hydro to seek final  
3 licence to regulate Lake Winnipeg for another 50  
4 years, beginning on or about 2026, is unacceptable  
5 to our community and the leadership of Berens  
6 River.

7                   Our position on the terms of reference  
8 of Lake Winnipeg Regulation review in 2014:  
9 Manitoba Hydro is to receive a final licence to  
10 regulate Lake Manitoba subject to fulfillment of  
11 the terms and conditions of interim licence  
12 granted to Manitoba Hydro in 1970 and 1972. The  
13 Berens River First Nation opposes the granting of  
14 the final licence to Manitoba Hydro to regulate  
15 Lake Winnipeg due to the fact that our shorelines  
16 are now disappeared by four feet and more since  
17 1970s, instead of the promise that the rise in the  
18 lake levels would hardly be noticeable. And the  
19 promise that the level of 715 feet above sea level  
20 would not be a frequent event has proven  
21 incorrect. Manitoba Hydro has failed on its  
22 promises to ensure that very little impact would  
23 be felt to our community. Today we see these  
24 changes and we can prove that the water levels are  
25 much higher than originally promised by Manitoba

1 Hydro. Photos from the 1960s and prior years of  
2 Berens River shore shows the loss of shorelines  
3 due to high level that we see today.

4 We also oppose the granting of the  
5 final licence to Manitoba Hydro due to the fact  
6 that inflows have drastically been altered by the  
7 cutting of that new channel from Lake St. Martin  
8 into Lake Winnipeg, 2012. And further channels  
9 are being planned by Lake Manitoba into Lake  
10 St. Martin to increase water flows even further.  
11 We oppose granting of the licence to Manitoba  
12 Hydro -- okay, I have to bring it back.

13 We also note that the Winnipeg  
14 Floodway was increased in size to flow more water  
15 into Lake Winnipeg due to major flooding events.  
16 For example, the flood of the century, 1997, you  
17 all remember that, it was all over the news.

18 We oppose the granting of the final  
19 licence to Manitoba Hydro due to the fact that it  
20 is impossible to regulate Lake Winnipeg with the  
21 old structure built at Jenpeg, near Cross Lake.  
22 There is no mention that the increased water in  
23 Lake Winnipeg from Lake St. Martin channel will  
24 require a new dam at Jenpeg to increase outflow to  
25 accommodate the extra water from Lake St. Martin

1 drainage channel that was built in 2012.

2 On page 7 the mandate states:

3 Review broader public policy rationale leading up  
4 to the regulation of lake levels on Lake Winnipeg  
5 via the interim licence granted in 1970. The  
6 policy thinkers of the day back in 1970 and their  
7 rationale for raising lake water levels was the  
8 very minimal impact to Lake Winnipeg by raising  
9 the lake level to a maximum of two feet. It was  
10 obviously a huge mistake to grant Manitoba Hydro  
11 the authority to unilaterally regulate lake waters  
12 due to their conflict of interest positions. It  
13 is obvious that more water stored means more  
14 profits made, at the expense of damages to the  
15 lake and communities around the lake.

16 From a public policy perspective in  
17 today's world, we see that the Crown Corporations,  
18 including Manitoba Hydro, are subject to review by  
19 Manitoba Public Utilities Board. In the present  
20 licence application for a final licence, Manitoba  
21 Hydro is once again seeking unilateral authority  
22 to regulate Lake Winnipeg as it did back in 1970.  
23 Public policy has changed today and it is improper  
24 and we submit illegal for Manitoba Hydro to  
25 regulate Lake Winnipeg, which is technically a

1 public asset now since it is now a reservoir and  
2 not a lake, nature no longer regulates it. It is  
3 all dams and everything, it is not natural  
4 anymore. Manitoba Hydro is in conflict of  
5 interest and, therefore, should not be granted  
6 unilaterally authority to regulate.

7                   And given the growth of Aboriginal and  
8 Treaty rights in Canada since 1970, section 35 of  
9 the Charter of Rights in 1982, the duty to  
10 accommodate and consult -- okay, so we are going  
11 to talk about that. We believe that didn't happen  
12 here. They may say all Aboriginals, but we are  
13 all in different locations. So we are saying it  
14 requires that the Berens River First Nation and  
15 all other First Nations around Lake Winnipeg have  
16 the right to manage the waters of Lake Winnipeg  
17 and share in the benefits of these waters. At the  
18 very least, a partnership with Manitoba Hydro is  
19 needed to meet today's public policy requirements  
20 as called for.

21                   Therefore, the Berens River First  
22 Nation opposes the granting of a final licence to  
23 regulate Lake Winnipeg levels, water levels. The  
24 Berens River First Nation submits that it is now  
25 required by law that our First Nation has the

1 right to regulate Lake Winnipeg and participate in  
2 all and any matters relating to Lake Winnipeg in  
3 the meantime. So I feel with the presentation  
4 with Manitoba Hydro, I hope you don't go back and  
5 say that you consulted with us, because this is  
6 not consultation.

7 Page 7, we are just backing up our  
8 document, but we did a lot of research. The  
9 mandate states:

10 "Hear evidence on the effects and  
11 impacts of Lake Winnipeg Regulation  
12 and review the success and failures of  
13 the public policy goals that lead to  
14 regulation of Lake Winnipeg."

15 Our position, as stated above, is that  
16 Manitoba Hydro has caused great damages to our  
17 community and the people with their ill fated plan  
18 to regulate water levels on Lake Winnipeg. Today  
19 Lake Winnipeg is not a lake, that can no longer  
20 clean itself due to Jenpeg dam. There is no  
21 success for the regulation of water on Lake  
22 Winnipeg. In fact, the situation has gotten worse  
23 with the new Lake St. Martin channel being built  
24 in 2012.

25 The evidence is easy to see by

1 visiting our community during the summer. Our  
2 elders have lived on the lake before 1970, and  
3 today we see a vastly different lake. A lake that  
4 no longer provides drinking water, you need a  
5 system to clean this water. You know, that's one  
6 of the questions you answered the students, but  
7 before that we were drinking right from the lake,  
8 and we still live today.

9 A lake that no longer provides  
10 drinking water and, furthermore, a lake that is  
11 quickly eroding shores and beaches at  
12 unprecedented rate. The shoreline on our reserve  
13 is becoming more unsuitable as time goes by and  
14 there is a serious need to protect our lands  
15 against this destruction, if possible. This  
16 situation exists in all communities situated  
17 around Lake Winnipeg.

18 So, in conclusion, the Berens River  
19 First Nation position is that there needs to be a  
20 complete assessment and review of the issues  
21 raised in this position paper. The Provincial and  
22 Federal Governments are responsible for all of the  
23 damages and hardship suffered by the people of the  
24 Berens River First Nation. We note that the panel  
25 has not heard the Aboriginal, the Aboriginal and

1 Northern Affairs regarding their participation and  
2 support for our First Nation in this hearing  
3 process. AANDC owes our First Nation a fiduciary  
4 obligation to assist in the protection of our  
5 lands and waters. We state that this process  
6 cannot proceed without full and willing engagement  
7 of AANDC to assist our First Nation with all of  
8 the costs of this hearing process and experts that  
9 we require to ensure that our concerns and issues  
10 are dealt with in a meaningful manner. Public  
11 policy demands that the Supreme Court of Canada  
12 had made it clear that we are owed a duty to  
13 consult and accommodate by all levels of  
14 government in this country, including Manitoba  
15 Hydro.

16 The Berens River First Nation is  
17 opposed to granting the unilateral final licence  
18 to Manitoba Hydro to regulate the waters of Lake  
19 Winnipeg. The Berens River First Nation is  
20 requesting that serious negotiation be funded by  
21 both levels of government to address the issues  
22 and concerns raised in this position paper. The  
23 Berens River First Nation is requesting fair and  
24 equitable compensation for all damages suffered  
25 due to high water levels caused by Manitoba Hydro

1 on Lake Winnipeg. The Berens River First Nation  
2 is requesting that this review process immediately  
3 take measures to ensure that the concerns of  
4 Berens River First Nation are addressed before any  
5 further consideration be given to the Lake  
6 Winnipeg waters by Manitoba Hydro.

7           So, in closing, we note that there are  
8 arbitrary deadlines to meet in this hearings  
9 process, and we submit the funding availability  
10 for our First Nation participation is far too  
11 inadequate to meet the high standards demanded  
12 today. So basically saying we are going to be  
13 seeking other resources, like there is more, there  
14 is more to be done, you know. Like today is kind  
15 of I guess informing us what is happening, you  
16 know, this is the first -- besides any emails or  
17 whatever, but this is the first visit to our First  
18 Nation, and our First Nation has a lot of  
19 questions, you know, like -- this is highlighted  
20 important.

21           We have made this clear in this  
22 submission, this process today is based on the old  
23 1970 assumption that the Province of Manitoba and  
24 Hydro have the unilateral authority and  
25 jurisdiction to regulate Lake Winnipeg levels.

1 The position by Provincial and Federal Government  
2 and their Crown agencies such as Manitoba Hydro is  
3 no longer valid. Canadian jurisprudence states  
4 otherwise.

5 Therefore, our First Nation is  
6 requesting that the Provincial and Federal  
7 Governments take a step back from the entire  
8 flawed process and setup a proper process to meet  
9 the public policy as it stands today. The Berens  
10 River First Nation has the right to participate  
11 and become a legal partner in setting up new  
12 process to regulate Lake Winnipeg under the terms  
13 of the final licence, 2026 and beyond, to cover  
14 the operations of Lake Winnipeg as a reservoir,  
15 not a natural lake as the case, since time  
16 immemorial.

17 So that's our presentation. And I  
18 encourage now the members to come up and share  
19 your stories and tell the panel why we don't  
20 agree. And I'm going to pass it to council. They  
21 are going to add a little bit more to the  
22 presentation.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chief  
24 Everett. Would you please identify yourself  
25 before you speak? We know who you are, your name

1 is on the record, but the recorder hasn't met the  
2 other councillors so...

3 MR. ROLAND WHITEWAY: Thank you,  
4 chief. My name is Councillor Roland Whiteway with  
5 the Berens River First Nation. And for myself,  
6 this is all new for me, and from what I have  
7 gathered so far, it is very disheartening, what I  
8 heard so far. And like we always say, we are here  
9 to lead as a nation, and for the children here,  
10 our future and their future. And I guess one of  
11 my questions that I had in the beginning was, I  
12 kind of heard it from you there, Terry, was what  
13 is your main goal in all of this as the  
14 Commission? I think I have heard a lot what you  
15 are here for. And I heard also that you are week  
16 five into the hearings, and presumably this is  
17 just a hearing, not a consultation or any other  
18 form of regulating, or getting Hydro, giving Hydro  
19 this licence just like that.

20 So my question is, I would like to  
21 hear it from you, from you as a Commission, of  
22 what this meeting is about? Like what is it?  
23 Instead of saying we met with the community and  
24 here you go, Manitoba Hydro.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: What this hearing is

1 about, and what the hearings in all of the other  
2 communities that we have been or will be going  
3 into are about, is to hear stories from people in  
4 the communities, to inform us about what the  
5 impacts of what Manitoba Hydro's regulation have  
6 been.

7                   Now, in a number of -- our mandate is  
8 fairly narrow, and a number of the issues that we  
9 have heard about in other communities, and not  
10 that much today, but there are issues that are  
11 outside of our mandate. But what we hear today,  
12 what you have told us today, you will see in our  
13 report. It won't be word for word, but the issues  
14 that have been brought up today will be reflected  
15 in our report, and those issues will be in our  
16 minds when it comes time for us to deliberate,  
17 come to conclusions, and decide on what  
18 recommendations we make to the Minister.

19                   Now, when we make recommendations to  
20 the Minister, we make two different kinds of  
21 recommendations. We make recommendations that are  
22 specific to the licence that Manitoba Hydro is  
23 seeking to have designated final. We also make  
24 non-licensing recommendations that are outside of  
25 the licence itself, but are important issues to

1 the environment, in this case the environment of  
2 Lake Winnipeg. And typically the Minister, in  
3 recent years the Minister has accepted our  
4 non-licensing recommendations and acted on them.

5 Now, I've said this in other  
6 communities and I will say it again in others in  
7 the next few weeks. It took a long time to mess  
8 up this lake, we are not going to fix it over  
9 night. But if we can make recommendations that  
10 move the issue in the right direction and we start  
11 taking slow steps fixing the lake, and cleaning up  
12 the lake, then I think we will have succeeded.

13 On your second point, and the Chief  
14 brought this up in her presentation, about the  
15 section 35 consultations, that is not part of our  
16 mandate. What we are doing today is not part of  
17 section 35, duty to consult. That is handled by  
18 another branch of government. So you don't have  
19 to worry, we won't go away and say we have  
20 consulted with you today, because this is not a  
21 formal consultation.

22 MR. ROLAND WHITEWAY: Thank you.

23 While you were addressing some of the  
24 questions, you had informed people here about the  
25 Environment Act, jurisdictions, the jurisdiction

1 always comes into play here, either Federal or  
2 Provincial. How does that -- your  
3 recommendations, where does that all fit in?

4 THE CHAIRMAN: The licence that  
5 Manitoba Hydro is looking for is issued under a  
6 Provincial law, the Water Power Act. It is issued  
7 by the Minister responsible for the Water Power  
8 Act, who is the Minister of Conservation and Water  
9 Stewardship. The Federal Government has no role  
10 in the issuance of this licence.

11 MR. ROLAND WHITEWAY: But as a First  
12 Nation, how does that -- how is that going to be  
13 resolved? Are you just going to shove that down  
14 our throats?

15 THE CHAIRMAN: No, not necessarily.

16 MR. ROLAND WHITEWAY: Under Provincial  
17 jurisdiction that decision that will be made?  
18 Because it already affected not only Berens River  
19 First Nation, but other First Nations.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, I know, and we  
21 have heard that in other First Nations that we  
22 have been in. But as far as this licence goes,  
23 there is no Federal responsibility, it is a  
24 Provincial licence.

25 MR. ROLAND WHITEWAY: Okay. Those

1 were the only things that I wanted to address.  
2 And one particular thing here, on our position  
3 paper here, is I would like to re-address one item  
4 here where Lake Winnipeg is now a reservoir. I  
5 just want to re-emphasize that, that way -- I can  
6 see you are writing it down. It is no longer a  
7 reservoir -- no, it is a reservoir now, it is not  
8 a lake, because of what Manitoba Hydro is doing.  
9 I just wanted to re-address that. That's serious.  
10 We can no longer drink that water like we used to,  
11 when you get a dipper full of water and drink it.  
12 And the fish are dying from it. So that's one of  
13 the major concerns that we see here.

14                   And I have some -- a few questions  
15 here with Dale Hutchison, later I guess. Thank  
16 you.

17                   THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Councillor  
18 Whiteway.

19                   MR. NORMAN MCKAY: Councillor Norman.  
20 I guess Roland asked the questions that I wanted  
21 to ask. I thank the students here for asking the  
22 questions that they asked. And I guess our lake,  
23 our lake here can no longer be safe as it once  
24 was. And you know, back in the day, you know, we  
25 could -- we would get healed by these waters, they

1 were so clean. And now today they are so  
2 contaminated, you know, that our kids can't even  
3 swim in them today. It is not safe to swim in  
4 them, and due to the unfulfilling promises from  
5 Manitoba Hydro, and it also affected the  
6 fisheries, the hardship that they went through.  
7 And you know, it is something that devastated our  
8 community, impacted it big time. And in the long  
9 term it will -- and still, you know, but still  
10 today we manage to survive. And not only does it  
11 impact the fish, but the waterfowl that we eat as  
12 well. You know, the geese and the ducks and moose  
13 that we eat, you know, they drink the water.

14                   And I thank the students that asked  
15 the questions, these questions. And I know they  
16 were maybe difficult to answer, but those were THE  
17 type of answers that I was looking forward to  
18 listening to -- questions, I mean. And I look  
19 forward to hearing the community members'  
20 questions.

21                   I know it is sad to say and to see  
22 that maybe it wasn't an appropriate time to set  
23 this meeting, maybe we should have had it during  
24 the evening, you know, you would have saw the gym  
25 packed, they would have had a bunch of questions

1 to ask. And most of our elders have passed on to  
2 the other side already, the ones that heard the  
3 promises that were made. And that's all. Thanks.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Councillor  
5 Norman. Bev Suek has a question, I believe, of  
6 Councillor Norman?

7 MS. SUEK: Yes. You mentioned the  
8 impact on the fish, fishing here. Can you talk a  
9 little bit, is it -- are you getting less fish,  
10 are they further out, is it the pollution that you  
11 are concerned with?

12 MR. ROLAND WHITEWAY: I think our  
13 president and the rest of the community here will  
14 gladly answer your questions. Thank you.

15 MS. SUEK: Thank you. I just wanted  
16 more detail on that.

17 MR. ROLAND WHITEWAY: Yes, because  
18 they are the actual business people that are  
19 getting affected from it. Thank you.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

21 MS. FLETT: My name is Olga Flett.  
22 And what I see here is -- there is no handouts. I  
23 only see one person speaking. So I don't see why  
24 you have that guy, and that guy, and that woman  
25 and that woman. Can you answer me that?

1                   THE CHAIRMAN: I certainly can. We  
2 typically have a panel of three to five people.  
3 I'm the chair of the panel, I take the lead. If  
4 they wish to ask questions from time to time, as  
5 Ms. Suek just did, they do. But they are here to  
6 listen. We also, before we have come here, over  
7 the last many months we have read stacks of  
8 documents about this project and this process. So  
9 they are here to be a part of the group. Again,  
10 it will be, the four of us will sit down and talk  
11 about everything that we have heard, everything  
12 that we have read, and then come up with some kind  
13 of conclusions and some kind of recommendations.

14                   MS. FLETT: You know, one student  
15 asked you a question about, has a dam ever flooded  
16 a First Nation? And it has, big Grand Rapids.  
17 How I knew that, because my dad worked there when  
18 they were building the dam. And they flooded out  
19 big Grand Rapids, and Hydro had to compensate to  
20 them. So in saying that, like I'm 70 years old, I  
21 have been around, you know, I wasn't born  
22 yesterday. And that water, you've completely  
23 destroyed our water, like anything, everything  
24 else you touch. God made that, but you had to go  
25 and change it around. You know, I'm not a

1 religious person, but I see changes. That water,  
2 it used to change by itself. In the summer it  
3 would be low. In the winter it would become high.  
4 And how I would know? Because our dad would tell  
5 us when they would go fishing in the fall that  
6 their boats would be kind of rocky because the  
7 water had come up, that's how they would know.  
8 And then -- but you are not, somebody is not  
9 telling the real story here. Because that  
10 water -- we are not responsible for any of those  
11 floods, we are not. But they were diverted, the  
12 water that's diverted into Lake Winnipeg, and same  
13 with that diversion from the States, that came  
14 into our water, polluted our water. And nobody is  
15 saying nothing about that. You know, it is just  
16 like we will just sweep it under the carpet. And  
17 I think for me, I was going over this and I  
18 googled it on my laptop, and I am so disappointed,  
19 I am very disappointed. You know, if I destroyed  
20 somebody's property, I don't think that I would  
21 have the nerve to go there, I don't think that I  
22 would. And this is what I'm seeing. You know,  
23 maybe it is not you, but I -- when I got off my  
24 Facebook, I was just burning like, you know, I was  
25 mad. Why did these people do this? For their

1 own? And I know Hydro itself is going down. So  
2 they need to build more dams. Correct me if I'm  
3 wrong? Isn't that what is happening?

4 And also we have substation, it is  
5 called, and I don't know if we get money for it.  
6 It is on our land.

7 I just want to say in closing, no, but  
8 not directed to one person, but what I want to say  
9 is you put us in muskeg in hopes that we would die  
10 off. That's what you called it, and then you put  
11 us on what you called reserves. But we didn't die  
12 off. You come and pollute our waters in hopes we  
13 die off again. I don't think so. I think, I  
14 think these young people will grow up, if we can  
15 fight for them now, if we can fight for them now.

16 Yes, I am 100 per cent with the Chief  
17 and Council in saying no. And I think it is about  
18 time, a lot of times we should say no. The  
19 mistake that was made was in educating us, that  
20 was the mistake. We learned to speak your  
21 language. Miigwech.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mrs. Flett.  
23 I would just like to respond to your first comment  
24 about my response to a student this morning, where  
25 I said that First Nations hadn't been flooded. I

1 actually -- what I responded to, maybe I  
2 misunderstood the question, is what would happen  
3 if a dam failed? In other words, if it broke?  
4 And I said that in the history of Canada that has  
5 never happened. But I'm very well aware that many  
6 First Nations, including a number in this  
7 province, have been flooded by Hydro projects.  
8 And I know about Grand Rapids, I have been in  
9 Grand Rapids, I have been in Chemawawin where they  
10 were forced to move. I have met with people from  
11 Mosakahiken and also from Fox Lake. So I know  
12 that First Nations have been affected by flooding  
13 from Hydro dams. We are not here to apologize for  
14 that or to say that that was good, that's not part  
15 of our mandate, but I'm certainly well aware that  
16 that has happened. And I hope it won't happen  
17 again.

18 CHIEF JACKIE EVERETT: Chief Everett.  
19 I guess my comment is never say never. You know,  
20 they said Titanic was unsinkable. What happened  
21 to it?

22 THE CHAIRMAN: I said I hope it  
23 doesn't happen again.

24 Does anybody else in the community  
25 have anything to say, any questions, any further

1 questions?

2 MS. VALERIE DISBROWE: My name is  
3 Valerie Disbrowe, I represent Berens River Fishing  
4 Association, I'm the president. I lost my voice  
5 when I was in Deer Lake a few days ago.

6 Anyways, one of the things that I  
7 wanted to tell the Commission today is that way  
8 back, my grandfather's time, I remember him  
9 sitting us down -- and this is how we grew up --  
10 he would sit us down and give us everything in  
11 detail what was happening, how everything was  
12 transpired in our community, their livelihood and  
13 what they went through.

14 Now that I'm all grown up and living  
15 it -- I started fishing when I was 13 years old  
16 with my dad, and I have been in the fishing  
17 industry for 40 years. And when I first started  
18 with my dad, it was okay, because the lake was  
19 fine. But as time progressed, you know, today it  
20 is so -- I see so many changes. And I always say  
21 this to the rest of the fishers, I always see a  
22 lot of changes, not only in the water, but the  
23 attitude of the fish that we catch to make a  
24 living, and also their flesh, the shape of them,  
25 like they are so deformed today because of the

1 lake, how the lake has been flooded with all of  
2 this garbage that's coming up from south. I know  
3 because of the drainage system that Hydro has  
4 developed without -- I don't ever remember being,  
5 as a First Nation here, ever being consulted on  
6 their part for making a extension there to drain  
7 the water faster. I don't ever recall that.

8           But anyways, going back to the  
9 fishing, you know, I have seen so many fish that  
10 are deformed. There was even fish that we caught  
11 that were live and they were pretty big in size,  
12 but they were just full of this, this fuzzy stuff,  
13 and I wouldn't even touch it. You know, I just  
14 cut it out of my net because I didn't know what it  
15 had. Things like that, I have never heard of  
16 anybody to bring up even in our own meetings, you  
17 know.

18           And the loss of equipment, that's the  
19 number one thing that I've always tried to talk  
20 about, even before I was their president. Like  
21 this past fall I approached some kind of a  
22 disaster fund for the fishers, because I knew that  
23 they were losing a lot of equipment on the lake,  
24 but I couldn't get anywhere because they told us,  
25 they told me that because we don't plant what we

1 are harvesting, we don't qualify for any kind of  
2 disaster funding. So I told the man, I said,  
3 well, if that is so, why then are you, why is the  
4 government giving billions and billions of  
5 dollars, like our chief said, to the farmers, even  
6 though they are planting this stuff that they are  
7 producing, but they are still affected by the  
8 flood waters that come their way?

9           And then in turn they open up, they  
10 open up things, causeways, where they affect us  
11 fishers. So that's one of the main things that I  
12 have always asked of people that are in government  
13 or whatever. You know, but I've never got an  
14 answer or any kind of -- for somebody to help us  
15 in dealing with those issues. When this came up,  
16 it was king of a shock, I didn't even know nothing  
17 about this Commission hearing that was going to  
18 take place in our community. Yet we all live here  
19 and we know who represents who. And I was never  
20 told about this hearing. So we didn't have the  
21 time, because the winter fish had started, I  
22 couldn't call up a meeting and say, let's  
23 brainstorm and get some fact finding people in  
24 place. We just never had the time. So I'm  
25 suggesting that if you could possibly have in your

1 agenda, maybe you can, as Norman said, maybe an  
2 evening session where all of the people will come  
3 and ask you questions, or even give you a little  
4 of what their thoughts are on what is happening.  
5 Because this is, to me this is a very important  
6 matter that's happening to our community. It is  
7 going to impact the very little children that was  
8 asking you questions. Maybe we won't see, like  
9 the deeper effects of it in our life time, but it  
10 is certainly going to affect them. So I've always  
11 thought of it like this: If I can set precedent  
12 for them, teach them, well, maybe they will have  
13 better presentations than we do.

14                   And I just thank you for listening to  
15 me. And I've always fought hard for the fishers,  
16 even though I was always -- I always had to fight  
17 for everything that I believed in, to help one  
18 another, you know. And I just leave that with  
19 you.

20                   And the other thing is, like one of  
21 the other things that I had in mind was, because  
22 of all of these things that are draining, all of  
23 our rivers that are draining into the lake, so why  
24 is it that we are not -- we were never a part of  
25 this governing thing where Hydro had a lot of say

1 in it, we never had anything to say about this,  
2 about this that's affecting our lake. And I would  
3 like to know -- well, maybe I will rephrase  
4 that -- I would like for Manitoba Hydro to know  
5 that, through your Commission, for them not to do  
6 that to us anymore. We still live here. We still  
7 live very, very progressive lives in our community  
8 even though we are secluded. I love being  
9 secluded. And I think Manitoba Hydro should try  
10 and make themselves more -- how do you say that --  
11 they have to show their faces around here, maybe  
12 have like an informational get-together, maybe  
13 once or twice in a couple of years, you know, and  
14 things like that. Not just to, you know, here,  
15 there you go, you deal with that. That's what's  
16 happening, that's what has been happening.

17 And the previous leadership that we  
18 have had, as I think I heard somebody mention,  
19 they weren't the type that were writers, you know,  
20 and they weren't the type that would fact find,  
21 they weren't the type, you know, that could set  
22 precedent for us. Because they were brought up in  
23 the old fashion way, kind of like what we are  
24 today, but because of education, at least, we can  
25 talk for ourselves. We can talk for our future.

1                   Many times I hear a lot of people say  
2     that our children are our future, but how can they  
3     be our future if somebody like that, as our  
4     Government, are going to destroy our things to  
5     live by? How is that going to be their future? I  
6     don't understand where they are coming out from in  
7     trying to govern something that there is not --  
8     that's not theirs in the beginning. You know, I  
9     would like them to hear that, if you may. Thank  
10    you.

11                   THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms.  
12    Disbrowe. Ms. Suek has a couple of questions of  
13    you.

14                   MS. SUEK: When you went to disaster  
15    relief, what did you go to them for? Was it  
16    because of the pollution, the change in the fish,  
17    was it because your nets were breaking because of  
18    debris, was it related to flooding? Like what did  
19    you talk to them about?

20                   MS. VALERIE DISBROWE: It was related  
21    to everything that you just mentioned.  
22    Everything. You can't just point out one thing.  
23    Well, it is senseless, you know. But  
24    everything -- when I talked to the fella, I asked  
25    him, see if we can get some benefits for the

1 fishers for their loss. And he told me that,  
2 well, straight out he said no, we can't, because  
3 the thing that you are doing, you are not planting  
4 the harvest.

5 MS. SUEK: What does that mean?

6 MS. VALERIE DISBROWE: Farmers, they  
7 plant and we don't, because we just harvest  
8 whatever is in the lake.

9 MS. SUEK: I see. So he is comparing  
10 you to farmers. Okay, I see. All right. Thank  
11 you.

12 I also have a question of the Chief,  
13 can I ask you a question as well?

14 You know, we've talked a little bit  
15 about consultation and Manitoba Hydro coming here  
16 and providing information sessions for people.  
17 Have you, has anybody in the community ever sat on  
18 a committee related to Lake Winnipeg? A few  
19 people in some communities have mentioned that  
20 there has been a committee doing this, or a  
21 committee doing that, related to Lake Winnipeg.  
22 Have you ever been involved in anything like that,  
23 or not at all? Has Manitoba Hydro ever come here  
24 to consult with you or has that never happened?

25 CHIEF JACKIE EVERETT: As chief, since

1 January, I am going to say no. But as a community  
2 member before that, prior to that, I attended I  
3 would say a lot of meetings, and I've never seen  
4 Hydro here to do any consultation or presentation  
5 of any sort.

6 MS. SUEK: So some of the meetings  
7 that you have gone to, are they about this topic  
8 or --

9 CHIEF JACKIE EVERETT: No. The first  
10 I heard of this was just like two, three months  
11 ago, with an organization, Southern Chiefs  
12 Authority, where Hydro was passing out a paper to  
13 get support of the quorum of the chiefs there to  
14 pass this in a BCR form, for the chiefs to support  
15 the permanent regulation. And I happened to be  
16 there. And the sad part of it, in our part was,  
17 they had quorum. But it was people like myself,  
18 and the support of others like Jackhead and  
19 different areas, that we managed to reverse before  
20 the signing occurred, because those chiefs did not  
21 understand what they were supporting. They were  
22 following other chiefs.

23 MS. SUEK: I see. Okay. Thanks very  
24 much.

25 MS. VALERIE DISBROWE: I would just

1 like to add, you mentioned to see if there was any  
2 other -- well, they call it Lake Winnipeg  
3 Co-management Board. It's members from each  
4 community, fishing community, we all get together,  
5 and the next meeting is scheduled for April, and I  
6 believe it is at the -- what is that casino -- at  
7 Regent, yeah, that's where it is scheduled for  
8 April.

9                   And I'm going to leave this with the  
10 Commission, maybe that you can come and meet with  
11 the fishers. It consists of fishers right across  
12 from -- all the way from Norway House and all of  
13 those places, all the way to south end of this  
14 lake. We all meet. And this previous one they  
15 had in January, that was my first time there. So  
16 I had to kind of get -- I had to get to know what  
17 their policies or mandates and whatever. So I  
18 encourage you to come and maybe -- Water  
19 Stewardship in Gimli are the ones that host these  
20 meetings, so maybe you can get ahold of someone  
21 there.

22                   MR. HARDEN: I have just a couple of  
23 questions with regard to the fishing too. We have  
24 heard from other communities, Grand Rapids and  
25 Fisher River in particular, I think even Dauphin

1 River, about the effects of the Lake Manitoba, the  
2 new channels on Lake Manitoba in terms of sediment  
3 and debris. I think it was Fisher River, they  
4 told us that there have been reports from Poplar  
5 River of debris being washed up there. Have you  
6 noticed that sort of effect here as well?

7 MS. VALERIE DISBROWE: Yes, we have a  
8 lot of debris. I was talking to a lady, she  
9 fishes out of Anama Bay. She was telling us at  
10 that meeting I was at that that there were -- when  
11 they set their nets there was full length trees in  
12 their nets, which just destroyed the whole thing.  
13 Over here we have -- we have come across a lot of  
14 debris as well, like not only on top, but from the  
15 bottom too. Like there is a lot of stuff that I  
16 have never seen before in my life, or the many  
17 years that I have fished. And it is affecting  
18 where you set, because before in the spring time  
19 we would set without flotation, like without  
20 floating our nets. That was the norm then. Now,  
21 the last maybe five years, we have been floating  
22 our nets in the spring time. You know, and then  
23 in the fall time it is the same thing. This  
24 floating situation was always supposed to be just  
25 for fall, but now we are doing it more often,

1 because the fish is coming up because of all of  
2 the debris down there. Like it is affecting our  
3 fishing. Fishing, as we know it in the next two,  
4 three years, I guarantee will be gone, if Manitoba  
5 Hydro persists with this thing, with all of their  
6 dams.

7                   And I think all of these dams that  
8 they are doing, they are just being greedy. You  
9 know, like I know that people have to make money  
10 to make a living, but this Crown corporation is  
11 just way out of hand with all of their profits,  
12 you know. And I think they should try and come  
13 back to reality and look at what they are doing to  
14 each community, and the effects on fishing and  
15 their hunting.

16                   And even our moose, I moose hunt too,  
17 but I'm not the one that will put on moccasins and  
18 go running around in the bush, you know. But the  
19 last two, three years that I have noticed, you  
20 don't see moose here regularly anymore, because of  
21 the lines and all of the noise that's happening.

22                   And I'm just glad that the Bipole III  
23 never came on the east side. Now they are going  
24 to affect the west side big time. Like, you know,  
25 who is going to be responsible for all of this,

1 all of this hardship that's going to cause on a  
2 lot of people?

3 MR. HARDEN: And one further question  
4 that has arisen from the other communities too, we  
5 have heard that the previous currents in Lake  
6 Winnipeg have changed since regulation?

7 MS. VALERIE DISBROWE: Yes.

8 MR. HARDEN: Can you tell us about  
9 that?

10 MS. VALERIE DISBROWE: Well, most of  
11 the time we had good north currents. Now it  
12 hardly ever happens, it is always south current.  
13 And when we hit, when south current happens, our  
14 fish are gone, and we get a shit load of dirt, if  
15 I may, pardon my expression but, you know. And it  
16 costs us a lot of money to go out every day to  
17 lift our nets. And, you know, I was really paying  
18 attention on how much gas I was burning, like one  
19 drum, how many trips one drum will take me? And  
20 sometimes it was just like three trips. And  
21 that's only just out here, you know. But because  
22 of all of these things that are happening, because  
23 of the south current bringing all of this stuff  
24 in, and because they are draining over there, it  
25 is going to come in a little faster than normal.

1                   Like our elder said, when Lake  
2   Winnipeg was natural, it cleaned itself, it did  
3   its job. But now everybody has their hand in it  
4   and I don't think that's very good. I can give in  
5   to maybe a few dams, but whatever is happening is  
6   way too much already. It's way too much.

7                   MR. HARDEN: Okay. Thank you very  
8   much.

9                   THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody else have  
10 anything to add?

11                  CHIEF JACKIE EVERETT: Chief Everett.  
12 I just want to add to that, because I have been  
13 communicating with the fishermen also, and my  
14 husband and brother-in-law are fishermen, and what  
15 they tell me is that, two things besides all of  
16 this stuff that Valerie had shared, is they have  
17 encountered a lot of algae out in the lake. Even  
18 us when we are going from Berens River to Matheson  
19 Island, half the lake is covered in algae. And  
20 that impacts in the fishing, fishing industry.

21                  And what I would like to say also, or  
22 share with the panel is that it had a big economic  
23 impact on the fishermen. We had about 82, if not  
24 more fisher, fisher person. And this year  
25 especially there was a real downfall. You know,

1 some of the fisher people couldn't even make  
2 enough for EI. And you know what became of  
3 that -- some of them were forced to line up on the  
4 welfare line, which has rarely ever happened,  
5 rarely, but they had no choice. But nobody is  
6 taking this responsibility. Thank you.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: I can tell you that  
8 that on the question of algae, the Clean  
9 Environment Commission has looked at one of the  
10 causes of it, and that's the excessive amounts of  
11 phosphorous and nitrogen that are coming into the  
12 lake. And a few years ago we did a fairly major  
13 study of the City of Winnipeg sewage treatment  
14 plant. And that's one of the causes. We  
15 recommended some fairly stringent regulation of  
16 that, but it still -- there was supposed to be,  
17 the new sewage treatment plants were supposed to  
18 be in effect or in operation by December 31, 2014,  
19 so a month and a half ago. They have barely even  
20 started constructing the one in the North End, so  
21 it will be a while before that's addressed. But  
22 that's only one of the sources of the phosphorous  
23 and nitrogen in the lake. It comes from many  
24 other places, and it is a serious problem. We  
25 have identified it. Some small steps are being

1 taken, but there is a lot more needs to be done.  
2 Anybody else? Ms. Disbrowe?  
3 MS. VALERIE DISBROWE: You know, I'm  
4 getting up to that age where I would like to  
5 retire from fishing, I think 40 years is enough  
6 for me. But the problem that I ran into is these  
7 younger generation, the generation behind me, they  
8 are not interested in fishing. Because the algae  
9 blooms are so severe here, you know, you are  
10 forced to set more than what your licence is  
11 telling you to set. Because we are regulated  
12 there too, everything that we do here, and yet we  
13 are native to Berens River, we are regulated from  
14 outside. And I'm so getting tired of that, you  
15 know. But now our younger generation doesn't want  
16 to fish. They don't want to take up what we took  
17 up from our dads, and our grandpas, they don't  
18 want to carry this on. And I would like for  
19 Manitoba Hydro to know this, from our point of  
20 view here. Because I think, I have always heard  
21 people say that our little ones are our future.  
22 But what happens if our fishing industry dies out  
23 because of that? Because I know we are not going  
24 to be able to fish in our pension age or whatever.  
25 It is stuff like that, there is a lot of little

1 bitty things that have to be addressed. And I  
2 encourage these fishermen that are sitting here to  
3 come and add a few things, I encourage them.

4 LINDA LEGITT: My name is Linda  
5 Legitt, I sit on the board as secretary treasurer,  
6 and I'm also a commercial fisher person. And I  
7 just want to mention, I will be -- I'm getting up  
8 in age where I'm getting to be an elder. But over  
9 the years I have really -- I have been really  
10 watching the environment of Lake Winnipeg, because  
11 I live right in the front of Lake Winnipeg. And  
12 that's where I was brought up by my grandmother  
13 since I was an infant, age of one week old. And I  
14 have really -- I'm really bothered by what I see  
15 the past few years in regards to our environment  
16 of our lake.

17 When I was growing up as a little  
18 girl, as I had said I lived right by the lake, and  
19 I have always lived by the lake. You know, the  
20 lake as I knew it before, it was all natural. My  
21 granny used to, you know, go and make a hole in  
22 the ice and take buckets of water from there and  
23 we would drink that water. And we had no worries  
24 about drinking the water right from the pot. And  
25 over the years, the past few years, you know -- my

1 son lives by the lake and his house is situated  
2 closest to shore, and every wind, north wind, when  
3 north wind comes in, you know, his house is almost  
4 flooded. And he brought this to the attention of  
5 Indian Affairs. And Indian Affairs promised him a  
6 house, which he has never seen yet. Because  
7 Indian Affairs came right to his house to see how,  
8 where his house is situated. And where his house  
9 is situated, that ground there is just saturated  
10 with water. And I had never seen that before.  
11 Because there was other houses that were built  
12 there before his time, and the lady that lived  
13 there, you know, she has passed on, but, you know,  
14 just giving you the example of today, how it is.  
15 And you know, I have noticed that the water, in my  
16 younger days it was all naturally in and out, you  
17 know, where I would see for years and years for  
18 that water level to be the same. Not unless we  
19 got a nor'westerly, that's when the water used to  
20 come up a little bit. But now where I live, you  
21 know, the ground, I'm losing my ground. There is  
22 getting to be more sand beach, and where my road  
23 is situated there is, you know, the ground is --  
24 I'm losing my ground there because of the up and  
25 down of the lake.

1                   And you know, I think it is time, as  
2 Anishinabe people, we stand our ground where our  
3 Creator has built for us to live in. We do not  
4 fool around with what the Creator of this earth  
5 made. Because people like Hydro and their greed,  
6 that's what is going to destroy our land.

7                   And I am speaking as an elder, because  
8 I will be like 61 years old next month, and I see  
9 and I know what I'm talking about. I observe  
10 everything that happens around me. That God of  
11 the universe that made this earth, we do not  
12 touch, because he is in control.

13                   Greed is a number one thing that's  
14 going to destroy the world. And if we don't  
15 listen and take heed of the one that created our  
16 world, we are going to perish. We are going to --  
17 we have to be careful of what we destroy, what has  
18 been created in this world.

19                   Yes, it is nice to pick up a plug and  
20 plug it in and make our toast, our coffee, cook  
21 from a cook stove, yes, it is nice. But we got to  
22 watch we don't overload the universe.

23                   You know, our fishing industry as we  
24 know it, it is going to be obsolete if we are not  
25 careful. Because the fish that was created, it

1 feeds off a natural, what God has created for them  
2 to eat, to live from. And all of the chemicals  
3 that Hydro is producing through the dams, through  
4 the energy of that material there that they are  
5 using, that's what is destroying everything.

6           And I don't agree, and I'm not going  
7 to be racist about this, I'm not racist or  
8 anything, but, you know, I don't agree for anyone  
9 to step in my land and to come and destroy it for  
10 their own pocket. I for one have children, and  
11 grandchildren coming up, and I would like to see  
12 them have a very successful life, even though I'm  
13 not going to see it. We got to watch our little  
14 ones. You that are sitting up there, you have to  
15 think and really consider your little ones that  
16 are growing up too. We have to really be careful  
17 of what kind of agreements we agree to.

18           I stand by our Chief and Council on  
19 this, and I'm very proud of our Chief and Council  
20 standing up to Manitoba Hydro and saying no. And  
21 it is time we say no, when something occurs upon  
22 our land. We have got to respect our land. It is  
23 greed that's going to destroy it.

24           A few years ago we went out on the  
25 lake to do our nets. You know, we couldn't even

1 pull up our nets, it was so full of this algae, it  
2 was so full of it, and the debris, the trees and  
3 everything else that is going around, floating  
4 around in the lake. You know we have to pay for  
5 the cost of that destruction from the waters, you  
6 know. And it is really disheartening, nobody  
7 gives us compensation for what is being destroyed  
8 when we go out on the lake. We have to pay for  
9 that.

10                   And this one time we went out it was,  
11 I believe it was in the fall, we went out to go  
12 lift our nets, and it was the very first time we  
13 seen these, they look like little jelly fish, they  
14 even had, you know how a jelly fish looks like.  
15 But they were very tiny, the size of my thumb I  
16 guess, and it had little black dots. And we were  
17 trying to tell somebody about this, and we fell on  
18 deaf ears. We phoned Environment Canada, we  
19 phoned Freshwater, you know, to try and check what  
20 this thing was. And our hands used to break out  
21 and, you know, stuff like this, it really affects,  
22 it really affects our environment. No wonder  
23 cancer is rapidly rising in our community.  
24 Wouldn't you think it is from the Hydro, like all  
25 of these chemicals they are putting in the pools

1 and everything else?

2                   There are a lot of things arising from  
3 Manitoba Hydro, a lot of hardship. You know, when  
4 they say, they said that when we were going to  
5 have a line coming in from the south, they told  
6 us, oh, you are going to have cheap hydro, very  
7 cheap hydro. I for one lost my hydro once already  
8 because I couldn't pay for it, it is so high. And  
9 when it is time for them to collect money, you  
10 know, they don't care if you are going to sit in  
11 the dark, if a newborn is going to have boiled  
12 water for his milk or her milk, they don't care.  
13 As long as they have money in their pocket, that's  
14 what they care about is their profit margin.

15                   So with that, I will leave you with  
16 that. And I thank you for coming. Miigwech.

17                   THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Legitt.  
18 Anybody else have anything to say, comments,  
19 opinions, free advice?

20                   MS. MAUREEN O'NEIL: I understand that  
21 you are here to recommend whether they get their  
22 licence, am I right in that?

23                   THE CHAIRMAN: Not specifically, but  
24 we are here to make recommendations about terms  
25 and conditions around the licence, not whether or

1 not they get it. They already have it.

2 MS. MAUREEN O'NEIL: So that's a moot  
3 point, whether they are going to -- it is done,  
4 Hydro already has the licence?

5 THE CHAIRMAN: They have an interim  
6 licence. They have applied for the final licence.  
7 Whether or not they get the final licence, that  
8 could become an issue. But also issues around  
9 terms and conditions are very definitely on the  
10 table.

11 MS. MAUREEN O'NEIL: Okay. Out of  
12 curiosity then, the alternative side, if the  
13 licence is declined, what is the alternative?

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Most of the lights in  
15 Manitoba would go out.

16 MS. MAUREEN O'NEIL: As long as it  
17 happens in the summer, it is okay.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: No. If they didn't  
19 have the water -- if they had to open up the dam  
20 at Jenpeg to allow a free flow of water, then, I  
21 mean, I was being a little facetious, but it would  
22 have serious impact on their ability to provide  
23 all of the electrical energy needs of Manitoba.

24 MS. MAUREEN O'NEIL: Okay. Thank you.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Now, I'm not sure we

1 have your name.

2 MS. MAUREEN O'NEIL: Maureen O'Neil.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. O'Neil.

4 MS. VALERIE DISBROWE: I forget what I  
5 was going to say.

6 Anyway, I just wanted to thank the  
7 Chief and Council for their presentation, I think  
8 it was awesome. And I stand by them as president  
9 for the Fishing Association, and if I remember, I  
10 will get up again.

11 MS. FLETT: I apologize to Chief and  
12 Council, when I wrote this afternoon on Facebook,  
13 I had said I wish Chief and Council would let us  
14 know of these things, or I wish we had met before  
15 you people came out about this issue, but it seems  
16 like -- accept my apology -- but anyways, it  
17 seemed like when, excuse the expression, white  
18 people want to do something, it seems like they  
19 just drop out of the sky and do what they have to  
20 do and fly back out.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now we are  
22 going to have a guy come up, not leave it all to  
23 the women. Sorry, your name?

24 MR. GERALD DISBROWE: Gerald Disbrowe,  
25 I am a fisherman.

1                   I just want to thank the Chief and  
2 Council for the position they took on Hydro. Like  
3 growing up in Berens River as a fishermen, I seen  
4 a lot of changes myself, and I don't agree with  
5 some of the things that I see. And one of the  
6 things that I want to bring up is compensation. I  
7 think it is already 39 years we have been avoided,  
8 we have never been at the table. And it is time  
9 that you guys brought the people out for  
10 compensation talks. Because a lot of people  
11 passed on, and I don't know how you can compensate  
12 those families now. And that was one of the main  
13 things that I wanted to bring up.

14                   And Hydro is the one that's causing  
15 this. And it affects fishing, hunting, a lot of  
16 things, recreation. The lake is a hazard now.  
17 You have got to look -- you have got to be  
18 vigilant when you drive on that lake, too much  
19 debris, some of it is just under water, you can't  
20 see it. So how do you come up with money, like  
21 compensation about that?

22                   And there is lots of other things too.  
23 And right now I have an ear ache, so I can't  
24 really hear myself right, so sorry about that. I  
25 just wanted to know if you had any other meetings

1 coming up regarding compensation?

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, that's clearly  
3 outside of our mandate, but we have heard the  
4 issue in many communities, and we will certainly  
5 note in our report that communities asked about  
6 it. Whether, you know, what and whatever might  
7 come, I can't say at this point.

8 MR. GERALD DISBROWE: Like, one of  
9 things that we need in Berens River is  
10 infrastructure for our kids, like for example,  
11 that arena. Like, you know, we need help in  
12 certain areas, that it should come from somewhere  
13 else, not just the government. Like we went  
14 through a lot of dealings with Hydro and they  
15 never wanted us at the table, and I feel bad that  
16 we were excluded 39 years ago.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr.  
18 Disbrowe.

19 Anybody else have any other questions  
20 or comments? I will make a few closing comments  
21 and I will turn it back to Chief Everett.

22 Again, I would like to thank the  
23 community for welcoming us here today. I would  
24 like to thank the school principal and the  
25 teachers and the students for hosting us in their

1 school. And you know, what we have seen from the  
2 students here today, I think that certainly bodes  
3 well for the future. We saw some bright young  
4 students come up with some really good questions,  
5 and we saw some great fiddling from a group of  
6 them. And I just encourage them all to continue  
7 along those paths. And I hope we didn't bore you  
8 too much, those of the students who stayed for the  
9 full afternoon.

10 As I said earlier in response to  
11 Councillor Whiteway, what we have heard here today  
12 will be reflected in our report, but I can't  
13 guarantee that our recommendations will be all, or  
14 even any of the ones that you would specifically  
15 like. But you will know when you read our report  
16 that we have heard what you said here today.

17 And as I also said in response to  
18 Councillor Whiteway, if we can even move things  
19 along, small steps in the right direction, then I  
20 think that will be a victory for our lake and for  
21 the future of communities such as Berens River.

22 So, again, thank you very much for  
23 welcoming, hosting us here today.

24 Chief Everett?

25 CHIEF JACKIE EVERETT: One of the

1 questions you didn't really respond to was one of  
2 the committee members asked, can you come back?

3 THE CHAIRMAN: I can't promise that.  
4 We are on a tight schedule. As you know, we had  
5 to re-schedule coming in here today. We are  
6 allotting time to go into a number of different  
7 communities around the lake, I think we are going  
8 into about a dozen different First Nations. I  
9 cannot promise that we can come back during this  
10 particular review.

11 CHIEF JACKIE EVERETT: One more  
12 comment, I guess. In one of your presentations,  
13 you said you can submit a one-page document, keep  
14 it short or something?

15 THE CHAIRMAN: No --

16 CHIEF JACKIE EVERETT: Submission, one  
17 page.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: No. Actually written  
19 submissions can really be as long as people want  
20 to make them.

21 CHIEF JACKIE EVERETT: I wrote down  
22 one page here.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, sorry. It could be  
24 as short as just a letter or an email, or it could  
25 be, if somebody wants to make a ten or 20 or 50

1 page submission, that's also very good.

2 CHIEF JACKIE EVERETT: Okay. What we  
3 are going to do today is submit this to you. But  
4 after hearing some recommendation from members, I  
5 think this document is going to be bigger, because  
6 they want to add to this document. So I know you  
7 don't make your decision for probably a couple of  
8 more months. Is there a deadline to this  
9 submission?

10 THE CHAIRMAN: We had set a date for  
11 February 28th, but as long as it is in before our  
12 hearings end, and our hearings are going to end  
13 around about April 20th, that would be fine.

14 We would like to get a written copy of  
15 what you presented today. There was a lot of,  
16 obviously a lot of good work put in into it, and a  
17 lot of thought put into it, so we would like to  
18 see that as a formal -- well, it is a formal part  
19 of the record because you read it into the record,  
20 but also having a written copy for us to review is  
21 easier.

22 CHIEF JACKIE EVERETT: I guess for the  
23 record, you won't accept this as a final document,  
24 it is a draft?

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, we can do that

1 exactly. I mean, what you submitted today as part  
2 of the record, when you submit a revised version,  
3 that's part of the record as well.

4 CHIEF JACKIE EVERETT: Okay. Thank  
5 you. I guess with that, I guess they have a plane  
6 to catch in like 10 minutes. I'm not sure what  
7 the Hydro, what you are going to --

8 THE CHAIRMAN: He is traveling with  
9 us. We will leave him behind, you guys can look  
10 after him.

11 CHIEF JACKIE EVERETT: He's sitting  
12 there all by himself.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: No. We won't rush out  
14 immediately. If anybody has any questions of  
15 Mr. Hutchison after we adjourn, we will stick  
16 around for a few minutes and you can ask those  
17 questions.

18 CHIEF JACKIE EVERETT: So I guess what  
19 we will do, as Chief and Council we will do a wrap  
20 up. I just want to thank the school for lending  
21 us their facility, and the music they provided,  
22 and the grade 9, the lunch, it was good. I would  
23 like to thank the elders, the community members  
24 for taking the time this afternoon to come and  
25 share your views.

1                   And it won't stop here, that's why I  
2   was asking that question, like there is more that  
3   we need to talk about, but like elders say, it  
4   just happened. So we tried to prepare as best as  
5   we could with what little time we had. But this  
6   document came from just listening to people, you  
7   know, talking to people, asking them questions.  
8   So it was put together. And documents were found  
9   in our Indian Act, you know, and our Treaty, like  
10  from Treaty 5. So, I think for us that's a good  
11  solid start. But we need to put more information  
12  in here, we need to put your stories in here, we  
13  need to put our parents' story, and our  
14  grandparents' story in here. That way it is a  
15  living document, and a document that the younger  
16  generation will use as they move forward too. So  
17  we are not only doing it for us here, this  
18  generation, we are paving that way, like Val said,  
19  we need to pave that way. But in saying that, we  
20  will arrange another community meeting  
21  specifically for this. Yes?

22                   SPEAKER: Will you have some Hydro  
23  representatives to talk about compensation?

24                   CHIEF JACKIE EVERETT: We can ask him  
25  those questions, he is from Manitoba Hydro, and he

1 is going to stay back and we can ask him all of  
2 those questions. But for this one, they want to  
3 formally close the panel, and then we will have  
4 time with Manitoba Hydro.

5 So in saying that, God bless you all.  
6 And again, I thank each and every one of you for  
7 taking time and being patient. With that I will  
8 pass it on to Councillor Whiteway.

9 MR. ROLAND WHITEWAY: I would just  
10 like to say thank you to everyone that  
11 participated in this hearing. There was a lot of  
12 good stuff here that we are learning from. And  
13 the past couple of days there we had some  
14 workshops there, just within the front line  
15 workers. We met with a gentleman with Southeast  
16 Resource Development Council, and we had a little  
17 discussion with him. And what I shared with him,  
18 what I shared or told him was, I hope you make the  
19 right decisions, make the right decision for the  
20 benefit.

21 With that, I just want to leave that.  
22 I hope it doesn't fall on deaf ears. Thank you.

23 MR. NORMAN MCKAY: Thank you people,  
24 Anishinabe community members, thank you for  
25 coming. It let's me know that you are a concerned

1 member and that you want to move forward. And  
2 thank you for the panel for hearing us out. And I  
3 guess that's everything, and I appreciate the  
4 students for coming over and participating and  
5 listening. I believe they are our future  
6 generations, future leaders. Miigwech, thank you.

7 CHIEF JACKIE EVERETT: We will wrap up  
8 with a prayer.

9 (Closing prayer)

10 (Concluded at 3:00 p.m.)

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OFFICIAL EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE

I, CECELIA J. 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 J. Reid  
Official Examiner, Q.B.

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