

MANITOBA CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

KEEYASK GENERATION PROJECT

PUBLIC HEARING

Bird Reserve

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Transcript of Proceedings

Held at Bird Reserve school

Bird Reserve, Manitoba

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 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

Chief Walter Spence  
George Neepin  
Halina Zbigniewicz  
Janet Mayor - Manitoba Hydro Counsel  
Vicky Cole  
Shawna Pachal

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1 Wednesday, September 25, 2013

2 Upon commencing at 3:10 p.m.

3 CHIEF SPENCE: Good afternoon, my name  
4 is Walter Spence, I'm the chief of Fox Lake. By  
5 tradition we would open the meeting with an  
6 opening prayer, and I have asked Elder Fanny  
7 Beardy from TCN to do the honour.

8 (Opening prayer)

9 CHIEF SPENCE: Thank you, Elder Fanny  
10 Beardy for the opening prayer. I want to welcome  
11 the chiefs, elders, councillors, commissioners,  
12 members and visitors to Bird Reserve, one of our  
13 reserves of Fox Lake. It is a pleasure to welcome  
14 the members of the Clean Environment Commission to  
15 our home and traditional territory. The presence  
16 of the Commission members here is important  
17 because it marks the first time in history that  
18 Fox Lake has been a partner with Manitoba Hydro in  
19 the planning for and development of a  
20 hydroelectric dam in which we will participate as  
21 a member for the life of the project.

22 The Commission is here to hear from  
23 our membership about their feelings, questions,  
24 concerns, and approval of the details of the  
25 project. The Commission wants to hear your

1 feelings about the Joint Keeyask Development  
2 Agreement and the Adverse Effects Agreement  
3 intended to avoid, mitigate and compensate for the  
4 horrendous impacts which our people of Fox Lake  
5 know only too well from prior hydroelectric  
6 projects in which we were not only decimated, but  
7 disempowered, because we were not taken into  
8 account in determining the process of development  
9 or in the operation and maintenance of the dams.  
10 That is a history which cannot be allowed to  
11 repeat itself. And through the negotiations of  
12 Joint Keeyask Development Agreement and our  
13 partnership with Manitoba Hydro, and the other  
14 three Cree Nations, we hope we will have  
15 substantially reduced, if not entirely eliminated,  
16 the tragedies of the past.

17           There were extensive consultations  
18 with the community over the years in which the  
19 agreements were being negotiated. There were  
20 detailed and excellent explanations of the  
21 agreement provided to the members of Fox Lake,  
22 wherever they lived, prior to the referenda. And  
23 Fox Lake members here at Fox Lake and Gillam, and  
24 throughout the other communities in Thompson,  
25 Churchill and Winnipeg, overwhelmingly accepted

1 and ratified the two agreements, the JKDA and the  
2 Adverse Effects Agreement.

3           Through these agreements we have  
4 inserted our Cree Worldview into the environmental  
5 evaluation report. We have provided for  
6 protections against current problems of the past,  
7 and we have negotiated benefits for our community  
8 in terms of training and employment and business  
9 opportunities, which have been and will be of much  
10 assistance to our people, our youth, and  
11 generations to come. Those generations to come  
12 also will be benefited by flow of income coming to  
13 us as partners in the project, which not only will  
14 produce significant income for our people and our  
15 programs, but will be producing a stream of income  
16 which is ours to deal with as we see fit, not  
17 subject to overriding rules and regulations of  
18 governments other than our own. It is a form of  
19 independence which we value and which subsequent  
20 generations will be proud to say resulted from the  
21 efforts of our community today and the foresight  
22 it has shown in the way in which it has conducted  
23 itself in these negotiations and the ratification  
24 of our partnership agreement with Manitoba Hydro.  
25 I know that not everyone agrees with what has been

1 done, the way in which it has been done, or the  
2 results of what has been done.

3           Of course, even though Fox Lake  
4 members have overwhelmingly affirmed the project  
5 in the democratic process, we value and support  
6 those who have questions, comments, challenges or  
7 criticisms of what has been done and the nature of  
8 the arrangements that have been made. We also  
9 look forward to hearing from those who have  
10 suggestions as to what can be done in the future  
11 to improve the protection of our Aski, in all of  
12 its facets. We welcome those who have opposing  
13 views. In fact, the purpose of the Commission's  
14 hearing today in our home and traditional  
15 territory is to allow our members to express  
16 themselves freely and fully on such matters.

17           Please do not hesitate to engage the  
18 Commissioners from your hearts and your minds with  
19 integrity and concern for the future. We must all  
20 remember that we are stewards of this land and  
21 this environment, and nothing is more important to  
22 us than its preservation and the continuance of  
23 its ability to support and maintain our people.

24           Thank you all for being here today. I  
25 look forward to hearing from you, as do the

1 Commissioners, this time for the first time in  
2 history as partners in a hydro dam. The next part  
3 of the hearing we are going to show a video.

4 Halina?

5 (Video playing)

6 CHIEF SPENCE: Thank you, Halina, for  
7 showing the video. Now I will turn it over to the  
8 Chair of the Commission for his opening comments,  
9 introductions.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chief  
11 Spence, and thank you to Elder Beardy.

12 Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.  
13 My name is Terry Sergeant. I am chair of the  
14 Manitoba Clean Environment Commission. I'm also  
15 chair of the panel that will be conducting the  
16 review for the Keeyask Generation Project.

17 At the outset I would like to  
18 acknowledge that we are meeting today in the home  
19 and traditional territory of the Fox Lake Cree  
20 Nation, and I thank the elders and the leadership  
21 of Fox Lake Cree Nation for the privilege of  
22 allowing us to be here.

23 I would like to introduce the other  
24 members of the panel who are with us today. The  
25 far left, Edwin Yee, Judy Bradley; to my right,

1 Jim Shaw, and Reg Nepinak.

2 In addition to the panel we have some  
3 staff with us, our Commission secretary, Cathy  
4 Johnson, our administrative assistant, Joyce  
5 Mueller, our legal counsel, Mike Green, and our  
6 report writer, Barb -- Bob Armstrong, I have done  
7 that two days in a row now, I'm not sure why.

8 It is a privilege to be here today in  
9 Bird. I've spent a number of years up in this  
10 part of the world, but this is the first time I  
11 have ever been into the Bird community, which is  
12 relatively new and I think in fact has come into  
13 existence completely since I lived in Gillam a  
14 number of years ago.

15 We are here today because last fall  
16 the Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship  
17 asked us to hold public hearings to conduct a  
18 review in regard to the Keeyask Generation  
19 Project. In particular he asked us to review and  
20 evaluate the Environmental Impact Statement  
21 prepared by the partnership, and to look at the  
22 partnership's public consultation process.

23 Second he asked us to recommend  
24 whether or not an environmental licence should be  
25 issued to the partnership for this project.

1                   And third, if a licence is to be  
2    issued, he asked us to recommend any measures to  
3    mitigate any negative impacts that might arise  
4    from the construction of this project.

5                   He also asked us to hold hearings in  
6    communities in the area nearest to the project.  
7    And that's why we are here today. Yesterday we  
8    held hearings in Gillam, that was the first day of  
9    our hearings. Tomorrow we will be in York  
10   Landing. Next week we are in Thompson and Split  
11   Lake, the Tataskweyak Cree Nation. And then the  
12   following week, at the request of the Pimicikamak  
13   Okimawin, we will be in Cross Lake for one day.

14                  As the Chief has pointed out, it is a  
15   unique project in that it is a partnership between  
16   Manitoba Hydro and the four First Nations, the  
17   four that are most closely situated to the  
18   project. And because of that we felt it was  
19   important to hear the views of people in these  
20   communities.

21                  I would like to note that we will try  
22   to make these hearings as informal as possible in  
23   order to encourage as much participation from you  
24   folks as we can get.

25                  I would note that the hearings will be

1 recorded, it is required by the Environment Act  
2 that we record all of our public meetings and  
3 hearings. And these recordings will be available  
4 within a few days in a verbatim transcript. It is  
5 available on our website.

6                   What we are looking for today and what  
7 we would like to hear from some of you today is  
8 who you are and how this project might impact or  
9 benefit you. We would like to know your views on  
10 whether or not the project is good for the whole  
11 province, and more specifically whether or not it  
12 is good for your community and for you and your  
13 neighbours. We would like to know of any thoughts  
14 you might have as to how the project might be made  
15 better, if there are any potential problems. And  
16 really any other information that you might think  
17 is important. Typically we limit the oral  
18 presentations to about 15 minutes. I would note  
19 that if you would feel more comfortable, you are  
20 welcome to speak in Cree, although we would hope  
21 that somebody would be able to translate for you,  
22 otherwise the panel would not be able to  
23 understand it. We have done this in the past last  
24 fall when we held hearings in Gillam, we had a  
25 number of people from Fox Lake who spoke in their

1 own language, and some of the other people with  
2 them translated for us.

3           Also if anybody wishes to give us  
4 their opinion, but doesn't feel comfortable  
5 speaking in public or who cannot attend here  
6 today, you are more than welcome to send in a  
7 written submission. This can be by way of a  
8 letter or an email, or you can go to our website  
9 and provide your comments directly on the website.  
10 And that's really all I have to say by way of  
11 opening business.

12           I would hope that a number of you  
13 would have something to say to us today. As you  
14 know from the opening, we do have a cordless  
15 microphone that we will pass around. You can just  
16 stay in your seats and speak from there.

17           So I would now invite anyone who  
18 wishes to say anything just to indicate, put up  
19 your hand or wave, and Ms. Johnson will take the  
20 mic over to you.

21           Nobody has anything to say? Yes,  
22 Cathy, just to your right.

23           CHIEF SPENCE: Just some housekeeping.  
24 Our school is now closed so the front doors are  
25 locked, so we want you to use this door if you

1 need to go out. And as well, we have washrooms to  
2 my left. All right, thank you.

3 MS. WASTESICOOT: My name is Charlotte  
4 Wastesicoot from Tataskweyak Cree Nation. I just  
5 want to give some words of encouragement. I know  
6 there is a lot of people who want to say  
7 something, who have a lot to say, or have a lot in  
8 their hearts that they wish they could express.  
9 But at times, I know from people talking to me  
10 after the fact, whenever these kind of things  
11 happen at hearings, or people that want to know  
12 what the thoughts are from the First Nations who  
13 are affected by these kind of developments, I just  
14 want to -- that's what I want to encourage the  
15 people here. You have every right to speak, this  
16 is your community which is being affected. Our  
17 environment is being affected by these dams and  
18 these developments. We all know that. And we all  
19 know that we have this, it is very strong in our  
20 hearts, our feelings about our land, as we are  
21 supposed to be the keepers of Mother Earth, and to  
22 keep it clean.

23 I support any kind of -- anything that  
24 will help, that would benefit our people. But I  
25 also, my heart is heavy because of what these



1 were saying in that video we just saw. And I know  
2 that's what a lot of them feel, because that's  
3 what they share with me at home. A lot of older  
4 people are, a lot of even the young ones, say I  
5 wish we had that today, go swimming wherever on  
6 the beach where it is clean, I wish we had that  
7 they said. Now they have to travel far to be able  
8 to swim, and it is not always, it is not every day  
9 that they can do that. For us, back in the old  
10 days when I was a child, I was able to do that,  
11 just run down to the beach and swim, enjoy, have  
12 fun.

13                   We had all of these recreation. Even  
14 in the winter time when ice was starting to  
15 freeze, there was no fluctuation of water at that  
16 time before the hydro dam. Ice was always smooth.  
17 And there would be, around the peninsula where  
18 Split Lake is, there would be young people,  
19 children, youth, even the teenagers would be on  
20 the ice. You know, if there was snow they would  
21 clear the ice. We were able to skate or just  
22 slide all around and it was always fun. And I  
23 remember skating and all kinds of activities.  
24 They always had ideas on how to provide their own  
25 recreation.

1                   I just wanted to share that even  
2    though people don't speak up and say what is in  
3    their hearts, I know that they feel that grievance  
4    for their land and water. They have a lot of  
5    grief in their heart. And I know and I feel that  
6    it has affected -- it has been devastated. They  
7    have been sick from the water and the environment  
8    being polluted. It is not just Manitoba Hydro,  
9    but it is Inco too. That was the whole purpose of  
10   that Kelsey dam in the first place, to provide  
11   electricity for Thompson and that Inco mine. Inco  
12   mine is another story, another big environmental  
13   polluter. We know that.

14                  And people have shared, the trappers,  
15    even from the people that moved from Pikwitonie to  
16    Split Lake, they have shared that, that there was  
17    a big difference in their environment. They  
18    noticed right away when that smoke started coming  
19    from that Inco stack, they noticed the snow would  
20    be yellow. And they said they weren't able to  
21    trap anymore because there were -- the dam  
22    affected the environment, the water and the snow,  
23    and anything that's alive is affected by anything,  
24    by pollution like that.

25                  And I think -- again, I will say that

1 I think that's all I'm going to say for now. I  
2 have more to say but I will share it in Split Lake  
3 where I am from. But I would also like to say  
4 that all of us came from, most of us came from  
5 York Factory and we just -- in the old days  
6 wherever it was, we started drifting apart because  
7 we used to travel on the Nelson River freely, and  
8 we settled, us, we settled in Split Lake, and then  
9 there is York Landing now, and there is Gillam.

10 As a young child I remember my parents  
11 used to visit, especially my mom would visit. We  
12 have relatives all the way from -- we have  
13 relatives here, and I see some here. But we  
14 have -- we are all related, no matter who we are,  
15 what colour we are, where we are. Wherever we are  
16 in the world, we are all related. And we feel, we  
17 feel for each other, whatever affects us, we all  
18 feel it.

19 I think I will stop here, and I want  
20 to encourage people who want to speak not to be  
21 afraid to speak from your heart. (speaking Cree)

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,  
23 Ms. Wastesicoot. Anybody else wish to say  
24 anything? Does anyone else wish to share their  
25 feelings as we have just heard? In the back?

1 MS. NABISS: Hi, my name is Sandra  
2 Nabiss, I'm a Fox Lake member. My maiden name is  
3 Mayham.

4 I feel so on the spot. You say that  
5 it is not -- you are trying to be informal as  
6 possible, but it is very intimidating, I'm very  
7 intimidated right now to speak, and I'm very  
8 nervous.

9 I was listening to Charlotte and I --  
10 my grandfather is Zack Mayham, and I grew up  
11 hearing stories from him about how our lands used  
12 to be, and just from our elders in our community.  
13 I could never understand them, I get translated  
14 just like you all get translated too. But it is  
15 like a fairytale, you know. Nowadays I always  
16 think when I go out on a boat ride, I'm all  
17 excited to go out on the boat and see the lands,  
18 and I want to hear about how everything used to be  
19 and how it used to be so much better.

20 And I was just talking before this,  
21 this meeting with our councillor, and he was  
22 telling me a story about my grandfather and how he  
23 had previously went out on the river with him and  
24 he saw an island, and how he didn't -- he had went  
25 awhile, a couple of years back and had seen it.

1 He hadn't seen that spot in 20 years and it was  
2 just a totally different place for him and he  
3 didn't recognize it at all. And it makes me sad,  
4 because I think of the hurt that our people went  
5 through -- sorry, I'm nervous -- it makes me sad.

6 I have recently started getting  
7 involved with just the different groups within our  
8 band and I'm -- I do that because I have sat in a  
9 few meetings and I have seen, I have heard  
10 devastation, not just to our lands but culturally,  
11 and just the people, just the people like  
12 physically, mentally, everything. And there is  
13 just so much hurt around everything. I just can't  
14 imagine another project coming forward and people  
15 coming in. And I see already the people who are  
16 here. I was fishing out at Wilson Creek, I was  
17 with my family, we were fishing there, and there  
18 were these workers that come from the camp at  
19 Keeyask, this is when the fires are going on. And  
20 they had come, they had come fishing, I guess, and  
21 this is when everybody was evacuated to Gillam  
22 from the camp, from Keeyask there. And we were  
23 fishing, me and my children and my husband and my  
24 uncle. And there were these workers and they were  
25 fishing, and then they pull out alcohol and they

1 are drinking, and then they throw beer bottles  
2 into the water. And I was just so -- I couldn't  
3 say anything, well, I was scared to say anything.  
4 But my uncle had a few words to say with them.  
5 But my children were there, so I didn't go any  
6 further. But just stuff like that, don't you see  
7 us fishing here, and you are coming along throwing  
8 alcohol into our water, beer into our water? That  
9 just shows right there these people not respecting  
10 our land.

11                   And you know, they say with these  
12 projects how there is going to be these workshops,  
13 cultural awareness workshops. That's just another  
14 session for people to sit in and listen. Okay,  
15 I'm at work, I have to sit in this session. No  
16 one is to say that they are actually going to put  
17 themselves in that spot and they are going to,  
18 okay, we are going to respect these people's  
19 lives.

20                   There is just so much, and even  
21 with -- like I was going back to before about it  
22 being a fairy tale. I remember a few years  
23 back -- I am 25, so seven years back -- no, sorry,  
24 ten, ten years back -- okay, maybe 13, 14 -- I  
25 would go like berry picking. And I don't even

1 know where we went berry picking, I don't even  
2 know my way around, but we can't go to those spots  
3 anymore just because of all of the development.  
4           And I could see what she is talking  
5 about, even just for like ten, 15 years ago, and  
6 for it to have changed already that dramatically.  
7 You don't see anything today, like you don't  
8 see -- it is like, it is hard to explain. If I  
9 were to go out and I were to go fish, I would have  
10 to learn these things. And I'm saddened because I  
11 can't go out, like I can't learn these things  
12 unless I find an elder who probably can already --  
13 who is already kind of, you know, old, to  
14 physically take me out there and show me. Like I  
15 don't know. I don't know this. And I can't pass  
16 these on to my children. This is -- we talk about  
17 these programs that we are going to have for our  
18 young people, I would not be able to show my  
19 children anything out on the land. I don't even  
20 like touching fish, you know, it is so -- it is  
21 really overwhelming. And I come here and I'm not  
22 sure what to say, but I don't hear people speaking  
23 up and I feel that I have to say something,  
24 because I just have so much passion for my people,  
25 for the land that we are not going to have

1 anymore. And it is hard, like it is hard seeing  
2 people come in, you people, and telling -- like  
3 even our sister nations here, like you are coming  
4 in again and this is what is going to happen to  
5 your land. We will try and work, we will try and  
6 save as much as we can, but it is still going to  
7 happen.

8                   And this is -- it is hard to keep up  
9 with today's world and how everything you know,  
10 everything, technology and -- it is like we have  
11 to move with the times, but we were talking before  
12 about stepping back and, you know, getting back to  
13 our roots. Because it is only if you let us, if  
14 you let us go back to our roots, because there is  
15 such, you know, demand for things to move forward,  
16 and we forget about just everything, everything  
17 that means everything to our people. Like I would  
18 think -- like everything comes from our land,  
19 right, everything. We used to feed from our land  
20 and -- I just -- I just don't know what to say  
21 anymore. Probably later I will think more and  
22 then I will send you an email, but right now I'm  
23 just kind of -- I just wanted to speak and say  
24 what I said, I guess.

25                   THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,

1 Sandra. You needn't have felt nervous, you spoke  
2 very well, so thank you very much. And it is nice  
3 to hear a young person's point of view on it, on  
4 all of these issues.

5 Next? There must be more than just  
6 Charlotte and Sandra. None of the men have  
7 anything to say?

8 There must be other people that have  
9 feelings, beliefs, points of view? We have heard  
10 two very good expressions of feelings. We would  
11 really like to hear some more. We have come to  
12 your community to hear what you think of this  
13 project. Whether you are for it or against it, if  
14 you think it is a good idea, then we would like to  
15 hear that as well.

16 Well, maybe we will just take a short  
17 time out, and you can chat among yourselves and  
18 perhaps that might stimulate some of you to come  
19 forward and let us know what your thoughts are on  
20 this. We will take a short break and we will see  
21 if anybody wants to speak in another ten minutes  
22 or so.

23 (RECESS TAKEN)

24 THE CHAIRMAN: I would like to  
25 reconvene. I've heard rumours that there may be

1 some people who wish to say their piece, so I hope  
2 those rumours are correct. I will invite  
3 anybody -- anybody wish to say something at this  
4 point? No? Anybody wish to say something?

5 MS. ANDERSON: Yes, I will go first.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: All right.

7 MS. ANDERSON: So we have a couple of  
8 people who do want to speak but they are finding  
9 it very difficult. I want to say some words from  
10 myself. My name is Karen Anderson, I'm from Fox  
11 Lake Cree Nation.

12 I guess I just want to reference the  
13 video first and how some of the members from York  
14 Factory are talking about how they are in a moral  
15 dilemma, it is a morale dilemma for myself also,  
16 and I just wanted to mention that. It is  
17 difficult, looking back and then looking forward  
18 is two different things. And I guess I just want  
19 to express how, you know, the decision to become a  
20 partner in the project, it was difficult and a lot  
21 of our members still kind of struggle with the  
22 decision that was made.

23 For myself, like I grew up when all  
24 the development began also, so I experienced all  
25 the three dams in our area. And I kind of -- like

1 in the past it was, like for Fox Lake we were not  
2 included in Northern Flood Agreement, but all the  
3 development was here. We did eventually in 2004  
4 sign an impact settlement agreement, not all of  
5 the impacts that our Nation experienced and, you  
6 know, even signing those agreements, it is, you  
7 know it doesn't take away all of the experiences  
8 or the, you know, good and bad experiences that  
9 happened. It was a way to move forward again.

10           So now in 2009 when our members voted  
11 for the JKDA, the Joint Keeyask Development  
12 Agreement, that was another step of going forward.  
13 And you know, I'm thinking of our youth, like I  
14 was proud of Sandra when she spoke. She is my  
15 family. And I wish our other youth would, you  
16 know, they have their struggles too, but we have  
17 good role models like Sandra, and they will come  
18 out on their own and say their piece. And when we  
19 look forward, like we have -- like we think of the  
20 youth all of the time, so we want them to have a  
21 better experience than us. And it is hard to,  
22 like a lot of our members are still healing and  
23 they can't let go because it is hard to let go and  
24 accept all of the bad experiences. But they also  
25 think of youth and that they want better for their

1 children, and even the younger ones growing up.  
2 Like right now most of our younger people, that's  
3 how they have grown up, they have never, like  
4 Sandra said, they have never seen the land  
5 untouched. They have never seen that, they just  
6 know and they just experience like, oh, Hydro,  
7 like they think that's normal. It is hard to  
8 explain, but I think Sandra did say it very well,  
9 she said it was like a fairy tale because that's  
10 the way it is. When she said that it just hit me,  
11 that's true. So a lot of our children, they say  
12 that, like they don't remember, they just know all  
13 of the power lines, they just think that's normal.  
14 And some of the people that work for us, like  
15 they've come to the community and they just can't,  
16 you know, fathom how much the development -- like  
17 that's been happening for 30, 40 years I said.  
18 And they just kind of go like taking pictures, I  
19 have to show my mom, you know. They just don't  
20 realize the impact that whole thing has had  
21 though.

22                   So, you know, like I said, it is a  
23 major dilemma still, I still have mixed feelings  
24 about everything going forward myself as one of  
25 the witnesses. But, you know, I can defend my

1 feelings and I know that can never be taken away.

2 Just a minute, sorry. But like I  
3 said, we always think of the youth, we want much  
4 better for them, we need something for them into  
5 the future. They need to -- they need some  
6 foundation somewhere, not just sitting in the  
7 background, staying in the background, not getting  
8 any jobs, not getting any training.

9 So for me, like I do support it, but  
10 there is always that dilemma, you know. But going  
11 forward thinking of the youth, it is really very  
12 difficult. So I just wanted to say, share my own  
13 feelings. And thank you very much.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Karen. Is  
15 there anyone else who wishes to add to what we  
16 have heard this afternoon?

17 SPEAKER: Elder Elizabeth Beardy is  
18 going to speak and Charlotte is going to interpret  
19 in English, try to she said.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

21 ELDER ELIZABETH BEARDY: (Cree spoken)

22 INTERPRETER: When we first arrived  
23 here in this area, my husband was working, and I  
24 was happy back then. But now she is not happy  
25 about the way the water has been affected,

1 impacted. It is -- she noticed there is a  
2 difference, at times you can't -- it is not good  
3 and you can't drink it. Even when you do laundry,  
4 washing, it is -- you can't, it is not -- you  
5 can't use it, it is not good. The people who are  
6 working, she says she is not happy about that. I  
7 don't know, some other stuff that goes on when you  
8 are working, I guess, I don't know. Anyway, she  
9 said she wasn't too happy about some of the stuff  
10 that goes on, like that young men had mentioned  
11 about they're not being treated the same.

12                   And the children want to go swimming,  
13 but the only place they can go swimming is where  
14 there is no beach there. And the fluctuation of  
15 the water, it is not safe where they go swimming  
16 because of that fluctuation of the water.  
17 Sometimes it is low and sometimes it is really  
18 high.

19                   And you notice the food, the taste of  
20 the food that you get off the land, off the water,  
21 from the water, it doesn't taste the same. To use  
22 the Sturgeon as an example, it looks different, it  
23 looks as if it is not even cooked when they are  
24 cooked -- when they are cooking it -- I mean when  
25 it is cooked. And also the fish, I know all these

1 water aquatic fish and, I mean, everything that  
2 lives in the water has been affected. And the  
3 caribou, they drown every day. It is kind of --  
4 she was saying earlier -- I can't remember what I  
5 want, I can't remember everything that I wanted to  
6 say, she had more to say. Thank you.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody else have  
8 anything to add to what we have heard this  
9 afternoon? Anybody in the back rows there?

10 Well, I will give people one last  
11 chance, I feel like an auction, going once. So  
12 does anybody else want to make a contribution to  
13 the process this afternoon? If not, as I noted  
14 earlier, you can always send us a letter, you can  
15 always send us an email. We will be holding  
16 hearings, as I noted, in other communities in the  
17 north in the next week or two, they may not be  
18 that easy to get to, and we will have a number of  
19 weeks of hearings in Winnipeg. So you can  
20 always -- I don't know how easy it is to get to  
21 Winnipeg, but you can write to us if you have any  
22 particular concerns you would like us to know.  
23 Unless there are any other people who wish to say  
24 something in the next moment or two, I think we  
25 will probably adjourn for today. We will be

1 sticking around for a few minutes so you can  
2 always talk with us, we will be sticking around  
3 for a little while so you can talk with us. It  
4 won't be on the record but you can still let us  
5 know some of your feelings.

6 I would like to thank the people of  
7 this community for hosting us this afternoon, and  
8 I would like to thank the people and the leaders  
9 and the elders of the Fox Lake Cree Nation for  
10 hosting us for the last two days. As I noted  
11 earlier, it was nice to come to this community  
12 today because it is brand new, I had never been  
13 here and it is a beautiful community. There is  
14 lots of room to grow, and I'm sure in another ten  
15 years it is going to be an even bigger and better  
16 community than it is today, and the school will be  
17 even fuller than it is.

18 So one last chance. If nobody has  
19 anything to say, then I will adjourn this part of  
20 the hearings and I will turn it back to the Chief.  
21 Did you want to have a closing prayer now or at  
22 the end of the session?

23 CHIEF SPENCE: Just some closing  
24 remarks. As the Chief of Fox Lake, I want to  
25 thank the Commission for coming to the Fox Lake

1 area, firstly to Gillam yesterday and then today  
2 to Bird Reserve. And I also want to acknowledge  
3 the participation of our Cree Nation partners from  
4 TCN, York Factory and War Lake. And I welcome the  
5 visitors as well, Hydro officials to Bird Reserve.

6 I have asked our elder Elizabeth  
7 Beardy to bless the food, we are offering supper  
8 here, as well as she will do the closing prayer.  
9 Thank you.

10 (Closing prayer)

11 (Concluded at 5:13 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, CECELIA J. REID, a duly appointed Official  
Examiner in the Province of Manitoba, do hereby  
certify the foregoing pages are a true and correct  
transcript of my Stenotype notes as taken by me at  
the time and place hereinbefore stated, to the  
best of my skill and ability.

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Cecelia J. Reid  
Official Examiner, Q.B.

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