

MANITOBA CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

LAKE WINNIPEG REGULATION REVIEW  
UNDER THE WATER POWER ACT

VOLUME 10

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Transcript of Proceedings  
Held at RBC Convention Centre  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2015

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 1560</p> <p style="text-align: center;">APPEARANCES</p> <p>CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION  Terry Sargeant - Chairman  Edwin Yee - Commissioner  Neil Harden - Commissioner  Beverly Suek - Commissioner  Bill Bowles - Counsel to Commission  Cathy Johnson - Commission Secretary  Joyce Mueller - Administrative Assistant  Amy Kagaoan - Administrative Assistant  Phil Shantz - Advisor  George McMahon - Advisor  Bob Armstrong - Report writer</p> <p>MANITOBA CONSERVATION AND WATER STEWARDSHIP  Rob Matthews  Puru Singh</p> <p>MANITOBA HYDRO  Doug Bedford - Counsel  Janet Mayor - Counsel</p> <p>CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (Manitoba chapter)  Byron Williams - Counsel  Aimee Craft - Counsel  Gloria Desorcy</p> <p>MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION  Marc Riel  Jasmine Langhan</p> <p>MANITOBA WILDLANDS  Gaile Whelan Enns</p> <p>PEGUIS FIRST NATION  Lloyd Stevenson  PIMICIKAMAK OKIMAWIN  Annette Luttermann  Darwin Paupanakis  Jeremiah Raining Bird  William Osborne</p> <p>KEWATINOOK FISHERS  Meryl Ballard</p> <p>NORWAY HOUSE FISHERMAN'S CO-OP  Keith Lenton</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 1562</p> <p style="text-align: center;">INDEX OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>Presentation by Interlake Reserves Tribal Council  Corey Shefman, Derrick Gould,  Elder Henry Traverse <span style="float: right;">1566</span>  Questions by Mr. Bedford <span style="float: right;">1605</span>  Questions by Mr. Settee <span style="float: right;">1620</span>  Questions by CEC Panel <span style="float: right;">1623</span></p>
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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 1561</p> <p style="text-align: center;">APPEARANCES</p> <p>TATASKWEYAK CREE NATION  Sean Keating</p> <p>INTERLAKE RESERVES TRIBAL COUNCIL  Corey Shefman</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 1563</p> <p style="text-align: center;">INDEX OF EXHIBITS</p> <p>IRTC 1 Evidence provided February 24th <span style="float: right;">1641</span></p>
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1 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2015  
 2 UPON COMMENCING AT 9:30 A.M.  
 3 THE CHAIRMAN: Good morning. We'll  
 4 reconvene the proceedings. My condolences to  
 5 those of you who thought spring had arrived. Most  
 6 of us have lived in this province all of our lives  
 7 and should know better than to think spring would  
 8 be here in mid late March.  
 9 This morning, we have one participant  
 10 group presenting, that's the Interlake Reserves  
 11 Tribal Council. Mr. Shefman will be taking the  
 12 lead and he will introduce his two panelists.  
 13 Mr. Shefman, I presume that, like  
 14 Mr. Lenton yesterday, you won't be giving any  
 15 evidence, you'll just be leading.  
 16 Okay. We'll swear in your two  
 17 panelists. Secretary?  
 18 MS. JOHNSON: Gentlemen, could you  
 19 state your names for the record, please?  
 20 MR. GOULD: My name is Donald Derrick  
 21 Pierre Gould.  
 22 ELDER TRAVERSE: My name is Henry  
 23 Traverse from Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation.  
 24 Donald Gould: Sworn.  
 25 Henry Traverse: Sworn

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1 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, Mr. Shefman.  
 2 MR. SHEFMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
 3 I want to start by way of brief introduction. As  
 4 you noted, I represent the Interlake Reserves  
 5 Tribal Council. My client is made up of five  
 6 First Nations, the Dauphin River First Nation,  
 7 Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation, Little Saskatchewan  
 8 First Nation, Peguis First Nation, and  
 9 Pinaymootang First Nation. All of them are First  
 10 Nations which live, work, and engage in their  
 11 traditional pursuits in and around Lake Winnipeg.  
 12 Today we have with us two  
 13 representatives from these First Nations.  
 14 Councillor Derrick Gould is a band councillor with  
 15 Pinaymootang First Nation, which some people may  
 16 know as Fairford First Nation. And he'll be  
 17 speaking about both commercial and traditional  
 18 resource uses, as well as his experience as a band  
 19 councillor and working with Hydro in that  
 20 capacity.  
 21 To my far right is Elder Henry  
 22 Traverse. Henry is from Kinonjeoshtegan, which is  
 23 also known as Jackhead First Nation. He has been  
 24 a commercial fisherman for many years and, as an  
 25 Elder in his community, is also a holder of

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1 traditional knowledge. Mr. Traverse practices  
 2 traditional, his traditional cultural practices as  
 3 well.  
 4 I'd like to first turn it over to  
 5 Mr. Traverse, who I believe has a ceremony for us.  
 6 ELDER TRAVERSE: Good morning panel,  
 7 good morning, Hydro, Manitoba Hydro, and all the  
 8 participants here this morning. I say good  
 9 morning for that reason, I come here to partake on  
 10 this process of this CEC panel.  
 11 But first of all, before I go any  
 12 further, I want to say that we talked about a  
 13 smudging process here, but we didn't, I guess,  
 14 bring any of the instruments. But nevertheless,  
 15 we have tobacco here. Tobacco is very important  
 16 in our culture, in our way of life. And the  
 17 reason why I do this today is because we are going  
 18 to talk about water. Water is natural law for  
 19 Anishinaabe people. It's one of our natural laws.  
 20 And with respect, I hold this tobacco out to the  
 21 Creator to acknowledge what we're going to be  
 22 discussing here today, and all the elderly people  
 23 that are sitting around here, and I want to say  
 24 that at this time. You know, I come from a small  
 25 community, and also I'm here on behalf of the

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1 Tribal Council. They had requested that I be part  
 2 of the panel here today, and I didn't want to say  
 3 no.  
 4 Like what I do back home, I'm a  
 5 commercial fisherman and also I'm a bus driver.  
 6 And I had been a commercial fisherman for over 40  
 7 years of my life. I'm 60 years old, and I'm going  
 8 to say that in my language, you know. That's what  
 9 I want to say at this time.  
 10 And also, as being a commercial  
 11 fisherman, we sacrifice our lives every time we  
 12 step into our boats, that's encounter (Cree  
 13 spoken). Those are very important things that we  
 14 live by everyday, those conditions of when we go  
 15 out to go commercial fish for our homes, our  
 16 families.  
 17 But I want to say that much at this  
 18 time. But at the same time too, you know, I  
 19 acknowledge our Creator, you know, with the  
 20 tobacco offering. And also I didn't want to say  
 21 too much at this time, but I want to give my  
 22 friend Derrick here an opportunity to express  
 23 himself as well. Like I'm very honoured and happy  
 24 to be here at this time. This way of life was our  
 25 ancestors, this is what they went by, this is how

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1 they lived by, and those are the things that I  
 2 want to touch on when I do speak again. And also  
 3 how that water has affected our communities, since  
 4 back from about 40 years now.  
 5 I want to say that much for now. I'll  
 6 turn it over to Derrick. Mr. Chairman, miigwech.  
 7 MR. GOULD: Good morning everyone,  
 8 Hydro and also the panel and our respectful  
 9 lawyers, Corey. My name is Derrick Gould, I'm  
 10 from Pinaymootang First Nation and I have lived  
 11 there all my life. I have been commercial fishing  
 12 and also traditional fishing as well, my inherent  
 13 rights with my Treaties, I practice that every  
 14 year and I pass that down to generations, my kids  
 15 as well.  
 16 With that, you know, we have a lot to  
 17 talk about here today, the impacts of Lake  
 18 Winnipeg and how it affects our local area as  
 19 well. And again, I'd like to thank God for being  
 20 here today to represent my people, I am honoured  
 21 here to represent my people with the knowledge and  
 22 our wisdom that we have as a people. We are not  
 23 scientists, but we are professionals in the land  
 24 that we live on. Miigwech.  
 25 MR. SHEFMAN: So I am going to be

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1 assisting the panelists in terms of asking them  
 2 questions to help with their testimony.  
 3 So, Mr. Gould, we'll start with you.  
 4 Can you speak to how Lake Winnipeg Regulation  
 5 affects your community, given that it's not  
 6 actually located on the lake?  
 7 MR. GOULD: Well, the high flow waters  
 8 that have been seen these past years, I have  
 9 noticed big impact these past 10 years especially.  
 10 We used to have river shorelines. Today we don't  
 11 have no river shorelines, we're right up against  
 12 the bush now. The water is running completely  
 13 right through where there's big five to 10-inch  
 14 poplars. We have to take precautions when we come  
 15 up to our shoreline, whatever we can tie onto.  
 16 That's had such a big impact within our community.  
 17 We take a risk every time we go on the lake, I  
 18 mean, and the river as well, because the Fairford  
 19 River flows from Lake Manitoba, goes into the  
 20 Fairford River, and then the Lake St. Martin goes  
 21 into Lake Winnipeg. And I feel that the  
 22 contribution of the water that flows from the Lake  
 23 Manitoba areas through Lake St. Martin to Lake  
 24 Winnipeg has a big impact. And I know Lake  
 25 Winnipeg, that water has contributed from our

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1 lakes to regulate Lake Winnipeg to have a certain  
 2 level. That's a big amount of water that's coming  
 3 from the west, from Saskatchewan and up through  
 4 the Medicine Hat area there.  
 5 And when I hear that we're not in the  
 6 area of Lake Winnipeg, and why should it matter to  
 7 us, I don't believe that. We are affected  
 8 extremely from the geographic part of it, where  
 9 the whole system, Lake Winnipeg Water Steward  
 10 System that everybody calls Lake Winnipeg Steward  
 11 System is any creek and lake and watershed that  
 12 runs into Lake Winnipeg, we are part of that.  
 13 And when you have Lake Winnipeg at a  
 14 certain level, where it's full to its capacity, it  
 15 might not seem that there's any push back, I guess  
 16 I could say, on the water. But it takes a while  
 17 for that water to drain into Lake Winnipeg because  
 18 it's so full. And that has a big impact in my  
 19 area regarding the fishing, regarding our  
 20 agriculture.  
 21 At one time we used to have 40  
 22 agriculture producers there, some were into wheat,  
 23 most of them were into cattle. Today we have two  
 24 farmers left in our community, out of 40, due to  
 25 the high water, due to our agriculture land that

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1 was once pristine agriculture lands with alfalfa,  
 2 and also where we grew wheat, where we had  
 3 potatoes, gardening, all that's been gone to  
 4 bulrushes. Everything there is saturated now.  
 5 I remember our cattle wading into the  
 6 marshland area where the water would be so low  
 7 that the cattle were able to cross the creeks, and  
 8 they would be able to forage in the open where  
 9 there's not so much bugs and stuff like that. And  
 10 they would come back, they would come back in  
 11 really good shape. And now our pastures and that  
 12 are cut to, probably from 100 percent they are  
 13 probably cut down to 30 percent now. And that  
 14 proof is there in our communities with treated  
 15 fence posts, four strands of wires still laying in  
 16 the water from this high water we have been  
 17 having.  
 18 And 2011 was the nail on the coffin  
 19 because we were already saturated before that, it  
 20 was already coming up through the systems. And I  
 21 feel that these diversions that had been made to  
 22 contribute to Lake Winnipeg are having a big  
 23 impact in our communities.  
 24 I remember back from 2003 when we had  
 25 the drought that time, and all of a sudden I

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1 started to hear of the Province of Manitoba, I'm  
 2 not sure if Hydro is involved there, started to go  
 3 and see where they could get water from the west  
 4 to contribute to Lake Winnipeg, somehow to get  
 5 more water into Lake Winnipeg because it was such  
 6 a dry year that year that probably they couldn't  
 7 turn the turbines. You know, those have a big  
 8 impact in our community.  
 9       And I want to state this here today  
 10 that as we signed our treaties within our  
 11 boundaries to share this land, I never once seen  
 12 in our Treaties, in our Treaty Two, that we gave  
 13 up the governance of water, that we have given  
 14 that right up. That's not in the Treaties that we  
 15 signed away any water, that we have always  
 16 governed that water.  
 17       And you know, for people to come and  
 18 take this right away from our people, I have a  
 19 problem with that, Lake Winnipeg, and to regulate  
 20 it at an amount where the shorelines are eroding,  
 21 we don't have shorelines anymore, we have cliff  
 22 drop offs. Some of those places are 10 to 15 feet  
 23 where the shoreline is extraordinary, it's just  
 24 devastated.  
 25       And so with that, you know, I feel

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1 that we are part of the watershed, and the whole  
 2 system backs up to our area there. As you can  
 3 see, when we do have extraordinary amounts of  
 4 precipitation, plus the regulation of our lakes to  
 5 be at a certain level, it all generates to one  
 6 major disaster, which we have seen these past few  
 7 years since 2011, where we have lost total  
 8 communities within our area, our way of life.  
 9       Even the recreation is affected within  
 10 our communities. Our children cannot swim in the  
 11 rivers, they cannot swim in the lake, because the  
 12 currents are so fast. And all of this is passing  
 13 in our backyards to contribute to Lake Winnipeg.  
 14 So Manitoba Hydro and the Province of Manitoba can  
 15 have their water systems to provide that Hydro for  
 16 Minnesota and other places. And everyone else is  
 17 feeling the, you know, the money part of it I  
 18 guess you can say, the economic spin offs from it.  
 19 And very little of it is coming back to the people  
 20 that live that simple life of living on the land,  
 21 of living with the things that are around them,  
 22 meaning trapping, farming and agriculture.  
 23       And that might not be important to  
 24 some people here that have jobs that are working  
 25 for Hydro. I have worked for Hydro myself for

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1 about three years, but I resigned from that  
 2 position and I went to work for my people. And I  
 3 advocate for my people today, as a commercial  
 4 fisherman and as a trapper. And I also, I'm a  
 5 cattle rancher as well. And these are, this means  
 6 a lot to me, this way of life. My family has  
 7 lived through that way of life for many, many  
 8 years, generations. And today I'm hanging onto a  
 9 thread to keep that tradition alive with my  
 10 children.  
 11       You know, my kids are one of the only  
 12 few kids that are in 4-H in Manitoba here, and I'm  
 13 proud of that, that they can still have that  
 14 agriculture in them. And I keep telling them, due  
 15 to the high waters and that, our land base is  
 16 getting smaller and smaller every year.  
 17       This past winter -- I mean, this past  
 18 summer we made 44 bales, that's all I could make.  
 19 But we didn't give up, we didn't give up. You  
 20 know, we have to buy our hay, but we had areas  
 21 where we used to make thousands of bales. And I  
 22 should have brought those pictures today where we  
 23 used to make the hay and we were able to have  
 24 enough for ourselves and also sell for ourselves  
 25 to other places that needed hay.

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1       And today, just to make 50 bales, we  
 2 can't even make that. And I feel that the water  
 3 system, the watershed system, it has to change.  
 4 We need this water to be a little lower than what  
 5 it is.  
 6       MR. SHEFMAN: Councillor Gould, you  
 7 have told us a little bit about some of the  
 8 changes that you have seen over the past, over  
 9 your lifetime. Can you tell us, has the rate of  
 10 change of those changes been constant? Describe  
 11 for us the rate of change, over your lifetime?  
 12       MR. GOULD: Well, like I said, I have  
 13 been farming as long as I could remember with my  
 14 grandfather and my father. And I remember places  
 15 where we cut hay. And today, you can't even drive  
 16 off the bush line now, that water is right up  
 17 tight to the bush line there. Where we used to go  
 18 out into the meadows and drive our trucks and cars  
 19 and everything else, that's all one big lake now.  
 20       And these past few years, with the  
 21 fishing part of it, we used to be able to drive on  
 22 the land, I guess to most people it would be kind  
 23 of a marsh shed of it where the marshland starts  
 24 and then you get onto the lake.  
 25       Nowadays, just to get onto our lake,

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1 it's dangerous for us. We have a hard time to  
 2 know exactly where the good ice is now with the  
 3 high currents that are coming through. Every time  
 4 we get onto the trail that we use every day, we  
 5 always have to make sure that there's ice there to  
 6 get onto the lake safely with my family to fish.  
 7       There was one day just a couple weeks  
 8 ago, it was probably middle of February we went  
 9 out and we had a heavy snowstorm that time. And I  
 10 went out and I noticed that the trail kind of  
 11 looked slushed on the sides. And I told my kids  
 12 to wait behind and I went up ahead, and I took the  
 13 needle bar which we use the cut the ice so we can  
 14 fish commercially. I took the needle bar and I  
 15 was probing the ice in front of us, the trail that  
 16 we use everyday. And my chisel bar went through.  
 17 And here we are, supposedly to be on our land  
 18 base, and the chisel bar is probably about five to  
 19 six feet, for you that know what the chisel bar  
 20 looks like, and it went right through and I put it  
 21 right down. So it's probably about eight feet of  
 22 water where we were travelling on. So we had to  
 23 turn around on a dime right on that trail.  
 24       Basically, if it wasn't for us making  
 25 that trail previous with the cold weather, just

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1 over two days that we didn't use that trail, that  
 2 whole system changed. And then we had to commute  
 3 13 miles around, so it ended up being like a  
 4 26-mile trip, you know, with open skidoos. We  
 5 weren't using the Bombardiers in minus 25 to minus  
 6 30 wind chill, and we'd tough it out.  
 7       And that's the kind of job that we  
 8 have, that's the kind of life that we decided to  
 9 have. And we take that with honour to continue  
 10 that way of life and to be out there on the land.  
 11       But when you get to times like that in  
 12 your life where you bring your children out onto  
 13 the land, and all of a sudden in the blink of an  
 14 eye your children's lives are in your hands. So  
 15 whether you make that decision to go or you make  
 16 that decision to turn around and go back home and  
 17 live on Social Assistance, and that's what I do  
 18 not want for my kids. I never once had Social  
 19 Assistance, and same with my kids. I drive that  
 20 into their head, that any bad day of fishing is  
 21 better than picking up a \$220 cheque at the band  
 22 office at the end of the month, you know. And I  
 23 stress that to them that even when I'm not there,  
 24 I have to teach them what to look for on the lake,  
 25 how the water changes so fast you could have four

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1 feet of ice. And any one of you here that knows  
 2 how ice is where there's current, you can have  
 3 three feet of ice, four feet of ice, and overnight  
 4 that ice could be gone, there will just be crust  
 5 of snow on top.  
 6       So with those impacts there, that  
 7 contributes to the change of our life where we  
 8 have to accommodate the high water that flows  
 9 through our system within our Pinaymootang area  
 10 there. And like I said, we think we're on land  
 11 but we're on eight feet of water, not knowing if  
 12 we're going to go through in any minute.  
 13       And I have fell through. I have fell  
 14 through myself. I know how it is to walk  
 15 two miles. I had my gauntlets on my feet because  
 16 I had to kick my boots off. My four-wheeler was  
 17 standing up with eight boxes of fish in it. It's  
 18 a good thing I took the four-wheeler that day  
 19 because the wheels helped it float up and I  
 20 managed to get onto the hard ice. And my wife had  
 21 to phone the people to come look for us, because  
 22 it was already 7:00 o'clock at night and she knew  
 23 we were out and we should be home by 5:00 o'clock.  
 24 And it was about 7:00, 7:30, we walked across the  
 25 lake, me and my partner there that was helping me,

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1 we only had the one machine. And we fell through,  
 2 there was about 14 feet of water in that area, but  
 3 we made it. We made it, but we had frostbite on  
 4 my face and that. But other than that, I was just  
 5 happy to make it home.  
 6       And then you respect that, you always  
 7 respect that water. To us, water is a living  
 8 spirit, it moves. And you can't control that  
 9 water, you can't control it. It has a natural  
 10 flow, it has a natural system. And when that  
 11 system is changed and redirected, it comes with  
 12 devastating costs. And it's not the water's  
 13 fault, it's the people that control those  
 14 waterways, that make diversions that aren't even  
 15 supposed to be in those areas, they change the  
 16 whole structure of the system.  
 17       We noticed these past years, like a  
 18 lot of my family fishes on Lake Winnipeg, and this  
 19 past year we were, especially this fall we were  
 20 really alarmed in the Gimli area there, where  
 21 people would fish abundantly pickerel, and all of  
 22 a sudden, the system of the migration has changed.  
 23 Whitefish are there now where the pickerel were,  
 24 and the pickerel have moved somewhere else because  
 25 of all the pollution and everything else that's

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1 coming along with Lake Winnipeg with their high  
 2 waters and everything else.  
 3 I know it's not only with Manitoba  
 4 Hydro regulating it as well, but it's also  
 5 agriculture use, the algae and that that has  
 6 bloomed. And the system that are there, the  
 7 sediments that are falling in from the erosion,  
 8 eroding shorelines, is contributing to a big  
 9 impact on the shorelines. Because everything that  
 10 falls in, it's filling up the lake. There's some  
 11 places there you have to drive your boat out quite  
 12 a ways out just to find decent water, because the  
 13 shorelines are really shallow in some spots  
 14 because of the eroding shorelines that are falling  
 15 in.  
 16 And with hunting, I'll talk a little  
 17 bit about hunting as well, with the high waters as  
 18 well. We have been having a hard time to find our  
 19 seasonal animals, like the deer and the moose. We  
 20 go out quite a bit as well to areas on Lake  
 21 Winnipeg, around the Dauphin River area there, and  
 22 we have been having a hard time to bring back a  
 23 moose for our families in the fall. And lately,  
 24 when somebody kills a moose, now it's just like  
 25 winning the lottery, because everybody tends to go

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1 to that person's house right away after to get  
 2 their piece of meat. The high waters have moved  
 3 our animals out of the areas where they usually  
 4 are, the deer as well. And a lot of our forests  
 5 are, it looks like we're living in the fall 24  
 6 hours a day, 365 days a year, from all the dead  
 7 trees that are around in our areas now. There's  
 8 no green trees where we live, it's all dead bush.  
 9 And that's going to contribute into our lake  
 10 system too, and that's going to affect our nets.  
 11 MR. SHEFMAN: Councillor, you are  
 12 talking a lot about the ancillary effects, the  
 13 secondary effects of what you attribute to Lake  
 14 Winnipeg Regulation, and you also mentioned  
 15 earlier how in your Treaties you didn't give up  
 16 governance of the water, that wasn't part of that.  
 17 Can you talk a little bit about how  
 18 you have worked with Hydro in terms of providing  
 19 them with your traditional knowledge that you have  
 20 been providing the panel with today, how your  
 21 traditional knowledge has helped or could help  
 22 this project, and address those issues for the  
 23 panel?  
 24 MR. GOULD: Well, I think our  
 25 contributions, like I said earlier today when I

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1 said I'm not a scientist, but we lived on that  
 2 land, we lived in that area. We know what was  
 3 there before. I'm 42 years old and I have been on  
 4 the lake with my grandpa since I was three years  
 5 old, that was the very first time he said that he  
 6 had taken me out on the lake. And I seen the  
 7 changes within our areas. And if we could keep  
 8 the water system down, like what it was even 25  
 9 years or 30 years ago, and to ask our people, is  
 10 this water okay for you, you know, is this depth  
 11 liveable to you, that would have made a big  
 12 difference in my life. When I think back, that  
 13 would have made a big difference in a lot of my  
 14 people's lives within my community. And I'm  
 15 talking for Pinaymootang.  
 16 We have neighboring communities that  
 17 are just 12, 15 kilometres down the road, Little  
 18 Saskatchewan, and then further down from that was  
 19 the once known Lake St. Martin, where it's no  
 20 man's land now. At any one given time, there was  
 21 anywhere between 3,000 head of cattle or 4,000  
 22 head of cattle within our communities. Now, like  
 23 I said, there's one farmer in Little Sask, two  
 24 farmers in Little Sask and two farmers in  
 25 Pinaymootang, one farmer in Lake St. Martin.

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1 And I think, when I look back, if the  
 2 water wasn't as high as it was today, there would  
 3 still be a lot of people farming. We would be  
 4 contributing to the agriculture way of life.  
 5 Because with all the barriers that were there,  
 6 trying to find hay, trying to find pasture for  
 7 your cattle, horses, whatever you had, all those  
 8 barriers add up to stress, add up to what are we  
 9 going to do, where are we going to feed our  
 10 cattle, our horses? If you don't have hay, you  
 11 know, you get charged for starving animals. And  
 12 that's one thing that our people had always  
 13 respected was animals. So a lot of these people  
 14 decided to give up their ranching.  
 15 So we could have contributed a lot to  
 16 Manitoba Hydro and to the Province of Manitoba, to  
 17 consult with us whenever they make big decisions  
 18 on the dams and the impacts of what those dams are  
 19 going to have. Look at in the past what history  
 20 has told us. Hydro used to just go make these  
 21 dams without consulting with the people. They  
 22 would bury our loved ones grave sites, you know.  
 23 I know each and every one of you here  
 24 has respect for those people, for your loved ones  
 25 who have passed on. So let me put it into your

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1 heart, how one feels if their grave sites were  
 2 devastated like that? If we came here to the City  
 3 of Winnipeg and flooded all these areas where  
 4 these grave sites are, and say you know what,  
 5 we'll worry about you people later, there's a big  
 6 compensation coming to you, but let your loved  
 7 ones lay there. Death in our communities is a  
 8 very respectful time of life. Many people in the  
 9 regular society will go to a funeral for an hour,  
 10 our people last for four days, day and night, keep  
 11 those fires burning 24 hours a day. That's how  
 12 close we are with our people and our land. And to  
 13 have that impact on our communities, that was a  
 14 big disrespect from the people that were involved  
 15 in the past.

16 And I know there has been some work of  
 17 now, duty to consult and consent, that has to be  
 18 taken forth upon our people before any projects  
 19 are done.

20 But like the question I was asked  
 21 here, would there have been somewhat of a bigger  
 22 change in my life if we were consulted with in a  
 23 way where the water is at a certain level? Yes,  
 24 we would still have people living today where they  
 25 are if we didn't have that the high water system

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1 that's here today.

2 And, you know, at the regulation of  
 3 715, I believe that's where Lake Winnipeg is, am I  
 4 correct? Anybody answer that.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

6 MR. GOULD: You know, 715, you can  
 7 have it at 715, but what happens when we get these  
 8 natural disasters that come in? You can't lower  
 9 that 715 overnight. The winds to pick up, the  
 10 waters come in, and you can't control that if we  
 11 keep it at 715, and we see the devastation right  
 12 now of the erosion of our shorelines.

13 So that question I would say yes,  
 14 there would have been a big change within my area  
 15 and my people's lives, if we were consulted with  
 16 instead of just making these dams, which was made  
 17 in 1961 in our area, and changed the whole system  
 18 of our area regarding our fishing, agriculture,  
 19 gardening, you name it. We have lost so much in  
 20 these past 10 to 15 years that it really makes you  
 21 depressed actually when you think of it.

22 And in our Treaties, you know,  
 23 farming, fishing, everything, it's there, it's  
 24 stated that we would carry this on as long as the  
 25 sun shines, the grass grows and the rivers flow,

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1 that this way of life would be here.

2 But, you know, we need to look at ways  
 3 that we can find a solution that's going to work  
 4 for people within our areas and for these big  
 5 Crown corporations that take our natural resources  
 6 and turn it into an economic, bountiful spin offs  
 7 for so many people within our areas here.

8 And you know, as a person in general,  
 9 I'd like to be consulted with in a way that, had  
 10 these meaningful talks that would benefit our  
 11 community. I think I would have went a long ways  
 12 when it comes to terms, and how today, how we look  
 13 at the water systems and how we turn the waterways  
 14 into the power lines, into the hydro dams.

15 And of course, we all know that  
 16 Manitoba can only use so much hydro, that a lot of  
 17 this hydro is going to be going other places. You  
 18 hear of the blackouts that they have in the  
 19 States, that they need all this hydro. And you  
 20 know, Manitoba is a prime area here. But what are  
 21 the costs? And we should have a say like on what  
 22 is happening, and we should be consulted with in a  
 23 respectful way. And we should be, you know, if  
 24 anything goes wrong, there should be a way that  
 25 Manitoba Hydro and our communities have a way of

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1 working things out where we can live somewhat a  
 2 normal life instead of always having to be chased  
 3 away from where we were originally living a good  
 4 life.

5 And in our language, (Cree spoken),  
 6 that means leftover land in our area, and that's  
 7 how our people describe our reserves, (Cree  
 8 spoken), you know, that's how they describe where  
 9 we live, it's called leftover land. And that  
 10 leftover land, now we're fighting to go keep that  
 11 leftover land because of all the contributes that  
 12 are happening with the flooding in our  
 13 communities. And yet we signed our Treaties with  
 14 the Crown to share this wonderful Canada here with  
 15 the rest of Canada. And today, we call our  
 16 homeland leftover land, which once we had this  
 17 whole Canada was ours.

18 And my grandfather always made that  
 19 statement very clear to me. He said one day, he  
 20 said, oil is not going to be what we're going to  
 21 fight over, that's not going to be. He said, it's  
 22 going to be our water he said to me. And I look  
 23 here today, you know, and here we are today. And  
 24 my grandfather passed away in 1998. That was a  
 25 big statement that he made. And he said that



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1 water that flows in the back of your yard, we  
 2 could see, springtime, 10, 15 feet, the water, we  
 3 could see right to the bottom of it, clearly. And  
 4 now today, it's pretty murky, how the system has  
 5 changed everything.

6 And I want to think that the fish that  
 7 we consume is still a healthy fish. I'm  
 8 optimistic that some way down the line here that  
 9 we're going to figure out something that's going  
 10 to be a contributor factor to the healthy part of  
 11 our lake. Because if we don't try and find a  
 12 solution, we're not going to have a healthy Lake  
 13 Winnipeg, we're not going to have a place to swim,  
 14 we're not going to have a place to do recreational  
 15 fishing, commercial fishing. It's just going to  
 16 be one big green algae lake. And if any one of  
 17 you has ever had that experience of driving out to  
 18 Lake Winnipeg, going on a fishing or hunting trip,  
 19 and if you ever come across hitting that sludge,  
 20 you know, that's a scary feeling. That's just  
 21 like green soup or something, I don't know how to  
 22 explain it, but it just stinks. And if you hit  
 23 that, you don't know if you're hitting, you know,  
 24 land that's somewhat flooded or whatever when you  
 25 hit that sludge. It's just, you don't know what's

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1 underneath there. It plugs up your motors as  
 2 well. It can blow your motor because the water  
 3 doesn't go through your system on the motor.

4 But when it comes to Hydro to be to  
 5 coming around to my community and consulting with  
 6 us, I have to say that I've never once been  
 7 involved in that, Hydro has never come around to  
 8 my area to consult with us to say what is good for  
 9 you, what can we do to make things better?

10 The only time I know of Hydro coming  
 11 through my community is when they put the existing  
 12 hydro lines through my reserve land. They paid my  
 13 community, I believe, \$1,500, and they paid my  
 14 grandpa and them to cut the wood at \$2.50 a cord.  
 15 That's what they paid them. And today, billions  
 16 and billions of dollars have went through that  
 17 line. So that kind of consultation, that was a  
 18 big disrespect back in those days. It should have  
 19 been done a lot better from the part of Manitoba  
 20 Hydro.

21 And I know, through the years,  
 22 everybody is being educated and that you guys are  
 23 starting to learn from the past. And I hope that  
 24 continues, that respect is mutual, that we find  
 25 that understanding where we can somewhat find the

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1 solution where the water is going to be at a level  
 2 where we can all work together with our  
 3 communities and with Hydro as well. Because the  
 4 system is here, you know, you guys have the system  
 5 now. But the way the system has come about, some  
 6 of that history shouldn't have been that way.

7 MR. SHEFMAN: Thank you, councillor.  
 8 Mr. Traverse, if you'd like to go  
 9 ahead?

10 ELDER TRAVERSE: I'd like to speak  
 11 more about the our Treaty with this tobacco and  
 12 our language, it means (Cree spoken). And that  
 13 water we speak about, we all it (Cree spoken).  
 14 And the lake we, call it (Cree spoken). And (Cree  
 15 spoken), that's how we interpret it. The things  
 16 that I want to say, I want to go back to the  
 17 beginning when the Treaties were signed. And also  
 18 I want to mention, just mention here this  
 19 videotape that Hydro had been giving out in our  
 20 towns, a short video, I think it's 27 minutes of  
 21 the Lake Winnipeg Regulation. That's the first  
 22 time I have heard of it. But it's been two years,  
 23 I got this CD from the Hydro office. But what I  
 24 want to say is I kind of speak fast too. When I  
 25 speak, I'm not an elegant speaker, but

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1 nevertheless, I'm Anishinaabe person.

2 At the time, I think this is the one  
 3 Hydro has to understand, and the Commission here,  
 4 the time the Treaties were made, you know, before  
 5 they were made, back like I say, 1600, 1700, when  
 6 the newcomers came, they knew that there was  
 7 Native people that resided in this island, North  
 8 America. That time, King George I believe, and  
 9 Queen Victoria, they told their people, their  
 10 commissioners, we'll make Treaty with those  
 11 people, don't just grab their land, sign a Treaty  
 12 with them. This is what they did. And that part  
 13 there, it's very important, that's what they did.

14 They didn't go to any other society,  
 15 but they went to the people that lived on these  
 16 lands, the Anishinaabe people. They signed that  
 17 Treaty. The first Treaty that was signed in Lake  
 18 Winnipeg was in Berens River, Manitoba, 1875. And  
 19 along the line, they had -- we had head men in our  
 20 communities, and these head men were councillors  
 21 to this Treaty process that was being made. And  
 22 they didn't agree with that, they wanted a chief  
 23 in each community.

24 The reason why I say this, because  
 25 reading through the research that I've done, I

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1 have read through all of the times of back in  
 2 1800, this is what was happening. And there was a  
 3 Hudson Bay post at Doghead Narrows. You know,  
 4 this is where our Treaty came from, it was not  
 5 signed in my community of Kinonjeoshtegon, but  
 6 somehow Kinonjeoshtegon was a place that people  
 7 did their ceremonial gatherings every summer, it  
 8 was a place where people came from all directions,  
 9 and people come and healed themselves in the  
 10 summer time.

11 My great great grandfathers were the  
 12 leaders of the, they were called the Midewiwin  
 13 society. And today it's a great honour for me to  
 14 be sitting here and telling the story. That's  
 15 where I get my strength that I can say and speak  
 16 in this fashion.

17 I'm not trying to step on anybody's  
 18 toes or anything like that, but this is what took  
 19 place back then. They went to the people of the  
 20 land, the first peoples of the land. The Creator  
 21 had given them this special water and fish to live  
 22 off the land, the Anishinaabe people. This is  
 23 what I knew and this is what I have learned over  
 24 the years as I have been getting to be -- I'm 60  
 25 years old. Like I said, I was going to say in my

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1 language, (Cree spoken) in my language, that's  
 2 what it means.

3 Like there's a lot of words that we  
 4 have in our language, even Easter, Easter day we  
 5 have a word for that as well. And also we're  
 6 getting close to that time of the year, and it's  
 7 always holy times for everybody all around this  
 8 North America, and those are the things that we  
 9 hold dear to our communities.

10 But speaking like that, I wanted to  
 11 continue on talking and I wanted to use my notes  
 12 here as I speak.

13 Our great grandfather signed an  
 14 international covenant peace treaty. This was  
 15 everlasting. Their God given traditional  
 16 government was always by four elders, who were  
 17 always the last decision makers. Their covenant  
 18 was as long as the sun shines, the grass grows and  
 19 the rivers flow. The prayers, witness to God,  
 20 sacredness of their instruments, pipes, the  
 21 Queen's commissioners, their own Canadian Mounted  
 22 Police, they excluded water and fish from this  
 23 Treaty as they wanted to continue on living  
 24 naturally.

25 Today the Royal Canadian Mounted

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1 Police were given duty only to enter reservations  
 2 when murder, rape, stealing, was being committed.

3 Water and Lake Winnipeg is telling us  
 4 a story. So far from all the studies and reports  
 5 done, our livelihood is in great danger. Who  
 6 would responsibility fall on? What are our future  
 7 children going to fall back on a hundred years  
 8 from now? Who is responsible? Is it going to be  
 9 our shortcomings, looking after ourselves today  
 10 only?

11 First Nations can't be held  
 12 accountable as they never requested for this  
 13 process. The CEC, Manitoba Hydro report cannot be  
 14 used as an agreement a hundred years from now.  
 15 This is what I wrote down from my notes, and I'm  
 16 very honoured for them to be transcribed here  
 17 today.

18 And also I want to further say, I've  
 19 got other things that I want to say, but just this  
 20 moment I want to pass it back to Mr. Shefman.

21 MR. SHEFMAN: Thank you, Mr. Traverse.  
 22 Can you talk to us about how and when you have had  
 23 the opportunity to share your traditional  
 24 knowledge with Manitoba Hydro, and how you think  
 25 that may have changed how Lake Winnipeg Regulation

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1 works, if they have adapted their plans based on  
 2 your knowledge, or just even if they -- when you  
 3 share your knowledge?

4 ELDER TRAVERSE: I have -- I'm going  
 5 to be, I'm going to be on this panel at the next  
 6 hearing on April 14, again, I think that's the  
 7 date that we have. But we have some photographs  
 8 from way back from 1950, and that was the state of  
 9 Lake Winnipeg. We have them in colour, and we're  
 10 going to be bringing those forward when we do that  
 11 next presentation.

12 And you know, I come from a fishing  
 13 community, and my ancestors, my grandfathers, they  
 14 were leaders in the lake, on Lake Winnipeg. They  
 15 used our lake for many ways, wherever they wanted  
 16 to go, they went that way, and that's how they  
 17 communicated with nature. And they had great  
 18 respect for the land and the Creator, they went  
 19 and named our community Kinonjeoshtegon in a  
 20 ceremonial way, and they did offerings to that  
 21 fish, (Cree spoken), the spirit of that fish, they  
 22 used that in their ceremonial grounds, why our  
 23 community is called Kinonjeoshtegon today, this is  
 24 what they did, my ancestors, my grandfathers.  
 25 They were real warriors, I always call them. But

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1 somehow, you know, things changed for them when  
 2 government started coming around and bringing in  
 3 their, bringing in RCMP, Royal Canadian Mounted  
 4 Police. And I guess they were put in the state of  
 5 shock, because this is where their livelihood was  
 6 on the water, on the water and land, this is what  
 7 they experienced. You know, I want to say these  
 8 things here today, because we don't know the  
 9 history, the history is not known of my community.  
 10 I also have a powerpoint that goes  
 11 along with what I'm talking about here. I'm not  
 12 making anything up. I have lots of documentation  
 13 from way back, from early as middle 1800s. My  
 14 great great grandfathers, we located a lot of  
 15 sacred documents that they were -- that they  
 16 existed back then.  
 17 But, you know, those are the things I  
 18 want to mention here. Those are very important to  
 19 me, my community, and where I come from. Like I  
 20 said, they officially did a ceremony in honour of  
 21 the fish.  
 22 So we are a clan, water clan people,  
 23 and we have different clans, and that's the thing  
 24 too I want to mention here, our clan is called  
 25 At'sokan clan. And the other clan we have in our

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1 community is Mitsu'um clan. You know, we have two  
 2 clans that, I think that's where this starts, from  
 3 our community of Kinonjeoshtegon, there was a two  
 4 clan system there. And those are very important  
 5 to my people to understand and to know the people  
 6 here, the audience, and also the panel. But I  
 7 want to say that much at this time again.  
 8 MR. SHEFMAN: Mr. Traverse, can you  
 9 talk to us a bit about how Lake Winnipeg, how the  
 10 water was governed before Hydro came? If there  
 11 was a dispute about the water, or if somebody  
 12 wanted permission to use the lake for any purpose,  
 13 how would those decisions be made in your  
 14 community?  
 15 ELDER TRAVERSE: Well, like I said,  
 16 every community had an elder of four. These  
 17 elders would be, they had the title and the rule,  
 18 they were the last decision makers of the  
 19 community. This is how their governance was set  
 20 up back then. They did things. They never had  
 21 problem with the environment, what we're  
 22 experiencing today. The water was, the water and  
 23 fish were abundant back then. And then somehow  
 24 today, everything has changed. The water is  
 25 contaminated, we can't rely on it any longer. I

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1 don't know what it's going to be for our future  
 2 grandchildren. Those are the concerns I got  
 3 today. I want to say that much.  
 4 MR. SHEFMAN: As an elder in your  
 5 community, do you believe that there's a way for  
 6 your traditional ways of governing the water, like  
 7 you have just described, to work together with  
 8 Hydro, to govern the water cooperatively?  
 9 ELDER TRAVERSE: Well, dialogue, and  
 10 also traditional way. We have elders back home.  
 11 I don't consider myself an elder, but somehow I'm  
 12 getting to that age, even talking here, I could  
 13 talk here without tobacco because of my age. But  
 14 nevertheless, I wanted to use this tobacco here  
 15 today, for each and every one of us that we don't  
 16 make a mistake in our lives. Because when we talk  
 17 about this water, it's very important, it's number  
 18 one in our lives. Without water I wouldn't be  
 19 sitting here talking about it. But somehow we  
 20 have to stress to Manitoba Hydro that we want to,  
 21 we want to put our foot in the door to be able to  
 22 speak and to be able to communicate, you know, and  
 23 have an open -- especially in our fishing  
 24 industry, our commercial fishing is not very good  
 25 right now because of all these things that we're

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1 experiencing with this high water, and also a lot  
 2 of times our nets are all twisted, just like a  
 3 piece of rope, you know, after a big storm. This  
 4 has been going on, you know, the past 15 years,  
 5 the water has very, has gone very fast, and it's  
 6 treacherous to be out there. It's very, it's a  
 7 very scary position to be. But somehow with doing  
 8 ceremonies -- like myself, I have been doing that  
 9 for many years, and I have lived there along the  
 10 lake, I know the water is very dangerous. There's  
 11 good and bad to this water we're talking about.  
 12 It can take life, you know, just like that.  
 13 That's how powerful it is. But somehow, you know,  
 14 this water is trying to tell us a story here, it's  
 15 trying to do something. Something is making us  
 16 sit here today. Thank you.  
 17 MR. SHEFMAN: My last question for  
 18 you, sir, as an elder in your community, you may  
 19 not consider yourself that, but as a person in  
 20 your community, has anyone, let's just call it  
 21 anyone, be it government or Hydro or researchers  
 22 or anyone, asked you for whether you believe there  
 23 have been negative impacts on Lake Winnipeg as a  
 24 result of Lake Winnipeg Regulation?  
 25 ELDER TRAVERSE: Yes, we have a lot of

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1 erosion in our area too. Like speaking of  
 2 erosion, our rivers have gone wider, you know,  
 3 there's a lot of debris, floating islands that  
 4 float out to the lake because of this.  
 5 MR. SHEFMAN: And has anyone ever,  
 6 before this process, before you came here and we  
 7 started talking about the Clean Environment  
 8 Commission, did anyone ever ask for your input on  
 9 that before?  
 10 ELDER TRAVERSE: Never.  
 11 MR. SHEFMAN: Thank you.  
 12 ELDER TRAVERSE: I know in 2006, I  
 13 think it was 2006 I went in front of the Clean  
 14 Environment Commission in Arborg, Manitoba, that  
 15 was to do with the pork industry, agriculture.  
 16 And that time I think I presented them with a  
 17 document, and that's as far as it goes. But I'm  
 18 also involved in the Lake Winnipeg Co-management  
 19 Board, I sit on the board for reasons, I don't  
 20 know. Sometimes I go there, I'm just being lead  
 21 around like a dog chasing his tail. That's the  
 22 feelings I get when I come home from there.  
 23 Because our words, our decisions don't end up  
 24 anywhere. You know, year after year, we go there  
 25 twice a year, we go and talk about our fishing,

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1 commercial fishing. And then somebody else, some  
 2 other group will benefit from there. That's  
 3 always been, this has been going on for the past  
 4 40 years how the Conservation and the Water  
 5 Stewardship has been looking at us Native people.  
 6 You know, it's about time we get on our own feet.  
 7 We're tired of begging, beggars of our  
 8 own land. This is our land. We should be the  
 9 ones calling the shots here. But it's never like  
 10 that. You know, I think the government has to  
 11 stop the abuse, genocide, that's what I call it  
 12 now. I'm not afraid to say that because I believe  
 13 in freedom of speech. You know, section 15 states  
 14 freedom of speech, freedom of association, and  
 15 those are the things that I always keep in the  
 16 back of my mind when I speak.  
 17 But thank you, again.  
 18 MR. SHEFMAN: Thank you.  
 19 Councillor Gould, you had a few other  
 20 things to say?  
 21 MR. GOULD: Yes. Just thinking of  
 22 what Henry was talking about here, you know, the  
 23 relationship with Hydro and our communities. I  
 24 have heard it said many times that the people are  
 25 more scared to see the Hydro truck coming into our

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1 community than the RCMP, you know. And why is it  
 2 that way? I am not sure. But there are a lot of  
 3 things that need to be done, to be worked out.  
 4 And in a way, you know, it's an honour for me to  
 5 be here today to, that I make my statements here  
 6 and that they are being recorded. Because I want  
 7 my children and my grandchildren and their  
 8 children to know that there were people within  
 9 their communities that actually have stated and  
 10 advocated and brought up to the people that wanted  
 11 to be in charge, I could say, of their future of  
 12 the water system, that we have spoken and that we  
 13 have stood up for them. I'm not saying that it  
 14 can't be a relationship that can be worked upon.  
 15 The infrastructure is there. But Hydro has to  
 16 come to our people. Hydro has to consult with our  
 17 people. And Hydro has to make up for the  
 18 wrongdoings that they have done to our people from  
 19 the 1950's and up, that has flooded in our areas,  
 20 impacted our areas.  
 21 And for how many years have our people  
 22 been quiet? How many years have we been just  
 23 sitting there looking out our backyards, out our  
 24 windows, seeing impacts of these high waters that  
 25 are coming in? And then you see these big

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1 constructions happening, without any input within  
 2 our communities. And I know they always throw out  
 3 there that there's going to be jobs and this and  
 4 that, and our people get excited. But when it  
 5 comes down to it, that 33 percent that was  
 6 supposed to be hired of our people up north, a lot  
 7 of those jobs are shovel jobs, a lot of those jobs  
 8 become a hammer and a shovel, and here you go and  
 9 shovel that. While other people come from Europe,  
 10 come from all over the world to come and do these  
 11 jobs, while my people sit at home in poverty.  
 12 So that's one thing I'd like to ask  
 13 Manitoba Hydro, if you want a relationship, if you  
 14 want to make promises that you're going to work,  
 15 then work to that ability where that economic  
 16 sustainability is going to benefit my people. If  
 17 you want to get rid of fishing, if you want to get  
 18 rid of trapping, if you want to get rid of  
 19 agriculture, then put something else on our table,  
 20 because we cannot eat Hydro. Miigwech.  
 21 MR. SHEFMAN: Thank you, councillor.  
 22 Subject to questions, that's our  
 23 evidence.  
 24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Shefman  
 25 and Councillor Gould, and I'm not sure whether

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1 it's Elder or Mr. Traverse. Thank you all for  
 2 your presentations this morning. We'll take a  
 3 time out to consider, so we'll take a break for 15  
 4 minutes and come back in 15 minutes.  
 5 MR. SHEFMAN: Thank you.  
 6 THE CHAIRMAN: That will be at ten to.  
 7 (Proceedings recessed at 10:35 a.m.  
 8 and reconvened at 10:50 a.m.  
 9 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We'll resume the  
 10 proceedings.  
 11 MR. SHEFMAN: Mr. Chairman,  
 12 Mr. Traverse has asked if he may make one more  
 13 comment which he forgot to give before?  
 14 THE CHAIRMAN: Absolutely.  
 15 ELDER TRAVERSE: I wanted to say our  
 16 water system, our river, it's gone completely high  
 17 and there's a lot of erosion that we're facing.  
 18 You know, we have -- we've lived with wild rice  
 19 harvesting every year. I know for the last five  
 20 years, this wild rice has disappeared because of  
 21 the high waters, and that's really taken a toll on  
 22 the river system. There's no way, I don't know if  
 23 it will ever come back. But somehow, you know,  
 24 this is an important issue that we have. It's our  
 25 livelihood. And also we live from it, we do

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1 harvest quite a bit of it. We have the records to  
 2 prove our sales.  
 3 And my late uncle, Myles Traverse  
 4 Senior, used to be the one to officially harvest  
 5 this wild rice. But somewhere along the line,  
 6 after his illness, I took over that role, as he  
 7 was my uncle. And also I want to mention that  
 8 here today, because he's gone now and I'm trying  
 9 to continue on a way of life and what he did for  
 10 many years there too. And also, you know, ever  
 11 since this high water came in, you know, this  
 12 created this destruction of this wild rice crops.  
 13 And we have about a 60-mile range of it that grows  
 14 along the river, and going into streams and bays,  
 15 and this is how the -- I want to bring this  
 16 forward here today at this time. Miigwech.  
 17 MR. SHEFMAN: Thank you.  
 18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you again  
 19 Mr. Traverse. Manitoba Hydro?  
 20 MR. BEDFORD: Good morning,  
 21 Mr. Traverse and Councillor Gould. My name is  
 22 Doug Bedford and I am one of the legal counsel  
 23 assisting Manitoba Hydro at this hearing.  
 24 I heard you each say a little bit  
 25 about Aboriginal traditional knowledge, generally

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1 called ATK, and I can tell you that to date, at  
 2 this hearing, we have heard a great deal about the  
 3 absence of ATK work and studies about Lake  
 4 Winnipeg.  
 5 Please confirm for me, but my  
 6 understanding of Aboriginal traditional knowledge,  
 7 ATK, is that it is largely passed down in your  
 8 communities from generation to generation, from  
 9 elders to younger people orally, largely through  
 10 telling stories. Am I correct?  
 11 MR. GOULD: Yes, you are correct. And  
 12 also to show them physically as well.  
 13 MR. BEDFORD: And I have also learned  
 14 in the years I have represented Manitoba Hydro at  
 15 these hearings that First Nation, each community  
 16 has somewhat different Aboriginal traditional  
 17 knowledge, ATK. That it's not just one common  
 18 body of knowledge that all First Nations share,  
 19 there's differences between First Nations. Is  
 20 that accurate?  
 21 MR. GOULD: Yes, in some areas,  
 22 depending on the geographical area where you are.  
 23 But I'd have to say that we are connected by the  
 24 one driven spirit of as long as the sun shines,  
 25 the grass grows and the rivers flow.

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1 MR. BEDFORD: And I have also heard  
 2 that certainly until this generation, maybe the  
 3 last generation, that when elders passed on  
 4 stories and traditions, be it identifying sites on  
 5 the land, or just repeating stories in other  
 6 settings, that it was almost inevitably done in  
 7 your people's languages, be it Cree or Ojibway; is  
 8 that accurate?  
 9 ELDER TRAVERSE: True, yes, it's true.  
 10 MR. BEDFORD: And I have had a  
 11 concern, learning these things, that I had been  
 12 told that in the last two generations the younger  
 13 people in your communities, fewer and fewer of  
 14 them speak your languages, and are learning your  
 15 languages. Is that a fair observation?  
 16 ELDER TRAVERSE: It's true. It's  
 17 true. We're in lack of education, lack of funding  
 18 in our school system. I'm a bus driver, that's  
 19 what I do back home for -- I'm on my second year,  
 20 and I love those children. And everyday I feel  
 21 good when they come to school. But the school  
 22 itself, it's not -- I wouldn't want to go to  
 23 school there, because when I think about it, it's  
 24 back to the residential school. They have to wear  
 25 their parkas during the winter, that's how cold

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1 the school gets. The school that we have, it's an  
 2 old school, it was built back in 1976, and it's  
 3 got an old outdated boiler system that can't heat  
 4 the school at all in the coolest of the winter  
 5 months. And these poor kids have to go through  
 6 that ordeal. Like I always tell the principal,  
 7 we're going through an era of residential school  
 8 syndrome again here in front of our own eyes, I  
 9 told her. And the principal, she's a Native  
 10 principal, so I say that to her in my language.  
 11 But, anyway, that's what I'll say to that.  
 12 MR. BEDFORD: And I have had a growing  
 13 concern over the course of the last several years  
 14 attending these hearings, and learning a little  
 15 bit about Aboriginal traditional knowledge, that  
 16 when ATK is largely oral, and when it is largely  
 17 passed from generation to generation in your  
 18 people's languages, as the languages are  
 19 threatened and fewer people speak them, that there  
 20 is a potential loss of very valuable ATK as elders  
 21 pass away and the knowledge is not transferred to  
 22 younger generations. And so it occurs to me that  
 23 every opportunity should be seized, where these  
 24 traditions, the stories and the ATK, can be set  
 25 down in writing, or can be recorded through the

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1 voices of elders before they pass away, so that  
 2 future generations of your people, and frankly I  
 3 think of all Manitobans, would have the benefit of  
 4 having preserved now, while we still can, ATK.  
 5 Would you agree with the suggestion I have made?  
 6 ELDER TRAVERSE: Yes. Yes. This is  
 7 what's needed in our communities, you know, that's  
 8 what's missing. And also our elders forecasted  
 9 some of the stories that we have, and some of  
 10 them, the ones that passed on in the '70s, late  
 11 '70s, you know, they had a lot of knowledge about  
 12 our system, our own system. And somehow, you  
 13 know, I want to mention what my colleague here,  
 14 Derrick, mentioned a while ago, about Royal  
 15 Canadian Mounted Police, they come into our  
 16 community, even though they were given a rule when  
 17 to step into the community. But today we have the  
 18 RCMP come in with Manitoba Hydro to come and take  
 19 meters off our community.  
 20 They do this also with Child and  
 21 Family Services, they use RCMP, they come and  
 22 grab, abduct our children right in front of our  
 23 eyes, our grandchildren. This is what's been  
 24 happening.  
 25 Recently, there was a rumour about a

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1 UFO sighting in my, crash in my territory, but it  
 2 was true. There was an abduction that week, but  
 3 it wasn't a UFO, it was the CFS that abducted my,  
 4 two of my grandchildren in the evening, after  
 5 dark, they stole them from our community. This is  
 6 what happened. I want to say that here.  
 7 Miigwech.  
 8 MR. SHEFMAN: Councillor Gould, do you  
 9 have anything to add?  
 10 MR. GOULD: Yes. We take the oral  
 11 traditional, and of stories of where we hunted,  
 12 where we have trapped, and where we have fished,  
 13 where we have gathered our medicines from the  
 14 bush, and we take them with deep understanding  
 15 that it will continue, whether it's spoken in our  
 16 traditional language or whether it's spoken in  
 17 English. We still have our, we call them our  
 18 doctors within our communities. My grandmother  
 19 just turned 89 years old and she is one of the  
 20 main people throughout Manitoba that doctors  
 21 people still for diabetes, for cancer, you name  
 22 it, teething kids, the whole works, the whole  
 23 pregnancies for women, she does it all. And  
 24 myself and her children are deeply rooted into the  
 25 knowledge on where these plants grow.

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1 And as a result of the saturation of  
 2 our lands and that too, a lot of that is lost, and  
 3 we have to go further into other areas that are  
 4 unfamiliar with our territories, we go into other  
 5 people's territories and ask for their permission  
 6 to go and pick the roots and the plants that are  
 7 needed to make these medicines to help our people.  
 8 So that oral history is a big part within our  
 9 community.  
 10 And it is sad to say that, you know,  
 11 the assimilation that had happened with  
 12 residential school, with the '60s group, with the  
 13 relocation of some of our communities due to these  
 14 big Hydro projects that were put in place, that  
 15 has damaged our languages, that has damaged our  
 16 people's way of life. And I'd just like to make  
 17 that statement.  
 18 MR. BEDFORD: Councillor Gould, there  
 19 was formed earlier this year, I gather, a new  
 20 organization that's called the Lake Winnipeg  
 21 Indigenous Collective. And I understand that you  
 22 are one of a number of First Nations persons who  
 23 is promoting that organization. Is that correct?  
 24 MR. GOULD: Yes, I had been at the one  
 25 meeting that they had in Sagkeeng First Nation,

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1 and they had asked me to attend a meeting. And  
 2 under the indigenous part of it, the reason that I  
 3 was interested in getting involved in there,  
 4 because when it comes to a lot of the discussions  
 5 of the environmental parts regarding our areas,  
 6 there hasn't been very many indigenous people at  
 7 the table. And this is one form of, you know, the  
 8 panel, I guess you could say that we have somewhat  
 9 as an advocacy for our people, that our interests  
 10 and our way of life has to be told before it goes  
 11 any further where it's too far gone that we cannot  
 12 even partake in the things that have already been  
 13 done.

14 MR. BEDFORD: And I conclude that the  
 15 Lake Winnipeg Indigenous Collective will be a  
 16 good, specific opportunity for voices from the  
 17 Aboriginal communities around Lake Winnipeg to be  
 18 heard, and for you all to draw on your knowledge,  
 19 your ATK, with respect to the issues that Lake  
 20 Winnipeg faces, including things like climate  
 21 change, the algae problem in the lake, and indeed  
 22 regulation of the lake?

23 MR. GOULD: Yes, that's one of the  
 24 main goals, like I said, to be informed on what we  
 25 can contribute as well before this lake comes to

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1 its last days and we have no more living lake, I  
 2 guess I could say.

3 MR. BEDFORD: And I am told that  
 4 presently, and this is a very new organization,  
 5 that six First Nations are presently involved, and  
 6 they include your First Nation that you are a  
 7 councillor of, Pinaymootang -- have I pronounced  
 8 that correctly?

9 MR. GOULD: Yes.

10 MR. BEDFORD: Norway House,  
 11 Misipawistik, Sagkeeng, Brokenhead and Black  
 12 River. Have I got the list accurate?

13 MR. GOULD: I believe so, yes. Is  
 14 Brokenhead in there? Did you say Brokenhead?

15 MR. BEDFORD: Yes. And Mr. Traverse,  
 16 I'm told that your First Nation is aware of this  
 17 organization and it's considering joining; is that  
 18 correct?

19 ELDER TRAVERSE: That's true. We  
 20 started, like I said, I never heard anything about  
 21 Hydro, we wanted to talk to Hydro, but all I ever  
 22 got was this 27 minute CD. Yes, we started this  
 23 past summer dialogue with Black River First  
 24 Nation. I guess I have never met the original  
 25 group you are talking about, but we are in a

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1 movement of Treaty Five people is how I started,  
 2 and how we got involved, because of the concerns  
 3 we have, because of our elderly people live in a  
 4 very poor state, their Old Age Security, it's all  
 5 gone at the end of the month, it all goes back to  
 6 Hydro. And some of our elderly elders have been  
 7 charged for fishing along the lakeshore, a stone's  
 8 throw away from the shore to supplement themselves  
 9 and to feed their dogs fish. This is what we are  
 10 facing back where I come from. That was the  
 11 reason why, I am the one that goes to these  
 12 meetings, I'm always the one that has the time to  
 13 go and listen and include and be a presenter of  
 14 our issues in these forums that we had. The last  
 15 one we had was in, I believe it was in Norway  
 16 House on September 8.

17 MR. BEDFORD: Councillor Gould, I'm  
 18 told that presently the Lake Winnipeg Indigenous  
 19 Collective is being supported by the Lake Winnipeg  
 20 Foundation?

21 MR. GOULD: As far as I know, they are  
 22 supporting at Lake Winnipeg Foundation. They are  
 23 the ones that had organized the meeting at  
 24 Sagkeeng, and they were giving us, I guess, the  
 25 opportunity to be involved in it and to also bring

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1 our concerns to the respective other First Nations  
 2 around the area.

3 MR. BEDFORD: Were you aware that the  
 4 inaugural meeting for the Lake Winnipeg Indigenous  
 5 Collective was financed and supported by my  
 6 client, Manitoba Hydro?

7 MR. GOULD: No, I wasn't. Like I  
 8 said, I was only at the one meeting, and I was  
 9 invited to the meeting, and I guess from my point  
 10 of view, anything that has to do with the  
 11 protection and to advocate on behalf of my  
 12 indigenous people, I will be there. But to answer  
 13 the question that you asked me, I wasn't -- I  
 14 didn't know about that.

15 MR. BEDFORD: Would you agree with me  
 16 that the Lake Winnipeg Indigenous Collective would  
 17 be a good group of people, a good organization to  
 18 gather Aboriginal traditional knowledge from all  
 19 of the First Nations around Lake Winnipeg, about  
 20 Lake Winnipeg?

21 MR. GOULD: I believe it's a step in  
 22 the right direction. You know, I'm not saying  
 23 that because Hydro is funding it, to my knowledge  
 24 as of right now, that's the first time I heard of  
 25 it, but I believe that it is a step in the right

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1 direction. Like I said, we need to find some  
 2 solutions that we both can live respectfully, in  
 3 regard to the impacts that are surrounding the  
 4 waterways. And if it means that it has to take  
 5 this collective to bring that communication to the  
 6 table, and the respect to the table, and bring the  
 7 truth to the table, then, yeah, it would be a good  
 8 panel to continue with if we can work in that way.  
 9 MR. BEDFORD: Mr. Traverse, you told  
 10 us all when you were speaking earlier this morning  
 11 that you had never been asked for input over the  
 12 years by Manitoba Hydro about concerns you and  
 13 members of your community had about Lake Winnipeg  
 14 and regulation. My colleague, who is sitting  
 15 behind me this morning, Mr. Dale Hutchison,  
 16 assures me that he visited your community and you  
 17 were present when he paid his visit to your  
 18 community. And he remembers asking you and other  
 19 members of your First Nation what concerns you had  
 20 about Manitoba Hydro and the regulation of Lake  
 21 Winnipeg.  
 22 Now, given what Mr. Hutchison has told  
 23 me since he heard you speak this morning, would I  
 24 be correct in suggesting to you that it was a  
 25 little unfair of you to say that you had never had

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1 a visit from Manitoba Hydro to ask you about your  
 2 concerns about the lake?  
 3 ELDER TRAVERSE: Well, in a way I  
 4 disagree, because there was supposed to be a  
 5 follow-up meeting to that effect. And what he  
 6 come and -- when he did his presentation, we, of  
 7 course we never agreed with his presentation at  
 8 all. And there was supposed to be a follow-up  
 9 meeting to that effect. As of today, I have  
 10 never, we have never heard, until I saw him  
 11 yesterday and today again, that's what took place.  
 12 But we weren't fully organized when he did show up  
 13 that day, because we had the meeting at our health  
 14 office and most of the main players weren't there.  
 15 And also, even I think the chief did come there  
 16 for just a bit. But somehow, you know, things  
 17 weren't the way they should be that time of his  
 18 visit. Even though we went and met with him to  
 19 talk about this proposal that we had then, but we  
 20 never heard anything since then until today.  
 21 MR. BEDFORD: Thank you, Mr. Traverse  
 22 and Councillor Gould. I gather we will see you  
 23 both again at this hearing on April 14th, and hear  
 24 some more from each of you.  
 25 Councillor Gould, just so that there

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1 isn't a misunderstanding flowing from the  
 2 questions I have asked you today, I'm assured my  
 3 client provided the funding for the inaugural  
 4 meeting of the Lake Winnipeg indigenous  
 5 collective, but whether or not there will be  
 6 further funding for that group remains to be seen.  
 7 But thank you both, and I have no further  
 8 questions.  
 9 MR. GOULD: I'd just like to add on to  
 10 that, if I may?  
 11 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.  
 12 MR. GOULD: I'd just like to say,  
 13 thank you for informing me on who does the funding  
 14 and that. And I think in respect, they should  
 15 have been up-front right with the people that they  
 16 have asked to join these meetings, on who the  
 17 funding people are, and not to be put upon them at  
 18 a later date that so-and-so is funding you. So I  
 19 would like to make that clear here today that, you  
 20 know. But with all due respect, I hope that it's  
 21 not a form of Manitoba Hydro stating that that's a  
 22 form of consultation when you are not present at  
 23 the table yourself.  
 24 MR. BEDFORD: No, and obviously it  
 25 wouldn't. And as you have noted, my client wasn't

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1 present at the meeting and didn't organize it. It  
 2 was asked to provide the funding. But a really  
 3 good reason in life, why not be committed as of  
 4 today to future funding, is you are a member of  
 5 this group, you just learned something about the  
 6 funding. You and your colleagues are going to  
 7 want to think about where future funding should  
 8 come from. And if in your minds it's a form of  
 9 conflict for Manitoba Hydro to be funding the  
 10 meetings, then Hydro ought not to be funding the  
 11 meetings.  
 12 On the other hand, if a lot of good  
 13 can come from the work being done by the Lake  
 14 Winnipeg Indigenous Collective in gathering  
 15 Aboriginal traditional knowledge, we might all  
 16 think that's a worthwhile use of money, correct?  
 17 MR. GOULD: Yes. I'll let you know  
 18 that with us, as a people, it's not all about  
 19 money, it's about the grassroots people, and it's  
 20 about living in that moment and living that way of  
 21 life that means more to me than any money. And  
 22 whether it's funded or not, my people will gather  
 23 together.  
 24 MR. BEDFORD: Thank you.  
 25 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Bedford.



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1 Turning to participants, just  
 2 remembering what I said yesterday about  
 3 participant to participant questioning.  
 4 Mr. Williams, do you have any questions?  
 5 MR. WILLIAMS: No.  
 6 THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Whelan Enns? No.  
 7 Mr. Lenton? No. Mr. Settee, any questions?  
 8 MR. SETTEE: Yes. Good morning, my  
 9 name is Darrell Settee from Pimicikamak, and I  
 10 just have a couple of simple, honest questions,  
 11 since we are kind of separated by the geography  
 12 from our people and yours. I guess the first  
 13 question I would ask you is about the baling of  
 14 the hay. Are you having enough to feed your  
 15 animals, and are you able to store enough for the  
 16 winter?  
 17 MR. GOULD: As of right now, we have  
 18 ran out of hay. We're just buying hay as we see  
 19 the need for the hay right now, and it costs  
 20 anywhere between \$60 to \$80 a bale for a  
 21 1,700-pound bale right now. So it's a big cost to  
 22 the people that still want to farm in our area.  
 23 And like I said, the impacts of the high waters  
 24 have turned all of our pristine alfalfa fields  
 25 into bulrushes. And as people know that are in

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1 the agricultural business, we cannot feed  
 2 bulrushes to our cattle and horses.  
 3 MR. SETTEE: Thank you. The other  
 4 question is about the wheat production you were  
 5 talking about earlier, you had a good crop in the  
 6 past. And what do you use the wheat for? Do you  
 7 distribute among the people, do you make bread, or  
 8 do you make bannock?  
 9 MR. GOULD: Actually the people that  
 10 started into the wheat, they were selling it --  
 11 I'm not sure if the Canadian Wheat Board was  
 12 operational way back then, but as time went on,  
 13 early into 1980s, the wheat part of it kind of  
 14 diminished, but they started going into pretty  
 15 much 100 percent cattle, beef. So anything that  
 16 we grow with wheat and that, some of it was  
 17 shipped to the granaries. But I think it was  
 18 Moosehorn, Manitoba was our closest one, and the  
 19 others would be just used for feed for the cattle  
 20 itself.  
 21 MR. SETTEE: Thank you. I just have  
 22 just one more question about Aboriginal technical  
 23 knowledge. It's probably almost identical to  
 24 ours, our people. But do you still have the  
 25 opportunity or are able to teach the younger

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1 generations about your way of life and the  
 2 Aboriginal technical knowledge and the ways of  
 3 life?  
 4 MR. GOULD: Actually, we take it upon  
 5 ourselves, without any funding, to take the youth  
 6 out onto the land. My daughter also works with  
 7 Child & Family Services, but a lot of my time that  
 8 I spend, I just do it voluntarily to take the  
 9 people out onto the land, whether it's hunting,  
 10 trapping, or fishing, and also with agriculture,  
 11 we still try and maintain an interest in the  
 12 cattle production, especially now the cattle  
 13 prices are very good right now. And it's a form  
 14 of economic sustainability that we see, if we do  
 15 have the land base that's there. But like I said,  
 16 right now the barriers that are there, they have  
 17 been hindering people's interest in continuing  
 18 into farming. Because our land base is getting  
 19 smaller and smaller every year.  
 20 So with that, we do pass that  
 21 knowledge onto the children. And there's quite a  
 22 few other children, younger people now that are  
 23 taking the language seriously, and trying to  
 24 retain that ability to talk with the elders in the  
 25 language. And there's new forms and ways that we

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1 are trying to come up with to protect our language  
 2 in regards to descriptions, and how they can  
 3 relate to different objects and species and stuff  
 4 like that in the daily, in our daily lives. And  
 5 to continue to speak the language with them so it  
 6 gets in their head what the meanings are. Because  
 7 one Aboriginal word, like one meaning can mean  
 8 four different things at certain times of what you  
 9 are speaking, when you know your language. Like  
 10 today, if my elder was able to speak his language,  
 11 in his own language and everyone of you's would  
 12 understand, you know, he would nail it right on,  
 13 because he knows how to explain in that way. And  
 14 unfortunately, and that's not a factor here today.  
 15 MR. SETTEE: Thank you, panel, I think  
 16 that's all the questions I have for our friends.  
 17 Thank you.  
 18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Settee.  
 19 Mr. Yee?  
 20 MR. YEE: No questions.  
 21 MS. SUEK: I have a few questions.  
 22 My understanding is that you both are  
 23 fishermen and you talked a little bit about the  
 24 changing fish population, that there wasn't  
 25 pickerel anymore, there was whitefish. And are

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1 you getting the same amount of fish? Is it just  
 2 different? Has it gone down or gone up? And why  
 3 do you think this change has happened?  
 4 MR. GOULD: Well, I believe, first of  
 5 all, the amount of fish, it all depends I guess on  
 6 your area that you're in. Some people in the  
 7 south basin, all they fish is -- they want to get  
 8 pickerel, right. And when they go and set their  
 9 net, the whitefish were where the pickerel were,  
 10 and the whitefish are a way lower price. You get  
 11 about \$66 a tub, I believe, for a box of  
 12 whitefish. And for a box of pickerel you're  
 13 looking at anywhere between \$250 to \$300, I  
 14 believe, on a tub.  
 15 MS. SUEK: Wow.  
 16 MR. GOULD: So there's a big  
 17 difference there when you set and you lift for  
 18 pickerel, then all of a sudden you get -- \$66 to  
 19 \$300 is a big difference. In some places, there  
 20 is an abundance of pickerel because of the algae  
 21 that's kind of corralling them. They can only be  
 22 in certain waters where there's oxygen, and where  
 23 the algae is, there's no oxygen. So there's going  
 24 to be more of a tendency of conflict between those  
 25 fish.

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1 In our area of Lake St. Martin, we  
 2 have noticed an abundance of carp. Carp are  
 3 bottom feeders. They eat up the spawn of the  
 4 pickerel.  
 5 And before the dams were made, I want  
 6 to say here that our lake was full of pickerel and  
 7 full of perch. And like my respective Manitoba  
 8 Hydro representative here -- I'm sorry, I forget  
 9 your name -- but, you know, he had stated the oral  
 10 history that is passed down. My grandfather had  
 11 stated when they would lift the nets, they would  
 12 have shovels beside the water hole, the pickerel  
 13 were like bananas coming out, and that was the  
 14 natural flows, and also perch. And today, we can  
 15 set a 3 and 3/4 net, which is one of the smaller  
 16 nets, or a 3-inch net in our lake, and I guarantee  
 17 you every lift, we probably wouldn't catch one  
 18 perch. And we have some catfish now that are  
 19 showing up in our areas that we never had before,  
 20 maybe due to the high water flow. We have, they  
 21 are called bullheads, where we usually fish in the  
 22 springtime, or in the fall time, where we would  
 23 catch an abundance of pickerel. And this ain't  
 24 commercial use, this is use for our own people.  
 25 We would go out there every year, and

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1 then these past probably eight years or seven  
 2 years or so, where we would set, all we would  
 3 catch are these bullheads instead of the pickerel  
 4 that we once thought were there. So then it takes  
 5 a little bit more time and effort. And of course,  
 6 everything costs money, gas and that, to go find  
 7 and search where these pickerel had moved to.  
 8 With the new diversion that they had  
 9 cut from Lake St. Martin to Lake Winnipeg, we have  
 10 one of the biggest whitefish runs that run up to,  
 11 from Lake Winnipeg to Dauphin River area, all the  
 12 way up to Lake St. Martin. And when they cut the  
 13 diversion, the fish naturally ran down, of course,  
 14 the natural river, and most of them have gone up  
 15 the diversion. And this past summer, when they  
 16 opened up the diversion, which was supposedly only  
 17 going to be opened up every 100 years, and they  
 18 open it up three years down the road or so.  
 19 And I myself, I don't know if you've  
 20 seen me in the news, but I was in the news. I was  
 21 the one that took over the diversion with my  
 22 family, and we stopped them from opening it up 100  
 23 percent. We felt that the consultation wasn't  
 24 there to be informed the day ahead with a fax  
 25 paper sent into the band office, it wasn't

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1 significant enough for us to deem them the right  
 2 that they could go and open the fishery, while our  
 3 people haven't fished since 2011 because of the  
 4 high waters and they had no places to live. And  
 5 due to that, they thought they were going to go  
 6 and fish. They took tents, campers there, to try  
 7 and fish, they had no place to live. And then  
 8 they decided to open up the diversion, which  
 9 wrecked all their nets. Within two weeks of  
 10 fishing all the debris and everything was going  
 11 down there, and people hitting logs with their  
 12 outboard motors which cost, 30 to \$40,000 motor,  
 13 and some of them didn't have insurance. And so we  
 14 took it upon ourselves and said, you know, enough  
 15 is enough, we need to be consulted in a way that's  
 16 respectful.  
 17 And going back to the fish, the  
 18 Department of Fisheries only let them open it up a  
 19 certain amount. They wanted to open it up 100  
 20 percent. After some consultation with the  
 21 Province of Manitoba, they only let them open it  
 22 up a certain amount, because biologists there that  
 23 were doing the environmental studies on the  
 24 diversion, they put egg mats on the bottom of the  
 25 diversion and they went to test the egg mats and

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1 they couldn't believe the abundance of whitefish  
 2 eggs that were there. So they couldn't have that  
 3 fast flow anymore than what it was, because it  
 4 would hinder and destroy a lot of the whitefish  
 5 eggs from actually just sitting there to be ready  
 6 to be spawned. And that was a big impact.  
 7 And as of right now they haven't  
 8 opened up that diversion 100 percent due to the  
 9 fact that the whitefish were spawning there, and  
 10 that was between September and November.  
 11 So there's been a lot of impacts  
 12 regarding the flow of water. And it's sad to say  
 13 that when they declare the state of emergencies  
 14 that they have the right to cut through anybody's  
 15 land and deal with environmental impacts later.  
 16 And that's going backward from, even from the  
 17 history that we see from the relationship with  
 18 Hydro and our people, you would think that they  
 19 would learn from that. And again, they are  
 20 starting to look at a diversion again from Lake  
 21 Manitoba into our Lake St. Martin system again,  
 22 which it's like a bottle of, you know, the neck of  
 23 a bottle. You know, you can only pump so much  
 24 water in it and it's going to start to expand.  
 25 And with the high 715 that Lake Winnipeg is, it

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1 takes a longer time to flow into Lake Winnipeg.  
 2 So the water is held back a lot longer in our  
 3 areas. So that's how I see that we are affected  
 4 directly with the impacts of Lake Winnipeg as  
 5 well.  
 6 MS. SUEK: Good, thank you. You  
 7 mentioned that part of the problem with the high  
 8 waters is the draining of agriculture on the land.  
 9 Has there been any attempt in your community to  
 10 drain the land or find a way of diverting the  
 11 water? Not that I'm suggesting it's a good thing,  
 12 but have you --  
 13 MR. GOULD: The only thing I could say  
 14 is that -- is that all you were going to say?  
 15 MS. SUEK: That's it. Yeah, go ahead.  
 16 MR. GOULD: The only thing I could say  
 17 is that in 2011 when the manmade flood, I could  
 18 say, for the Province of Manitoba, they had  
 19 surveyors there that came in and they were  
 20 surveying the houses, which ones were above that  
 21 level, I think it was 806, above the 806 mark.  
 22 But with all that, you know, that's kind of all  
 23 that I ever seen there, was them coming to survey.  
 24 And the only other solution was the diversion that  
 25 they have cut.

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1 One of my suggestions was, living in  
 2 the area, I don't know why they wouldn't go from  
 3 the area of million dollar base, the north part of  
 4 Lake Manitoba, and cut it right through to Lake  
 5 Winnipeg, instead of putting it through where the  
 6 residential school -- I'm sorry, the residents,  
 7 area people live. Like if they put it up further  
 8 north in the northern part of Lake Manitoba and  
 9 cut it right through to Lake Winnipeg, where  
 10 nobody lives and a lot of it is muskeg, I don't  
 11 know why they wouldn't go that route.  
 12 MS. SUEK: Okay. Those are my  
 13 questions. Thank you.  
 14 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Harden?  
 15 MR. HARDEN: Yes, thank you.  
 16 Councillor Gould, you answered one  
 17 question that I had. I guess my question now is,  
 18 remaining question is for Elder Traverse.  
 19 In our community tours, we heard a lot  
 20 about changing currents on Lake Winnipeg affecting  
 21 fishing, commercial fishing. Can you comment on  
 22 that?  
 23 ELDER TRAVERSE: In our language, we  
 24 have that word (Cree spoken), the lake is very  
 25 dangerous due to the strong current. That's what

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1 has been happening for quite a few years now.  
 2 Because I live right beside the lake, and also we  
 3 have our -- our boats are 22 feet long, and  
 4 myself, I have one of those big 60-foot diesel  
 5 boats that we fish along with it. And it's been  
 6 sitting idle for the last few years now because of  
 7 conditions of the lake. And we're very fearful of  
 8 the water, the system, the lake, it's very  
 9 dangerous. Because the waves that are created by  
 10 this high water, they are not the waves that we  
 11 usually, normally deal with. They are very  
 12 treacherous and they are very, they have some kind  
 13 of, like there's a wave that's coming and then  
 14 there's another wave right behind it. And that's  
 15 very dangerous for our fishermen back home. A lot  
 16 of them, they speak about this, and to travel on a  
 17 windy day to go check your nets, it's a struggle,  
 18 everyday struggle. But somehow we live with that  
 19 strong current and the high water level.  
 20 The tide, when there's a south wind  
 21 and a north wind, we used to have tide, the south  
 22 would -- if there was a south wind all the water  
 23 would go down, down, that's the way it used to  
 24 work. But today when there's a south wind, the  
 25 water doesn't even -- it stays the same because of

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1 the high water table of the lake. And that's a  
 2 concern for the fish, because they are used to  
 3 their own way of reproducing. And also some  
 4 years, you know, we don't have that fish there now  
 5 the way that it used to be. They used to be very  
 6 plentiful, but this has created a lot of harm to  
 7 the water, to the fish, different fish species.  
 8 And their migration has totally changed because of  
 9 this high water. Thank you.  
 10 MR. HARDEN: Thank you. That was my  
 11 question.  
 12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.  
 13 Mr. Gould, one quick question, where  
 14 do you fish?  
 15 MR. GOULD: I fish on the Lake  
 16 St. Martin Lake between Lake Manitoba and Lake  
 17 Winnipeg.  
 18 THE CHAIRMAN: I know where it is.  
 19 How many fishermen normally are there?  
 20 MR. GOULD: For our community only, we  
 21 have 44 fishermen there. And so that's not -- I'm  
 22 not talking on Lake St. Martin and Little  
 23 Saskatchewan.  
 24 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. So that's quite a  
 25 few. Does the lake support that many commercial

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1 fishermen?  
 2 MR. GOULD: Well, Lake St. Martin has  
 3 only been filled twice in its lifetime, the quota.  
 4 It's an open quota. But due to the fact of the  
 5 people that are not living in Lake St. Martin and  
 6 Little Saskatchewan right now, I believe there may  
 7 be, the most right now there might be 25 or so  
 8 fishermen that are home right now trying to fish,  
 9 because everybody is in Winnipeg here still.  
 10 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. I just wanted to  
 11 ask you a few questions about the history of high  
 12 water in your community. You mentioned, I think  
 13 it was in response to Mr. Settee, that in the  
 14 early '80s, the farming switched from some cereal  
 15 grains to all livestock. Was that because of high  
 16 water or just changes in the farming market?  
 17 MR. GOULD: Yeah, I think at that time  
 18 I don't think the grain was as good as it was  
 19 today. And we live in an area there that it's  
 20 kind of like the lottery, if you're going to hit  
 21 one patch of good land and the other patch is  
 22 rocky, and then if you go any further, then you're  
 23 into the swampy kind of area, marsh kind of area.  
 24 So most of the people always have had cattle  
 25 around. Because back before the dependency on

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1 welfare came about in our communities, our people  
 2 used to have to milk their cows, and they had  
 3 their own chickens and their own gardening and,  
 4 you know, and that today the lifestyle that our  
 5 people have been kind of programmed into, it's  
 6 just a turn around on a dime from our  
 7 self-supportive way that we were. And due to  
 8 that, a lot of our people have diabetes now,  
 9 because we were a moving, nomadic people that  
 10 would move with the seasons. And so with that,  
 11 farming has played a big role in our community.  
 12 And if nothing is done in regards to land base,  
 13 it's probably going to be one of the very -- my  
 14 son probably, maybe he'd be one of the last ones.  
 15 And in our Treaties, our Treaties,  
 16 it's stated that they would supply us an ox, they  
 17 would supply us a cart, they would supply us tools  
 18 to continue farming. And what would that mean  
 19 today, in today's world? Like what would a cart  
 20 mean today? Maybe it would mean a tractor or  
 21 something, but we haven't stuck to that rules of  
 22 the Treaties in regards when it comes to our side  
 23 of things.  
 24 THE CHAIRMAN: I think the ox might  
 25 become a tractor and the cart might be a big

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1 combine or something.  
 2 MR. GOULD: Yeah.  
 3 THE CHAIRMAN: So when did the high  
 4 water start to affect your community in a negative  
 5 way?  
 6 MR. GOULD: Well, from the oral  
 7 history that my grandparents had told me, it was  
 8 right after when they constructed the dam in 1961.  
 9 THE CHAIRMAN: That's the dam on the  
 10 Fairford River, just by the highway?  
 11 MR. GOULD: Yeah. And it started to  
 12 have an effect there, I remember I actually -- I  
 13 think I still have some news clippings from my  
 14 grandmother and her farming of the cattle that are  
 15 floating down the river when they opened up the  
 16 gates there. And regarding the trapping as well,  
 17 I wanted to state as well about the trapping. We,  
 18 my family, we don't really commercially trap, but  
 19 we trap traditionally where we use the furs for  
 20 our own use, like for our elders making the  
 21 mukluks or just the traditional clothing. Like we  
 22 don't go and get the furs and go sell them, we'll  
 23 use it for our own. But when we noticed that some  
 24 of our area, fur animals that live in our area, a  
 25 lot of them, they get stressed out from not having

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1 places to live when the high water is come, they  
 2 flood them out, drown them out. And we noticed a  
 3 lot of the pelts on them were, there's a lot of  
 4 biting on the pelts itself from them being  
 5 aggressive with each other. And like the older  
 6 people said, this time of year they never seen  
 7 stuff like that, the way the animals would be.  
 8 But times when the high waters would come, the  
 9 muskrats were all over the yard. Like the kids  
 10 would be outside and there would be a muskrat  
 11 under the steps. And you have to watch out for  
 12 those things because they can jump five or six  
 13 feet. And once they get a hold of you, they will  
 14 give you a good bite. So there was a lot of dead  
 15 muskrats around, because dogs in the area were  
 16 killing them. So it has a big impact in our  
 17 community when the houses freeze. And then when  
 18 they close the dam down, and then if there's not  
 19 enough water, and these animals can't adjust in  
 20 the middle of the winter to, okay, I need some  
 21 more water here, I built my house too high or I  
 22 built my house too low, and they can't adjust to  
 23 that, and they end up dying.  
 24 A couple weeks ago, they closed the  
 25 dam down again to accommodate the outflow to

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1 Dauphin River, because of the fragile ice that  
 2 builds up there. And that had a big impact on our  
 3 fishing as well, where we set nets. And what  
 4 happens is the slush builds up on top of the ice  
 5 and the slush builds up underneath the ice. And  
 6 for you people that don't understand how to set  
 7 the nets, you only have certain depths of nets  
 8 that are between a six mesh all the way to a 60  
 9 mesh, depending if you're fishing on Lake  
 10 Winnipeg. But in our area there, we are an  
 11 average of 60 mesh, which is from the ground up to  
 12 about here. And then we've got to make sure we  
 13 have enough distance between the ice and the  
 14 ground level. And when high waters flow, even in  
 15 Lake Winnipeg when the high waters flow, the slush  
 16 builds up on top, and slush builds up underneath.  
 17 And when you have cold nights, that will make ice  
 18 anywhere between a foot to two feet under the ice,  
 19 then you don't even know.  
 20 And next thing, you go try pull your  
 21 net, your net's frozen. And that's two or \$300 a  
 22 net to the fishermen. And you can't get that net  
 23 out, it will just sit there. And then it's an  
 24 environmental thing as well because there's dead  
 25 fish there, you can't pull it out. And that slush

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1 builds up in a matter of a couple hours. And then  
 2 if they drop the water, then you'll have hanging  
 3 ice, and that's even more dangerous because you're  
 4 on top of the ice and all of a sudden it drops.  
 5 THE CHAIRMAN: We have heard lots  
 6 about hanging ice, particularly from Mr. Settee's  
 7 community. So the Fairford dam, how often in a  
 8 typical year do they open and close it?  
 9 MR. GOULD: Well, this year, just this  
 10 winter alone, I have the e-mails from MIT, I think  
 11 they have accessed that dam probably four times.  
 12 And just this past two weeks, they have adjusted  
 13 the logs twice, so...  
 14 THE CHAIRMAN: I think we should note  
 15 that, to my knowledge, Manitoba Hydro has nothing  
 16 to do with that dam, isn't that correct? Yes,  
 17 it's indicated that that's correct.  
 18 Mr. Traverse, the high water at your  
 19 community, how long have you been noticing  
 20 problems with higher water there?  
 21 ELDER TRAVERSE: It started way back  
 22 in the late '70s, into the '80s. We have had a  
 23 lot of destruction so far of our docks, our small  
 24 manmade docks. Some have gone underwater and some  
 25 have floated away. This started about that time.

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1 I recall that because I'm 60 years old, I should  
 2 know a little bit, something about the lake and  
 3 how high the water is. Like it's from that time,  
 4 that's what's been happening to our equipment, or  
 5 sometimes we lose our boat and motor, you know,  
 6 and it goes underwater. And that's a big loss to  
 7 the fishermen. But that's when we noticed that  
 8 that lake level was high back in that time.  
 9 Because I recall reading research history, why the  
 10 dam was built in Grand Rapids was because they had  
 11 to accommodate the Thompson mine, that was one of  
 12 the reasons why. It's what I was reading through  
 13 my research.  
 14 That time, like at the end I say we  
 15 had no knowledge of it, no study or nothing.  
 16 We're a First Nation that live off the lake.  
 17 Thank you.  
 18 THE CHAIRMAN: So is the high water in  
 19 your community, is it from high water on the lake  
 20 or is it more water in the Jackhead River?  
 21 ELDER TRAVERSE: Well, because of the  
 22 loss of the wild rice and also the erosion on the  
 23 river system, you know, this is from the very high  
 24 waters that we had been facing for, you know, it's  
 25 been quite a while now, we lost our wild rice

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1 crops. And you know, there's a lot of, the rivers  
 2 are wider. Like I got pictures of our river back  
 3 from 1950. Like I said, I'll produce those in our  
 4 next session, or maybe when, if the Commission  
 5 comes to our community. You know, that's been our  
 6 desire that we could accommodate because of the  
 7 history that we carry, we're not just -- even  
 8 though we're a small community, but I guess we  
 9 have -- a lot of our elders have gone on, but we  
 10 are still holding a few that have stories. And  
 11 also the impacts of our community as a whole from  
 12 the water.  
 13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,  
 14 Mr. Traverse. Those are my questions.  
 15 So barring any final comments from any  
 16 of you, I will bring the presentation to a close.  
 17 MR. SHEFMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
 18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Shefman.  
 19 I don't believe we have any documents today -- oh  
 20 we do.  
 21 MS. JOHNSON: Just have to make sure  
 22 that everything we have is on record. IRTC number  
 23 1 will be the evidence that was provided on  
 24 February 24th.  
 25

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1 (EXHIBIT IRTC 1: Evidence provided  
 2 February 24th)  
 3 THE CHAIRMAN: Of course, I have that  
 4 document in front of me, I should have known that  
 5 it would need to be registered.  
 6 So that brings today's proceedings to  
 7 a close. We have another early day. Tomorrow we  
 8 have two participants to First Nation communities,  
 9 York Factory First Nation and Tataskweyak Cree  
 10 Nation will be back here tomorrow. So we're back  
 11 here at 9:30 tomorrow morning. We are adjourned.  
 12 (Adjourned at 11:47 a.m.)  
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 2 OFFICIAL EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE  
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 4  
 5  
 6 Cecelia Reid and Debra Kot, duly appointed  
 7 Official Examiners in the Province of Manitoba, do  
 8 hereby certify the foregoing pages are a true and  
 9 correct transcript of my Stenotype notes as taken  
 10 by us at the time and place hereinbefore stated to  
 11 the best of our skill and ability.  
 12  
 13  
 14  
 15 -----  
 16 Cecelia Reid  
 17 Official Examiner, Q.B.  
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 20 Debra Kot  
 21 Official Examiner Q.B.  
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