

MANITOBA CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

KEEYASK GENERATION PROJECT

PUBLIC HEARING

TATASKWEYAK CREE NATION

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Transcript of Proceedings
Tataskweyak Metawekamik Centre
Split Lake, Manitoba
Tuesday, October 8, 2013

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APPEARANCES

CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

Terry Sargeant - Chairman

Edwin Yee - Member

Judy Bradley - Member

Jim Shaw - Member

Reg Nepinak - Member

Michael Green - Counsel to the Board

Cathy Johnson - Commission Secretary

MANITOBA CONSERVATION AND WATER STEWARDSHIP

Bruce Webb

KEEYASK HYDROPOWER LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

Glen Schick

Halina Zbigniewicz

Vicky Cole

Shawna Pachal

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1 Tuesday, October 8, 2013

2 Upon commencing at 1:21 p.m.

3 CHIEF GARSON: First of all thank you
4 everyone for being here. And, all of the students,
5 I thank you for coming, and hopefully you will come
6 to understand the purpose of this gathering here in
7 at TCN.

8 Welcome Mr. Chairman, and Commissioners of
9 the Clean Environment Commission. That is these
10 people up here. And, actually they will be taking
11 over the process as we go along, and after I have
12 made my speech, and I would like to welcome the
13 representatives of Manitoba Hydro. They are, I
14 believe they are in the back.

15 And also, Honoured Guests, Chief Spence
16 from Fox Lake, thank you for being here. Chief
17 Constant from York Factory is here as well. Thank
18 you for being here.

19 And, also, all of you members of TCN, that
20 are here. It is, I believe we have to leave by
21 five, so we have some time. So also, this is an
22 opportunity for all TCN members to voice their
23 opinion on proposed Keeyask Generation Project, this
24 is your chance to speak, and don't be shy. And,
25 just say what you feel is in your heart, and what,

1 how you feel about the process that we have gone
2 through, and the proposed project itself.

3 Okay, to, welcome you, also, I would like
4 to have Reverend Martha Spence come up to open us
5 with a prayer. Actually, we only have one
6 microphone, so we have to pass this around. If you
7 could all stand, please.

8 (Opening Prayer)

9 CHIEF GARSON: Those of you who are sitting
10 in the chairs, could you move up a little, please, so
11 we could have a little room in the back. Apparently,
12 there are more students coming. Move up. So kids
13 if you could move, move along to the back, please.

14 Okay. So, we will get started. Again I
15 just want to welcome everybody, and I didn't, I kind
16 of underestimated the number of students, so I did
17 mention to the Chairman earlier today, that there is
18 a lot of kids in this community, and you have proven
19 me right. So thank you for being here. Teachers
20 that brought the students, that is good.

21 What I want to do is before we get to the
22 actual proceedings, I just wanted to mention to you
23 the significance of this gathering. This is an
24 opportunity for TCN, young and old, to have their
25 thoughts, as to how they really feel about the

1 proposed Keeyask Generating Station. Okay, and you
2 have that opportunity today to ask the questions
3 about the project. Concerns that you may have, and,
4 of course, as I mentioned earlier your feelings.
5 And that when you do make the comments, and your
6 speech, that you do say what you really feel. That
7 is what I really recommend. That is what happens
8 here today in this gathering.

9 So, I just want to go back a little bit, I
10 want to mention, because of the students that are
11 here just to give you a history of TCN's relationship
12 with Hydro. TCN's relationship with Hydro has
13 actually begun back, back in the '50s. I don't know
14 if I want to call it a relationship at the time.
15 But at that time TCN really didn't have a say in
16 regards to the Kelsey Dam.

17 The old people tell the story that one day
18 they saw a puff of smoke southwest of here, and they
19 had no idea what it was until they went to
20 investigate. And what the story that they tell is
21 Hydro was beginning to build generating stations
22 within TCN territory.

23 Just to give you an indication of what TCN
24 territory is, it was actually done in the late 1900s,
25 early '20s it was done by four people and, elders

1 obviously now in our terms. And what they surveyed
2 within the area, it starts off to the east as the
3 starting point or the boundary line is the railway
4 that leads up to Churchill. And as far west as past
5 Troy Lake, and the bridge area to the west. And, to
6 the north, it extends past Churchill River, and to
7 the south it goes down to Dafoe Lake, that way it
8 goes quite a way down south. But it represents 7
9 percent of Manitoba. Which is a huge area. A huge
10 area of Manitoba that, that TCN, I guess, that has as
11 our resource area.

12 So going back to the Kelsey days, the story
13 that goes is that there was a puff of smoke, our
14 elders went there, Hydro was beginning to cause
15 impacts in our resource area. They didn't have a
16 say in it. But it was Hydro had moved forward to
17 build a dam, however, what had happened at the time
18 was our people, because of the economy at the time,
19 and the work, that they desperately needed to support
20 their families, they worked for that project.

21 And obviously it was done in the early, it was done
22 in the early '60's, and so forth. But there was a
23 lot of work that was done after that fact.

24 So, given that experience that TCN had in
25 relation to Hydro development within our area, in the

1 early '70s, TCN was one of the First Nations that got
2 together with other First Nations, four First
3 Nations, which, which became the Northern Flood
4 Committee. And the First Nations that were there
5 was TCN, Cross Lake, Norway House, Nelson House, and
6 York Factory First Nation.

7 Those were the original five Northern Flood
8 Committee First Nations that had gotten together to,
9 to meet with Hydro and say, okay, if you want to
10 build anymore generating stations within our area,
11 you need to talk with us. You need to provide us
12 compensation. You need to provide us economic
13 benefits. And even business benefits. And even to
14 the point, and this was the early 1970s, the people
15 at that time had mentioned that they wanted a part of
16 those, those projects, as ownership. So this new,
17 this idea of being part owners of the proposed
18 Keeyask Generating Station, is not a new idea, it
19 happened then. So, it was an old idea that became
20 reality, as we were negotiating the Keeyask
21 generating process.

22 Just to give you an idea of what happened
23 then in 1977, the five First Nations along with Hydro
24 and Canada and the Province signed what we call the
25 Northern Flood Agreement. June -- December, sorry,

1 but, so 15, 16 years went by. But mind you during
2 that time Kettle was being built at that time. In
3 the late '60s, early '70s. So when these
4 discussions were going on, there was continuous work
5 by Manitoba Hydro within TCN territory.

6 So, given that we, the Northern Flood
7 Agreement represented a hope for the Northern Flood
8 bands to receive fair compensation, and provide
9 training, and economic development, and
10 opportunities, and even business benefits. However,
11 15, 16 years went by, nothing really happened.
12 Hydro basically was piece-mealing these First
13 Nations. Okay? We will give you this much for
14 that, that much for that, and that much for that.
15 So nothing ever really happened. And that is a long
16 time, 15, 16 years to have gone by without anything
17 significant happening.

18 So, and the mention, the, what we call the
19 Northern Flood Arbitrator from the five First Nations
20 that signed the Northern Flood Agreement there was
21 over a hundred claims that have been brought forth by
22 the First Nations for compensation, and for whatever
23 it is, whatever article that they applied to. To
24 help the First Nations get, you know, get what they
25 rightfully deserved at the time. But it just so

1 happened in '88 there was a new approach that was
2 brought on by Manitoba Hydro, Canada, and the
3 Province. Basically, they called it a global
4 settlement within the five First Nations. And,
5 there was a lot of money that was involved. I
6 believe there was over two hundred million dollars
7 that was promised to the five First Nations at the
8 time. Along, of course, obviously, with the water,
9 and sewer, the Claim 138 that came out of that later
10 on, as the years went by. But what had happened,
11 there came a time when the five First Nations sat
12 down to vote on the global, proposed global
13 settlement.

14 The other four First Nations decided no.
15 I don't think we really need this at this time. For
16 whatever reasons that they had at the time.
17 Overwhelmingly there were four First Nations other
18 than TCN said no to the package, because what had
19 happened at the time was, when the proposed
20 settlement was given to the five First Nations there
21 was a lot of infighting amongst the five First
22 Nations. And, so, it never worked out. It never
23 did pan out, as to how we had hoped, as Northern
24 Flood Committee Bands to make sure that this, that
25 this settlement be ratified.

1 But TCN took the position at that time
2 because the door was open. To step into that door
3 and get something done after 15, 16 years of nothing.
4 So we took that opportunity to create something for
5 ourselves as TCN people. It wasn't the Chief and
6 Council at the time that decided this. It was the
7 membership that decided this. So, that is the
8 approach, and that is the route that we took as TCN.
9 And obviously, when we started negotiating, we did
10 have an agreement in '92, June 24 of '92 the people
11 of TCN ratified 1992 agreement. Which is where we
12 are today.

13 Today we are implementing, we are doing the
14 best that we can to implement 1992 agreement. The
15 signatories to that agreement, is Canada, Province,
16 Hydro, and TCN. So there is five governments that
17 signed or should I say three governments and a
18 corporation that signed that agreement. It is quite
19 complex, there is a lot of articles in there that
20 need proper implementation, and lot of hope and
21 promises that are there.

22 We have come a long way since. But, as
23 any, any agreement that is signed within First
24 Nations would, be it a mining company or whatever it
25 may be, other big corporations, there is always a

1 fight. It is always the First Nations that have to
2 fight to implement those articles because a lot of
3 times the partners to those agreements continue to
4 redefine the articles within, as opposed to the way
5 we understand them. So, it is a continuous fight.
6 And it is still happening today. We still have, we
7 still have to fight for what we believe is rightfully
8 ours. So that, battle continues, and it will
9 continue.

10 So, from that '92 agreement, of course, the
11 Keeyask process came in. And, from that Keeyask
12 process, there was another ratification process, a
13 referendum that was given to the people, to decide on
14 JKDA and the Adverse Effects Agreement, and the 2008
15 Amending Agreement that is from ours, TCN. From
16 1992 agreement came three other agreements. And I
17 want to make that clear, 1992 agreement, you know, is
18 the mother of all of those, but don't forget the 1977
19 agreement still stands today. It is there. I
20 wanted to make that point very clearly to you guys,
21 so you understand.

22 So negotiations went on for about eight
23 years and it was a lot of difficult moments. A lot
24 of, when you are fighting, and negotiating, that is
25 what it is all about. Getting what you want for the

1 First Nation. And there is a lot of obviously,
2 there was a lot of meetings, there was a lot of costs
3 that went into that, that process. Big costs. So
4 after these, when these agreements were ratified by
5 the people it was TCN's, the leadership, and even the
6 members. The leadership on behalf of the members,
7 it is, our job is to make sure that these articles
8 are implemented as we understand them. And how it
9 could benefit us as a First Nation in the future.

10 Because the people ratified those
11 agreements, expecting economic benefits, business
12 opportunities, and of course fair compensation, and
13 there is programs in there too, that you have to make
14 sure that these programs are being delivered to the
15 community as promised. That is the job of the
16 leadership of this community, and also, to keep in
17 mind that the people of this community will have to
18 be informed as you go. Step by step. Because
19 there is a lot of, I wouldn't say misunderstanding,
20 although it is there, but there is a lack of
21 understanding of these agreements. But it is our job
22 is to make sure that you do understand what is there
23 for the future of TCN.

24 Which is why I am very happy that the young
25 people are here today. Because you will carry on

1 some day, if you decide to be a leader in this
2 community. You will decide, and you will have that
3 chance to make a difference in this community based
4 on those agreements that have been there. Because
5 the Northern Flood Agreement is about 40 something
6 years old. So this will continue.

7 There is a marriage that we have here.
8 There is a marriage that TCN has with Hydro. But,
9 like any other marriage, in real life, there is also,
10 there is always the difficulties that you go through,
11 and disagreements that you go through, as you go
12 along and trying to make something right. And
13 making sure that it happens, and, there is a positive
14 result at the end of the day.

15 So I wanted to mention those to you today,
16 that the struggle for TCN will continue and, we will
17 always be the ones that, in other words, TCN through
18 your speeches today, and your thoughts, your
19 aspirations, the leadership of this community picks
20 up on that, and we take it forward. Because today
21 is an opportunity that you have, that opportunity to
22 speak on how you really feel. But I want to mention
23 one thing, the process, these agreements have already
24 been ratified by the people of TCN. This is what
25 they want for the future, the children that you see

1 here, and their children as well. So don't be
2 afraid to speak, say what you really want to say.

3 So, in closing, I want to again say thank
4 you for being here. I believe, I don't know if we
5 can open the windows, but I can already feel the heat
6 in the building, up here. And I will, I guess, hand
7 it over to the Chairman now, Mr. Terry Sargeant.
8 So, you can take it from there.

9 Just to let you know, the Commission you
10 see here will introduce themselves, and it is
11 actually, they will take the responsibility to make
12 sure that they hear all of your concerns, and,
13 everything else that you need to say. So, they will
14 take care of that, and you can introduce yourselves,
15 and I believe we are going to be watching a video.
16 Okay. Screen, is it on the wall, or is it going to
17 be on that thing? Okay. So you are the screen
18 operator? Okay. Thank you. Councillor from Fox
19 Lake. Okay.

20 So, Terry, I will officially hand it over
21 to you. Take it from here.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Chief
23 Garson.

24 Good afternoon, and welcome to this session
25 of the Clean Environment Commission hearings. And,

1 a particular welcome to all of the students who have
2 come here from the Tataskweyak School. My name is
3 Terry Sargeant, I am the Chair of the Clean
4 Environment Commission, I am also the Chair of this
5 panel that will be conducting the review of the
6 Keeyask Generation Project.

7 At the outset, I would like to acknowledge,
8 that we are meeting here today, in the traditional
9 territory of the Tataskweyak Cree Nation, and the War
10 Lake First Nation, which operate together for the
11 purposes of Keeyask as the Cree Nation partners.

12 I would like to introduce the other members of our
13 panel, on my far left is Judy Bradley, next to her is
14 Jim Shaw, to my right is Edwin Yee, and, at the end
15 of the table is Reg Nepinak.

16 Also with us today, I would like to
17 introduce some of our staff, and advisors who are
18 with us today. Our Commission secretary, Cathy
19 Johnson, administrative assistants Joyce Mueller, and
20 Amy Kagaoan. Our legal counsel, Michael Green, and
21 our report writer Bob Armstrong.

22 I would like to explain a little bit about
23 why we are here today, and it might help some of you
24 understand what we are looking for this afternoon.
25 We are here today, because last November the Minister

1 of Conservation and Water Stewardship had asked us at
2 the Clean Environment Commission to hold public
3 hearings to review the environmental impact statement
4 for the Keeyask Generation Project as proposed by the
5 Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership.

6 The Minister specifically asked us to
7 review the EIS, to review the proponent's public
8 consultation process, and to recommend whether or not
9 a licence should be issued for the project, and if
10 so, to recommend whatever mitigative measures might
11 be needed to overcome any potential environmental
12 damage.

13 He also asked us to hold hearings in the
14 area at the project, to allow reasonable access for
15 people who lived near the proposed dam. As was
16 explained somewhat by the Chief in his opening
17 comments, this is a unique project given that the
18 proponent is a partnership, with includes four First
19 Nations in the immediate area of the proposed
20 generation dam. Because of this we felt it was
21 important to hear from people in these communities.
22 We have already held hearings in Gillam and in
23 Thompson. As well at the invitation of Chiefs and
24 Council we have been in some First Nation
25 communities, two-weeks ago we were in Bird and York

1 Landing, today we are here in Split Lake. Tomorrow
2 at the request of Pimicikamak, we will be holding
3 hearings in Cross Lake.

4 And later on, about two-weeks, from now, on
5 October 21, we will begin hearings in the city of
6 Winnipeg, which will go on for a number of weeks.
7 We will try, and I think it is evident already, we
8 will try to be as informal as possible in order to
9 encourage as many people as would like to come
10 forward, and say their piece.

11 Our hearings are recorded at the
12 requirement of the Environment Act. Verbatim
13 transcripts, are provided fairly shortly, within a
14 few days, they will be up on our website.

15 Anyone who is present can make a
16 presentation. It is fairly simple. What we are
17 looking for is, we would like to know who you are, we
18 would like to know how the project may impact, or
19 benefit you. We would like to know your views on
20 whether or not the project is good for the province
21 of Manitoba, and more specifically, whether or not it
22 is good for your communities. We would like to know
23 your views on what decisions the panel should make,
24 and what recommendations we might make to mitigate
25 potential problems.

1 Typically, our presentations are 15 minutes
2 long, however, we do allow some latitude when there
3 are a group, or a specific presentation that may be
4 presented. You can, if you wish, make your
5 presentation in your own language. I understand,
6 from Chief Garson, that there is a translator in the
7 room, who will translate, if anybody wishes to make a
8 presentation in Cree.

9 And, finally, I would like to note if there
10 is anybody who is not able to be here today, or if
11 there are people who are here today, who are not
12 comfortable in speaking in public, we do welcome
13 written submissions. These can be as simple as an
14 e-mail, or a letter, or you can go to our website and
15 enter your comments there. We do have a deadline,
16 it is still a ways off, we would like any written
17 presentations in by November 14.

18 That concludes my opening comments. We
19 will be showing a video, which has been prepared by
20 the Partnership. Following that, I will invite
21 anyone in the audience who wishes to make a
22 presentation to do so. A couple of people have
23 already identified themselves, I will call upon them
24 first, and then open it up.

25 I would ask, there is a large gathering in

1 this room, it is a bit crowded, but, I would like ask
2 you to keep the chatter in the room keep it down,
3 please don't talk within the room. If you really
4 must talk with people near you, just show courtesy to
5 the others in the room who are making their
6 presentations by taking your conversations out of the
7 room.

8 I would now like to turn it over to Halina,
9 who will be setting up the video.

10 (Translation to Cree).

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Spence. I
12 didn't notice anybody snickering, so he must have
13 said nice things about me, or he didn't say any nasty
14 things about me.

15 One thing I forgot in the, my opening
16 comments I wanted to thank the people in the
17 community that made this wonderful lunch for us and
18 the people from Sodexo who brought more lunch so we
19 are well filled up. Are we ready to go with the
20 video? We will turn it over to the Partnership and
21 the video.

22 (Video shown).

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I believe we
24 need to set up another slide show, so, we will take
25 about a five minute break, and get that set up and we

1 will resume in five minutes.

2 (HEARINGS RECESSED BRIEFLY).

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Now, we have, could we come
4 back to order, please. First up, we have Janet
5 McIvor, who will be presenting a slide show with a
6 voice over. Her sister, Mary Wavey will also be
7 speaking as well as four students who will be making
8 presentations, I turn it over now, to Janet, are you
9 ready to go?

10 (While viewing slide show)

11 MS JANET MCIVOR: Yes, ready to go.
12 Tansi, everybody, I am so glad to see you guys here,
13 and we are here to support each other. This is not
14 only happening to us, it is happening to everybody.
15 It is affecting everybody. And we will tell Our
16 Story.

17 MS MARY WAVEY: Hello my name is Mary, and
18 this is our story, these are our children and our
19 grandchildren, and these are our ancestors. Our
20 grandfather's land.

21 MS JANET MCIVOR: Our Granny Evelyn and our
22 family. Our story started before contact, way
23 before Manitoba Resource permit 1949. Way before
24 Manitoba Hydro 1956. Our sister found this arrow
25 head, it is a historical finding that we had. And,

1 we have stone carving legends, Petro -- and ancient
2 history is our findings in that land. Stone
3 carving, this will be forever lost.

4 Our grandfather George Sanders died trying
5 to save his son Jonathan Sanders on this river. How
6 great a love is that? We were raised to respect,
7 love, protect the land. We used the land animals,
8 and water as a gift from our Creator.

9 Our great grandfather Joseph Sanders, and
10 grandmother Evelyn nee Flett. And their children
11 spend most of their lives in district territory,
12 which the elders call the (Cree word) meaning there
13 is the dependence of wildlife to sustain and live
14 there on a year round basis.

15 (Inaudible) is the heart and sole of the
16 family. Togetherness is cherished. We felt
17 sheltered, values, and livelihood, we are taught by
18 our ancestors, last time was our departed loved ones
19 was to go back to the land. How strong a connection
20 is that? (Cree word) is our home. The land of
21 our, the land for our children.

22 These are our uncle Alec and Auntie
23 Helen at the bottom, middle is our mom Rachel. The
24 top part is Josiah, Uncle Josiah and at the bottom of
25 the boat is Uncle Allison.

1 This is our past, what will be our future?
2 Eroding shorelines forest depletion. In past the
3 (inaudible) are not managed, there should be constant
4 assessments, evaluations, and traditional knowledge
5 should always be honoured by our visitors. Manitoba
6 Hydro only wants to develop and profit from the land.
7 Our spiritual connection with the land will be lost,
8 yet we sit in front of the Clean Environment
9 Commission determine the fate of our land, water,
10 animals, and environment.

11 We already see the impacts. Hydro says
12 minimum impact. It is easy for them to say that
13 they don't live here, and yet, we are 125 percent
14 affected by Kelsey, Limestone, Kettle, Long Spruce,
15 Wuskwatim.

16 As a child we used to walk run down to the
17 lake and swim. Today we tell our kids not to swim
18 due to the contamination of our river.

19 MS MARY WAVEY: Natural beauty is gone.

20 MS JANET MCIVOR: Water fluctuation is
21 constant, we always have to be cautious. The freedom
22 to just go on boat rides, canoeing is impacted.
23 Intruders on mother nature. We already see this
24 when we went down the river. There are already a
25 lot of work down there. They are watching, our

1 animals are watching the nature. Most affected will
2 be our children. Leave our ancestors and us in
3 peace, this is where we lost our late brother Leon
4 Kitchেকেেসিক.

5 Okay, our youth will be doing their
6 presentation. The first one that will be doing, is
7 Leon's Island. And that will be Keanna. Keanna
8 Wavey will be doing the presentation of Leon's
9 Island. This one will be lost forever. This is
10 where our late brother's island. Keanna?

11 MS KEANNA WAVEY: Leon's Island. This is
12 the place where we remember our late brother before
13 we lost him to the waters of Gull Lake. He was a
14 happy child always smiling, laughing and very
15 independent. After we lost him our parents and the
16 family grieved. And we are still grieving today.
17 Because we never had closure. Every summer, and
18 especially when the water levels were low we would
19 walk the shorelines with the possibility of having
20 our closure. Leon's Island was the first camp where
21 our dad made a permanent camp. In saying this our
22 dad would take the family on over land camping, but
23 in tents, he believed in respecting the land. And
24 this is what he instilled in us today, to respect,
25 and protect the land.

1 The heartbreaking and unbearable loss of
2 our brother took its toll on our parents. That is
3 why our father made a second camp where the remains
4 and structures of our life was taken by the
5 devastating fires of the summer. Leon's Island was
6 abandoned and natural vegetation, lichen, berries,
7 and tea leaves, it was closed to all types of
8 wildlife needed to sustain us on a year round basis,
9 a cross stands to honour our brother's life on this
10 island and still stands.

11 MS JANET MCIVOR: Thank you Keanna.
12 Nicholas McLeod will do our Dad's main camp.

13 MR NICHOLAS MCLEOD: The sorrow of loss of
14 their son, and brother, our father made another camp
15 to start on their healing process. This camp was
16 then used as our main camp on a year round basis.
17 He taught the children traditional and cultural
18 knowledge. He showed us how people used to make
19 dwellings in the past all from the earth, this is
20 all, was also the main route for moose, and caribou,
21 and sturgeon was abundant.

22 He would also take us on expeditions
23 showing where people used to make camps. Our
24 parents showed us grave sites and told us to respect
25 a person's final resting place, from this place we

1 learn about history.

2 MS JANET MCIVOR: Thank you Nick. The
3 next one will be Dana Kitchেকেসিক, she will be doing
4 Lillian's Island.

5 The natural beauty of this island was
6 breathtaking and it made you feel at peace with
7 nature. Many hours were spent there by the children
8 swimming in the clear waters, and the beautiful sandy
9 beach. This was also the area for the many picnics
10 we had as family and just having fun.

11 MS JANET MCIVOR: Thank you, Dana.
12 Next one is Xavier Mazurat. He will be doing Looking
13 Back.

14 MR. XAVIER MAZURAT: This area was used to
15 traditional hunting for --

16 MS MARILYN MAZURAT: This area was used as
17 a traditional hunting grounds in the spring.
18 Children were taught traditional teachings on hunting
19 and preparing food. The young men were taught how
20 to trap right and the young ladies were taught how to
21 prepare the food. Some of the things the children
22 learned were plucking goose, getting rabbits, and
23 cooking and using down feathers from birds to make
24 warm blankets and the boys learned how to use the
25 weapons needed to kill their prey. They were also

1 taught to respect the -- they were also taught to
2 respect the animals and the land because these things
3 they gave us life.

4 MS JANET MCIVOR: Thank you, Marilyn.
5 When we lost our father that died, and my two younger
6 sisters were present at that time, Marilyn, and
7 Gloria. We never had that closure. It is still
8 with them today. That is why we always make our
9 journey to that land, and we have that connection
10 over there.

11 And, the questions, I wanted to ask the
12 Clean Environment Commission, was suppose something
13 happened in Kelsey, and we never mentioned safety
14 plan. I know there was an incident not too long
15 ago, that in the cement part, it, there was a crack
16 there. Who is responsible if something happens?
17 Is there a safety measure in place for our people,
18 because, we are 125 percent affected. Anywhere we
19 turn, we are affected. So that is what we are
20 asking.

21 MS ILLA DISBROWE: And another one is, if
22 there is a discovery for human remains, I heard about
23 this already. At the, at the new construction site,
24 excuse me, there were remains found, but the foreman
25 said those are only animal, animal remains. Is he

1 an expert to determine that? Those sort of things
2 that are on, in our hearts.

3 MS JANET MCIVOR: Oil drums. Who, where do
4 they dispose of these? I know there was one, one of
5 our rivers got, they say they buried these oil drums
6 by Looking Back Lake. That is why I mention there
7 is no monitoring with our rivers. The contractors.
8 And what, what we wanted was for Hydro to have an
9 assessment, evaluate all of these dams, that are
10 affecting our land. All of a sudden was the first
11 50, 60, we are leaving our grandkids early, we don't
12 even get to reach 90. I notice, I mean the white
13 people, their lives are longer than us. There is
14 toxins in that water. We need evaluation done.

15 We have been paying for water bottles, look
16 you guys in front of you got all water bottles. We
17 spend so much money on water bottles. It is time
18 Hydro stepped up to the plate to give us all of these
19 things. We are the most affected here. And,
20 native title is the legal mission, that is indigenous
21 people have rights and interest to their land that
22 come from their traditional law and customs.

23 This is true, my parents had an arranged
24 marriage, they didn't know each other until the day
25 they got married. But, when my grandpa told my dad

1 to look after the land, because my mom was the elder
2 sibling in that family. So he looked after the land
3 until my uncles were able to do it. That was the
4 way it was. We didn't follow the trapline laws, and
5 all of that. This is not about trapline. This is
6 our land. This is what you guys have to understand.

7 It is not only us that are impacted.
8 There is other people that live out on the land.
9 They have the same story as us. So, that is what we
10 have to tell the lawyers over there. The
11 representatives. Step up to the plate. Don't keep
12 making these adverse affects that you call them. Do
13 your jobs right. Don't look at the profits all of
14 the time. We are human beings here. My sister Illa
15 wants to add something.

16 MS ILLA DISBROWE: Okay, what happens, I
17 was witnessing a reburial of four thousand year old
18 bones. It made news, headlines when they find bones,
19 elsewhere. Why didn't they say anything when they
20 found bones in Gull Lake? Why, why is it always
21 hidden. Everything has to be hidden. That is what
22 they were supposed to rebury those bones, and, it was
23 just not even a hundred feet from the yard when they
24 reburied those bones.

25 And the other thing is, with this Clean

1 Environment Commission, what is the purpose now for
2 it, when, when you can clearly tell when you go up
3 down river, when you see ice booms right clogging up
4 that main Gull Rapids. They only left a little
5 space just for a boat to go by. And then when they
6 say minimum damage, when you drive around Gull Lake,
7 you can see already, and the dam mine and built, and
8 you go for a night drive in Gull Lake, you can see
9 lights right where North South Camp is.

10 I don't know, what they are doing building
11 camps, or are they searching for more clay, I heard
12 they need more clay. Are they destroying all of
13 this vegetation all of this land in the back, and,
14 when you, when I saw this presentation, it was only
15 the shorelines. But, it doesn't show how much they
16 destroyed in the back already.

17 The purpose, we are standing here, is for
18 our grandchildren. What are we going to leave for
19 our grandchildren, more dams? You can see when they
20 did that presentation of our story, where all of the
21 dams are bottle necking this river. River, we are
22 right in the center of it. Minimum damage. I can
23 see, when Janet mentioned bottled water. When I
24 make my grandson's bottle, I have to use bottled
25 water. And there is no compensation for that. You

1 don't see young mothers that are on welfare given
2 that money to pay for their bottled water. There is
3 a lot of impacts you can see. Everything is sugar
4 coated.

5 MS JANET MCIVOR: Thank you Illa.

6 MS MARY WAVEY: There is a lot of history
7 in Gull Lake, there is pictures of the stones, they
8 are called petroglyphs, stone carvings, and
9 archeological site anywhere else these should would
10 have been something to be looked at.

11 MS JANET MCIVOR: Okay, Marilyn? Gloria?
12 Mary? Thank you for this time, that you gave us.
13 It has been hard, and it is still hard on the family.
14 Still hard to let go. Thank you.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Janet, and to the
16 rest of your family, and especially to the four young
17 students who spoke about your story.

18 I would just note that Janet had, I think
19 three specific questions for Manitoba Hydro
20 officials. I am not sure that they are able to
21 respond to those today, but, they were in respect of
22 safety measures, in case of a catastrophic accident
23 in Kelsey, about human remains that might be found
24 during the construction, and, the third one was
25 disposal of oil drums. And I imagine other toxic

1 waste.

2 So I would ask that at some point in the
3 very near future, within days, if not --

4 MS SHAWNA PACHAL: Terry, Halina will do
5 dam safety, Vicky will talk about human remains and
6 Glen will speak about the construction material.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

8 MS HALINA ZBIGNIEWICZ: Hello, I am Halina
9 Zbigniewicz, I am manager of Hydro Power Planning
10 Department. With respect to dam safety at Kelsey,
11 and all of other generating stations as will be with
12 Keeyask we have a dam safety program that monitors
13 the conditions of the dams and makes sure that the
14 dam is in good enough condition, making sure
15 everybody is safe in the area.

16 Should there be, in the very unlikely
17 circumstance of any emergency, there is emergency
18 preparedness plan that is established for each of the
19 dams. And it has contact information and covers off
20 all of the safety issues that you were concerned
21 about. And Keeyask, of course, will have that kind
22 of a plan as well.

23 MS JANET MCIVOR: Another thing is the
24 blackouts, we had a blackout last year. Blackout.

25 MS HALINA ZBIGNIEWICZ: Where your

1 electricity supply, there is a problem with it?

2 MS JANET MCIVOR: Yes.

3 MS HALINA ZBIGNIEWICZ: That, we do have
4 systems that can be called in in terms of blackouts,
5 those tend to be more localized, and local district
6 people take care of those issues and they depend on
7 many things, could be a storm or any thing. I can't
8 speak specifically to the incident that you talk
9 about, I am not familiar with that. But certainly we
10 have plans for, to re-establish power as soon as
11 possible, when there are issues.

12 MS ILLA DISBROWE: Can you give more
13 examples of your safety plan.

14 MS HALINA ZBIGNIEWICZ: There is regular
15 monitoring plans, where people check out dikes, where
16 there are dikes, there is monitoring equipment in
17 different. Each dam is unique depending on the dam
18 itself. And we also have dam safety review that is
19 done every five years, by independent party, that
20 reviews the conditions of the dams to make sure, that
21 they are, meet the, that they are consistent with the
22 Canadian Dam Safety Association Guidelines, so there
23 is a very fulsome program, and things are done on
24 intervals to ensure that the dams are safe.

25 MS ILLA DISBROWE: They are five years

1 apart?

2 MS HALINA ZBIGNIEWICZ: There are some
3 things done at the plant, where plant staff go on, I
4 don't know these things off the top of my head.

5 MS ILLA DISBROWE: Should be done every six
6 months.

7 MS HALINA ZBIGNIEWICZ: Or yes. There are
8 different things are done at different intervals.
9 Unfortunately, I am not responsible for the dam
10 safety program, but there is a very fulsome program.
11 And, certainly, we can give you information, if you
12 would like information on the dam safety program,
13 and, what is done on what interval I just don't
14 remember off the top of my head.

15 UNIDENTIFIED LADY FROM CROSS LAKE: I am
16 sorry to talk, I am not from this community, I am
17 from Cross Lake, and you did a lot of times in our
18 community, And you never gave us this kind of
19 information. And I don't see one aboriginal sitting
20 on your panel of Hydro there. Why is that?

21 MS HALINA ZBIGNIEWICZ: I can't speak to
22 employment practices. Maybe.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: We are beyond our mandate.
24 Those are valid questions, but they are not questions
25 we can respond to.

1 LADY FROM CROSS LAKE: I know they had
2 nothing to do, I wonder why there is not one
3 aboriginal. Are the leadership aware of this plan?

4 MS HALINA ZBIGNIEWICZ: Dam safety plan?
5 They know what is in place, they are ultimately
6 responsible. Now, are you talking Manitoba Hydro
7 leadership, or your leadership?

8 MS ILLA DISBROWE: Okay, when the power
9 goes out in the winter again, and we don't have, most
10 of the houses don't have wood stoves --

11 THE CHAIRMAN: This is beyond the scope of
12 our review, those may very well be legitimate issues
13 in your community, and I am sure they are, they are
14 not issues that we are here to deal with. They are
15 not issues that we can deal with on this panel.

16 Okay, now, Vicky, will speak to the issue
17 of human remains on the work site.

18 MS VICKY COLE: So, if there are human
19 remains found at the work site that is governed by
20 provincial legislation, and depends on the
21 circumstances, the supervisors at the site do make a
22 call on how to handle it, but typically the RCMP are
23 called in, and there are discussions with the
24 community.

25 And there is a Heritage Resources

1 Protection Plan that manages Heritage resources at
2 the site. And it is available on the partnership's
3 website it is just Keeyask dot com if you want to
4 take a look at it. And if there are remains found
5 or suspected remains found, and you mentioned a
6 specific incident during the Keeyask infrastructure
7 project. Typically that area is completely cordoned
8 off. And there are efforts made to determine the
9 nature of remains.

10 So, in the instance that you talked about,
11 the bones were actually sent to Winnipeg, and
12 reviewed by an archeologist. The area was completely
13 cordoned off, work stopped in that area, and it was
14 determined that those bones were likely moose or
15 caribou, they are not human remains, they were fairly
16 recent.

17 But if there are human remains found, there
18 is a burial management plan in place, that has been
19 designed with TCN. And the expectation is that
20 those human remains would be interred at a special
21 cemetery site that is being chosen by the community.
22 And I believe it is fairly close to the Keeyask site,
23 or in the area of the Keeyask site. And it will be
24 ordained by several Reverends and Ministers from
25 the community before it is used so there are plans in

1 place to deal with that circumstance should it arise.

2 MS ILLA DISBROWE: What about those bones
3 mentioned four thousand year old bones?

4 MS VICKY COLE: Those bones were found
5 during the course of the archeological work for
6 Keeyask. And, they are some of the oldest bones
7 ever found in this region, it was a huge discovery,
8 and, a huge find. My understanding is that those
9 bones are still catalogued, and they are being held
10 by the archeologists which is law in Manitoba under
11 the Heritage Act.

12 MS ILLA DISBROWE: I was there when they
13 reburied them.

14 MS VICKY COLE: Did they rebury them? I
15 am, I wasn't aware of that.

16 MS ILLA DIBROWE: That is one of the
17 things we are taught to, not to disturb.

18 MS JANET MCIVOR: There is a sacred site
19 when there is a grave there. I can't describe,
20 what, what you guys are doing to our burial sites.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: I think, the question has
22 been answered the best we can, at this time. I
23 understand your sensitivity to it, but there are
24 protocols in place to deal with them, if and when
25 they arise. Now, the third question was disposal of

1 toxic materials. Specifically, oil drums, but also
2 other ones.

3 MR. GLEN SCHICK: Good afternoon, my name
4 is Glen Schick, I am the manager of the Keeyask
5 Engineering and Construction Department, and, with
6 respect to the oil drums that you are talking about,
7 we have on site a waste management system. So, any
8 hazardous wastes that we generate on the site, it
9 could be used, something like used motor oil and
10 things like that, we will package up in drums, and
11 everything will be shipped, shipped back to proper
12 disposal sites.

13 And that goes even as far as say if there
14 was leakage out of equipment, and stuff like that, we
15 will clean up the soil, test the soil afterwards, to
16 ensure that it has been cleaned. And, all of the
17 hazard materials will be removed from the site. So,
18 we will leave nothing, no one behind, you know, there
19 could be spills we don't see right away, if we do
20 find them, we do manage them in a very thorough way.

21 MS MARILYN MAZURAT: Where is your disposal
22 site?

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Where is your disposal site.

24 MR. GLEN SCHICK: I think it would be
25 Thompson, into Thompson or back into Winnipeg.

1 MR. JIM WAVEY: Do you have records of
2 that?

3 MR. GLEN SCHICK: I could probably find for
4 sure, I wouldn't have it with me.

5 MR. MICHAEL KEEPER: Excuse me, Glen, is
6 there a monitoring plan for materials you are
7 bringing onto the site, you know, to be able to track
8 what is, what is being used, and what is leaving the
9 site? To ensure that we don't have any sites that
10 are being contaminated without our knowledge.

11 MR. GLEN SCHICK: No, Michael, for sure, we
12 track, we have the MSDS system, so any controlled
13 product coming onto our construction site will have
14 an MSDS. We monitor that as part of our
15 construction program.

16 So, any contractor bringing products onto
17 site, we want to know, at all times, what are at our
18 construction site, or within the area. And then we
19 monitor, we have environmental, site environmental
20 inspectors, who will do that work specifically.
21 And, but we also expect all of our other employees,
22 even the workers for any of the contractors to
23 monitor, and if there is a spill report it to us.
24 Because we want to know. We don't want to have any
25 waste spilled on the site, so, we want to be as clean

1 as possible.

2 So, that if you want some of the community
3 members who are working there, you know, please --

4 MR. MIKE KEEPER: Maybe participate in the
5 monitoring program.

6 MR. GLEN SCHICK: For sure, I think that is
7 what is coming in for the generating station.
8 Definitely.

9 MR. MIKE KEEPER: And the incident that the
10 family is referring to, was it ever investigated?

11 MR. GLEN SCHICK: To be a hundred percent
12 honest, it is the first time I heard of it.

13 MR. MIKE KEEPER: Is there going to be an
14 investigation?

15 MR. GLEN SCHICK: If they can provide
16 evidence, we have to find out who reported it, where
17 it was, time, and things like that, so we have
18 something to go on, and definitely, we would look
19 into, into that.

20 MR. JIM WAVEY: What is MSDS.

21 MR. GLEN SCHICK: Material Safety Data
22 Sheet. That tells you everything about controlled
23 products that is on the site. How to handle it,
24 clean up, and all of that stuff.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Glen.

1 Janet, you also asked, what was the purpose
2 of the CEC hearings, given that there is work already
3 going on on site. In Manitoba, the way the, the way
4 the environmental regulation operates, different
5 projects apply for a licence to go ahead with those
6 projects, and some of them are be given a licence
7 after fairly comprehensive review by departmental
8 staff. That is for smaller projects, when there
9 are, and actually, the vast majority projects are
10 licenced that way. But when there is very large
11 projects, or there are projects that might be
12 politically sensitive, such as a generating station,
13 then it is referred to the Clean Environment
14 Commission.

15 The project, the work that is under way
16 right now at Keeyask, what they call the
17 infrastructure project was issued a licence by
18 Manitoba Hydro or pardon me, by Manitoba
19 Conservation, so they could put this infrastructure
20 in place.

21 Now, that doesn't mean that the Clean
22 Environment Commission is going to rubber stamp what
23 Manitoba Hydro has asked for. It is still open to
24 us, if at the end of two and a half, or three months
25 of hearings, if we are not convinced that the project

1 can go ahead without, without resulting in
2 significant environmental damage. We could say no.
3 We could recommend to the Minister that he not issue
4 a licence. In that case, Manitoba Hydro has wasted
5 about two or three hundred million dollars on what
6 they are doing right now. It is a risk that Hydro
7 has taken. Or the Partnership, I should correct
8 myself, it is a risk that the Partnership has taken
9 in going ahead with this work before getting the main
10 licence.

11 But, it is, it is open to us to say no.
12 And believe me, if Hydro hasn't and doesn't do a good
13 job, or the Partnership hasn't and doesn't do a good
14 job of convincing us, we will say no. I can't say
15 what is going to happen over the next six to eight
16 weeks, but we have said no before. So it is not, it
17 is not a slam dunk. There is a lot of work that
18 needs to be reviewed, and work that the Partnership
19 has to do over the next eight weeks before we decide
20 whether or not to recommend a licence. Thank you.

21 I think that concludes that presentation,
22 and the responses to it. Again, I would like to
23 thank all of those who participated in that
24 presentation.

25 I have also had a request from Eunice

1 Beardy to make a presentation, so Eunice, we will get
2 the hand mike to you, you can stay right there, if
3 you wish.

4 MS EUNICE BEARDY: No, I look at my people
5 when I talk. Tansi. Nice to see all of the
6 students here.

7 And that is why we are here. Because of
8 our children, their children, and their
9 grandchildren. And, their grandchildren's children.
10 I was sitting in there, watching all of these videos,
11 and I was getting pretty upset. Because we have
12 been saying the same thing over, and over again, and
13 nobody hears us. They just down play what we say.

14 Clean environment to me means the whole
15 environment, the air, the trees, the water. The
16 land, our animals, that is being destroyed by all of
17 these Hydro dams that are developing. And all for
18 what? This, and, what do we benefit from it?
19 Truthfully, not much. What we benefit from, we have
20 to pay. Get down on our knees, and beg for what is
21 supposed to be a partnership deal.

22 And, our Chief mentioned it is like a
23 marriage, but Hydro doesn't believe that. It is
24 already a divorce before it becomes a marriage. Our
25 water, I remember as a little girl I used to go in

1 the boat with my uncle and we would tell him we are
2 thirsty, he would hand us a cup, we would grab water
3 from the lake. It was so clear, you could see right
4 down to the bottom. And there was no damage.

5 There was no fear of going anywhere on the
6 lake. It was safe. Not today. You go down the
7 lake, some of the people that have motors are afraid
8 because there a logs floating in the water, different
9 debris. Our water is no longer clear. Our
10 children can't even swim in that water anymore.
11 They try and swim in there, they come out, they have
12 rashes.

13 And that is the same with our animals, our
14 fish. We used to be go down the lake just behind our
15 houses, go fish, get a fish, cook it. Not anymore.
16 We catch a fish, it is not healthy to eat. You cook
17 that fish, it falls apart. And that is not a
18 healthy fish. It is slimy. So, our water is not
19 safe, our land is not safe.

20 We used to go to my uncle's camp, we would
21 walk around the island, and, there was no fear of
22 falling in because of erosion. And, that is Hydro,
23 they don't see the damage they are doing, because
24 they don't live in our environment on a daily basis
25 like we do. We need them to come and live here,

1 this is the only time we see people from Hydro, is
2 when they want something. You know what we want?
3 We want a healthy environment. You cut down our
4 trees, you know what trees give us? They give us
5 clean air. And you are destroying those.

6 It destroys the animal migration with the
7 trees that are being cut down because of those Hydro
8 poles. The animals are sacred to us, they were
9 given to us by the Creator so they would provide us
10 with food, clothing. We can't really do that
11 anymore because they are being destroyed as well.
12 You eat a rabbit, and I was talking to somebody in
13 the community too, they said, you know, we caught a
14 rabbit, we cooked it, it doesn't even taste like a
15 rabbit anymore. Because of the pollution that Hydro
16 is causing.

17 Those Hydro lines cause a lot of
18 destruction, a lot of electricity coming out of
19 there. And has Hydro ever provided anybody to do a
20 study on our health? We have so many of our people,
21 that have cancer. Different illnesses because of
22 the water, because of those Hydro lines. Those
23 transformers out there give off a lot of power.
24 And, I know a few times I was told when microwaves
25 first started, were introduced, don't stand in front

1 of the computer -- that microwave, it will damage
2 you. If that little thing damages us, can you
3 imagine what those transformers are doing to us?

4 Hydro doesn't take everything into
5 consideration when they want to build a dam. All
6 they see is the dollars. And like Janet said, we
7 have to spend money on this water because ours is not
8 clean enough to drink anymore, and that is so sad.
9 Because of our babies, so many of our babies are
10 starting to have rashes, they are afraid their skin
11 is breaking out because of the water. The trees
12 when we cut them down, what to we do with them? Do
13 they throw them in the lake to float down the river
14 so they can get rid of us as well that way?
15 It is sad.

16 All of this Hydro, Hydro electricity that
17 is being built around us, but what do we get out of
18 it? Stress. Division amongst families, the
19 community. That is part of our environment. How we
20 feel is part of our environment. They always forget
21 the human aspect. Creator put this land here, the
22 water, the animals, the trees for us to use. But we
23 are losing that, and it really saddens me because of
24 our little ones, they won't see any of that. I got
25 to see some of it. I was very fortunate. Now, I

1 don't see that.

2 I was sitting there almost in tears, but
3 mostly with anger because nobody ever really listens
4 to us out there. We are hurting here. Hydro is
5 not free. We pay for the brunt of the Hydro. The
6 cost of Hydro in our communities is outrageous.
7 And, I know our elders said we want free Hydro, or a
8 discount. Nobody ever listened to them. And, I
9 would like Hydro to take that into consideration.

10 Don't take everything away from us, we have
11 already gotten our land taken away, our language.
12 We are trying to band together as a community. We
13 need our water. We need our trees, we need our
14 animals, we need our land. Let's work together to
15 keep it, because Creator gave that to us to look
16 after. Not to sell, not to have it taken away from
17 us. Stolen away from us.

18 Some of the houses, like one of my cousin's
19 house, and she is sick, I walk into her house, there
20 is water on the floor, and that is from the seepage
21 from under. Water is powerful, should they put
22 rocks around the shorelines, but it was a mamasis
23 (ph) job. That water still seeps under those rocks,
24 we need a proper dike, so the dam doesn't destroy
25 anymore of our community. And I ask, what plans are

1 there in place, if our community floods? And there
2 is a good chance of that, if one of those Hydro dams
3 goes. Do we just all sit here and drowned? What
4 plan is there to relocate us?

5 Because, I know that in one of the
6 agreements, I think it was the Conawapa, that said
7 they were going to provide housing for relocation.
8 That is all I heard about it. They tell us things
9 just to keep us quiet. But, to move on it, we don't
10 see the movement.

11 I am really, I know we are only allowed 15
12 minutes, I am thankful for getting this 15 minutes,
13 but I have those, that question with Hydro, with all
14 of this electricity, are there plans to compensate
15 our community, people with their Hydro bills?
16 And who, who determines what damage, if there is real
17 damage, large or small, in our community? It is
18 people from outside. They don't live here. They
19 don't know the damage. We should have our own
20 people there. Sure, Hydro creates jobs, but once
21 that Hydro is built, those jobs, are gone. What
22 then? You have to look at the long-term.

23 Janet, or one of the people here asked, how
24 come there is no native people sitting up there?
25 Well, you know what, it is over ten years that they,

1 Hydro has been going on. How come they haven't
2 trained anybody to sit in those positions? I think
3 it is time. It is time our people stood up and saw
4 what is being done to us. It is sad. And I know
5 the spirits of our grandfathers are sad because of
6 the destruction of our environment.

7 Clean environment means everything is clean
8 around us. Protect our land, our waters, our trees,
9 our animals, our people so we can live, so, at least
10 us that are getting old can see our grandchildren
11 profiting from something. Because right now, we are
12 in a very bleak, bleak state, and, that is the honest
13 to goodness truth. From my heart. And I hope the
14 young people take what they see today, take it to
15 heart, and start working towards improving our
16 community, our environment. Not letting people
17 outside come and profit from it, and destroying it.

18 So, that we don't have anything, I invite
19 you people that are sitting here, take a walk around
20 the community, look at our roads. Even farm roads
21 don't look like that. And, our people have to
22 breathe that in. Muddy roads, dust, dusty when it
23 is not raining. And we breathe that in, and there
24 is a lot of asthma in our community. Lot of
25 breathing problems. And it is certainly isn't from

1 clean environment.

2 And I had a lot more to say, but, I know I
3 have limited time, and I am very happy to have been
4 given this time to speak, and I am thankful that the
5 young people stayed and listened. I would have liked
6 to have done this in my language, I feel more
7 comfortable speaking in my language, but for the
8 benefit of our young people, I wanted to use the
9 language, that was introduced to us. (Cree word).

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Eunice. I
11 thought you were extremely well-spoken in English, if
12 you would be better in Cree, that would be something
13 to behold, although I would not understand it.

14 I can tell you Eunice, that we should walk
15 around your community. Earlier before we started,
16 one of us walked around the community, and four of us
17 drove around, we did see your roads, today they
18 weren't very dusty I guess there has been a
19 sprinkling of rain.

20 Those were the two who identified
21 themselves, that they wanted to speak. Is there
22 anybody else in the room, who would like to make a
23 presentation?

24 MS CHARLOTTE WASTESICOOT: I have a poor
25 memory. My name is Charlotte Wastesicoot. I am

1 from this community. I grew up in this community.
2 I had very clean environment when I was a child here.
3 I didn't get a chance to printout what I wanted to
4 say, because I have been busy, I lost a nephew two
5 weeks, ago, and an elder before that week. And,
6 just this past week we lost two year old grandchild,
7 great grandchild. She was small.

8 I wanted to mention about some of the stuff
9 that has been going on in our native, to our native
10 people of Canada. In past treaties, and agreements
11 when, in the past are just a little bit of history,
12 so people will, they probably learned this at school,
13 but sometimes it is good to hear from an elder. The
14 Native people of Canada were forced, or deceived to
15 surrender title to their lands in return for
16 guarantees that their traditional ways of life would
17 be protected. Which you can see has not been so.

18 Since the 1950s, governments have
19 neglected, and they have continued to break this
20 promise, these promises. The government continues
21 to deceive, go back on their words, their promise.
22 They continue to speak with forked tongues, we heard
23 this in our history from our leaders of the past.

24 First contact. Negotiation of the
25 treaties or agreements generally meant that the

1 government representatives, negotiation of the
2 treaties, or agreements, generally meant that the
3 government representative presented a pre-formulated
4 set of promises to the, to us, the indigenous people.
5 Whereupon we indigenous people asked for, whenever we
6 asked for clarifications, and haggled, and tried to
7 have other promises included, most of our requests
8 were denied.

9 Although, for instance, like, Eunice
10 mentioned free Hydro, or lower rate of Hydro. Clean
11 water, bottled water, which hasn't been so. Never
12 done. I mention this around a few weeks ago in
13 Winnipeg, and I was told by a Hydro employee that we
14 pay the same rate as they do. Which is, I don't
15 believe.

16 Although on occasion verbal promises were
17 made though rarely entered into the official text of
18 the treaties or agreements, they were verbal promise
19 that were easy to break. And our people are oral
20 people, and they weren't always, because our first
21 language is Cree, they couldn't always articulate
22 what they, what they meant.

23 The construction of Kelsey, this is just
24 one example, prior to the construction of Kelsey
25 there was no consultation whatsoever with us here.

1 And used to give people today, hear people today,
2 too, I hear them say when they were starting to build
3 Kelsey, they were, they were surprised, there was
4 smoke coming from that area. And they were
5 wondering what it was. And it is the Kelsey dam
6 that was being built.

7 And it wasn't for us, it was for, to
8 accommodate the mine being built at Thompson. One
9 of the biggest polluters, dangerous emissions come
10 from this mine. And nobody, nobody has, I haven't
11 heard anybody talk about that. The emissions from
12 that mine from Thompson. We did just study, a
13 little study on it. And according to our research,
14 it is one of the biggest polluters of our
15 environment. And we have to live here, and like I
16 said, nobody saying anything, to advocate for the
17 well-being of us Native people who live in the
18 surrounding area.

19 I think one of the closest communities,
20 Cree people living, a trapper was sharing this with
21 me, he used to live in Pikwitonei. And he sounded
22 sad when he was talking about how nice it was to
23 trap, and live around Pikwitonei. Because it is
24 such a beautiful area. When the emissions started
25 coming out from that nickel mine in Thompson, he

1 noticed a big change, yellow snow when they were out
2 trapping on their traplines. And the water, the
3 animals, they started to notice the animals didn't
4 taste the same. The fish, it affected the plants,
5 the medicines that we depended on. And these are
6 the things that have been shared by our people also
7 here.

8 And today too, the trappers, the fishermen.
9 There was even a few times when the fishermen caught
10 a fish that was, that was deformed. It was out of
11 the Nelson River. That wasn't too long ago. This
12 was a couple of years ago.

13 And, to this day, there has been noticeable
14 changes. As I said before there are, Eunice
15 referred to that, government hasn't really consulted
16 the people. The signing of the treaties are always
17 rushed over the agreements. They are always rushed.
18 There is always a deadline. You better make a
19 decision now, or you get nothing. That is how it
20 is, we interpret that is our perspective of these
21 agreements.

22 Even the treaties that were made way back.
23 It wasn't to accommodate us, it was to accommodate
24 the settlers, the government getting money from our
25 resources, our land. And they still, to this day,

1 they say they consulted our people. I don't, they
2 had, they said even this Keeyask thing, I have heard
3 it said, not even two weeks ago, that it is even
4 written in these documents that they have consulted
5 the people many, many times. Which to me is not
6 true. Because, I think they said at least more than
7 two hundred times, which, I don't believe.

8 The keepers of this mother earth were never
9 consulted, even if some were, their concerns, our
10 ancestors, our elders, their concerns have never been
11 adhered to. Even documents say that they did, but
12 they never, they weren't consulted.

13 And, last, because Eunice, and the girls
14 Janet, and her sisters have made it very clear how
15 they, how much devastation, and lives have been lost
16 in their -- they have stated in their presentations,
17 the devastation that Hydro has caused.

18 I want to respond to this, this is another
19 document that was presented by the Hydro people.
20 They say, there are many benefits of the project for
21 the partner First Nations. And they go on to say
22 how much power will never compare the amount of
23 dollars that they have provided to us, they have
24 given to us as compensation, it just goes back to
25 them, because their Hydro bills are so high.

1 Some of the reasons why this is, is because
2 of the poor housing. Our houses, you might have
3 seen how, how they look. How our community looks.
4 When we turn on our hydro in the wintertime,
5 especially, they go really high because of the poor
6 conditions of the house. The drafts. You can see
7 that.

8 And, like I say, I want to respond to this
9 this booklet. It says, Sustainable with low
10 emissions. Hydro, Hydroelectric power generation
11 remains the most environmentally sustainable, and
12 cost effective electricity supply alternative in the
13 world. With virtually no emissions compared to
14 coal, or natural gas. These are qualities Manitoba
15 and export market customers value as they move
16 forward in greening their own operations, and
17 economies. I don't agree with that.

18 Because like Eunice mentioned, and Janet and her
19 sisters mentioned, the emissions that come from, they
20 don't see the emissions that come from the Hydro
21 poles, and those -- what you call transmissions.
22 There is a lot of emissions that damage the health of
23 our people. Our animals, the food we eat. And
24 like -- and there is a lot of impacts on our health
25 in the community already. Young, young people that

1 have gone on, there is numerous people that have
2 cancer and diabetes. I, myself, included. I am
3 not young anymore, I am not able to go far to get
4 clean food, the animals anymore.

5 And what about the Bipole III? If these
6 transmissions, transformers that are here already
7 cause that much damage, what about the Bipole III?
8 There is going to be a lot of damage to lines, there
9 is a controversy going on at this time, about those.
10 And I hope the government listens. And not trying
11 to deceive people. They say, it won't affect Split
12 Lake, it won't affect you, the Hydro dam. It is not
13 just a Hydro dam. There is a Bipole III also.

14 And like Eunice said, it is sad our health
15 has been compromised, our animals, our fish, and any
16 aquatic life, plants, medicines have been
17 compromised. Water quality is getting worse.
18 Recreational areas are no more. Because they are
19 just rock along the shorelines, and when you go on a
20 boat, have you to go far, because you can't just go
21 to the shoreline, and pull your boat up anymore. We
22 wanted clean water. Clean environment. Housing,
23 better roads, pavement, so that, to alleviate a lot
24 of that dust that comes from all of these, all of
25 this that is preparing for that Hydro dam. There is

1 a lot of digging, like they dig up the gravel, sand,
2 whatever you call, the earth, really close to our,
3 just on the side of that junction.

4 Any way, that is what I wanted to share.
5 Thank you for listening.

6 (In Cree).

7 Speak for the ones that can't speak for
8 themselves. That is what our elders used to say to
9 us. That is what we are doing here, and I hope more
10 people speak up. Young people.

11 (In Cree) Thank you, thank you for
12 listening. God Bless you all.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Charlotte. Is
14 there anyone else in the room who wishes to make a
15 presentation at this time.

16 REVERAND MARTHA SPENCE: (In Cree).

17 I am very thankful that there could be, take
18 this opportunity to be here, to talk about this, and
19 hear other people, their concerns, and what is
20 affecting us.

21 Many times I have been going to meetings,
22 and listen and many times my heart breaks, and I just
23 listen, and sometimes I want to speak, but there is
24 sometimes there is no time to speak. But we have
25 been talking about this for how many years? Like

1 Chief Michael said, you know, many times, many years
2 now we have been meeting, and, you know, to, to talk
3 about what can be done.

4 (In Cree) They were travelling on the other
5 communities there, just this past week, weeks. And,
6 there is more meetings to come. (In Cree) I remember
7 when our elders used to speak, and what they were
8 asking is to respect, and that they wanted something,
9 that they listen to, to listen to them, they are gone
10 now, many of our elders are gone. And, those of us
11 that are still here, we want to continue to carry
12 that what was taught to us.

13 I myself I was more brought up by my
14 grandparents when my father died. First language I
15 learned was my Cree. The first thing I learned was
16 how to read and write Cree. My grandfather, late
17 Chief Sam Cook taught me. He taught me many things,
18 that is probably why I am here, where I am today. I
19 am very thankful for some reason I was always
20 following my grandfather around. But, this is what I
21 have learned.

22 And then, when I went to Hudson Bay line, I
23 couldn't speak, I didn't understand. But I went to
24 school two and a half years Split Lake. Grade two
25 and a half. I taught myself how to speak, and how

1 to write in English. I came along way. I am
2 almost, I am almost 71, and all of those years, I
3 taught myself how to read and write. And how to
4 speak. And then, I didn't think I would make it,
5 when I went to take theology, it took me four years,
6 and I passed, and I graduated from that. That is
7 where I am today.

8 I just wanted to say that, because our
9 elders, were great teachers. They taught us how to
10 respect everything. And, they knew this was coming.
11 And, I was wondering what they used to talk about,
12 there will be hardship for you in your time. And I
13 see what they were talking about. What will happen
14 to us. And, what will affect us. They seen that
15 already.

16 They prophesied that already. What we,
17 what we are expecting today. And, I know that they
18 want, they take our waters because of the power that
19 they need. Because of monies also. Many times I
20 go to bed, I go to bed, and pray. You know, feeling
21 sorry for what I see, what is happening to us. Not
22 only Split Lake, but others too. That we go through
23 every day.

24 I work hard, as a teenager. Like, I said,
25 my father died when I was very young. I was already

1 a woman, I was nine years old because I had to do the
2 hard work, I cut wood, saw wood, haul water. At the
3 same time I was teaching myself how to try to speak
4 English. I learned what that those Dick and Jane,
5 that is how I learned. And, in there, that is how I
6 tried to learn English, that carries on today I am
7 very thankful. But, you know what, I thank our
8 Creator. He was there for me. Our Creator was the
9 one that helped me for all of these years. All of
10 this time. That was what I was proud of, that is
11 what I was told.

12 I hope the people listened to us from the
13 beginning, sometimes I do get upset. I am a human
14 being too. I get upset. You know, that they
15 should have listened to us. I hope they listen to
16 us, to continue to hear us, what we are saying. You
17 know, what we, what do we want? Why are we crying?
18 Because it has already been gone that far for what
19 has happened to us, to our trees, and to our land and
20 water, and us, many of us, that we cry, you know,
21 very affected with what is going on.

22 But we have to start sharing that, we have
23 to work together, we have to listen to each other,
24 this is not a laughing matter. We have to start to
25 think about the truth. Truthful, be truthful, be

1 honest with one another. That is one thing that we
2 learned from our elders, is be honest. To be honest
3 with one another, what is given to us, and what do we
4 have here, what do we see? Do we see each other, our
5 feelings, do we hear each other? And that is what we
6 need to do together.

7 You know, like, in Keeyask, there is many,
8 there are some Aboriginal people that are working
9 there, I am very thankful they are working. I
10 encourage young people to take courses, to go to
11 school, to have training, so they can work too, in
12 the future. And I encourage young, even young ones,
13 you know, they will be the ones that are leadership.
14 They will be carrying on their community. And, it
15 is going to be more harder for them, because of
16 technology, because of what is happening.

17 Like I said, I work hard, as a little girl,
18 as a teenager, even when I got married, I was still
19 working hard, because we still didn't have this. My
20 husband worked for Hudson Bay line, I didn't switch,
21 I didn't throw my clothes in the washer. And you
22 know. I didn't turn the tap on to wash, I had to
23 work hard. And, that was good. Even now, I still
24 sometimes wish I could just use wood, put in the
25 fire. And haul water from the lake. But that is

1 gone. So that has happened.

2 I wanted to share this. I had a hard time
3 to learn, and I have learned, I learned. I was
4 taught to respect people, I was taught not to be
5 angry. But, there are times when I am angry. You
6 know, we have to support each other. When Theresa
7 Spence was speaking out in Ottawa, there was a lot of
8 people who supported her because of what happened to
9 her. What was the reason she went to Ottawa. And,
10 there was awakening when they heard that. Many
11 people joined them, and joined Theresa Spence.
12 Because of what has happening to her.

13 And it happened to us. It was an
14 awakening to people to see that. They began to see
15 we are human beings here. And you know, that we
16 have feelings. And that is, that is why I supported
17 them too. I prayed, prayed for them. I encouraged
18 others to pray for them, when I was living in Quebec
19 at that time. And then, I heard that there was,
20 there was -- I forgot that word. There was at
21 Keeyask there, protest, for those that wanted to, to
22 make noise too, they protest there. I know many
23 people didn't like it. But it has to speak out that
24 way. We have to speak out. Speak up for our
25 community. For ourselves.

1 So, we will continue to pray, you know.

2 And I just I am thankful that they are able to
3 listen, the ones that are here, you know. You know,
4 I am very thankful that the students who are here, we
5 have to speak to them more about this, ourselves
6 here. And the Chief was speaking, and, I am
7 thankful for the history that he was talking about.
8 He did his homework. That is what we need for our
9 leaders to do, is to do this, to help their community
10 to speak out for them. That is what needs to
11 happen.

12 So I just wanted to hear that part. It
13 cost me a lot of money, I can't even pay my Hydro
14 bill. But, I like the switch, I am in the dark. I
15 am throwing my washing machine pfft, thank you.

16 My name is Martha Spence, I am the Reverend
17 here too. I am from here in Split Lake. Thank
18 you.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Reverend Spence.

20 MR. JIM WAVEY: Hello, my name is Jim
21 Wavey. I am the water treatment plant operator
22 here. First of all, I am emotional -- yeah. I
23 was emotional. Excuse me. When my granddaughter
24 read the, when Keanna, there, when she read the
25 presentation, what her future is going to look like.

1 Can't go out boating, camping, because of the
2 pollution. But made me want to speak about the
3 water.

4 The, as the water treatment plant operator,
5 I know, the water needs to flow, in order to keep it
6 clear. Once you block up the passage, it is going
7 to cause a lot of mercury, and everything. That is
8 the reason why the water is clear, you got to keep it
9 flowing. But when you stop a dam, even for a, even
10 if you still build a dam, you still got the spillway,
11 that is still going to cause a lot of problems.

12 Because I have been at it for about 25
13 years, and each year, each year, is getting worse.
14 Even this year, I saw algae in the sedimentation
15 tank, and that scared me. I had to wash out my
16 sedimentation tank as soon as I saw that problem.
17 So you see me come, it is even coming into our
18 system. So, that is why we use a lot of chlorine
19 just to be on the safe side. I know people don't
20 like chlorine, but it helps to kill micro-organisms.

21 It scares me. When, when I see very low
22 reading of chlorine. As in give you an example in
23 Ontario, Walkerton, seven people died because of
24 that. The operator lied about the, using, they said
25 they used chlorine, but they never did put chlorine

1 in there, that is how their water got contaminated
2 that is how some of these people got infected and
3 some people died.

4 They lied writing on their paper. Said
5 they did the chlorine reading and all of that. That
6 is why scares me to see low reading. And, that is
7 what gives me when somebody talking about the water,
8 everybody looks at me, shouldn't look at me, look at
9 Hydro, it was them that are damaging our water, not
10 me. I am doing the best to keep it clean. You
11 know.

12 MAN IN THE AUDIENCE: Thank you, Jimmy.

13 MR. JIM WAVEY: I am there seven days a
14 week, you know, 24, 7. Go there. But, other than
15 that we need more sophisticated equipment in our
16 treatment plant, to, to get real proper water.
17 Because everybody else is, they are relying on water
18 bottle. Water bottles is getting pretty expensive,
19 what is sitting in front of you, even Northern Store
20 selling our water to us when they are piping it in
21 from our system. That is what they call stolen
22 water. And they are selling it to us. And, nothing
23 is being done about it. You think that is right?
24 That is not right. To this day they are still doing
25 that. Selling that water to us.

1 Further on down the road, I feel sorry for
2 next operator who is going to be coming on when the
3 dam comes up it is just going to get worse. Because
4 even way down there, the water is still going to come
5 out, they got the Clarke Lake just down the road,
6 down, say, about three miles, it is already green.
7 And Hydro saying, it is not going to damage our
8 water, lot of BS. It is already damaging our water.

9 Forgot my note here. I was talking about
10 potable water that was never mentioned in the
11 negotiations. And I think that should be brought up,
12 because it is our daily source of life. And, that
13 there has got to be, that has got to be the No. 1
14 agenda. So, nobody else needs the water bottle. I
15 will not be around to see it. But talking about
16 water treatment plant operator, I know the water
17 needs to flow in order to keep it clear, it is very
18 much worse, flow slows down. And then this will
19 create problems.

20 There is the other issue that I would like
21 to mention, maybe one of the Hydro representatives
22 from Keeyask over here. I don't know who it is. I
23 forget who it is. Something, that the racism that
24 it is creating over there with our locals. The
25 racism, my brother-in-law was fired prior to speaking

1 for the local workers on account that the day was
2 pouring rain. He told the boss that they got a
3 right not to work, or else catch cold. And the rain
4 jackets, so they provided, but this was not so.
5 Instead the boss said Indians don't need jackets.

6 And this was, this was a comment to me,
7 also, that the construction there, that Jefferson,
8 and Missy (ph) I believe, the locals, were not
9 tolerated to speak for themselves, or else they will
10 be held against them for speaking up for themselves.
11 I think this, I think they set, they said some kind
12 of points against them, if they speak, if they speak
13 out, or are fired.

14 So, and also security are always checking
15 out, always checking out, checking up on the locals
16 there, in their rooms. This is a, this is what I
17 call an invasion of privacy. So and, does the
18 security check, check the Hydro officials' rooms?
19 I don't think so. So, why are they doing this to
20 our locals?

21 And they are just, there is one, one guy,
22 one boss there named (removed), who works there as a
23 boss. Hates my son-in-law with a passion. Why
24 does my son-in-law have to tolerate that? If it
25 wasn't for the Split Lake project, he is likely to

1 have a job on the Keeyask project, so, I think that
2 racism has to be, you know, has to be brought up,
3 amongst our locals over there.

4 And the other thing I didn't mention was
5 that my son, my son is out there was supposed to be
6 apprenticing, but clearly that is not happening. He
7 is not getting the apprentice he is supposed to be
8 getting. Instead he is being taken advantage of for
9 other work that is not considered as an apprentice.
10 Why is that? See these is sort of things are being,
11 you know, thrown at the, at our locals. And, my son
12 lost two years of apprentice on account of this. He
13 got, he ought to be a, what to you call it,
14 journeyman already. That is the reason that is the
15 reason why I brought this up.

16 And the other fact is, the other fact too,
17 that I, I went with racism too. See I was, I was to
18 be hired on water treatment plant operator, and there
19 was this guy that tried, was showing me the plant,
20 and everything, how, how things run. And in the
21 middle of that, of that touring, the, this guy was
22 teaching me how to, showing me the ropes. This guy
23 walks in from Manitoba Hydro. He walks in there,
24 and starts talking to this guy as if I wasn't there.
25 So you are sort of, you know, sort of a snobby

1 attitude. And that is what I didn't like.

2 So, they were going to pay me \$25 an hour,
3 to hell with it I would rather work for my community.
4 They need a water treatment plant operator. That is
5 why I came back, I care for my community. That is
6 one of the things that I, I wanted to mention.

7 And also, the Bipole III that I think there
8 should be more consultation on that, before any
9 licence is granted. So that is what I have to say
10 for now. I wanted to thank you very much for
11 listening to us, for coming out. I really
12 appreciate. And hopefully, my talking gives, gives a
13 message out. Thank you very much. That is all I
14 have to say for now, thank you.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr.
16 Wavey.

17 The Bipole III licence has already been
18 issued, although, there have been some appeals made
19 in that respect. I would also like to note, one
20 thing in your testimony. Where you name the person
21 who was a boss of your son-in-law, we will have to
22 remove his name from the transcript, so I would ask
23 the transcriber to take that name out. The rest of
24 the things can stay in, but the name will have to
25 come out. Thank you for your presentation here

1 today.

2 Is there anyone else who wishes to -- there
3 is a couple of people.

4 MR. FREDDY BEARDY: I have been going to
5 interviews, and lot of interviews. And seems like
6 first of all I have been trying to work in, when they
7 built the dam in Nelson House. And my buddy got in,
8 but, he said most of the Quebec were in there
9 working. It is mostly Quebec guys that were
10 working, and we couldn't understand each other, how
11 to communicate each other, because they have an
12 accent.

13 Any way, we had, I had an interview, we had
14 an interview with the, who was doing the hiring, any
15 way, I had my stack of ROEs in there, in the folder,
16 and I had been a carpenter over 30 years. I didn't
17 go out to school when my buddy went, all of my
18 buddies went out to school. I stayed behind to help
19 out the community building houses. And, also, if,
20 they went on training as a carpenter Red Seal
21 carpenters, I didn't go out. But, I have been
22 working most of my life. Here is is my resume.

23 And also, they wanted, the Hydro wanted,
24 wanted to make sure that we are from Split Lake.
25 So, I provided Hydro bills, since 2009. I have been

1 paying my Hydro bill. So I did that, and still
2 nothing. What is going on in hiring people from
3 Split Lake? I worked in Kelsey, five times. I
4 worked in Inco four times. That is basically what I
5 have been doing my whole life. Working. And in
6 the community also.

7 I worked in the, like I said, I worked in
8 Kelsey, we built that house that big house over
9 there, and also it was 15 houses that we built there.
10 And also the substations for Split Lake, I worked
11 there also. So, where is the jobs that you said,
12 the partnership promised for us? Like I said, I
13 don't have any ticket for Red Seal carpenter but I
14 have a lot of experience.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Beardy. I
16 can't answer your question, because we are not in the
17 position of hiring people to work on this job. We
18 will be looking, over the next few weeks, we will be
19 reviewing the benefits that may flow to people from
20 this project, we will be commenting on that in our
21 report.

22 So, hopefully, at some point, if the
23 partnership gets a licence, and if they go ahead and
24 build the project, hopefully, you will be fortunate
25 enough to gain employment. Sir, you wanted to go?

1 And then I think there is a woman over here.

2 MR. NORMAN MCIVOR: Mr. Sargeant, my name
3 is Norman McIvor. I am, the thing I wanted to talk
4 about, I hear a lot of that stuff, you have probably
5 hearing quite a bit of that on the site and that. I
6 work for Manitoba Hydro, I have been kind of off for
7 the past year. I was supposed to direct my question
8 to Glen Schick, but he, I talked to him earlier and
9 he said it was to the board, you guys.

10 But, any way. The question I had, like
11 you guys are representing the government, of
12 Manitoba, Province of Manitoba. And, I know for a
13 fact that Manitoba Hydro also spends big bucks on
14 racism in the corporation. And that is the thing I
15 always, like I talked to some of the young ones that
16 went to work out there, and I said that racism is
17 always going to be there. For some reason they are
18 not trying to put a little damper on that stuff, but
19 it is going to be there.

20 You always got to try to work around, it is
21 going to be hard, I said, but you have to work your
22 way, it is right here, but you have to work around it
23 kind of thing. And racism that is, something that I
24 grew up, it was always there. It was always there.
25 Like you look at, like for instance you look at young

1 guys that go out to work for these Manitoba Hydro,
2 like I talk to a lot of them as they came into camps,
3 and I have been around for Jenpeg, Long Spruce, South
4 Bay, and I always, always ran into that, into that
5 racism. And, it is something that it is going to be
6 there.

7 But, I think you know, Manitoba Hydro, and
8 the board, or whatever you guys CEC board, if
9 somebody would say, look we got to try to stop this,
10 we are hurting the partnership between Manitoba
11 Hydro, and TCN. And, I don't know what happened,
12 like I heard a lot of stories what happened upstream
13 at Nelson House, and all of that, there was a lot of
14 stuff going on up there. But nobody does anything.
15 And, I think part of the thing that we should do, as
16 partners, is try to get this thing where we can work
17 together, hand in hand kind of thing.

18 I know, I know racism is a terrible thing.
19 It has been around all of my lifetime. When I went
20 to school there was little things that I am not going
21 to mention them, but there were things that went on
22 there that should never have gone on. But it
23 happens, and then we end up sitting talking to people
24 like you sitting there. Taking complaints.

25 But there is also another thing I would

1 like to see. I have been around since Jenpeg. I
2 was only 16 when I went there, getting away from
3 home. And I noticed that, you know over the years,
4 like I am 56 now, I have been at this for a long
5 time. And the thing I never liked when, when I used
6 to watch my fellow natives working these camps, is
7 they didn't know how to shut that bottle off. Two
8 days later, or so, they would be fired because of the
9 alcohol.

10 The thing I would like, I talked to my
11 chief one day, I said, kind of suggestion thing, if
12 we can have Keeyask Project alcohol free. If we
13 could, you guys could come up with that, like talk to
14 guys upstairs in Winnipeg, or whatever. You know,
15 like, you see so many times in my years working
16 throughout all of these projects. I was just a kid
17 when I started working. But, somewhere along the
18 line, I said this thing has to stop somewhere along
19 the line.

20 It is like when the corporation said no
21 smoking in the bar, everybody was mad, they are
22 pissed off, they want to quit working, they want to
23 go work somewhere else. They gradually got over the
24 fact you couldn't smoke in the building you had to be
25 30 metres away. I didn't like it. I was a heavy

1 smoker. I had to go outside to smoke. It just, it
2 is gradually, sure nobody will say we are not going
3 to go up there, it is too far up north, you got to
4 take two, or three bottles of whiskey, whatever. I
5 worked with guys that used to bring in a whole case.
6 That was nothing.

7 But any ways, I think that is about all I
8 wanted to say. I know our young people have a very
9 hard time over there. My son, like he is on a
10 packer. That is the most slowest machine you could
11 find over there. And he got written up because he
12 was speeding, I said are you serious? But, you know,
13 things like that. Just because, you know, my son is
14 Native, I think that is, what happened there.

15 And, like, I hear kind of stories, where a
16 lot of them will get to fire a lot of them bring some
17 more guys from down south. To keep that, maybe at
18 the beginning of the month they got 30, by the end of
19 the month they are down, you know, they got rid of
20 ten, 15, whatever. They always top it up with more
21 of their guys, whatever.

22 But it would be nice if someone would look
23 into that. I understand that Hydro is my employer,
24 says minimal damage, you can't define that minimal
25 damage. Somebody take a look into it. There has

1 got to be a stop to it somewhere. Racism is never
2 going to go away, I know that for a fact. It is
3 never going to go away. But any ways, I will let
4 somebody else speak. Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. McIvor. I
6 hope you are wrong about racism never going away, but
7 it will be a while.

8 MS AUBERGINE SPENCE: Tansi. (In Cree).
9 My name is Aubergine Spence and you listened to my
10 Mother, Martha Spence, and she was born just down the
11 river over here not too far what we call near Ghost
12 Point. My father was also born on the land by
13 midwives, at the Owl River. And, this is their
14 territory.

15 Our families have been here for generations
16 and we have a very, very I don't know, intimate
17 relationship with the land. We live in a fluvial
18 ecosystem, we are a riparian culture. For many
19 generations we relied on the river system to sustain
20 our people with fish, the abundance of fish, you
21 know, all of the pleasures of having water. And
22 living along that water and knowing what is in the
23 river.

24 Last year we hosted the National Cree
25 Gathering here in Tataskweyak, and many men went out

1 to look for sturgeon fish, and they only came back
2 with five and they weren't very big. And, some of
3 that sturgeon fish went missing before it was even
4 served because it was such a demand. I was born at
5 Fort Churchill at the mouth of the Nelson River, and
6 there is a lot of nice little silver fish there that
7 is so tasteful, that is all gone, or half the stock
8 is gone, but it is very rare.

9 And the Hydro dams are changing the river
10 system. The water. You know, we can't just blame
11 the Hydro power, the Hydro dams, on what it is doing
12 to the water. But people are not listening to the
13 facts, you know, even if it is not just in Manitoba,
14 but all over the world, these Hydro projects are
15 being funded by INS, and World Bank, this seems to be
16 the development projects of the times.

17 And you know, you would look at little
18 pockets of development, in other parts of the world,
19 and you see solar energy, and wind energy. And
20 Manitoba, you know has those in abundance, you know,
21 and some places in Manitoba, they have so much sun.
22 You know, I don't know why we are not looking at
23 other forms of energy. Why are we dirtying, or
24 polluting and killing the water and ecosystems on the
25 Nelson River?

1 Our river systems, and water, you know,
2 there is a very small amount of it on earth, it may
3 look, appear, it is deceiving, that the earth may
4 have a lot of water, but we don't. And, the Hydro
5 project has created sociopolitical turmoil in our
6 community. I am unemployed. I have been protesting
7 the -- how these projects have been going through.
8 I don't know what is the big rush? Why are we
9 barrelling through with these projects, and not
10 looking at better technologies even with a dam.
11 Why are we barrelling through, it is causing our
12 people to behave in such ways, you know, that is
13 unreal.

14 And, that, that is affecting our, our
15 culture in another way. It if it wasn't the fur
16 trade, if it wasn't the Indian residential schools,
17 now it is Hydro development projects. These --
18 and, you hear other presentations where the water you
19 can't go to the river now and draw and drink it. It
20 has to be filtered, and cleaned. It is dirty.
21 There is, you know, it is wreaking havoc.

22 And, I think our scientists should look at
23 it carefully, more thoughtfully, and tread carefully
24 on this planet. It is not like we have another
25 planet to go to. This is one planet. This is one

1 region, and our populations are growing
2 exponentially. We have a responsibility as human
3 beings to take care of each other, and our precious
4 planet. There, there doesn't seem to be much social
5 justice for the environment. There is a very big
6 lack of it.

7 You know I really look to David Suzuki,
8 who, you know, in my youth, I read that we would look
9 at it as if there was an abundance of it, and we
10 would never see the end of resources. Well, here we
11 are. We know the science. We see Lake Winnipeg,
12 was put on the endangered list. And these Hydro
13 dams are going to create flooding, methane gas, and,
14 they have already annihilated sturgeon fish. The
15 sturgeon fish is a robust species that survived ice
16 age, it is robust at survival, and now there are no
17 sturgeon fish. That is something we ate, we enjoy,
18 and we don't have that anymore.

19 Not to mention, you know the shoreline
20 birds, migratory birds, and what these Hydro power
21 lines are going to, how they are going to change the
22 air waves, you know, you hear the hum in the air,
23 even, you sit out in the bush, you hear the hum
24 from, from the energy that is created out there.
25 And, you -- there is a change from natural flowing

1 water fall, to the Hydro dam.

2 You know, and those dams, they act as a
3 mulch. They, you know, mulch up a lot of fish.
4 And, I just think the technology could be more
5 thought out. You know, we are at an age where there
6 is so much information sharing across cultures, and,
7 you know science is really growing, in technologies.
8 And I think Manitobans should look at alternative
9 forms of energy, and what are they using the energy
10 for? To light up all of the casinos? Is that what
11 we want our society? Because, we are seeing a lot
12 more of that.

13 If it is not drugs, and alcohol, it is
14 gambling, it has got a negative economic spin to it.
15 And, I wish it were more positive.

16 And I am really grateful that I had a
17 chance to speak, I didn't expect to even have an
18 opportunity, but I thank you, those were just a few
19 of my comments, and that is all I have to say, thank
20 you.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you Ms Spence, thank
22 you for coming out and saying those words.

23 Anyone else? Yes, sir.

24 MR. CONWAY ARTHURSON: My name is Conway
25 Arthurson, and I am a band councillor for Fox Lake

1 Cree Nation. And I choose not to speak in my
2 community based on legal advice from my lawyer.

3 And, there was an incident at the end of
4 the CEC hearings in Bird, where I had lunch, or
5 supper with the CEC commissioners. And I was asked
6 to sit down with them. And during that time I
7 stated outright from the beginning, that I was warned
8 not to talk to them from my legal counsel.

9 The second thing I told them was that I
10 support this process. I was a band councillor in
11 2009 when we signed the JKDA down there. And I
12 still, by a thread support this process. And I felt
13 that I needed to speak, because what happened then
14 was something that I thought should never happen, and
15 I was being told not to speak. Because I am a
16 partner, I am a proponent of Manitoba Hydro.

17 And after that incident, I drove home from
18 Bird, to Gillam very angry, very upset. And hurt,
19 and disappointed that I could not speak from my
20 heart. And while I went to Gillam, I stopped on the
21 side of the road, Shamattawa winter road, and I drove
22 down the road. And I took tobacco, and I offered it
23 to the Creator, and to my ancestors asking why I felt
24 this way. Why am I angry? Why am I hurt? Why am
25 I disappointed? And I asked for advice from them.

1 And it came to me through my heart. And I asked for
2 advice from my mom, and my granny especially. Who
3 are both in the spirit world. And, I also asked
4 both my uncles that have passed. Two of them
5 happened to be from Split Lake. John Garson, and
6 Noah Garson. They were close to my heart because I
7 truly believe in what they thought, and how they
8 felt.

9 And, as a result of that, I decided to
10 speak here today, because, I wasn't given that
11 opportunity in my community. And, when I got home,
12 and I talked to my spiritual advisor, what happened,
13 and then I said, what do you think? And she said to
14 me, Conway, that is not a true partnership, if you
15 cannot speak from your mind, and especially from your
16 heart.

17 And, I took that advice. And, I went
18 around to my band members in Bird, and Gillam over
19 the last few weeks, and I told them my story, and I
20 asked for their blessing to speak here. And each
21 and every one of them, 100 percent of my band members
22 supported me. And, what I said to them, was that I
23 am accountable to them only. I am not accountable
24 to these people over here, Manitoba Hydro
25 representatives. I am not even accountable to the

1 Commissioners sitting behind me. I am not even
2 accountable to my lawyer.

3 And, it is for that reason, the simple fact
4 that I am accountable to my people. I am the one
5 that has to represent them at times like this. And,
6 as a result, I asked the Chief who is my cousin,
7 blessing to come, and speak to you guys today, and,
8 to get it recorded. Which is more important for me.
9 And again, like I said, I am going against my legal
10 advice from my lawyers by speaking here today. And,
11 however the chips fall after this, I will take my
12 chances with my people. Because those are the
13 people that I represent.

14 And again, like I said, I support the
15 project by a thread or two. It has come that far
16 for me. And I talked to one elder back home who was
17 part of your community many, years ago Zach Mayham
18 (ph). And my dad translated to him what do you
19 think about Keeyask, do you support it? And his
20 translation back to us, is Yes, I support the
21 project, for the simple fact that that side of the
22 river, a lot of the damage has already been done.
23 It is already ruined, it is not natural. Plus, it
24 gives our young people an opportunity to gain
25 employment, and training, and business opportunities,

1 and. Based on that one elder, I decided to put my
2 name on the JKDA.

3 And I want to talk briefly, about the
4 history of myself how I got involved with
5 negotiations. I started off in 1997, when I was 24
6 years old. Just coming to meetings. Listening,
7 offering my two cents. And come a long way since
8 then, we signed an agreement in 2004, signed JKDA in
9 2009. And, we are in the process of negotiating,
10 relating to Bipole III, Keewatinoow converter
11 station, and Conawapa. But I was a young man then.
12 I am going to be 41 next year. And, I seen a lot in
13 the years that I have been involved with my
14 community.

15 And, in settlement agreement negotiations
16 back in 2004, I was convinced to let go of some of
17 the things I wanted to speak of. And I regret that
18 decision today. I was convinced not to push those
19 same issues with JKDA. But I was told we will get
20 something else in return. I regret not speaking
21 then. And today, I speak because it is recorded.
22 I speak because that is what my heart tells me to do.
23 I have faith, and I have hope in this process. But,
24 there is a long way to go. There is still issues
25 that we all have to deal with.

1 The people that made presentations earlier
2 kind of hit a lot of things that I wanted to speak
3 of. But, I will stick to my story. You know some
4 of the things that are ongoing, regardless of whether
5 there is Keeyask, Conawapa or Bipole III. There are
6 things that need to be fixed. One of them is racism
7 in the workplace at Manitoba Hydro.

8 I lost three friends to suicide, in the
9 last five years, and they all worked for Manitoba
10 Hydro. And, it still bothers me today, I can still
11 hear them talking to me in the year about what they
12 wanted, and Hydro didn't listen. The young
13 gentleman that hung himself in Norway House, his last
14 post on Facebook was No more work for this Indian.

15 The last one that hung himself, Harold
16 Beardy who was on his way to being transferred to Fox
17 Lake hung himself in Gillam in a Hydro house. And,
18 I managed to spend the last week of his life, I
19 managed to talk to him. And his take on it, was,
20 well, no more job for this guy, I guess I have to go
21 back to fishing in Grand Rapids. Two of my friends
22 found him that weekend hanging.

23 I lost a dear friend of mine who shot
24 himself with a gun. And him too, had had issues and
25 troubles with Manitoba Hydro. And I don't see it

1 getting better for our people. And I need to talk
2 about those kind of things because it is tough to
3 talk about. A lot of these things that I am saying,
4 if Hydro had their way, they probably wouldn't allow
5 me to speak. But, I am here on my own behalf. And
6 on behalf of the people that I spoke to, that gave me
7 the blessing to speak here today from Fox Lake.
8 So I am not worried about what Hydro has to say or
9 the ramifications that will come after this.

10 I also want to speak about the
11 redevelopment of Gillam. They are redeveloping
12 Gillam right now to get ready for Keeyask, and
13 Conawapa. They are building houses, they are
14 building an apartment block that is three stories
15 high. There is not much land to be had in Gillam
16 anymore because everybody else is taking it up.
17 And, we are trying to get more reserve land in the
18 town of Gillam. And that is one of the
19 recommendations I want to make to this commission.
20 That Hydro does their best to accommodate other
21 reserves that are going to be created, and selected
22 in the town of Gillam. That has to go regardless of
23 whether Keeyask, and Conawapa, or anything else is
24 built. That is an ongoing issue outside and above
25 these negotiations right now.

1 And also because of the negotiations, we
2 have been negotiating hard, I have been involved
3 since 1997, and I had to take a break in 2010 to
4 clear my head, and to clear my heart. Knowing that
5 I would burn myself out. And I just got back in as
6 a councillor about a month ago. Not much has
7 changed in those three years.

8 I want to talk about some of the training
9 that is is going on. In Fox Lake we had various
10 amounts of training in the early 2000s. And, one of
11 your band councillors was our training person,
12 Nathan. And I talked to him outside, and I said
13 remember when we trained all of those people, how
14 long ago was that? He said about ten years ago. We
15 talked again, and I said, what about all of those
16 kids that were minors then that are adults now. An
17 example of that is my daughter, who is 19. Where is
18 her training and employment opportunities? There is
19 a whole generation here that is not getting any
20 training.

21 And, I think that has to be something that
22 Hydro really has to consider. And, you guys have to
23 consider as part of the panel. That, we have a
24 whole generation, most of the kids that came in here
25 today, I can bet you a dollar that not one of them

1 took training, because they were too young. And all
2 of that training money is gone. That is an
3 important thing that we need to look at. And you
4 guys need to consider. We need more dollars for
5 training because we are missing a whole generation of
6 young untrained young people under the age of 22, 23.
7 And there is more coming.

8 We talked about, or we heard today, about
9 being rushed, being rushed, and I look at it as being
10 force fed negotiations. As I stated earlier, I
11 signed on the line for JKDA in 2009. And then this
12 KIP came up where they wanted to fast track the camp,
13 and the road. We as Cree nations allowed that to
14 happen.

15 I was at a meeting on Friday in Gillam.
16 And the people that were there on our behalf, it was
17 their first time there, lot of us didn't know what it
18 was about. Apparently Hydro changed their mind
19 again. Wants to start the south access road right
20 away next year. Coming from Gillam, coming this
21 way. That is not my understanding of JKDA. My
22 understanding it is supposed to come from Keeyask
23 make its way to Gillam. All of a sudden they want
24 to do this. They even have plans of having camps.

25 I said I can't support that right now,

1 because that is not what we agreed to. We signed a
2 JKDA. And you changed it, you got KIP. Now you
3 are talking about south access road. So, there are
4 things that need to be done, slow down, for our
5 benefit. And Hydro has timelines and schedules.
6 Another community meeting I went to last week, they
7 were already talking about getting gravel rock to
8 prepare for Conawapa, they want to start doing that
9 in the next couple of years. And they want to take
10 that from the limestone quarry. We don't even have
11 a deal on Conawapa, and they want to prepare for it
12 already.

13 And, again, they were expecting an answer
14 from us within two weeks. And that two-week meeting
15 happened this morning, but I thought it was more
16 important to come to this meeting so I have a chance
17 to speak to you guys.

18 And I want to talk a little bit about the
19 past. What happened to us in Fox Lake. Some of
20 the things that I heard, some of the things that my
21 dad has told me. And, I know we signed a settlement
22 agreement in 2004, forgiving Hydro for the past, but
23 I need to let you guys know some of the things that
24 have happened to our people.

25 My dad came from Norway House, which is

1 where I grew up until I was 9 years old. And he
2 worked with surveyors in the town of Gillam. And
3 there are stories out there and I heard them, and my
4 dad was there one time when there is a woman, a
5 Kitchেকেসিক woman up on the hill at Mitchener (ph),
6 I don't know if you know that is the trailer court in
7 Kettle, northern drive going up the hill.

8 There was a cabin that was in the way of
9 that surveyor's line, by about three feet. And, my
10 dad went to his boss, and said we have to move that
11 line a little bit over because the house is in the
12 way. His boss said no, give that lady five minutes
13 to get her stuff out of there. And my dad went in
14 to protect her. And, that lady, and my dad, was
15 very emotional when he was telling me this. And I
16 am very emotional now, because, I sensed and I felt
17 what he felt.

18 He told that lady, you have five minutes to
19 get your stuff together, because we are going to move
20 your house. And she put her stuff in the blanket,
21 put it over her shoulder, and walked a few feet, and
22 dropped it and started crying and the bulldozer came,
23 and moved it out of the way.

24 Another story I heard, was a trapper, he
25 went out to check his traps in the morning. He came

1 back, all he found were cat tracks, up to the bush,
2 and a pile of wood which used to be his house.
3 Never been compensated for things like that.
4 Although, as I said, we forgive Hydro for that past.
5 We will never forget.

6 Another story my dad told me, when he was
7 surveying the hospital, a hospital, the corner of the
8 hospital there was a grave right in the corner of it,
9 and again my dad went to his boss, and said, we have
10 to move that hospital about two feet over, because
11 there is a grave there. His boss says, dig up that
12 grave, and move that grave, my dad did that by
13 himself. And it was, that casket, he said, wasn't
14 even bigger than this table. It was a little baby,
15 or child.

16 And those are the kind of things that I
17 think about, when we talk about hope. Another
18 thing, what our people went through growing up in
19 Gillam, were beatings, rapes, sometimes murders that
20 weren't even investigated. We have a family still
21 mourning for their lost one, he was driven over by a
22 Hydro truck. There is no investigation done. Our
23 understanding is the person who drove over him is the
24 son of a big shot at Hydro. Hydro got a helicopter
25 to come come in and pick him up and get him out of

1 town. No investigation was done on that.

2 In 1999 my dad, myself and the former
3 chief, Tom Nepitabo, spoke at Interchurch Inquiry.
4 And my dad talked about that, he talked about how the
5 RCMP would throw them in jail, and then they would
6 call the iron workers, from camp to come in and beat
7 them up. There were times when there were women in
8 there that got raped. There is another woman who
9 was 13, got taken by a group of, men, and driven out
10 of town, and raped and beat. And, it took her many
11 years for her to tell her story.

12 But those are the kind of things we have to
13 live with in the past, and, it is hard for me to move
14 forward in a good way when I see a lot of these
15 things happening right now. Like the racism, what
16 Norman talked about, at the workplace.

17 There is a lot of things that need to be
18 done still, with Manitoba Hydro, regardless of
19 Keeyask, notwithstanding Keeyask proceeding. There
20 is still a lot of work to be done, and the thing that
21 upset me the most about this, these hearings, when
22 they came to my community is our chiefs opening
23 statements are scripted and they are read by our
24 chief. Written by a lawyer. The other band
25 councillor, there is only two of us, the other band

1 councillor needed to get his speech approved by Hydro
2 as well.

3 And that is why I feel that I need to talk
4 right now, because my speech is not scripted. I am
5 not accountable to Manitoba Hydro. I am not even
6 accountable to my lawyer, who advised me not to
7 speak. And there are things that still need to be
8 done with this Commission, there is still work that
9 Hydro needs to prove to us, such as dealing with the
10 racism in the workplace. They have, I might get in
11 trouble for this, but I am going to say it any way.
12 They hired a group, a company to come and look at
13 this racism stuff. And they have been at it for
14 about a year now. And Hydro basically, in a
15 nutshell said to the boss this program is almost
16 finished we need to do something.

17 And it comes to trust, our band members
18 cannot trust management in Gillam. We get phone
19 calls on a daily basis about some of the things our
20 people have to go through over there. And, I don't
21 know how to fix that. Other than go with the
22 motions, go with the flow to try and look on the
23 bright side of things. But it is hard for me to do
24 this knowing how we were treated in the past. How
25 we are being treated now. And how we are being

1 treated in these hearings, but having to be scripted.

2 And I don't care what Hydro feels, or
3 thinks about me now. I came here today, and I
4 thought to myself, I wonder how long it will take
5 before somebody at Hydro says hello to me. Most of
6 them walked by me. They walked by me a couple of
7 times. And it was only one that I knew from
8 previous dealings that finally said hello to me. I
9 said finally, you are the first person from Hydro
10 that has said hello to me. And it is 20 minutes
11 since you guys got here.

12 And I ran into a lady downstairs in the
13 doorway, I thought I was going to get a hello, or Hey
14 Conway, can I talk to you about what happened in
15 Bird? She couldn't even look me in the eye. Now
16 what does that tell us. What does that tell me?
17 When my lawyer came tapped me on the shoulder when I
18 was having supper with the Commission in Bird. I
19 said to them, here we go again, legal advice telling
20 me I shouldn't be talking to you. He says Conway
21 you shouldn't be talking to them. They saw you
22 sitting there and come and whispered in my ear. And
23 I asked him who is they? He told me who she was.
24 And I confronted her about that. And I said you are
25 not going to keep me quiet.

1 No longer will I remain quiet. No longer
2 will I regret being silent. No longer will I allow
3 Hydro's timeline to go ahead without us being ready.
4 Starting today. Manitoba Hydro you need to consider
5 our timeline. Which means slow down. We are
6 talking about Keeyask. We signed the deal. It is
7 is being, it is being built. All of a sudden we are
8 talking about Conawapa too? And what I said to the
9 Commission last week, and I will say it here today,
10 loud and clear for Manitoba Hydro to hear. I cannot
11 if good conscience allow Conawapa to be built at this
12 time. There is a lot of things that need to be
13 fixed. There is a lot of things that need to be
14 learned on both ends, both sides. And one of them
15 is trust. We don't trust you. It is as simple as
16 that.

17 And you need to gain that trust by
18 acknowledging our timeline. By acknowledging our
19 interests, and our rights. I hope this Commission
20 takes note of that. We were dealing and negotiating
21 in the past in 2001, when we were approached by
22 Keeyask, and we are dealing in millions of dollars
23 here, and they keep shoving everything down our
24 throat and we are choking on them. Our communities
25 are being separated. And it is not right. And, I

1 know the people in the spirit world are here to
2 support me. I can feel them in here. I can feel
3 them. And I am not scared. I will no longer be
4 scared of Manitoba Hydro. Because I know I am
5 right. My heart tells me that.

6 For the Commissioners, I think it is
7 important that you guys put provisions in your
8 report, and your recommendations to slow this process
9 down. Because, I started this off when I was 24
10 years old. I am going to be 41 next week. Do the
11 math, 17, I think. And, all we have been doing is
12 rushing because of Hydro's timeline. We need to put
13 a stop to that. As Cree Nation brothers, members, a
14 brothers, and sisters, and cousins and aunts and
15 uncles and friends.

16 I wanted to close off by thanking the
17 community of Split Lake, Chief and council for
18 allowing me time to speak, and to be recorded. And,
19 whatever happens after today, I will take my chances
20 with Manitoba Hydro, because I am only accountable to
21 the people of Fox Lake Cree Nation, and I will remain
22 accountable to Fox Lake. (In Cree).

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Arthurson.
24 Before you run away, I have one quick question, you
25 want us to slow down, recommend slowing down the

1 Keeyask process, or the Keeyask Conawapa process?

2 MR. CONWAY ARTHURSON: Both of them.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: He responded both of them,
4 for the record. Thank you very much.

5 Now, we are just about to the end of our
6 time, if there is anyone who feels compelled to say
7 some more words, I will entertain one more speaker.
8 Sir?

9 MR. ALAN KEEPER: Hello my name is Alan
10 Keeper, TCN. I just wanted to say a few words. I
11 was the pipe carrier for the Cree gathering last
12 year. And, and I, the elders that encouraged me
13 were spiritual elders. They were traditional.
14 They believed that there is a spirit.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Could you, over in the corner
16 let Mr. Keeper speak, and pay attention to him. Go
17 ahead.

18 MR. ALAN KEEPER: They believe that the
19 land is alive. It has a spirit. The trees, the
20 rock, water, everything and they said our job is to
21 protect the land. That is our gift. As the red
22 nation. That is our job as First Nations people.
23 And that is what they believe in.

24 The white man has, his job is to, to
25 travel. They have different, every nation, black

1 person is a negotiator, politician, the yellow
2 people, they are they are technology, and we see that
3 today. And, they believe that I should carry that
4 pipe for all Cree people across Canada. They
5 believe in me, because I Sundance, I sweat, I
6 practice that way. Because of their teachings.
7 Because I live a sober life. I don't do drugs, I am
8 not perfect. But, nobody is perfect.

9 Any way I spoke to some of these elders,
10 the leaders, our First Nation leaders, Chiefs,
11 Council, and that is what we were told. They said
12 they were told Creator put us here and to -- when
13 you, when you die, when you wear that headdress you
14 are going to meet your maker, and he is going to tell
15 you, your job is to protect the land, he is going to
16 ask you, did you do that? What are you going to
17 say?

18 There is no negotiations over there.
19 Can't negotiate. And same with the other nations.
20 So I just wanted to say that because, because I don't
21 hear that here. And I took courses, university,
22 college, business I am a Grade 7 teacher right now.
23 And we look at a plant, we look at a plant, and that
24 plant we call this word "producers". They are the
25 producers, these plants, the leaves, they produce

1 sugar, but also they have gas, odorless, colorless it
2 has that in there, these kids don't know that. We
3 have to teach them that.

4 I can't even say that word, photosynthesis.
5 I told them I speak Cree, I am a heavy Cree speaker,
6 my tongue doesn't pick that up. So we have to
7 pronounce that, that is what it means, producers, and
8 it is green. And the white man world, capitalism,
9 eh, that is all it is, is to make money, up in the
10 north, don't care about the water, plants, trees,
11 Creator. You are not taught that in school. By the
12 elders, by everybody, just a professor sitting there.
13 And that is what business is all about making money.

14 And, our people are here. We live here.
15 We live, actually go hunting, fishing, trapping,
16 whatever, eh, that is what we do. Any way, my -- I
17 was, I was down in Grass River canoeing, the water is
18 clear over there. It is protected. Over here I
19 took my son hunting down the river, the water is
20 dirty over there. There is no dam there. Why is
21 that? Is there study done on that? The the guy
22 said slow it down. That is why you have to slow
23 down.

24 Up to the next river, you notice, you know
25 what, that river is clear, as we go further, you go

1 further, to the destination, it is clear over there.
2 That is how they look here. You know, that is why
3 slow it down. Study it. That is all I wanted to
4 say.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Keeper. I
6 will take one more short presentation. If there is
7 anybody else who wishes to speak, but, it can't be
8 for very long sir.

9 MR. MELVIN COOK: My name is Melvin Cook, I
10 am from Split Lake.

11 (In Cree).

12 So, now, what do we do?

13 THE CHAIRMAN: That was very short indeed,
14 and it is a very profound question that we could
15 spend days, weeks, months, even years trying to find
16 an answer to.

17 What we in the Commission will do, is that
18 we will continue to conduct our hearings, as I noted
19 earlier we go to Cross Lake tomorrow, and then
20 starting in two weeks, we have a number of weeks of
21 hearings in the city of Winnipeg.

22 When we will hear from the partnership,
23 members OF the partnership, we will hear from a
24 number of participant groups. Some of which are
25 based in communities, First Nations communities in

1 the north. They will be coming into Winnipeg, and
2 speaking more about their views on this project. At
3 the end of that, we think that those hearings will
4 end in early December, then the Commissioners will
5 spend a number of days, and weeks, coming to some
6 decisions, and recommendations that we will send to
7 the minister.

8 We heard a lot of very interesting, and
9 very well thought out presentations today. Covered
10 a lot of very important topics. I suppose the top
11 of the list, is just the water. And the state of
12 the water. And we heard from at least one, if not
13 more, that water, is really the daily source of life,
14 and we all know that.

15 MR. MELVIN COOK: I have a question, for
16 you, sir. Do we as First Nation people have water
17 rights?

18 THE CHAIRMAN: You know, I couldn't answer
19 that.

20 MR. MELVIN COOK: I know you can't.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: I honestly don't know.
22 But, the issue of Aboriginal rights, and First Nation
23 people certainly have Aboriginal and Treaty Rights.
24 And, considerations, on how this project, or any
25 other project that needs licencing, but we are

1 talking about Keeyask now, considerations on how the
2 Keeyask project might affect those Aboriginal and
3 Treaty Rights, must be canvassed, and dealt with, by
4 the government before a licence is issued.
5 But that job has not been given to this Commission,
6 that job is handled by another branch of government.
7 And that is actually a constitutional requirement
8 under section 35 of the Constitution, that those
9 issues must be at least canvassed, and addressed to
10 some extent.

11 MR. MELVIN COOK: I have learned that
12 people can be deaf in one ear, and blind in the
13 other.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: You may well be right.
15 Other issues, that we have heard today, that will
16 form part of our consideration over the next few
17 months, are jobs, access to jobs, training, racism,
18 heritage resources, these all come in to the
19 environmental impact statement that has been prepared
20 by the partnership, and we will review them.

21 I will not pretend to say that we will find
22 solutions to any of these, I only hope that we can
23 make small recommendations, that will make small
24 positive steps to improve some of these.

25 Having said that, I would again like to

1 thank all of you for coming out today, I would like
2 to thank all of you who made presentations, I would
3 like to thank the community for welcoming us, and
4 again thank them for that fabulous lunch that we had
5 today.

6 I would now turn the mic back to your
7 chief, and I imagine he may ask for a prayer to close
8 our --

9 MS ILLA DISBROWE: You know that first
10 presentation, Our Story? It said that the people
11 were told that they were supposed to vote on two
12 things, that is wrong. Just wanted to clarify that.
13 Because at the time of the voting we were given three
14 months to vote yes or no, to think about it.
15 Whereas they took eight years to compile this big
16 document. And, you can tell most of people are not
17 that it was written by lawyers, and stuff, and, they
18 want, expected us to make that decision within three
19 months. And, plus, when most of the people that went
20 to go vote, they expected to vote for one thing, and
21 ended up to two things. And, it wasn't right for
22 these two things, when they wanted the people to vote
23 for JKDA. Then they through in that adverse
24 effects, wasn't right. Because adverse effects has
25 lot of holes that need to be fixed. People need to

1 go through those things before it was voted. That

2 is what I wanted to clarify.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

4 (Closing Prayer).

5 (Concluded at 5:18 p.m.)

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I, Jill Proctor, Official Court Reporter, hereby
certify that the foregoing pages are a true and
accurate transcript of the proceedings taken
down by me in shorthand and transcribed to the
best of my skill and ability.

JILL PROCTOR
Official Examiner Q.B.

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