



Kihche'othasowewin, Kwayaskonikiwin
and the
**Wuskwatim Generation and
Transmission Projects**

Kihche'othasowewin

- The *Nisichawayasi nehethawuk* traditionally live by reference to *Kihche'othasowewin* (the Great Law of the Creator), which is underpinned by spiritual and philosophical beliefs, values, principles and goals.
- *Nisichawayasi Nehethawuk* customary law is the sum total of these beliefs, values and norms.

Kihche'othasowewin

- These customary laws all combined to guide and direct the conduct of *ithiniwuk* (individuals), *ka'esi minisichek* (the family), *ka'esi anisko'wakometochek* (the extended family), *mamawe'minisichek* (the clan) and *ka'esi'pisketuskan'nesichik* (the nation).
- In this way social order was maintained by doctrines that reflect *Kihche'othasowewin*. It is this Great Law that determined and still determines *Nisichawayasi nehethawuk* Customary Law.

Kihche'othasowewin and the Wuskwatim Project

- *Nisichawayasi nehethawuk* recognize that the construction and operation of the Wuskwatim Project is inherently inconsistent with *Kihche'othasowewin*.
- In order to address and resolve these inconsistencies, *Nisichawayasi nehethawuk* are taking every step to ensure that the construction, operation, environmental protection and monitoring of the Wuskwatim Project will apply *Kihche'othasowewin*, including the Customary Law Principle of *Kwayaskonikiwin* (reconciliation).



Kwayaskonikiwin and the Wuskwatim Project

- *Kwayaskonikiwin* is applied to establish harmony between *Kihche'othasowewin* and the Wuskwatim Project.
- Incorporate Customary Law Principles into all aspects of the Wuskwatim Project.
 - ▶ project-related agreements
 - ▶ licence terms and conditions
 - ▶ heritage resources protection
 - ▶ environmental protection
 - ▶ project monitoring
- Fully engage and incorporate the *ethinesewin* (wisdom and traditional knowledge) of *Nisichawayasi nehethawuk*.
- Ensure the exercise of *Nehetho Tipithimisowin* (the exercise of Nehetho sovereignty).



Kwayaskonikiwin and the Wuskwatim Project

- In order to apply *Kwayaskonikiwin* to the Wuskwatim Project, *Nisichawayasi nehethawuk* are working to incorporate *Kihche'othasowewin* into:
 - ▶ *Aniskowatesewew Ketapahchekewe Othaschekewin* (Heritage Resources Protection Plan)
 - ▶ *Aski Ketapahchekewe Othaschekewin* (Environmental Protection Plans)
 - ▶ *Nanakachchikewi Othuschikewina* (Monitoring Plans)



Kwayaskonikiwin and the Wuskwatim Project

- Ceremonies are an important part of ensuring that *Kwayaskonikiwin* is applied to the Wuskwatim Project.
- Ceremonies are performed to:
 - ▶ seek guidance
 - ▶ demonstrate respect
 - ▶ restore harmony
 - ▶ reverse the potential of misfortune
 - ▶ achieve balance with one's surroundings



Kwayaskonikiwin and the conduct of ceremonies

■ Every ceremony includes:

- ▶ Offering
- ▶ Song
- ▶ Prayer
- ▶ Feast



Other *Nisichawayasi Nehethawuk* Planning Principles

- The *Aniskowatesewe Ketapahchekewe Othaschekewin* (Heritage Resources Protection Plan), the *Aski Ketapahchekewe Othaschekewin* (Environmental Protection Plan) and the *Nanakachechikewi Othuschikewina* (Monitoring Plans):
 - ▶ will reflect *Nehetho Tipithimisowin* by clearly defining the roles, responsibilities, relationships and authorities of *Nisichawayasi Nehethawuk* in construction, operation and monitoring activities

Other *Nisichawayasi Nehethawuk* Planning Principles

- ▶ will be expressed in terms and language relevant and meaningful to *Nisichawayasi Nehethawuk*.
- ▶ will be guided by the *ethinesewin* of *Nisichawayasi Nehethawuk* including:
 - the influence of moons and seasons on climate, weather, animals, plants and *ithiniwuk*
 - seasonal harvesting cycles and practices

Providing Guidance: *Kihche'othasowewin* and the Wuskwatim Project

- *Nisichawayasi nehethawuk* recognize that the proper persons must provide guidance to ensure that *Kihche'othasowewin* is applied to the construction, operation and monitoring of the Wuskwatim Project.
- A *Nisichawayasi Aski Kihche O'nanakachechikewuk* (Nisichawayasihk Environmental Advisors) team will be established to provide the necessary guidance.
- The *Nisichawayasi Aski Kihche O'nanakachechikewuk* (Nisichawayasihk Environmental Advisors) team will be comprised of the representatives of Chief and Council and the NCN Resource Management Board, a male and female Elder, the NCN Cultural Co-ordinator and other persons as may be required.

Achieving *Kwayaskonikiwin*

- The *Nisichawayasi Aski Kihche O'nanakachechikewuk* will be responsible for:
 - ▶ the conduct of ceremonies
 - ▶ ensuring that *Kihche'othasowewin* and *Nehetho Tipithimisowin* are reflected in any decisions and measures addressing environmental concerns and responding to the discovery of human remains and artifacts
 - ▶ ensuring the *ethinesewin* of *Nisichawayasi nehethawuk* is engaged and applied to any decision, activity and measure further to the *Aniskowatesewe Ketapahchekewe Othaschekewin*, the *Aski Ketapahchekewe Othaschekewin* and any *Nanakachechikewi Othuschikewina*.