

MANITOBA CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

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LAKE WINNIPEG REGULATION REVIEW
UNDER THE WATER POWER ACT

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Transcript of Proceedings
Held at MMF Offices
Winnipeg, Manitoba
MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2015
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APPEARANCES

CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

Terry Sargeant - Chairman
Edwin Yee - Commissioner
Neil Harden - Commissioner
Beverly Suek - Commissioner

Cathy Johnson - Commission Secretary
Joyce Mueller - Administrative Assistant

MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION

Minister Jack Park
Minister Alfred Anderson
Minister Will Goodon
Minister Jean Desrosiers
Minister Mark Parenteau
Vice President Julyda Lagimodiere
Cam Stewart
Jim Chornoboy
Lloyd Flett
Norman Campbell
Garry Fyke
Marci Riel
Jasmine Langhan

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1 MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2015

2 UPON COMMENCING AT 1:00 P.M.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, we are
4 ready to go. We are a little delayed by problems
5 setting up the transcription. By law we are
6 required to transcribe all of our public meetings.

7 My name is Terry Sergeant. I'm the chair of the
8 Manitoba Clean Environment Commission. Some of
9 you are familiar faces that I have met on a number
10 of occasions here in Winnipeg or up north. With
11 me on the panel are to my immediate left, Bev
12 Suek, to my right, Neil Harden and Edwin Yee. To
13 my far right is Cathy Johnson, who is the
14 Commission secretary. At the left end of this
15 table is Bob Armstrong, who is our report writer,
16 and our transcriber is Cece Reid.

17 We were asked a number of years ago,
18 about three years ago, by the Minister of
19 Conservation and Water Stewardship to conduct a
20 review of Manitoba Hydro's application for a final
21 licence for the Lake Winnipeg Regulation. And
22 Lake Winnipeg Regulation is the control works --
23 well, it is more than just a control works, but it
24 all happens at the north end of Lake Winnipeg,
25 basically from Norway House north to just this

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1 side of Cross Lake. The biggest piece of the Lake
2 Winnipeg Regulation is the Jenpeg Generating
3 Station and control structure.

4 We have to date held a number of
5 meetings in communities in Northern Manitoba and
6 then all around the shoreline of Lake Winnipeg
7 from Selkirk right up to Grand Rapids. And we
8 also held, I believe, it was five weeks of
9 hearings in the City of Winnipeg. And for this
10 hearing in particular we -- and we've done it a
11 little bit this way in previous hearings, but more
12 so in this case, we have tried to, when we are
13 outside of the city in what we call community
14 meetings or hearings, we tried to be a lot more
15 informal, and to date that has worked well. Other
16 than a fews opening comments from me, we don't get
17 involved in this session at all. We want to hear
18 from you folks, people who may have been directly
19 impacted by Lake Winnipeg Regulation.

20 I would like to thank the Manitoba
21 Metis for hosting us today, but also for putting
22 together this particular meeting, because a lot of
23 you are from many communities, and it was
24 physically impossible for us to go into all of the
25 communities, so to have a number of you come in

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1 here to the city and to this meeting today is a
2 great advantage to us.

3 So to repeat, what we want to hear
4 from you is your stories, your concerns, your
5 issues with Lake Winnipeg Regulation. And when
6 you do tell your stories, we would ask you to,
7 although I believe that Minister Park will ask you
8 to introduce yourselves in a few minutes, again if
9 you do speak, would you please identify yourselves
10 at that time as well just for the record and for
11 the recording. So with those few comments, I will
12 turn it over to Minister Park.

13 MINISTER PARK: Thank you very much,
14 Mr. Chairman, and welcome to the MMF home office
15 and the headquarters for the Manitoba Metis
16 Federation, Province of Manitoba. We appreciate
17 the opportunity to come before you and express our
18 concerns over the Lake Winnipeg Regulation and the
19 issues that we are facing as Metis people in the
20 Province of Manitoba.

21 As you are aware, we are rights
22 bearing people. We have been recognized as such
23 by the Canadian Constitution of 1982. I know this
24 goes back to 1970 when the regulation started, but
25 it took us a little while to be recognized in the

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1 courts as rights bearing people. But we are here
2 now and we have some issues that we are going to
3 provide you with today. But I also want to
4 recognize the fact that I respect you as the chair
5 and as a person from Selkirk. I reside in
6 Selkirk, and I know your political history, so it
7 is nice to see you again. I expressed that to you
8 two years ago in the Hotel Fort Garry. It is
9 always nice to see you.

10 I would like to introduce my ministers
11 that accompanied me today to do the presentation.
12 As we go around the table other members will
13 introduce themselves. First of all, I would like
14 to ask the members to ensure that their cell
15 phones are off, so it doesn't interrupt the
16 proceedings today. With that, I will start on my
17 far right. This is Mark Parenteau, a board member
18 from the Thompson region from the Manitoba Metis
19 Federation. Beside me is Will Goodon, he is the
20 Minister of Housing and Property Management for
21 the Manitoba Metis Federation. And to my left is
22 Alfred Anderson, he is the Minister of Natural
23 Resources for the Manitoba Metis Federation. Vice
24 president and Minister of Justice for the Metis
25 Federation is Julyda Lagimodiere from the Thompson

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1 region.

2 THE REPORTER: Sorry, Minister Park,
3 could I ask you to speak up?

4 THE CHAIRMAN: We are not using a
5 sound system today.

6 MINISTER PARK: I apologize for that
7 as well. Also we have Minister Jean Desrosiers,
8 who is the Minister of Mines and Environment --
9 Environment for the Manitoba Metis Federation.

10 So with that, I wanted to start off
11 with a few opening remarks in regards to my
12 concern as the Minister of Hydro, and the
13 relationship that we have had with Manitoba Hydro
14 over this issue.

15 I can tell you that we are very
16 disappointed that there has been no formal
17 engagement with the Manitoba Metis community as a
18 whole since the start of this whole Lake Winnipeg
19 Regulation process that has gone on in the
20 Province of Manitoba. It is very disturbing to
21 see the impacts that it is having on our
22 harvesters and land owners across the Metis
23 homeland. Also the fact that there is no
24 consultation, there is no TLUKS study. The maps
25 that we are providing today show the TLUKS study

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1 we have done on our own over other issues and
2 negotiations with Manitoba Hydro, other
3 developments such as Bipole III and so on.

4 Also I was very surprised to see in
5 Hydro's presentation of March 10, 2015 to the
6 Clean Environment Commission, where they made a
7 statement on page 115 of their report, where it is
8 an Aboriginal term and I cannot pronounce it, but
9 it means working together. Slide 115, and it says
10 that, "Manitoba Hydro continues to address Lake
11 Winnipeg Regulation impacts through ongoing
12 programming agreements and by working together
13 with the people who live and work along the Nelson
14 River."

15 We can attest to the fact that that's
16 false, when it comes to us as Metis people.
17 Because as I stated earlier, there has been no
18 consultation, no agreements, no nothing. And I
19 know that Hydro -- it references the turning the
20 page document that we recently signed in November
21 of 2014, where we indicated that we support Hydro
22 development in the Province of Manitoba, but that
23 does not mean that we can not go back to the past
24 that has occurred where we had no inclusion.

25 We are doing that today, to bring you

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1 up to speed as commissioners, as to where we are
2 at in terms of the effects it has had on us. I
3 don't want to speak too long. I wanted to give
4 the other members the opportunity to speak. And I
5 will start with the Minister of Natural Resources.

6 MINISTER ANDERSON: My name is Alfred
7 Anderson, Minister of Natural Resources. My
8 concerns are the harvester rights, what effects it
9 has on the upstream. The study was never done for
10 Lake Winnipeg. The traditional land use, like
11 Minister Park said, was not done. If it was done,
12 it would have helped us with harvesters to
13 identify our concerns. The harvesters were never
14 compensated for anything. Hydro only looked at
15 the effects of the project downstream, Jenpeg, for
16 example, never looked at the effects upstream.
17 There are more comments around the table, I might
18 have more after I hear some more. Thank you.

19 MS. LAGIMODIERE: Good afternoon. I'm
20 pleased to be here and have the opportunity to
21 express my concerns. I want to express my concern
22 as a vice president, and also as a Metis person
23 affected. I live in the north all of my adult
24 life. I have my family that lives there, my
25 children, who are adults now and they have

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1 families. I have grandchildren. And where
2 impacts -- my major concern is the exclusion, and
3 that Manitoba Hydro appears to have glasses that
4 exclude the Metis in that vision. And that is
5 very frustrating, and I think very disrespectful.

6 But I'm not going to say too much more
7 right now. I want to give the opportunity for
8 others to speak, and I will share my comments and
9 views as the opportunity arises. With that,
10 that's what I would like to say.

11 In any event, thank you for the
12 opportunity to be here today and I hope to be able
13 to positively impact your decision-making and, you
14 know, in hearing what our concerns are and what
15 the facts are for us as Metis.

16 MR. DESROSIERS: Good afternoon,
17 ladies and gentlemen I will try and speak a little
18 louder than the others, because my English is not
19 that good, I am a Frenchman. Anyway, my concern
20 is, it is like I will give an example of Grand
21 Rapids, when you settled with Grand Rapids, it was
22 supposed to be in the \$20 million at the time, but
23 they settled for 14. And then when you give
24 compensation to the reserve, the Metis, whatever,
25 they spend the money, but there is nothing done

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1 after. There is no follow-up of what they used
2 the money for and everything. There could be some
3 kind of manufacture that the Hydro could look at
4 that would help the community. Lots of them, they
5 use the money for education. That's fine, they go
6 and educate, they educate themselves, and then
7 they go back to the reserve and they hang
8 themselves, they have got nothing to do. You take
9 what you need, and it is fine to use what you need
10 for that dams and everything, but a follow up
11 should be done on the reserves to see what is
12 being done with their money. Thank you.

13 MR. GOODON: My name is Will Goodon,
14 and as Minister Park said, I'm the Minister of
15 Housing and Property Management here at the MMF.
16 But I guess I was asked to come here because I
17 have had some experience in some of the issues
18 that are being talked about, perhaps in a more
19 broader sense. I began working with the Metis
20 Federation back in 1996 as a special assistant to
21 the president. And in that capacity I had the
22 opportunity to work on several different projects.
23 At that time -- as you can see now the MMF is a
24 fairly large and vibrant organization with
25 hundreds of employees. At that time I think there

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1 was three or four of us. So there was a sharing
2 of duties at the time. So, when that happened I
3 was very happy to be involved in several different
4 things, especially pertaining to issues like
5 rights.

6 One of the things that we did, and I
7 believe it was back in 1998 or 1999, was the
8 president set up the Commission for the laws of
9 the Metis hunt, and it was prior to the Powley
10 Commission. And we went and spoke to harvesters,
11 hunters, trappers, Metis people who use the land,
12 and I was the staff person who organized that. So
13 I have a lot of background in listening to elders
14 and harvesters throughout Manitoba. And in the
15 north was a particular interest to me, it was very
16 good meetings and lots of good dialogue. One of
17 the other things that I had the opportunity to be
18 involved with was the development of and the
19 expansion of the issues of what we call resolution
20 8. Resolution 8 was a resolution passed by the
21 annual general assembly of the MMF back in 2007.
22 And it basically sets up the parameters for
23 consultation with the Metis in Manitoba.

24 Consultation is a difficult issue.
25 But that's why we felt at the time that we needed

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1 to put a blueprint together so that the Crown
2 would know exactly how to consult with Metis in
3 Manitoba. The crux of it is, is that the
4 consultation would work through the MMF as the
5 representative government of the Metis, and work
6 through our structures, which breaks down
7 obviously into seven regions, and then within the
8 regions there is locals, so that there would be no
9 differences, that there would be similar ways of
10 consultation, whether it is on a mining issue or a
11 hydro issue or a municipal sewer issue, we wanted
12 to make sure there was a similar process right
13 across the province.

14 So at the time, again I was very
15 fortunate and I was able to go around to the
16 communities, talk to the people and listen on how
17 they wanted this set up. As well, I worked with
18 the Bipole traditional land studies. And another
19 issue that has -- I was, I guess, it was difficult
20 at the time, but I was happy to be a part of, is
21 my case. You probably heard of the Goodon case
22 where I shot a duck, we went to court, and in fact
23 we proved in Manitoba that Metis have rights
24 which, you know -- and one of the things that the
25 case did was to expand it beyond the idea of a

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1 community as bricks and mortar. And that was the
2 crux of the case that the Crown took against me,
3 is that where I shot the duck there was no town
4 there, there was no post office there, there was
5 no grocery store there, there was no site of a
6 town there 100 years ago when my grandfather and
7 his colleagues moved into the Turtle Mountain
8 area.

9 So we moved the idea of community
10 beyond the borders of what we think of a current
11 municipality right now or a town. The idea of
12 community in the eyes of the judge at the time was
13 at least as large as the entire southwest region.
14 He didn't put limits on it. But that was the
15 evidence placed before him at the time. And he
16 saw the idea of community as being similar to
17 ours, that the -- in our eyes the community of
18 Metis in Manitoba is as large as the boundaries of
19 Manitoba.

20 One of the things that -- in the years
21 that I've dealt with consultation issues with the
22 Crown or with Crown Corporations such as Hydro or
23 the East Side Road Authority is the idea of Metis
24 who -- it was the idea of Metis, and I'm not a
25 lawyer, but I have seen this legal term, Metis

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1 qua, Metis. When we think of representatives of
2 Metis, we know here in this room that the MMF
3 represents the Metis as Metis. However, there has
4 been assertions by Crown Corporations, by
5 Manitoba, that if you speak with a mayor who
6 happens to be Metis, then they have done their due
7 diligence and they have consulted with the Metis,
8 which we find quite offensive actually, and we
9 take very strong issue with. The mayors may be
10 Metis, there may be a majority of Metis who live
11 within that community, but that doesn't make them
12 representative of Metis as Metis. Metis as rights
13 bearing people, as recognized, as Minister Park
14 said, in the constitution.

15 And neither can a professional
16 organization such as a Trappers Association
17 represent Metis as Metis people.

18 One of the things I wanted to point
19 out, we are looking at the maps here today, and
20 the one with the hunting, I believe Cam is going
21 to go over the maps later on here, but I just
22 wanted to touch briefly on the part -- the map
23 with the pink on it. That is the current
24 recognition of Manitoba where Metis can hunt. And
25 I just wanted to say that this, that it seems that

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1 Hydro and other -- sorry.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: You said where Metis
3 can hunt. Can we just expand a little? Metis can
4 hunt anywhere in Manitoba, but you can hunt in
5 this area with the Metis hunting card, that is
6 correct?

7 MR. GOODON: Yes, absolutely. I
8 appreciate the clarification. So as a recognized
9 rights holder with your Metis harvester card you
10 can hunt in this pink area as long as you are
11 following again our laws which we set up with the
12 Commission of the Laws of the Metis Hunt with
13 respect to our elders and trappers and hunters who
14 told us how conservation was important to them, so
15 we set up all of these laws, and then as long as
16 you follow that you can hunt and harvest and do
17 what you need to do with the land inside of this
18 pink area. The point I wanted to make is that the
19 pink area was not ever meant to be set in stone.
20 So there is no way that a Crown corporation like
21 Hydro should be able to hang their hat and say
22 this is where Metis rights start and this is where
23 Metis rights stop. There was always an
24 understanding, and I believe it is in the
25 agreement, that there would be further research to

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1 be done, although we are again taking issue with
2 the Province because it hasn't been done, but the
3 point being is that research was to be done in the
4 view of moving that line towards further
5 recognition of Metis rights.

6 So we are basically saying just
7 because this is here we are not acquiescing to say
8 that there is only rights on this side and there
9 is no rights on that side.

10 I believe Mr. Park and others have
11 already spoken about the idea of the licence being
12 renewed as it is from the 1970s. And I just
13 wanted to touch base on several things, and I'm
14 sure you are aware of them. There has been a lot
15 that has happened in the law since the 1970s.
16 Obviously we have the Constitution Act, we are
17 mentioned in section 35. We have the Powley case,
18 which happened and recognized, that was our first
19 case that recognized that Metis have Aboriginal
20 rights. We have the Supreme Court decisions on
21 consultation and accommodation. In Manitoba we
22 have my case as well which I spoke of before. One
23 of the things that we discussed this morning on is
24 how the Northern Flood Agreements that took place
25 when the Lake Winnipeg Regulation was occurring

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1 did not include the Metis. And as I said, it did
2 not include the Metis as Metis earlier on.

3 Another point I wanted to make, and I
4 discussed this with my colleague, the Minister of
5 Natural Resources, is the idea of how Metis
6 harvesters differ from other Aboriginal
7 harvesters. One of the things that we found over
8 the years in the studies that we did is that Metis
9 are not stationary. We don't hunt within a 30
10 kilometre or 50 kilometre radius of where we live
11 or where we grew up. In fact, the studies found
12 that compared to other Aboriginal people, we are
13 very migratory, so that we will -- if we live and
14 work in the southwest, we have family connections
15 in Thompson and in Flin Flon, and in southeast
16 regions, so that we will go and hunt ducks in St.
17 Laurent, or we will go hunt bear in the north or
18 we will catch pickerel up at Grand Rapids. So
19 that there is a -- we have a tradition of moving
20 with the resources that we are after. And
21 obviously the good example is the buffalo hunt
22 themselves, where we move from Red River and
23 follow the buffalo right across the plains.

24 Minister Anderson spoke about the idea
25 of only looking at the downstream effects. And

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1 over the years I've kind of sat back and watched
2 proponents, mostly Hydro, but other proponents as
3 well, how they define where they think they should
4 be looking at the adverse effects. And for some
5 reason, and maybe if I was a proponent I would do
6 the same thing, they shrink the size of where they
7 think the adverse effects are, so they only look
8 within the small scope, when in fact people like
9 ourselves, like our hunters and harvesters know
10 that the effects are much more wider than the
11 project scope that normally proponents bring
12 forward. And I would say that this is no
13 different than other projects.

14 I have taken up more time than the
15 others, but those are the few issues that I wanted
16 to touch base on. And again there might be a few
17 other things that pop in my mind, but I think I
18 have sort of explained most of what I wanted to
19 bring forward today, and I wanted to thank
20 Minister Park and yourselves for the opportunity
21 to be here today.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

23 MINISTER PARK: And I must apologize
24 to my colleague -- I must apologize to my
25 colleague, Mark Parenteau from the north. I

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1 bypassed him and went directly to Will, so I
2 apologize. Mark, if you will.

3 MR. PARENTEAU: Good afternoon, I'm
4 Mark Parenteau, co-minister of Conservation. Born
5 and raised in the north. I'm a harvester of the
6 north, and I want to bring to the table the
7 effects I have seen of the water levels and the
8 challenges of harvesting in the north, and I want
9 to share my stories and hopefully help you on your
10 day. And I want to thank you for coming and thank
11 everyone for having me here.

12 MINISTER PARK: Okay. We will start
13 with the trappers now, and get their stories as it
14 pertains to --

15 MS. RIEL: They are just bringing up a
16 microphone. I don't want to delay your process
17 any, but I'm just wondering, they are in the
18 elevator bringing up a microphone.

19 MINISTER PARK: It is up to the chair.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Sure. If it is on its
21 way.

22 MINISTER PARK: Let's take a short
23 break.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Let's take a short
25 break and get that set up, and help our recorder.

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1 (Recess taken)

2 MINISTER PARK: We are going to go to
3 the trappers. But I think it would be helpful to
4 the Commission if we could, I will have my
5 technician present the maps to you so you can get
6 an understanding of what the trappers will be
7 talking about, the areas that are affected by the
8 Lake Winnipeg Regulation. So I will pass it over
9 to Cam Stewart.

10 MR. STEWART: Hi, my name is Cam
11 Stewart, I'm a spacial analyst with the Metis
12 Federation, I have been employed since 2009. I'm
13 going to go over the background of this data that
14 you are looking at, and I guess I will start
15 initially with the Lake Winnipeg Regulation
16 project, the Lake Winnipeg map that you see in
17 front of you. The data itself, this can go for
18 both maps actually, and for the entire map of
19 Manitoba that you see here, the historical map as
20 well. It represents about 350 to 400 individuals
21 that were interviewed over a span of about I would
22 say about 12 years or so, since 2003 to present
23 date. And in context, it is about, 1.5 per cent
24 of the entire Metis population of Manitoba. So it
25 is not a very big sample size, it is actually a

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1 very small sample size of Metis use, but if you
2 look at the map you can see how intense it is. So
3 on a small scale sample size you can see the
4 intensity of use.

5 And the majority of this information
6 from 2003 to 2009 was internally based for the
7 most part, based on information, funding that we
8 got for internal traditional land use studies, and
9 this was based on a First Nations Aboriginal based
10 methodology, and we then switched that in 2009.

11 Now, the Lake Winnipeg Regulation
12 project, you can see the intensity, and what
13 essentially what I did was I took an existing map
14 made by the Government of Manitoba, it looks like
15 a map of Water Stewardship and Conservation, and
16 overlaid our traditional land use on top of that.
17 And that traditional land use encompasses
18 harvesting practices, essentially trapping,
19 hunting, fishing, gathering, gathering of
20 medicinal plants, et cetera. And there are also
21 culturally significant sites gathered from 2003 to
22 2009, I also inputted those. And those encompass
23 places, burial sites, ceremonial sites, kill
24 sites, et cetera. And so it kind of flows north
25 into the Churchill River Diversion as well. So

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1 essentially it is just a continuation from this
2 other information. It is all one big large data
3 centre.

4 And you can see the cluster near
5 Thompson, and essentially that cluster represents
6 our recent Keeyask study and the importance that
7 region holds to our harvesters within the Bayline
8 and Thompson region. You can also see how
9 interconnected it is from Churchill all the way
10 down to the southern basin of Lake Winnipeg.

11 And that sort of carries forward to
12 the historical map that is in front of you. I
13 wouldn't say it is historical, but as Will was
14 saying before, this has harvesting principles to
15 it, because we gathered all of this information,
16 and I would like to say that we, I mean like a
17 team of probably about two or three people
18 gathered all this information in a short period of
19 time and incorporated this on the map. It reveals
20 the intensity of the Metis use is there and we
21 haven't even scratched the surface yet. In
22 particular the northern regions, we just have to
23 do a bit more digging and you can see how
24 significant it would be if we had a team of
25 perhaps 20 people and more studies at our disposal

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1 to verify that there are in fact negative effects
2 for these projects that keep coming up and affect
3 our waterways.

4 And what this historical map
5 represents is we dove into the genealogies, this
6 is on record I understand for the CEC, we dove
7 into the genealogies, we dove into script records,
8 we dove into community census records, 1901 to
9 1911, and we also overlaid the 2003 to present
10 date traditional land use and all the cultural
11 sites, as you can see, trading posts and all of
12 the Metis historically significant spatial
13 information that you can think of, and I'm sure
14 there is more out there that we haven't discovered
15 yet, and threw it on there to represent our
16 presence is real in the north, it is real in the
17 southeast, it is real in the northeast, it is real
18 in the southwest. This map represents that, and
19 we have only scratched the surface. Are there any
20 questions?

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Not at this point.

22 MINISTER PARK: Thank you, Cam. As I
23 stated earlier, I want to apologize to the
24 transcriber, I am Jack Park, Minister of Hydro. I
25 want to turn it over to Mark Parenteau, and Mark

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1 can start off with his perception as a harvester
2 in the north.

3 MR. PARENTEAU: Mark Parenteau,
4 Co-minister of Conservation. I just want to bring
5 light on the Churchill River diversion chart, a
6 lot of that dark gray section, I grew up
7 harvesting there. My family has harvested there
8 for as long as I have known, right along the
9 Nelson River. I have seen the waters fluctuate so
10 much where the water levels came up so high and
11 eroded the shorelines. And personal experience
12 for myself, I was on the lake harvesting, and I
13 had hit a floating log and it took out the lower
14 unit of my boat. Thank God the wind was going the
15 right way and we were able to make a sail boat out
16 of our boat and get it back to camp. I worked in
17 businesses around Thompson, a couple as a matter
18 of fact, where Hydro brings in units to get fixed
19 for communities. And it is under a program, it is
20 all Aboriginal people that get their units fixed
21 for free. Myself, I had to fix my motor for free,
22 under my money. I didn't get no funding, no help
23 from Hydro, nothing like that when the waterways
24 go so high. We lost a lot in our hunting area
25 that we used to be able to get into. Now the

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1 water levels have went so high it brought the
2 shore down and we can't get into areas where we
3 used to hunt. I don't know what else I can add
4 right now. If I think of anything, I will come
5 back, thank you.

6 MINISTER PARK: I hand the mic down to
7 Gary Fyke from Thompson.

8 MR. FYKE: Hello, I'm Gary Fyke, a
9 resident of Thompson. And I have worked at some
10 of the dams, and seen a lot of people come, a lot
11 of people go. I believe back in the day there was
12 supposed to be a certain percentage of Aboriginal
13 and Inuit and Metis people employed there. And at
14 the beginning there was, and then when the
15 contractor like from Newfoundland and Montreal
16 came in to place, we started loosing numbers and
17 they started replacing everybody with people from
18 the east coast and Montreal. And what essentially
19 ended up happening was a lot of the Aboriginal
20 people ended up with jobs like burn piles, taking
21 out garbage, maintenance, like cleaning rooms, and
22 helping in the kitchen and all of the big paying
23 jobs were gone to people from out of town. And
24 here we live 45 minutes each way down the road,
25 and they are flying these guys in every three

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1 weeks and then flying them back home for a week
2 and then flying them back, which didn't really
3 make any sense to me.

4 And for the people that were able to
5 stick it out and wanted to stick it out, they made
6 it so darn hard for them that they ended up either
7 quitting or, you know, going to a different job
8 altogether. Myself, I lasted there for three and
9 a half years. And I have been to other jobs after
10 that, but like there was like about a six year
11 span, and I got on up north at the Conawapa, and
12 the Keewatinooow, at the converter station, so --
13 but I haven't been back since the last freeze up.
14 I'm waiting to get called back. And that's all I
15 have got to share for now. Thank you.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

17 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes, my name is Norman
18 Campbell senior. I'm from Wabowden, I. Have
19 lived in the north since the early 60's, although
20 I was born Metis down south here in Winnipegosis.
21 And I went up north as a very young man, 14 years
22 old, to go look for my father who was fishing. My
23 parents split up in the mid 50s. My father came
24 up north. And I left home and I went up there to
25 look for him. He was fishing on Sipiesk Lake,

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1 and that was before Jenpeg was built. And the
2 lake was beautiful. I didn't see the whole lake
3 because Sipiwesk Lake used to have a very
4 important whitefish fishery, and you didn't have
5 to use the whole lake. Whitefish was the main
6 fish, and it was just -- the whitefish fishery was
7 just where it comes out of Duck Falls and it is
8 just at the start of Sipiwesk Lake, so you didn't
9 have to travel the whole lake. They had a place
10 called the freezer there. That's where all of the
11 fish was brought to and packed, and then flown out
12 of there. And after Jenpeg, the whitefish fishery
13 got wiped out. It was pretty well the same thing
14 that happened in Grand Rapids after their
15 generating station. And so people had to start
16 using more of the lake and going after other
17 species of fish.

18 And I know how the lake looked then,
19 and I bet I have been on it for the last 25, going
20 on 30 years now. My father passed away in the
21 late 60's, and I got out of fishing for a while.
22 As a matter of fact, I even went to work on the
23 Jenpeg dam. But now I'm back in fishing, it is
24 what I should have been doing all of my life. And
25 to see how the lake is now, like it is, it really

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1 hurts.

2 And, you know, in the first agreement
3 that Hydro signed, like they promised after seven
4 years there would be no more shoreline erosion,
5 and this is how many years, and it is worse than
6 ever now. The shorelines, they don't have a
7 chance anymore, because at one time they were
8 sloped, like the lakes they have a way of
9 protecting themselves, mother nature does. You
10 know, you could have a flood for four or five
11 days, the water could go up but it would never
12 ever bother the production that mother nature
13 have. But over the years, like the banks are
14 steep and, you know, when it is clay, the water,
15 it may not fall this year, but it soaks in over
16 the whole season and then it just drops into the
17 lake. And it causes like our jackfish, the last I
18 heard and they are very important, our jackfish on
19 that system, and they are just on the verge of
20 being not acceptable because of mercury poisoning,
21 and mercury is from land erosion.

22 And the things that Hydro have wasted
23 over the years, like we all know that in the
24 forest and that, the prime real estate is at the
25 edge of the lake. And you know 25 years ago there

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1 was enormous wood there that was just dropping
2 into the lake daily. And some of us from Wabowden
3 went to apply for a permit to get -- just to the
4 ones that fall in the lake, the big ones, we could
5 drag them to the landing. There was an old elder
6 in Wabowden had a sawmill, and we wanted to cut
7 lumber. And they refused us to do that. We
8 couldn't do that. They would sooner see it drop
9 in the lake, go downstream, get caught in people's
10 nets and wreck them. I'm sure they caused havoc
11 in the dam also. This was monster wood.

12 And the Hydro, the biggest effect it
13 has had on me is that Sipiwesk Lake belonged to
14 the community of Wabowden, it has been the
15 community of Wabowden that has been fishing it for
16 years. And I know all of the old time fishermen,
17 I fished with them, some of them they passed away
18 just recently, some of them a little longer ago.
19 And Hydro came with a cheque book and showed them
20 each a cheque and they signed everything away.
21 But they didn't know what they were signing. Had
22 they known the levels that they signed for, like
23 they have a low level on Sipiwesk, which is 903,
24 and they have a high level which is 19.3, I
25 believe. Like they have 16 feet of water that

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1 they can play with, 17 feet of water. So they
2 don't go over that often, but in '05 they did.

3 But the worst thing that happened out
4 of it, and I've sat with those four fishermen,
5 those old timers, we sat with Hydro and they told
6 them themselves, had they known what they were
7 signing, they would have never ever signed it.

8 But all they looked at, I guess because of Jenpeg
9 and that, fishing was hard and that, they were
10 having problems, and this money came in real
11 handy.

12 But what they did, our resources that
13 were in our community and our community members
14 fishing it, now when those fishermen pass away,
15 their resources go to a different community, like
16 they go to Cross Lake. And I'm not in an argument
17 with Cross Lake. I hope that Cross Lake gets
18 everything that they are entitled to, and I hope
19 every reserve along the line gets everything that
20 they are entitled to, because in the past, I know
21 how Hydro used the Aboriginal people in the past.

22 But, you know, that's really, really
23 hurtful, because I'm in a situation now, I was on
24 Sipiwesk Lake, I bought my own licence and
25 everything was good for 10, 15 years of fishing,

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1 and then all of a sudden Hydro feels I don't have
2 a right there because I wasn't one of the original
3 signers. And so it has caused me a lot of stress,
4 not only because of what it has put on me, but
5 what I see is happening to our resources. You
6 know, Sipiwesk Lake and downstream and upstream of
7 that, and it just continues constantly. And it is
8 not going to stop. I don't see how it can -- they
9 don't control it, you know, there are other people
10 in the world that are worried about flooding and
11 losing land, and we are eating it up, Hydro is
12 eating it up every day. You know, it just -- it
13 doesn't make sense to me.

14 And in the end, after so much problems
15 with Hydro and, you know, just being treated
16 second class, not even talking to you, I gave up
17 on Sipiwesk, and now I work in the Nelson River.
18 And it is way further up, and it is just, you
19 know, it is stressful. And it is just because of
20 Hydro, like why did they have to sign a deal
21 with -- to take resources away from our community
22 that have been in our community since the very
23 beginning?

24 And there are other things about, I
25 don't really know -- I didn't know we were going

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1 to be recorded and all of that today, because
2 there is one other thing that I would like to
3 mention that bothers me terribly, is we lost a
4 good fishermen and a good friend of mine three
5 years ago. There is a lake, Duck Lake, and there
6 is an old timer in Wabowden that owns it, Walter
7 Skomolski (ph), and he hires fishermen to go out
8 and fish it. And this fisherman, the one that had
9 the accident there, he goes up there and he fishes
10 Duck Lake. And how you go into Duck Lake, there
11 is one exit of water, it is called Duck Falls, and
12 that is how you get in and out, but you have to
13 shoot rapids. Now I know there is only one exit
14 because that used to be one of my father's lakes,
15 and I fished in there in the 60's with him, and I
16 know it good. I was young but I know it good.

17 And just three years ago Hydro, after
18 all of their flooding, they made a new river in
19 there and it is a big river. I don't know if they
20 named it or anything, but they ate right through
21 the land, and it is high elevation. And the
22 fishermen, it was a shortcut to the lake, the
23 fishermen were using it going in and out of there.
24 It was a new place, but they -- it was a shortcut,
25 you didn't have to shoot the rapids. And this one

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1 morning in the fall they were going there, and I
2 guess over night some more stuff broke off and
3 they hit that and he fell out of the boat. And
4 fortunately he did not drown, but he had a heart
5 attack right after that, and he passed away. And
6 he is an experienced fisherman, and a real good
7 fisherman, one of our best fishermen from our
8 community. And he was at it for a long time. I
9 don't know if Hydro took responsibility for that
10 or not. They said there was a stream there at one
11 time, but they are wrong, there was none.

12 And, you know, so that's, you know,
13 does Hydro affect -- make bad things happen
14 downstream? Certainly. And are they still
15 hurting our, like destroying our lakes? Certainly
16 they are. Like, you know, it is -- and they
17 compensate some and some they don't talk to. They
18 don't even -- you can call them but they won't
19 call you back.

20 And I've seen a lot of changes what
21 Hydro has done, and I haven't seen anything good.
22 I don't know if it is worth it. Like, they sell
23 their power, destroy our land, I don't know if it
24 is worth it or not. But I will probably have some
25 other things to say after some people.

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1 THE CHAIRMAN: A couple of questions,
2 Mr. Campbell. You said earlier that you want or
3 somebody wanted to take these trees and cut into
4 lumber.

5 MR. CAMPBELL: That was right, that
6 was myself.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Who said no?

8 MR. CAMPBELL: The head in the
9 Thompson -- I can't think of his name right now.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Was it Hydro or
11 Manitoba government?

12 MR. CAMPBELL: No, it is the Manitoba
13 government. You couldn't apply to Hydro to get a
14 permit to make wood, to make lumber.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: That's what I thought.
16 I just wanted to clear that up. You also said
17 that you lost your ability to fish on Sipiwesk.
18 How did that happen?

19 MR. CAMPBELL: Me not being able to?

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah.

21 MR. CAMPBELL: Well, I could have
22 stayed there. I have a family, I have three sons,
23 they are in the fishing with me. I could have
24 stayed on Sipiwesk, and just -- I bought what I
25 had on Sipiwesk. I was the only one who did. The

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1 other one, when the fishing started, I was getting
2 out of it because of my father's passing, and the
3 other ones, they were more or less getting into
4 it, but you didn't have to buy the lakes then. If
5 you want to go fishing now you have to buy
6 someone's licence. And, you know, it was putting
7 so much stress on me worrying about -- because I
8 could have stayed until I passed away and it would
9 just die with me and there would be nothing.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: You couldn't give it to
11 your sons?

12 MR. CAMPBELL: I couldn't leave it to
13 my sons. It would just, you know, all of my work
14 would be in vain, it would be for nothing, because
15 I had a small quota and I don't make big money
16 fishing, but it is what I do. I'm a fisherman,
17 I'm a resource user. I love being in the bush and
18 I'm in the bush as much as I can, and that's 300
19 days out of the year.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you.

21 MR. CHORNOBY: Jim Chornoby, I'm a
22 Metis from Ilford, Manitoba. I want to make one
23 thing clear, when Hydro came to do the
24 consultations in our community, I was the mayor.
25 I still am. But the thing is they didn't come to

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1 talk to the Metis Federation, I want to make that
2 clear. It was never even brought up, never
3 mentioned whether we were Treaty or what we were,
4 so I don't know where that came from where they
5 came there and said that. They only come to speak
6 to council. I would just like to make that clear,
7 first of all.

8 And there is just so many things you
9 guys don't -- it is scary how much stuff they get
10 away with. I have been -- we had 35 lakes at one
11 time out of Ilford, over 1 million pounds coming,
12 as my friend here knows because he came down and
13 fished. We had lots of Metis guys come from St.
14 Laurent, Fairford, it was quite the deal back
15 then. Anyways, Hydro did a lot of damage to one
16 lake we call South Indian Lake -- North Indian
17 lake, which had maybe only 14, 15 fishermen. We
18 had the Little Churchill River for sturgeon
19 fishing. Unreal, I can walk across it now, where
20 you had to have a boat. You just don't believe
21 the damage, you guys.

22 What I'm trying to get at, when it
23 come down to compensation, they would deal with
24 individuals one by one and not as a group. So
25 some guy would get 2,000 for his, next guy would

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1 get 4,000 for his, and the next community, only
2 20 miles from us, they get 40,000, 20,000, 60,000.
3 The point I'm trying to make is if you fish -- I
4 mean, if you are a trapper that's where you get
5 the big money from. I don't understand, from one
6 community to the next community can be such a big
7 difference. At the time Ilford was all Metis,
8 like, you know what I mean. And once they had the
9 new reserve starting, that's the War Lake is
10 starting there, lots of them went to Treaty.
11 There is nothing wrong with that. But what I'm
12 saying is at the time when Hydro did this -- and
13 then from what I understand they sold, we
14 understand when it came to North Indian Lake, they
15 bought out a bunch of lakes or something from us
16 at the time. I was young. I was on the council
17 in 1971 or '72, somewhere in there, 80's, and then
18 they -- I'm not sure, but I heard they got
19 \$100,000 for that lake.

20 So, and I know they don't know what
21 they were signing at the time. It didn't make any
22 sense, all of that fish, that was a big lake,
23 North Indian Lake, that's a huge lake. From where
24 the camp was, we would have to walk maybe 2,
25 300 yards just to get to the land now from where

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1 the lake used to be. It is just unreal. I don't
2 know, it is just, they say they don't -- I don't
3 know, it is hard to explain sometimes. I don't
4 know, it is just, like Norman, he was with us for
5 a long time, he understands, I don't know how this
6 community can get this kind of money and the next
7 community gets that kind of money. I don't know.
8 I don't know how they do it. I know what he is
9 talking about. I go hunting up in the Nelson
10 River and it is crazy. If you don't hit a log you
11 are going to hit willows, if you don't hit
12 willows, you hit something else. I know what he
13 is going through. It is tough for him right now.
14 That's probably all I have to say. If I think of
15 something I will say it again, thank you.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Okay.

17 MR. FLETT: Good afternoon, my name is
18 Lloyd Flett, I'm from Norway House. And I would
19 like to thank the Manitoba Metis Federation for
20 providing me the opportunity to come here and
21 share my experience that I have experienced as I
22 have lived in that community, as a result of the
23 Hydro development. And also you folks for taking
24 the time to listen to us. This is the first time
25 in all of my life that as a Metis person I can

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1 speak to you folks or someone about the effects
2 that we have experienced in our community. You
3 know that Norway House Cree Nation have signed a
4 settlement agreement with Hydro and the province
5 and Canada, but we were excluded from that. We
6 were not involved there.

7 I have lived in Norway House all of my
8 life. I have grown up there. I consider myself
9 to be Metis, there is both white and native in my
10 history and I'm very proud of it. The whole
11 experience that we've seen, and the precedent is
12 set, Manitoba Hydro signed deals with First
13 Nations communities and some Northern Affairs
14 Communities on the adverse impacts that have
15 resulted as a result of their development.

16 Now, when you look at Norway House you
17 have 2-mile channel, that's the one that we are
18 very concerned about right now, as you know, that
19 that water channel was built to improve the flow
20 of water between Lake Winnipeg and downstream to
21 Playgreen Lake up to Jenpeg, then that was to
22 improve the flow of water going north. So when
23 you see the water, you get strong winds, there is
24 talk about erosion, there is a lot of erosion
25 occurring there. And I am letting you know now

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1 that as living in that area, we would want to see
2 something done so that that point does not erode
3 away right eastward to where our community, at one
4 point Warren's Landing. Hydro will deny and say
5 that there is no erosion happening there, but
6 respectfully we live there, we see it. You see
7 the erosion that flows into Playgreen Lake, and as
8 it is going north we are thinking it is making
9 a -- it diverts rightward towards Playgreen Lake,
10 and we figure there is a big sediment, build up of
11 sediment in Playgreen Lake there. The elders
12 would say there is a lot of marsh in that lake and
13 now we don't see, we see very little of it. That
14 water will flow towards 8-Mile channel, and then
15 it flows into Jenpeg. So Jenpeg is the control
16 structure of Manitoba Hydro's generating system.

17 So you have fluctuating water levels,
18 you have all of the debris that erode when the
19 shorelines are eroding away. I have a cabin
20 that's 50 miles south on east shore of Lake
21 Winnipeg, it is called Little Black River, it is
22 called Little Black River. When you are traveling
23 there in the summer you will see that shoreline,
24 of course, that Hydro wants to maintain, at least
25 they are licensed to maintain the water at 715, so

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1 that water is high. When you have strong winds
2 you can bet those shorelines are going to erode
3 away.

4 I would think too also when you look
5 at Gimli, those waters that are coming up
6 drastically, when that strong north wind blows for
7 weeks at a time that water is coming back into
8 Lake Winnipeg, and that could explain why all of a
9 sudden those water levels are drastically higher
10 over a short period of time. We see it in our
11 community as well.

12 Also the debris. Of course when you
13 see the trees floating in the lake, and of course
14 you would hit them, you know, when you are
15 traveling, recreational use. My brother, when you
16 are talking about the effects, when the Cree
17 Nation signed their deal, Manitoba Hydro
18 compensated them with land, Northern Flood
19 Agreement land areas. So there is a trapline in
20 Little Black River that he traps on. And part of
21 that land was turned over to the band, that was
22 part of their compensation land. So when the Cree
23 Nation tells us, First Nation members only, you
24 are not allowed on this reserve, well, he can't go
25 trap there, otherwise he is trespassing. So it

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1 removed a section of his trapline when they
2 compensated the Cree Nation.

3 And also when you go upstream there is
4 another trapline there, and the Cree Nation
5 selected the shorelines, so most trapping is done
6 along the shorelines there in the lake, so if you
7 go there, if you get caught or if the Cree Nation
8 wants to make an issue of it, you can't trap
9 there.

10 Manitoba Hydro, when they settled the
11 province, there is a road 20 miles north that
12 leads into Molson Lake, the Province of Manitoba
13 constructed that road. When they settled they
14 turned that road over to Norway House Cree Nation
15 and then the shorelines of Molson Lake, one side
16 of it is Northern Flood land, the north side is
17 Treaty land entitlement land. So when they signed
18 their deal, and we used to go fishing there, there
19 was a sign on the road, "Norway House Cree Nation
20 members only." So we said, gee whiz, what is this
21 government doing? They are dividing us. We had
22 to pay a fee to the Cree Nation if you wanted to
23 go and also pay the Provincial fee. So that's
24 what we experienced.

25 And we are still experiencing, when

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1 the Cree Nation receive a lot of money, they had a
2 lot of money and they could do a lot more, but we
3 as Metis people living in that community had to
4 watch all of this, and see how our land, our
5 community was divided as a result. These are the
6 modern, you know, today impacts that we are still
7 experiencing today.

8 When you look at the -- all of these
9 areas that the Metis people in Norway House,
10 Warren's Landing, I go hunting ducks, geese. And
11 in the spring time when you are traveling on that
12 ice, of course, if they are holding back water,
13 the conditions are not safe because of the
14 fluctuating water level. You are looking at
15 2-mile, when -- we were very concerned when there
16 was a drought on and Grand Rapids dam was closed.
17 2-mile channel, when the waters are high is always
18 open because waters are flowing through there, as
19 well as 8-Mile. That year it froze up, and then
20 there is people traveling there and they start
21 traveling through that channel, and we say you
22 have to be careful because when Hydro opens up
23 their dam that channel will open up. These are
24 impacts that affect us, we experience when we are
25 living there. These areas are all of our

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1 recreational areas, this is where we go swimming.
2 And when you are looking at Lake Winnipeg and the
3 algae from Warren's Landing, which is right where
4 that blue dot is, it has got Montreal point there,
5 and you go 50 miles, we travel in algae in the
6 boat, thick algae and stinking. And, you know, I
7 said this is our pool.

8 When the kids play in Playgreen Lake,
9 and the shorelines, it is all beach there, also
10 into Norway House, when you see all of that algae,
11 and think now Lake Winnipeg, this is sewage, and
12 the water being held back over time increases
13 algae. This is what the scientists tell us,
14 because when the water is held back then it is
15 stagnant, it becomes stagnant. So these are all
16 of our recreational areas. We don't have the
17 money in the north to build all of these
18 facilities, rec centres, that you folks in the
19 south have. So we go in the outdoors and that's
20 our recreational grounds.

21 So when Hydro says -- or they can't
22 say, they have already signed deals compensating
23 First Nations communities, but they have never
24 compensated the Metis people. When you look at
25 the community, when Hydro came in there with their

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1 reps, I think it was back in 1981, and the land, a
2 lot of the Metis people, my grandfather had
3 script, he had a whole track of land along the
4 Nelson River. And they came there, had an open
5 cheque book similar to what Norman said, and
6 offered them money for their dock and their shed
7 and the land. And it was whatever they offered
8 and, of course, people, because we are not a rich
9 people, we don't have the money like because of --
10 you know, there is unemployment, it is not as
11 great there, but people accepted it. And when
12 Filmon came into Norway House and he was
13 campaigning, I asked him, I said, how did you
14 arrive at the value of that shoreline? Because
15 the money you offered these people, and my family
16 hasn't signed, my mother hasn't signed for her
17 area. Well, he just said it was the value, I
18 don't know, of the property. And I said, well,
19 that's not the way we look at it. We look at the
20 amount of money that Hydro has spent on that
21 system and the value of that shoreline is worth a
22 lot of money, and it is worth a lot of money in
23 our eyes to the Province of Manitoba. So you are
24 looking at the employment, when the deals were
25 signed with Norway House Cree Nation, there was

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1 Hydro projects that take place there. Priority
2 for employment is for Norway House Cree Nation
3 members only.

4 And proof of that is when Hydro built
5 the power line from Jenpeg to Norway House. I had
6 a call from Hydro asking me to provide names of
7 people that could work on this project. So I said
8 do you know where you are phoning? And he says,
9 well -- I said do you really know where you are
10 phoning? And I said you are phoning the Norway
11 House community council office, this is the off
12 reserve community. And he says, oh, I have got
13 the wrong place. And I said, and -- and he said
14 well, I should be calling the First Nation. So
15 because their priority for employment is with the
16 First Nation. So when you are looking at
17 employment opportunities we are not even
18 considered. Hydro will sign the contracts with
19 the Norway House Cree Nation, PDC, and all of
20 those opportunities for employment will be for the
21 First Nations people, not one for Metis.

22 And 8-Mile channel, there was a lot of
23 debris left there and that was another area that
24 Hydro compensated the Cree Nation. They had to
25 clean up the land. Hydro, when they built their

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1 camp, all of the sewer lines and water lines were
2 left in the ground, and then they buried some of
3 their garbage in the area, so they had to clean
4 all of that up. And all of the people hired were
5 Norway House Cree Nation members. So what we are
6 told is that the Norway House resource management
7 area is the trapline area, that's the trapline
8 area, and in the Cree Nation's eyes that's their
9 area as a result of this deal that Hydro signed
10 with Manitoba, Canada and Hydro. And we are told
11 that we don't exist. The Cree Nation says you
12 people don't exist. You know, and -- well, we
13 exist. We are a peaceful people in that
14 community. We are not going to move anywhere, we
15 are going to stay there and we are going to die
16 there. So when -- it is sad when you look at how
17 that deal was signed and how those people accepted
18 per capita payments, 10, 15 years negotiating with
19 Hydro, and how just before Christmas there was
20 payments. And those people took those payments
21 and, you know, sadly in our community there was
22 our Metis people that could be treaty that seen
23 that, and a lot of them went for status too
24 because of that, because they wanted to get this
25 money just before Christmas. They are not rich

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1 and people took it. So I would like -- I always
2 said to these Hydro officials I would like you
3 guys to pay for my Christmas for ten years,
4 because you paid the people on the reserves.
5 Well, we didn't pay, the money came from them,
6 Canada, the Cree Nation might have paid it.

7 But when you see that happen and how
8 our community has divided, and almost killed -- or
9 the Metis people out of there, it is sad. We are
10 looking for -- you know, Will spoke about how the
11 mayors and councils, the mayors and councils don't
12 represent the Metis rights, they don't. They run
13 the communities. They are like municipal
14 administrators.

15 And how in our community we don't have
16 a graveyard, because the graveyards are filling.
17 So we are looking for a graveyard to bury our
18 dead. Well, you know, the Cree Nation they don't
19 want it, they don't want us to have any land. So
20 they have got so much, and how Canada, Hydro and
21 Manitoba has really built them up. And I got
22 nothing against that. That's good to see. But
23 how they have built them up to a point where we
24 are nothing, and then we don't matter.

25 All of this is part of these effects,

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1 modern day-to-day effects of the Hydro
2 development. It is sad. And this is the first
3 time, like I said, I have an opportunity to share
4 a lot of this. There is a lot that could be said
5 more, but there has been effects. And we weren't
6 treated like the First Nations were. And I don't
7 intend to be racist when I say that or prejudiced.
8 They are entitled to what they were compensated
9 for no different than what we are as Metis people.
10 We are affected no different.

11 So it is Lake Winnipeg, that's
12 Hydro's -- when Hydro looks at that, that's their
13 bank, right, money is floating there when the
14 water is high. And when they open up the Jenpeg,
15 then they power up all of their dams and that
16 produces power. We need power, we need Hydro.

17 We are talking about Cross Lake. You
18 see what happened in Cross Lake at Christmas time
19 when they blocked that road? And there was
20 threats that they were going to block the road,
21 and they are still talking about blocking the road
22 yet, and we live -- we are at the end of the line.
23 So we said how are our groceries, our fuel, we
24 need that? So even the chief of Norway House, he
25 blocked the road just out of town, when you see --

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1 you have to be very careful, because these are
2 things that are happening now. And, you know, you
3 look at the Middle East and how they settle their
4 scores, it is shooting bullets and killing one
5 another. I hope in this day we don't get to that
6 point, because those feelings are high, right now.
7 Employees working in those dams, particularly
8 Jenpeg, you have got the native Aboriginal people
9 and white people, and I know friends that work
10 there, and things are not good. There is a flag
11 standing there, Cross Lake flag, the white people
12 don't like the flag there, take it down, it is
13 disrespectful and you have got the natives saying,
14 no, that flag should stand there. These are
15 things that are happening today.

16 And I'm thankful for this opportunity.

17 And I'm thankful -- I know that you folks are
18 coming in to Norway House, Thursday or Wednesday?
19 I won't be there because I have another meeting in
20 Flin Flon tomorrow. You know when you were
21 booking the appointments there, it always seems
22 that when government deals with or Hydro, always
23 base their activities on the First Nations. And
24 we always say, well, how come it is always like
25 this? We exist, we are similar, we are equal, we

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1 matter. You can't always base your business on
2 Cree Nation's availability, or if they are not
3 available, sorry, we are not coming until they
4 are. Our business still carries on. We live
5 there and our business doesn't stop when the Cree
6 Nation's business stops. We should be all treated
7 equal and respectful of that. We are paying
8 taxes, we pay taxes to the government.

9 And, you know, when you look at -- we
10 are called the outsiders in our communities,
11 because we live off the reserve, but when you see
12 how we pay and we pay on our own, we don't, you
13 know, need a lot of the help, respectfully I'm not
14 being racist again, that some of our neighbours
15 get. We won't be stuck. But I see a lot of the
16 younger people now today, and I see on the First
17 Nations side there is not that many of them that
18 go out on the land now, and I would think that if
19 the power was turned off, it would be a pretty sad
20 state in our communities, because we need that
21 power now, we can't live without it.

22 So we like the development, but at the
23 same time if compensation is due, the Metis people
24 are due some compensation as well, like no
25 different than the First Nations people

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1 respectfully. So thank you for listening to me,
2 and thank you once again.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Flett,
4 before you give up the mic, I just have a
5 question. Right at the outset of your comments
6 you talked about erosion of the bank, is that at
7 2-mile channel or by Warren's Landing?

8 MR. FLETT: 2-mile channel is right on
9 top, that little blue line there.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Yep.

11 MR. FLETT: That whole point is
12 probably about I would say 20 miles from there to
13 Warren's Landing. And you will notice that the
14 shoreline on each side is widening, and it is
15 eroding away towards Warren's Landing. Are you
16 familiar with where that community used to be at
17 one point?

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah.

19 MR. FLETT: So we wouldn't want to see
20 that whole point erode away. Because that will
21 change the whole makeup of Playgreen Lake, and the
22 shoreline of Lake Winnipeg will be right at the
23 mouth of the Nelson River, which is only about
24 four or five miles away from our community. So,
25 you know, we have water there, our water plant

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1 there, so -- of course, like I said, all of the
2 erosion, that sediment all there, it is impacting
3 our waters big time.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anything left
5 at Warren's Landing?

6 MR. FLETT: Well, people have cabins
7 there for summer. It is a recreational area.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: It is just a summer
9 place now?

10 MR. FLETT: Yeah.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

12 MR. DESROSIERS: Just a little bit on
13 Grand Rapids again. Summertime during the month
14 of August, end of July and August, they pick up
15 the branches in the river because that's when the
16 turbine are working their fullest I guess. So
17 they float on the lake and they damage too many
18 nets, so they have to pick up. Hydro has two
19 boats there, and there was some Metis working on
20 their own to pick up the branches too there for a
21 little while. We were there two weeks in a row,
22 and they were still picking up the branches. And
23 it was not the best site in the river, you had to
24 watch all of the time when you drove. And it was
25 not very nice. So it is really, like, you know,

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1 the trees and everything they get damaged, and
2 when they open, the river just flows sky high.
3 Just make sure the boat and the motor starts,
4 so...

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

6 MS. LAGIMODIERE: While I'm sitting
7 here listening, I told you I will speak to you as
8 a vice president, and also as a Metis person who
9 has family in the north, not just in Thompson,
10 throughout the north. I have family in Nelson
11 House and I have family in Cross Lake, Norway
12 House, I have family in York Landing. I already
13 said Nelson House. So it is not just Thompson. I
14 live in Thompson. And I listened to, you know,
15 the presentations that you have heard from the
16 harvesters, the employees who worked on the dam.
17 The point I want to make is the divide and conquer
18 mentality that it has created. It has created
19 deprivation for the Metis people in the north for
20 sure. And it has created the haves and the have
21 nots, and we are the have nots.

22 It is a public document to look in,
23 the census that Canada does, and we show up as
24 being amongst the poorest as a nation. We are the
25 poorest, we lack in education, we are less likely

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1 to have university degrees. Obviously there is
2 individuals that have that, but as a Nation we
3 don't have it. So when you hear stories like
4 Mr. Flett shared with you and Mr. Campbell, that
5 people will accept when Hydro comes along and
6 takes advantage of the people, the poorest of the
7 people -- and by the way, also the youngest as an
8 Aboriginal population, we are the youngest, I'm
9 talking about as a nation we are the youngest --
10 and take advantage of our situation, that we live
11 in poverty, we lack education.

12 You go back a few years ago, 20 years
13 ago, 30 years ago, and they are signing deals or
14 they are giving -- showing up with their cheque
15 book, and you know you have to feed your family.
16 That's taking advantage of a people. And that
17 really upsets me, it angers me that this happens.
18 We did our own health study. Our people are
19 also -- we win the race there by the way, we have
20 the highest rates of incidents with diseases that
21 are killing our people. We are more likely to
22 have disabilities, we have lost limbs, we lead in
23 the wrong place. Unfortunately, that's where we
24 are leading.

25 So it is no surprise when you hear

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1 that people -- that Hydro takes advantage. And I
2 say, I'm not afraid to say it, because it is true,
3 they take advantage of those that are most at
4 risk. Yet we are a very proud people. We are
5 very entrepreneurial as well. We want to
6 contribute to Canadian society. We do contribute
7 to Canadian society. We are taxpayers. Our
8 people want to work. And when they do get jobs on
9 these Hydro projects, I've seen this, I mean I
10 have lived in the north all of my adult life. I
11 don't originate from the north, because I grew up
12 in a small community called Bacon Ridge, but my
13 dad lived up north and he moved us up there. So I
14 went to school in Thompson and I raised my family
15 there. I have grand children, great grandchildren
16 now.

17 And you look at the projects that have
18 happened. Jenpeg. I've been around a long time,
19 I am not afraid to say it, I'm going to be
20 collecting my old age security soon enough. I've
21 seen Jenpeg, I have seen Limestone, Wuskwatim,
22 Keeyask. It is the same pattern. The same
23 pattern, Gary talked about it, he said you start
24 off, we do the menial jobs, that's what we end up
25 with. And it comes back to what the census says,

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1 we lack education. So we need compensation, we
2 need to be able to educate our people. We do get
3 some of that, but not enough.

4 If there is anything that I want to
5 impress upon you is that Hydro takes advantage of
6 the Metis people. And they are dividing us, yet
7 we are related to these First Nations. I don't
8 begrudge what they get, I support what they get.
9 But to do it and then create these have nots. If
10 you were to come to my house, I would never say to
11 you, oh, you are from a different nation you
12 should sit over here and I will feed you different
13 food. You are going to get the same food that I'm
14 going to feed all of my family, whether they are
15 First Nations members or they are not, because
16 some of my family isn't. My daughter-in-law is
17 not First Nations, she is not Metis. I don't
18 care, when she comes in my door, she is treated
19 equally. We live in Canada. We are supposed to
20 be such an advanced country. We open the doors to
21 immigrants, we invite them, we encourage people to
22 come here because we are such a giving country,
23 yet we mistreat our own.

24 And Hydro, as Mr. Flett said, we can't
25 live without Hydro, you know, the benefit of Hydro

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1 that we get through the generating station. But
2 where does it come from? It comes from my back
3 door. Yet I have somebody like Gary sitting at
4 home for a year, almost a year, waiting to be
5 called back. When I was in Toronto the other day
6 I was sitting there with a man who was being
7 brought back, who was being flown back to go back
8 to Keeyask and work while I have grandchildren
9 sitting at home unemployed, unable to get on those
10 projects. Something is wrong with that picture.

11 And when you hear about the erosion,
12 you've heard from Mr. Campbell before, I know Mr.
13 Sargeant is -- has been around chairing these
14 meetings, and he has heard from Mr. Campbell
15 before. Mr. Campbell kind of talked a little bit
16 about it today, where the erosion that's happening
17 in the north, there is rivers, and he talked about
18 it, a river, we don't know if it is named yet, but
19 that river was created from erosion, and it is a
20 big river. You know, and people are, you know,
21 are also -- when you hear experienced fishermen
22 dying because something, you know, the erosion,
23 the land, the landscape has changed. There is
24 something wrong with that picture.

25 So if there is anything that I wanted

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1 to impress upon you that's what I wanted to share
2 with you. This is not about me personally. I'm
3 speaking about the people that I represent, and
4 some of them do happen to be my family. They are
5 the next generation. I have great grandchildren
6 who are just little. They need to be able to I
7 hope stay in the north.

8 And I'm going to stop before I keep
9 going and insult anybody. Miigwech.

10 MR. FYKE: Gary Fyke again from
11 Thompson now. In between jobs I usually move
12 furniture to make ends meet, and had the
13 opportunity to move a family from Thompson to
14 Norway House who were from Norway House
15 originally. And it was in the middle of the
16 winter and I got up there with the mother and the
17 five kids, and all of her furniture and
18 belongings, and I parked the truck on the road and
19 they indicated that the stuff was to go in a shed
20 100 feet off of the road and through three feet of
21 snow on the reserve. So okay, I load the couch on
22 my shoulder and cutting trail to the shack, I got
23 it there. And come back and there is 16 of them
24 standing out in front of this house, and I go to
25 grab something else and I look and said, aren't

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1 you guys going to help me? And one guy says why
2 should we? Because I brought your sister's
3 furniture. Oh, we don't help half humans. I said
4 what was that? He said we don't help half humans.
5 And I said how do you mean I'm a half human?
6 Well, you are not full Indian, you are only half,
7 you are half white. So I said well, I can leave
8 the furniture right here on the road in the snow,
9 it don't make no difference to me. I already got
10 undercut because your sister told me she wanted to
11 move to Nelson House and waited until after I got
12 the furniture loaded that it is Norway House, and
13 now you are not even going to help me? And one
14 guy piped up and said I will help you because you
15 are half Aboriginal. And the next thing you know
16 the truck was empty, and I was gone. And that's
17 all I wanted to say, thank you.

18 MINISTER PARK: Does anybody have any
19 other comments that they want to make at this time
20 before I pass it back to the Commissioners?

21 MR. CAMPBELL: I would make one more
22 comment about Hydro effects. Norman Campbell
23 senior speaking. I know this is about like
24 effects Hydro has downstream or upstream of -- and
25 like on -- there are places that we used to go

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1 pick berries all of the time and they used to be
2 plentiful, and those places aren't there anymore.
3 And one of the things that Hydro does when they
4 raise the water, the fish go with the water and
5 they go into places, and it is quite surprising
6 how fast Hydro can drop the water sometimes. When
7 the water goes up, the fish go with them. Hydro
8 dropped the water, the fish get trapped up there.
9 And in some cases, like they have seen, they found
10 where the fish, they have run out of oxygen in the
11 winter time, it is too shallow and they die up
12 there. And then the next time that Hydro raises
13 the water, they do make it good fishing because
14 when they raise the water the fish come back to
15 the lake. And the fishing part is you catch a lot
16 of debris, like there is so much wood tumbling
17 around in the current and that, they get tossed
18 all over, any time you could lose a gang of nets,
19 a gang to us is two nets and that would cost you
20 about \$300. We lose ours, we don't get anything
21 for it, it is just too bad, there is no
22 compensation for it.

23 And like I say at times too, when they
24 drop the water, you lose track of where you were,
25 because your travel marks aren't there, and you

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1 might be 100 yards over and you could hit, you
2 could smash your motor and you don't get anything
3 for it. But if you are a First Nation person, you
4 might not even have rights on the lake, not a
5 licence holder or anything, maybe out hunting, you
6 hit a rock and you get compensated for it. So you
7 know, it is -- it is different for First Nations
8 and it is, you know, we are just not treated the
9 same, and I really don't think that's right.

10 But Hydro, they are causing a lot of
11 bad effects on lakes, and now it is even getting
12 to be people. And that's all I wanted to say.
13 Thank you.

14 MR. CHORNOBY: I have one more thing
15 to say about the community next to us, they get
16 paid, they get a trip, groceries, gas, everything
17 paid for to go moose hunting every year.

18 Sometimes 40 families go out. Hydro pays for
19 that. They don't pay for me when I go hunting.
20 They give the money to Split Lake and they go to
21 our lakes that we used to own, the 36 lakes. We
22 lost them all. We don't even have one lake now.
23 Split Lake was our lake, we fished it. I don't
24 know what to say. It is crazy. It is scary. I
25 don't know what to say, you guys, it is not going

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1 to stop unless we do something about it. It is
2 not fair that somebody should get their plane -- I
3 know the guy who flies them, he takes his beaver
4 in there, he flies for six straight weeks hauling
5 people out, just hunting. That's amazing. And we
6 know that Hydro is paying for it. The band isn't
7 paying for it, I can tell you that much. We don't
8 get those benefits. We have to pay for our
9 licences. It costs lots to fly now, 745 a mile,
10 so if I'm going to go 100 miles to kill a moose,
11 one trip, and now I have to come back now if I
12 killed one. You are looking at a lot of money.
13 They are getting everything paid for free. There
14 is something wrong with that. If Hydro can let
15 them to go out, why can't we? How come we don't
16 have the same right to, you know, they have got
17 some nice spots. All of those spots that Split
18 Lake owns because of the '67 agreement was all
19 Ilford's lakes, I know, I hauled hundreds and
20 hundreds of loads of fish out of there. Like I
21 say we have none over there now. It is all gone.
22 So some things like that would be nice, maybe not
23 personally to us, but if it went to the Metis
24 Federation or something, a group of people and
25 say, okay, if you are going out, if you killed one

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1 moose or two moose, and you have to get back, or
2 something. We want some little bit, we don't want
3 everything, we are not going to get as lucky as
4 those people, they even get their gas, their food,
5 everything is paid for.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: You say you lost the
7 access to the lakes, was that because when they
8 set up the resource management areas under the
9 implementation agreements or --

10 MR. CHORNOBY: I would say part of it,
11 for sure, because they came back 8, 12 years,
12 Manitoba Hydro, Split Lake Resource, and we
13 actually signed an agreement. So, I'm telling
14 you, it was a lot of people sitting around and
15 only four councillors, only four people like us.
16 We didn't have much of a choice, to be honest.
17 The big part was the North Indian Lake part, that
18 got demolished, and the Little Churchill River and
19 the Butnau River is what really affected Ilford.
20 These guys are making rivers. He says Hydro is
21 making rivers up there, and we are losing rivers
22 down here. I don't know what you want to say
23 about it. It is crazy. It would be nice for, not
24 for me personally, but for the Metis Federation
25 itself, it would be nice if it would get sponsored

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1 in some way, thank you.

2 MR. FLETT: I just wanted to really
3 emphasize that 2-mile channel, Manitoba Hydro is
4 going to have to riprap that to stop that erosion.
5 Because if they don't, that whole point is going
6 away and it is going to have a big time impact in
7 that area, as far as the fishery is concerned.

8 When I started working for my community in 1997 we
9 were brought to Winnipeg at the Polo Park Inn, and
10 we had a meeting there, I worked there when I was
11 a community administrative officer for 20 years,
12 and the government of the day, the minister pulled
13 me aside, two of us from Cross Lake and Norway
14 House, and said we are going to end the Northern
15 Flood Agreement come hell or high water because it
16 is a never ending wound that doesn't heal. Money,
17 right? In Norway House Cree Nation, they settled
18 with them, and the fishing industry was included
19 in their settlement. But if that doesn't happen,
20 if that 2-mile wears away, or that point, for sure
21 there is going to be a big impact there. So I
22 just wanted to emphasize that more as a Metis
23 person living there and the Metis fishermen that
24 are still there and that will still be there, we
25 have to plan for that. The guy who spoke for

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1 quite a bit before.

2 MINISTER PARK: Okay.

3 Mr. Commissioner, I guess you heard from the
4 harvesters now, and you heard from us as
5 politicians, and I'm not going to try to summarize
6 what has been said, but I'm sure it is going to be
7 on the record or on the transcribed copies that
8 are going to be provided. But it is definitely
9 disheartening to hear some of the issues that our
10 harvesters are facing in the north, not only
11 harvesters, but community members as well. And I
12 agree wholeheartedly with Vice President
13 Lagimodiere, it is dividing us as Aboriginal
14 people. We shouldn't have to pick sides. And we
15 fully support what First Nations get. We only
16 hope that one day the government will understand
17 that we have equal rights. So with that I will
18 end and I will pass the mic to you, Mr. Chair.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: I think she can hear me
20 without the mic. Thank you, Minister Park. And
21 thank you to all of you who have come out here
22 today. Some of you have come from quite a ways
23 away, so we really appreciate that and thank you
24 for your presentations today. There is no doubt
25 that they were heart-felt and sincere. And

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1 that -- I'm searching for words here -- you've
2 told us good stories. I mean these are stories
3 that we want to hear. We can't promise that we
4 are going to fix many or even any of these things,
5 but what we have heard today you will see
6 reflected in our report, and it will certainly
7 influence us in our thinking when we come to make
8 recommendations or suggestions to the government
9 in our report.

10 So again, thank you to all of you as
11 individuals and thank you to the MMF and the staff
12 for putting this day together, or this afternoon
13 together. I'm glad you did it and it is of good
14 value to us. So with that, I again thank you and
15 good afternoon, and some of you I know we will see
16 you again.

17 (Concluded at 3:30 p.m.)

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OFFICIAL EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE

Cecelia Reid, a duly appointed Official Examiner
in the Province of Manitoba, do hereby certify the
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Cecelia Reid

Official Examiner, Q.B.

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