

MANITOBA CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

LAKE WINNIPEG REGULATION REVIEW
UNDER THE WATER POWER ACT

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Transcript of Proceedings
Held at Sagkeeng Treatment Centre
Sagkeeng, Manitoba
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2015

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APPEARANCES

CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

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

- Cathy Johnson - Commission Secretary
- Joyce Mueller - Administrative Assistant
- Bob Armstrong - Report writer
- Melissa Hotaine - Community Liaison

MANITOBA HYDRO

Dale Hutchison

INDEX OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening by the Moderator Ruben Bunn	4
Opening by the Chair	5
Manitoba Hydro presentation	10
Questions of Hydro:	
Allen Courchene	20
Joesph Daniels	22
Bernalda Robinson	26,82
Kaylene Dorie	29,38
Mr. G. Courchene	32
Sage Kent	37
Presentations:	
Acting Chief Henderson	41
Nicole	72
Mark Courchene	73
Baldur Nelson	76
Devorie Hope	79
Evening Session:	
Opening by the Moderator Ruben Bunn	87
Opening by the Chair	91
Presentations:	
Nancy Bruyere	101
Acting Chief Henderson	102
Closing by the Chair	103
Closing by Moderator Ruben Bunn	105

1 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2015

2 UPON COMMENCING AT 1:00 P.M.

3

4 (Opening ceremony and prayer)

5 MODERATOR RUBEN BUNN: Good afternoon
6 ladies and gentlemen, welcome to this afternoon's
7 presentations of the Commission here on Friday the
8 13th. I would like to thank the drum group for
9 coming out and singing that great song. I would
10 like to thank the elders for coming out and saying
11 the prayer as well. But most of all I would like
12 to welcome these people into our community this
13 afternoon, which I believe as the moderator -- of
14 course my name is Ruben Bunn -- I have been asked
15 to do this task and I accepted with honour and
16 humility because I come from Sagkeeng. My Indian
17 name is (Ojibway spoken). It means morning sun.
18 I come from the fish clan.

19 And I believe why we are here today is
20 to discuss and to share information with what is
21 happening with our lake, Lake Winnipeg. As Indian
22 people we take pride in honouring the land, the
23 water, the air that we breathe. But here today we
24 are going to be discussing the water, the life
25 blood of the planet, the life blood of our Indian

1 people, the life blood of all of creation, because
2 without water, we can not survive.

3 The Commission here today is going to
4 be hearing a lot of presentations that are going
5 to be made to this Commission. And I welcome them
6 for being here; Neil Harden, Terry Sargeant, Edwin
7 Yee. These are the Commissioners that are here
8 today to listen to our concerns about Lake
9 Winnipeg.

10 We also have presenters from Manitoba
11 Hydro, and we are going to be following an agenda
12 that has been placed out on the tables as soon as
13 you walked in here this afternoon. Also there is
14 a questionnaire that's also in the back that we
15 would like for you all to possibly fill out. And
16 if you are going to be speaking here today, if we
17 can get your name so that the committee can hear
18 you. And don't be shy. Also, there is no smoking
19 in the building. You may want to go outside and
20 do all of that.

21 But for now, we are going to open up
22 our discussions and move right along with our
23 presentations from Manitoba Hydro. First we will
24 go over to Terry Sargeant and his opening remarks.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. This one is

1 working I believe. Thank you, Ruben. Good
2 afternoon. My name is Terry Sargeant, as Ruben
3 introduced me. I'm the chair of the Manitoba
4 Clean Environment Commission, also the chair of
5 the panel that's conducting the current review.

6 At the outset I would like to
7 acknowledge that we are holding today's meetings
8 in the traditional territory of the Sagkeeng First
9 Nation, a Treaty 1 First Nation. I would like to
10 thank the leadership of your community for
11 accepting our invitation to host the Commission so
12 that we can hear from as many of you as wish to
13 share your stories or your thoughts.

14 Ruben has already introduced the other
15 members of the panel who are here with me today.
16 In addition, we have some staff with us; our
17 Commission secretary, Cathy Johnson, the
18 Commission administrator, Joyce Mueller, our
19 community liaison person, Melissa Hotain, as well
20 as our report writer Bob Armstrong, and the
21 recorder Cece Reid.

22 We are here today because in 2011 the
23 Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship
24 asked the Clean Environment Commission to provide
25 a forum to hear evidence from the public about the

1 impacts of Manitoba Hydro's regulation of Lake
2 Winnipeg.

3 As they are walking out, I would just
4 like to thank the drum group for coming here
5 today. That was a nice opening to today's events.

6 Just let me tell you a little bit
7 about the Clean Environment Commission. We are
8 what is known in government as an arm's length
9 organization. While we are an agency of the
10 Government of Manitoba, we do not represent the
11 Manitoba government, nor do we represent Manitoba
12 Hydro. We are here to provide an unbiased and
13 third party view of the issues and to provide
14 advice to the Minister from that perspective.

15 The Minister, when he asked us to hold
16 these hearings, asked us to hold them in
17 communities around both the north and south basins
18 of Lake Winnipeg, as well as in the City of
19 Winnipeg. We are now at the end of our fifth week
20 of hearings. We have been in the north, we have
21 been in the central Interlake, we have been up
22 around Gimli, and earlier this week up this side
23 of the lake to Manigotagan and Black River, Berens
24 River. Next week we go north again. In March and
25 April we will hold five weeks of hearings in the

1 City of Winnipeg, and then we expect to go north
2 again to Norway House and perhaps Split Lake later
3 in April.

4 Once the hearings are over at the end
5 of April, then the committee will -- or the
6 Commission will sit down and deliberate, consider
7 what we've heard, come to some conclusions and
8 come up with recommendations for the Minister.

9 The Minister asked us specifically to
10 look at the reasons why Lake Winnipeg Regulation
11 came into being with the issuance of the first
12 licence in 1970. He also asked us to look at
13 whether or not Lake Winnipeg Regulation has
14 succeeded or failed to meet those goals. And he
15 asked us to look at the impacts or effects of Lake
16 Winnipeg Regulation since it went into full
17 operation in 1976.

18 We try to keep the meetings in the
19 communities as informal as possible so that as
20 many of you who wish, feel comfortable to come
21 forward and share your stories. We do record our
22 hearings, this is a requirement of the Environment
23 Act. Within a few days, a verbatim transcript of
24 all that we have heard today will be posted on our
25 website.

1 Anyone who is here and wishes to share
2 their thoughts or ask questions is more than
3 welcome to do so. What we would like to hear from
4 you is your name, how Lake Winnipeg Regulation has
5 impacted you or your community, your views on
6 whether or not the project has been a benefit to
7 the province as a whole, and also what decisions
8 you think the panel should make.

9 If any of you feel more comfortable
10 making a presentation in your own language, that
11 is quite all right. We would only ask that you
12 either translate it or provide somebody to
13 translate it for the benefit for those of us who
14 don't speak Ojibway.

15 Finally, there are options to an oral
16 presentation. We do accept written submissions.
17 A written submission can be as simple as a letter
18 or an email sent to the Commission at our address,
19 which you will find on our website. We, the panel
20 members, will read all of the written submissions
21 and they carry as much weight for us as any of the
22 oral presentations that we hear.

23 So that concludes my opening comments.
24 Once again, I would like to thank the community of
25 Sagkeeng, the elders and the chief for allowing us

1 to come in here today and hear what we anticipate
2 to be a good afternoon of presentations. Thank
3 you. Ruben, back to you.

4 MODERATOR RUBEN BUNN: Thank you,
5 Terry Sargeant. We are going to be opening up our
6 presentations with Manitoba Hydro corporation.
7 And they are going to be doing a presentation to
8 bring you all up to speed. From Manitoba Hydro
9 our presenter's name is Dale Hutchison.

10 MR. HUTCHISON: Thank you, Ruben. My
11 name is Dale Hutchison. Respected elders, chief
12 Henderson, Councillor Morriveau, members and
13 guests of Sagkeeng First Nation, thank you for
14 inviting me to your territory to speak about Lake
15 Winnipeg Regulation.

16 I have been working with Manitoba
17 Hydro for 15 years to understand our impacts on
18 the waterways and the people that we share them
19 with. I will be talking today about the Manitoba
20 Hydro system, Lake Winnipeg and our Lake Winnipeg
21 Regulation project.

22 I will just mention I'm also joined
23 here today by Bruce Daley, who is a member of our
24 customer service office over there as well.

25 So I will start with the Manitoba

1 Hydro system. A huge area, west of the Rocky
2 Mountains, east to the edge of Lake Superior and
3 south into the Red River Valley of the United
4 States drains into Lake Winnipeg. The shape of
5 the land is like a 1 million square kilometre
6 bowl. And this is what makes hydroelectric
7 development possible on a large scale in Manitoba.

8 There are 15 generating stations that
9 take advantage of the water flowing through the
10 province. These are shown on the map by the blue
11 dots, and the size of the dot, small, medium or
12 large, shows how much electricity they can
13 produce.

14 So on the Winnipeg River, as you very
15 likely know, we have six generating stations,
16 small stations. Across the lake on the
17 Saskatchewan River at Grand Rapids we have a
18 medium sized station. The Nelson River flows into
19 Hudson Bay. 100 kilometres north of Lake Winnipeg
20 we have a small generating station on the west
21 branch of the Nelson River at Jenpeg. North of
22 the Nelson is the Churchill River, which also
23 flows into Hudson Bay. Now, rather than building
24 generating stations on this far northern river,
25 instead its waters were diverted into the Nelson

1 in a project known as the Churchill River
2 diversion. Wuskwatim, the newest generating
3 station, is on this Churchill River Diversion
4 route.

5 So, the main hydroelectric benefit of
6 Churchill River Diversion is that from Split Lake
7 downstream to Hudson Bay, the Nelson River has the
8 benefit of two rivers. And our largest generating
9 stations shown by these large dots, Kettle, Long
10 Spruce and Limestone are located downstream of
11 Split Lake. These three stations alone provide 70
12 per cent of all of the electricity in Manitoba.
13 Keeyask, which is currently a medium sized station
14 which is currently being built right now, is
15 located on this same stretch of river downstream
16 of Split Lake.

17 To move the electricity from the
18 generating stations to the south there are two
19 high voltage bipole lines that go 1000 kilometres
20 from Gillam to a converter station near Winnipeg.
21 There is a third bipole line, which you may have
22 heard about, which is currently being constructed
23 as well.

24 From the converter station near
25 Winnipeg electricity is sent over distribution

1 lines that are 100,000 kilometres in length to
2 homes and businesses throughout Manitoba.

3 We can also produce electricity using
4 natural gas at stations in Brandon and Selkirk and
5 in an emergency we can use coal at the station in
6 Brandon. Although we don't own them, we purchase
7 wind electricity from St. Leon and St. Joseph.
8 You may have seen these if you have driven south
9 to the U.S.

10 Altogether the Manitoba Hydro system
11 uses water to produce over 95 per cent of the
12 electricity made.

13 Now, we will talk about Lake Winnipeg.
14 As you know this is the tenth largest freshwater
15 lake in the world. It is Manitoba's great lake.
16 Over a dozen rivers flow into the lake, but there
17 is only one natural outflow. This can make it
18 easy for the lake to flood. The mouth of the
19 Nelson River is wide, but it is very shallow. So
20 in winter ice can block the flow of water out of
21 the lake. This has caused problems for people
22 around the lake to the point where highways have
23 been closed, farmer's crops have been lost, homes
24 and cottages have been damaged.

25 These are Winnipeg Free Press

1 headlines and photographs of flooding events in
2 recent history, years like 1927, 1955, 1966, 1968,
3 1969, 1970. All this flooding, people put a lot
4 of pressure on the government to do something
5 about this recurrent flooding. At the same time
6 the demand for electricity was growing in the
7 province. So in 1970 the Premier of Manitoba
8 announced plans to proceed with Lake Winnipeg
9 Regulation for flood relief on Lake Winnipeg as
10 well as power production on the Nelson River.

11 So, now I will talk about Lake
12 Winnipeg Regulation. Before we could build Lake
13 Winnipeg Regulation first we needed a licence.
14 This is similar to if you are going to build a
15 house, first you get a building permit. This
16 initial licence is called an interim licence, and
17 to get it we had to provide information to the
18 province on what we were planning to build and the
19 effect it would have on water levels and flows.

20 The province granted us an interim
21 licence in 1970 which gave us the approval to
22 build Lake Winnipeg Regulation. They also
23 provided rules for how it could be operated. And
24 there are three types of rules. The first type
25 were operating ranges for Lake Winnipeg and some

1 of the downstream lakes. So, for instance, on
2 Lake Winnipeg between elevation 711 and 715,
3 Manitoba Hydro can decide how much water to flow
4 through Jenpeg in order to meet electricity
5 demands. If the water level of Lake Winnipeg gets
6 above elevation 715, we have to let as much water
7 as possible out of Lake Winnipeg. This is called
8 maximum discharge. If the water level gets below
9 elevation 711, it is the Minister of Conservation
10 and Water Stewardship that tells us how much water
11 to let out of the lake.

12 The second type of rules -- the second
13 type of rule is that we always have to have a
14 minimum flow of water out of Lake Winnipeg. We
15 can't outright stop the flow.

16 And the third rule is we can't change
17 the water flow out of Jenpeg too fast.

18 So we agreed to these rules and by
19 1976 had built Jenpeg.

20 Using an example of a faucet, tub and
21 a drain, if all of the rivers around the lake are
22 represented by the water drop under the faucet,
23 then this drain represents the natural outflow,
24 which is the Nelson River. And the water drop
25 under it, the amount of water that can flow out of

1 the Nelson River. You can see that this drop is a
2 lot smaller than the drop under the faucet. What
3 this means is that during floods more water enters
4 the lake than can leave it, causing the water
5 level to rise and the lake to flood.

6 In the lower diagram, you can see that
7 there is a second outlet. This represents the LWR
8 channel. It is half the size of the natural
9 channel representing the Nelson River, but you can
10 still see that these two water drops are still
11 smaller than the water drop under the faucet. So
12 even with Lake Winnipeg Regulation during floods
13 more water will enter the lake than can leave it.
14 However now the lake won't get quite as high and
15 it won't be in flood for quite as long.

16 People have different ideas about how
17 Lake Winnipeg Regulation affects the water levels
18 on Lake Winnipeg. Some people think we keep the
19 water level high all of the time, other people
20 think we keep it lower. The Federal government
21 has been monitoring water levels on the lake for
22 100 years. And what this water level data tells
23 us is that the lake is still behaving now as it
24 always has. The water level of Lake Winnipeg
25 rises in the spring and summer, and it falls over

1 the course of the fall and winter. If there is a
2 drought in the watershed, the lake level gets low.
3 And when there is a flood in the watershed the
4 lake level gets high.

5 However, since 1976 when this LWR
6 project was built, there was a noticeable change.
7 Actually, I just realized that I haven't told you
8 what the LWR project is. What it is, there is now
9 a second outlet on Lake Winnipeg, a channel was
10 dug, along with two other channels to increase the
11 flow of water out of Lake Winnipeg. Now these
12 three channels alone would drain the lake, so it
13 was necessary to put control, a dam, on the west
14 branch of the Nelson River at Jenpeg to control
15 the outflow of water on the lake.

16 So getting back to how Lake Winnipeg
17 Regulation has affected water levels, I'm afraid
18 I'm going to have to use a graph because it is
19 really the only way to show changes in water
20 levels over time. And what this graph shows is
21 how Lake Winnipeg Regulation has reduced flooding
22 on Lake Winnipeg by comparing the water level of
23 the lake with Lake Winnipeg Regulation, to what it
24 would be if the Lake Winnipeg Regulation project
25 didn't exist.

1 So one side of the graph has the water
2 level of elevation above sea level, the bottom of
3 the graph has the 40 years from 1977 to 2015. The
4 blue line represents the with LWR water level, and
5 the red line is an estimate of what the water
6 level would be if Lake Winnipeg Regulation did not
7 exist.

8 Now you probably noticed that in the
9 last ten years or so it has been very wet, with a
10 lot of water flowing into Lake Winnipeg and down
11 through the Nelson River. What the information on
12 this chart shows is that in flood years like 1997,
13 2005, 2011 and 2014, the water level of the lake
14 would have gotten two feet higher and the flooding
15 would have lasted much longer if LWR did not
16 exist. So this information is demonstrating that
17 Lake Winnipeg Regulation is meeting the goal of
18 providing flood relief on Lake Winnipeg.

19 Now what happens downstream of Lake
20 Winnipeg; 20,000 people live along the Nelson
21 River. Land and water are extremely important to
22 their identity and livelihood. All Manitobans
23 benefit by having low cost, reliable electricity.
24 And people around Lake Winnipeg benefit by having
25 the flood relief provided by LWR. However people

1 downstream of Lake Winnipeg have suffered by
2 having more water flow out of the lake during the
3 winter and during times of flood. This additional
4 water has caused significant impacts to these
5 people. In natural conditions, over the course of
6 the winter, lake levels and river flows gradually
7 decrease. However, with LWR, which means Lake
8 Winnipeg Regulation, water levels are higher in
9 the winter, up to 50 per cent higher than they
10 would be without the project. This additional
11 water causes ice, or changes to ice conditions on
12 waterways which can make travel on waterways
13 dangerous. Also it negatively impacts aquatic
14 animals like beaver, mink, muskrat and otter. And
15 during the summer, any time the level of Lake
16 Winnipeg gets close to or above elevation 715,
17 Jenpeg goes to maximum discharge, sending a surge
18 of water down the Nelson River which causes water
19 level fluctuations on the rivers and lakes
20 downstream. Ultimately this change in water level
21 from Lake Winnipeg Regulation has affected the
22 cultural, commercial, spiritual and recreational
23 pursuits of people living downstream of Lake
24 Winnipeg.

25 Working together, in Cree this is

1 called witasosketowin, with the people who live
2 and work on the Nelson River, Manitoba Hydro has
3 been working to address these impacts through
4 agreements and other arrangements with First
5 Nations and communities on the Nelson River,
6 through projects like the Cross Lake Weir, and
7 through programs for resource harvesting, access
8 and navigation, archaeology and heritage resources
9 and recreation, as shown by all of the pictures on
10 this banner.

11 So that's my presentation, I
12 understand I will be up here to answer some
13 questions. Thank you.

14 MODERATOR RUBEN BUNN: All right.
15 Thank you, Dale Hutchison from Manitoba Hydro. If
16 there are any questions that are wanted to be
17 asked of him, please don't hesitate to come up to
18 the front here, at the table here. The floor is
19 now open. If there are no questions at this
20 immediate time, we will go back -- all right.

21 MR. ALLEN COURCHENE: Hello. I'm a
22 Sagkeeng member, Allen Courchene, I work with a
23 lot of students, junior high students, and we do a
24 lot of environmental activities. One of the
25 things that I noticed is we were doing a sturgeon

1 project, and because of the seven dams that are
2 located along the Winnipeg River there is a
3 depletion of sturgeon in our area there. And
4 where the dams are located, the sturgeon -- that
5 was spawning areas for the sturgeon. I know you
6 have a Nelson River sturgeon farm, but you don't
7 have anything in this area to help us with the
8 replenishing the sturgeon. I have been after --
9 trying to replenish sturgeon by starting a
10 sturgeon farm in this area. We do have a fish
11 factory in Rainy River who wanted to do a
12 partnership with Sagkeeng, where Sagkeeng would be
13 getting stock for sturgeon, and start replenishing
14 our lake with the sturgeon, because there is no
15 more sturgeon. Like we can't even fish here. I
16 know if you go into the Whiteshell area, there
17 are, maybe in Sturgeon Falls, they might open it
18 back to angle sports fisher people there, but
19 right now as it stands, there is no sturgeon in
20 our area. How can we correct that?

21 MR. HUTCHISON: Thank you. I'm afraid
22 I can't -- I don't have a good answer for your
23 question. But what I can do, is we do have people
24 at Manitoba Hydro that are on the Nelson River
25 Sturgeon Board and that work with other groups

1 that are looking at sturgeon. So what I can do is
2 find out from them, and get you an answer,
3 basically put you in touch with them, if that
4 would be helpful.

5 MODERATOR RUBEN BUNN: Are there any
6 other questions from the floor?

7 MR. JOE DANIELS: (Ojibway spoken.)
8 One of the things that I want to ask about is
9 there is a lot of people in Sagkeeng that have
10 seen the effects of the lake, I will say. And
11 sometimes a lot of these people don't get an
12 opportunity to come and speak. And what I'm
13 wondering about is if you guys are only going to
14 be here for one time. So I think that they need a
15 little bit more hearings. I know this thing is
16 going to be impacting on the whole of Manitoba.
17 And particularly these people along the lake. So
18 this is a big initiative that you guys are doing,
19 and I think that you need to hear from more people
20 than what you see here today. And there is -- it
21 is a good thing that we have a few students here,
22 but I think that we do have to have more band
23 members that are able to say anything.

24 For me, me too, I wonder about some of
25 the things that have gone on since 1970, because

1 right where the river flows into the lake, that's
2 where I was brought up, and I see a lot of things
3 that have changed since the time of regulation. I
4 know in the past we used to be able to skate on
5 the river here. And the ice was so clear that you
6 would be able to skate all of the time. Now you
7 have to kind of grade that thing with a machine to
8 be able to skate. But that's just one example.

9 And I also remember my dad being able
10 to trap muskrat and beaver, that's what we were
11 eating when we were brought up down the river, we
12 call it. But since that time this hasn't been
13 done anymore, I don't think. I don't think that
14 anybody does that anymore. I don't know if it is
15 because of our change of lifestyle or whatnot.
16 But I was wondering too, somebody was saying that
17 we -- if somebody wants to come and speak their
18 language here, that they could speak it. But some
19 times some of these people are not able, or are
20 not willing to speak in this language. Me, I try
21 to -- I went to a meeting one time, and that's all
22 I did, I spoke my language, Anishinabe, (Ojibway
23 spoken). Do you understand what I'm saying?
24 That's my point.

25 My point being I'm using this as an

1 example. When we made Treaties with the, I will
2 say the white people, because that's what was here
3 that made Treaties with our people, there was a
4 two way dialogue but they didn't understand each
5 other. And because of that I think sometimes our
6 people were coerced into signing things they
7 thought was a good deal, from their perspective it
8 was good. They told them what they wanted, but
9 these people misunderstood what they were saying
10 and vice versa. That's my point. You have to
11 have somebody here that will be able to translate
12 both ways. And that way you can have more people
13 to speak at these hearings, because I'm sure
14 that's one of the reasons why you are here today,
15 is to hear from the people.

16 So those are the kind of things that I
17 think we need to tell you. And you guys shouldn't
18 only be here one time, because like I said, there
19 is only a few people here, and it is good to see
20 some young people, those are the ones that are
21 most important, most important because those are
22 the ones that are going to be more impacted than
23 anybody else.

24 I gave a little experience how I seen
25 it through my years here. My dad, like I said,

1 used to trap and things like that, down the river
2 there where the river goes into the lake, but now
3 those things that we trap are not there anymore.
4 I bet you there is some people here that will tell
5 you that, you can talk to people across the river.
6 So those are probably some of the things that you
7 will be hearing here. But my point I guess is
8 that there should be more people being given the
9 opportunity to speak on their issue. So,
10 miigwech.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Sir, could you tell us
12 your name for the record, please?

13 MR. JOE DANIELS: I told you my name.
14 That's my original name, my name is (Ojibway
15 spoken), two thunders is my first name. My name
16 is Joseph Daniels in the English language. I'm
17 one of the councillors here at Sagkeeng. Why I
18 always bring up my first name, because that's who
19 I am as an Anishinabe person, that's the name I
20 was given by the creator.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. And if you
22 could give the recorder the spelling of your
23 Anishinabe name, we will record it.

24 Just to respond to your first point
25 about us being here for only one day,

1 unfortunately that's all we will be able to do
2 because that fits into our schedule. But we will
3 be hearing from Sagkeeng people in Winnipeg. We
4 know that, that they will be making a presentation
5 in our hearings in Winnipeg as well as what we
6 hear today.

7 MODERATOR RUBEN BUNN: Okay. Thank
8 you very much, Councillor Joe Daniels, and --

9 MRS. ROBINSON: We have another
10 speaker, bonjour (Ojibway spoken) my English name
11 is Bernalda Robinson, I have -- I don't know if it
12 is so much a question for Manitoba Hydro or just
13 statements. I understand that the Winnipeg, Lake
14 Winnipeg Regulation is for flood prevention, is
15 that my -- am I correct in that understanding and
16 reduction and flood relief?

17 MR. HUTCHISON: Yes. We can't stop
18 floods from happening but we say that we can
19 reduce the impacts of flooding.

20 MS. BERNALDA ROBINSON: Okay, I guess
21 my next question then is with the LWR, to try and
22 make it short, the focus then would be protection
23 primarily for the southern part of the province?
24 I guess that's my view. I don't know if that's a
25 statement or a question, but I guess what I see is

1 we are primarily more focused on the southern part
2 of the province and preventing flooding there
3 because of what we see in the north, and how it
4 has affected our people in the north where they
5 are flooded. And it kind of feels to me that we
6 are primarily focused on preventing that same
7 flooding in the south. And I understand too that,
8 like we get our potatoes from the farmers and
9 stuff like that, so I can appreciate that, but I
10 guess my question is, is it primarily the southern
11 part that we are focused on, on the prevention of
12 the flooding?

13 MR. HUTCHISON: I think you are pretty
14 correct in that. This is the only Hydro project
15 that we have got that has two purposes. Usually
16 when we build a hydroelectric project for Manitoba
17 Hydro it is for electricity, but for this project
18 there is another key goal, which was flood relief
19 on Lake Winnipeg. So the idea is that it would
20 sort of reduce the impacts of flooding for people
21 all around Lake Winnipeg. But the other side of
22 that is that benefit for the people around Lake
23 Winnipeg does cause problems for people
24 downstream, as this banner talks to.

25 MS. BERNALDA ROBINSON: Yes. I guess

1 the same thing as Joe had mentioned, when I was
2 sitting there and I think Terry was talking
3 already, and I was already writing down my little
4 notes. One of the things I find is that it is
5 hard for us to sit here without the older
6 generation, because they are the ones who would
7 have experienced any changes that have happened as
8 a result of the Lake Winnipeg Regulation. I can
9 say that I'm glad that the youth are here, but it
10 would have been awesome to have the older people
11 to talk about their experiences growing up and
12 seeing how since 1970, if there were any changes
13 that they've noticed. Because I know the only
14 time that we can actually hear is if we actually
15 sit down with the older people and hear their
16 stories. And a lot of us don't have that
17 opportunity half the time. So one of the things I
18 was thinking is the solution for that would have
19 been for our administration, or with chief and
20 council, could have sent out personal invitations
21 to our elders and then even provide -- even to go
22 so far as providing transportation for them to
23 come here so that we can listen to their stories
24 as well, because it wouldn't only benefit this
25 hearing, it would benefit the people and the youth

1 that are here to hear all of those stories about
2 how they have been impacted in their lives and
3 what they have seen.

4 And I could only speak for myself, and
5 I'm not old, I'm not an elder in any way, but I
6 could speak for myself, I live along the Winnipeg
7 River and I've lived there my whole life growing
8 up. And as a kid, I remember we had about three
9 or four football fields from the house to the
10 river. Today we only have maybe half of a
11 football field, that's how much land we have lost,
12 to the point where now we are wondering can we
13 even have our homes there, because the -- what do
14 you call that -- the sewer septic line or whatever
15 is getting a little bit too close to the water.
16 So I can only speak for what I've experienced. I
17 can't speak on behalf of, you know, the stories
18 that maybe I have heard, because then we would
19 lose the richness of those stories. So, I think
20 that's all I have, miigwech.

21 MR. HUTCHISON: Thank you,
22 Mrs. Robinson.

23 MODERATOR RUBEN BUNN: Are there any
24 other questions for Dale Hutchison?

25 MS. KAYLENE DORIE: Hello. My name is

1 Kaylene Dorie, and I'm a student from the high
2 school. Earlier you said that this will be the
3 only hearing in Sagkeeng, correct?

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, that's correct.

5 MS. KAYLENE DORIE: Why, what is
6 the -- why is your schedule so tight, I guess is
7 what I'm trying to ask?

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, we are
9 visiting -- I'm not sure how many altogether, but
10 probably a dozen and a half or more communities.
11 We have had a fairly grueling schedule. Just this
12 week on Monday we were in Sagkeeng, on Tuesday we
13 were in Black River -- pardon me, Monday we were
14 in Manigotagan, Tuesday we were in Black River,
15 Wednesday we flew to Berens River and back, and
16 today we are here. Next week we go back up to
17 Thompson and go to Cross Lake. It is a grueling
18 schedule. We also -- when we set the schedule in
19 any of these communities, we did it in
20 conversation and in consultation with the
21 communities. And I know that our community
22 liaison person talked to people in this community
23 about what would be the best day and the best time
24 to come in, and this is what was determined. And
25 we could easily spend a number of days in every

1 one of the communities, but we have to have some
2 limit on the length of the hearing process.

3 MS. KAYLENE DORIE: You said that we
4 were -- someone told us, I just heard about this
5 hearing yesterday.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, we've advertised
7 it in a number of different media. But also your
8 community has known for some time this meeting was
9 going on, and I also believe there was a community
10 meeting a week or two ago to prepare for this
11 meeting. So I don't -- we don't -- we are not
12 responsible for internal communication in the
13 communities. So I'm sorry that you only heard
14 about it yesterday. Other than our ads in the
15 newspaper and on NCI radio, we don't do any direct
16 advertising in the communities.

17 MS. KAYLENE DORIE: I was wondering if
18 you can have, possibly have another hearing
19 because there is one tomorrow in Winnipeg, right?
20 But there is no transportation for the whole
21 community to go.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: We are not having a
23 hearing tomorrow in Winnipeg, we are starting the
24 Winnipeg hearings on the 9th of March, which is in
25 three and a half weeks from now, 10th of March

1 actually. And I think that Sagkeeng will be
2 making their presentation some time in early
3 April, so that's a couple of months away.

4 MS. KAYLENE DORIE: I just wanted to
5 learn more about this regulation thing and that's
6 why I'm asking.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I think it is
8 good that you want to learn more about it. There
9 is a lot of information that's available. There
10 is information that's available at the back of the
11 room today. There is also a lot of information
12 available on Manitoba Hydro's website and on the
13 Clean Environment Commission website. Thank you.

14 MODERATOR RUBEN BUNN: Okay. We have
15 one more speaker coming, and then we will move
16 right along.

17 MR. G. COURCHENE: Good afternoon, my
18 name is Genaile (ph) Courchene, I guess I have got
19 a question for Hydro here. My question is why
20 does Hydro need to control the lake levels anyway?

21 MR. HUTCHISON: Thank you,
22 Mr. Courchene. The best way to approach this
23 question, we actually can't control the lake
24 level. What I was trying to show with the
25 diagrams here is that we can influence the level

1 of the lake but we can't control it. So the
2 licence that we have from the province says that
3 between elevation 711 and 715 on Lake Winnipeg we
4 can control the outflow at Jenpeg which has an
5 influence on the level of Lake Winnipeg. We can
6 do that in order to meet power -- like electricity
7 demands. However, if the elevation of the lake
8 gets over 715, we don't have any control. We are
9 told to let as much water as possible out of the
10 lake. And if it ever gets below elevation 711, it
11 is the Minister of Conservation and Water
12 Stewardship that tells us how much water to let
13 out of the lake. So we don't actually control the
14 level, we manage how much water flows out of the
15 lake.

16 MR. G. COURCHENE: Okay. What are the
17 benefits of Hydro getting a licence?

18 MR. HUTCHISON: Well, I guess the way
19 the licence works, we applied for this initial
20 licence in 19 -- we got it in 1970, so that gave
21 us the approval to build. Now we just want to
22 finalize the licence. Basically, we are
23 demonstrating that we built the project the way we
24 said we were going to build it, we have got
25 agreements and other arrangements with all of the

1 impacted communities. And what this licence will
2 do is allow us to keep operating Lake Winnipeg
3 Regulation the way it has been done. We are not
4 asking for any changes.

5 MR. G. COURCHENE: Okay. Well, if it
6 has been like that since 1970, why do you guys
7 need to have a licence now? Why can't you just
8 keep operating the way it is?

9 MR. HUTCHISON: It is just the way the
10 Water Power Act -- it is where we get our license,
11 it's the way it works. The first licence step is
12 you get an initial, an interim licence that allows
13 you to build the project. Then once it is built,
14 you ask for a final licence, which is kind of like
15 building a house. The first step is the building
16 permit, the last step is final inspection. And
17 that's kind of where we are at.

18 MR. G. COURCHENE: So how long are you
19 guys asking for a licence?

20 MR. HUTCHISON: Well, the licence is
21 good for 50 years from the date construction is
22 completed. So the construction was completed in
23 1976, which means that the licence will be good
24 until 2026, which is only 11 years away. And then
25 we have to apply for another licence, a renewal.

1 MR. G. COURCHENE: So what happens if
2 you guys aren't granted your licence?

3 MR. HUTCHISON: Well, I guess we would
4 have to figure that out. I don't know what all of
5 the implications would be.

6 MR. G. COURCHENE: All right then.

7 MR. HUTCHISON: Thank you.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: I would just like to
9 correct a response I gave to this young woman
10 earlier. Our ads in the newspapers and on radio
11 did not include the hearings on First Nations.
12 Because the hearings are First Nations were not
13 open to the public, but designed for the First
14 Nations, we did not advertise it. But it is my
15 understanding that the First Nations have
16 circulated it in a lot of internal media.

17 MODERATOR RUBEN BUNN: Okay. I would
18 like to thank -- oh, we have one more question.

19 MR. JOSEPH ABRAHAM: Hello, my name is
20 Joseph Abraham and I just got questions for
21 Manitoba Hydro. Well, I guess Sagkeeng has, I
22 guess a great land loss. And I was just wondering
23 about data gauges, data monitoring level gauges.
24 I was wondering if Hydro actually monitors when
25 the Pine Falls dam has maximum discharge, if they

1 have actual data for that, for the Winnipeg River
2 along our land, in our boundaries?

3 MR. HUTCHISON: Yes, we would know
4 what the flows are through our Pine Falls
5 generating station.

6 MR. JOSEPH ABRAHAM: Okay. I know
7 that there is data gauges in Lake Winnipeg right
8 now.

9 MR. HUTCHISON: Yes, there is eight.

10 MR. JOSEPH ABRAHAM: Is there any
11 along the Winnipeg River?

12 MR. HUTCHISON: I believe we have
13 gauges in each of our generating stations, so that
14 we know how much water is flowing through.

15 MR. JOSEPH ABRAHAM: Okay. How about
16 in between those dams?

17 MR. HUTCHISON: I don't know, I don't
18 believe we do.

19 MR. JOSEPH ABRAHAM: Um-hum. Okay.
20 So, I guess, how would you be able to find that
21 out, like in between?

22 MR. HUTCHISON: I can take your name
23 at the end and get that information and get it to
24 you through email or phone or however you --
25 whatever works best.

1 MR. JOSEPH ABRAHAM: Okay. Yeah, I
2 guess that's it.

3 MR. HUTCHISON: Thank you,
4 Mr. Abraham.

5 MODERATOR RUBEN BUNN: Are there any
6 other questions for Dale Hutchison? If not we
7 are -- okay, we are going to do this last question
8 and we are going to be moving right along. All
9 right.

10 MS. SAGE KENT: I'm Sage Kent, I'm a
11 student from the high school. I have a question
12 for Hydro. Why do members of Sagkeeng have to pay
13 Hydro, because Hydro makes a lot of money off our
14 land and resources, why don't we get any per cent
15 of what they make when it comes from our land?
16 That's what I want to know.

17 MR. HUTCHISON: So the question is,
18 why doesn't Sagkeeng First Nation get --

19 MS. SAGE KENT: Why do we have to pay
20 Hydro when they make a lot of money off our land?

21 MR. HUTCHISON: The approach that
22 Manitoba Hydro has with First Nations where we
23 have got generating stations is to work out
24 compensation agreements, or settlement agreements.
25 And those are the sort of -- that's where we, I

1 guess, compensate for impacts to the communities.
2 With any new stations, like Wuskwatim or Keeyask,
3 we actually do enter into equity, or we have
4 entered into equity partnerships with the
5 surrounding First Nations, so that they do
6 actually get a share of the benefits from whatever
7 is made from that particular generating station.

8 MS. SAGE KENT: Okay.

9 MR. HUTCHISON: Thank you.

10 MS. KAYLENE DORIE: I have a question
11 following that. You said you guys make these
12 deals why we pay the Hydro when you use our land.
13 Isn't this deal the Hydro accord that we denied
14 twice?

15 MR. HUTCHISON: I believe you are
16 talking about the accord that --

17 MS. KAYLENE DORIE: You make it sound
18 like we get a share, but we didn't.

19 MR. HUTCHISON: No. I was saying with
20 new stations like Wuskwatim and Keeyask, we have
21 entered into partnerships with the surrounding
22 First Nations, but we don't do that with the
23 existing stations that we have got.

24 MS. KAYLENE DORIE: Why not?

25 MR. HUTCHISON: I don't know exactly,

1 but that's the way it is. I think at some point
2 there was even legislation that said Manitoba
3 Hydro couldn't enter into things like equity
4 partnerships, and that legislation was changed 15
5 years back. So ever since it was changed, we can
6 enter into partnerships. So we did that with
7 Wuskwatim, and we have done that with Keeyask
8 and --

9 MS. KAYLENE DORIE: But the dams took
10 away our land. Why should we have to pay? And
11 you guys want to make a deal, you guys want to
12 give us the money, and then you wanted to fix the
13 erosion, but why do you guys get the benefits when
14 you already took away all of our land?

15 MR. HUTCHISON: I think that's
16 probably -- I know that Manitoba Hydro wants to
17 make a new agreement with Sagkeeng First Nation,
18 and I'm not part of those negotiations. So
19 that's --

20 MS. KAYLENE DORIE: Is there going to
21 be another meeting?

22 MR. HUTCHISON: I understand that it
23 is something that still has to be resolved between
24 Manitoba Hydro and Sagkeeng First Nation. So it
25 is still something that has to be addressed.

1 MS. KAYLENE DORIE: And will you guys
2 offer these new Hydro accords, is that what it is?
3 Right?

4 MR. HUTCHISON: Sorry?

5 MS. KAYLENE DORIE: You guys aren't
6 going to be offering more Hydro accords?

7 MR. HUTCHISON: More hydro?

8 MS. KAYLENE DORIE: Accords?

9 MR. HUTCHISON: Whether it is an
10 accord or agreement, whatever it is called, there
11 will have to be some sort of arrangement with
12 Sagkeeng for all of the generating stations that
13 are in your area.

14 MS. KAYLENE DORIE: And the voting
15 would only be 18 and older? The voting would be
16 18 and older?

17 MR. HUTCHISON: I believe that's the
18 way the ratification works for agreements.

19 MS. KAYLENE DORIE: If you guys want
20 these agreements to be say 20 to 30 years long,
21 why don't you guys let the youth vote also too?

22 MR. HUTCHISON: That's a good
23 question. I'm afraid I can't answer it, but
24 that's something that probably can be brought up
25 with the next group that looks at making an

1 agreement.

2 MS. KAYLENE DORIE: All right.

3 MR. HUTCHISON: Thank you.

4 MODERATOR RUBEN BUNN: All right.

5 Thanks Dale Hutchison from Manitoba Hydro for
6 making your presentation here this afternoon.

7 We are going to be moving along with
8 our schedule. Our next speaker is Chief
9 Henderson. Welcome him to our podium.

10 ACTING CHIEF HENDERSON: Thank you
11 very much, chair. Chief, acting Chief Derrick
12 Henderson, Sagkeeng (Ojibway spoken). I don't
13 have an Indian name. I respect the elder Florence
14 and the drum group for opening this afternoon's
15 session. I also wanted to recognize Councillor
16 Joe Daniels that came in here and spoke earlier
17 on.

18 I want to thank the CEC for coming to
19 my community and addressing some of the issues
20 that we have for our community. I also want to
21 state for the record that this is not consultation
22 and that steps that will be taken by Sagkeeng with
23 the Crown later on.

24 Thank you to the community members
25 that are sitting behind me. I feel really

1 awkward, my back towards you, it is no disrespect,
2 but I wanted to face the committee to share what
3 we have to say this morning, or this afternoon.

4 Our relationship with Manitoba Hydro
5 is very complex. There is a lot of questions that
6 are being tabled on the floor, and my comments
7 would be on the regulation of Lake Winnipeg.

8 Sagkeeng First Nation is signatory to
9 Treaty 1. Our reserve lands are on Treaty 1,
10 Treaty 3 and Treaty 5. That means our rights to
11 all of these are exercised in all of these Treaty
12 territories. Any waters and these shorelines are
13 our traditional lands and ancestral lands, which
14 are also in Treaty 2. Our community is 7,585
15 strong, so we are a fairly big community.
16 Sagkeeng, also formerly known as Fort Alexander,
17 has two sides to it. The Winnipeg River divides
18 our community into two.

19 If you look back at our history of our
20 people, from all directions, it is important where
21 we are located, and the importance of what water
22 is to our community and to our people, especially
23 the waters from Lake Winnipeg. You have to
24 respect our rights to the water in our traditional
25 territory that comes to our community. We have

1 never given them up. It has never changed in the
2 Treaties when the Treaties were made with our
3 community. And these rights were way before the
4 Treaties, these rights were here before everybody
5 else was, we have Aboriginal rights. It is also
6 part of the Constitution of Canada.

7 One of the things that we are talking
8 about is we have to look after our community and
9 we also have to look after the water. The water
10 is life, as the chair said earlier on when he
11 spoke.

12 We have very high unemployment in our
13 community, very high unemployment. But when you
14 can't have the fishers do the fishing in our
15 community, which we also use to sustain our food.

16 What about the safe clean drinking
17 water for our community? We ate the fish here for
18 many years. The water was clean, the fish were
19 clean, now the fish are not even edible anymore.
20 Some of the people that inform me say that there
21 is sores and things happening in the fish. Why is
22 that?

23 The shores along Lake Winnipeg also
24 are homes to many animals, as my previous
25 counterpart, Joe Daniels, mentioned, the muskrat

1 and beaver. Where are those today? What has
2 happened to the medicines along the rivers in our
3 community? I remember growing up, up the river,
4 down the river, whatever you want to call it, up
5 the river, all of the medicines along the
6 shorelines. I have seen all of that erode into
7 the river, so all of our medicines are gone. All
8 of the pincherries, chokecherries, whatever you
9 want to call them, that we used to have in our
10 communities, they are no longer here either.

11 People talk about what has happened
12 with the shoreline in our community. We have lost
13 hundreds and hundreds of acres. I'm a teacher.
14 Somebody told me one time at a meeting that
15 erosion is natural. I understand that. But there
16 has got to be something that's creating that
17 erosion. What is causing that?

18 We still have to live by the lake, we
19 still live along the river. We still have to use
20 the rivers for whatever we do to sustain our life.
21 But things are changing drastically in our
22 community because of the river, because of Lake
23 Winnipeg. I know it is because of Lake Winnipeg.
24 Yes, we regulate the water levels, yes, we
25 regulate the 711. I was thinking of a slurpy when

1 you said 711 or 117, whatever, but think about
2 things like that, it is changing.

3 I can remember the big weather bomb we
4 had two or three years ago when the lake was just
5 unbelievable in our community. I mean, the waves
6 were almost coming to the highway. We had to
7 evacuate homes. Those things don't just happen,
8 there is a reason why those things happen.

9 We don't agree with some of the things
10 that have been happening. We want you to
11 understand, we want you to know what we are
12 dealing with in our community. We understand that
13 Hydro tells us that whatever we regulate in your
14 community, it just has no effect. I can show you
15 some pictures of how much land we have lost in our
16 community. I don't know where it has gone, it
17 must be gone into the river somewhere, or into the
18 lake, it is no longer in our community. We have
19 nowhere to put our homes anymore, we are losing so
20 much land.

21 How can we use our shorelines? We
22 have these young people behind me. I remember
23 growing up as a little guy up the river, I could
24 go down the bank and go swimming. We can't even
25 go down the banks anymore, they are like cliffs

1 now. We have lost all of that bank now, we have
2 lost all of the sand, all the nice natural habitat
3 that we used to have along the rivers.

4 A lot of our older people used to talk
5 about the river. I remember when I was growing
6 up, again, I could almost throw a rock to the
7 north shore, that's how close the river was. And
8 look at how wide it is today. It is interesting
9 how the communities along the lake and along the
10 river, when regulations are made that impact our
11 people, that we are not consulted. We are just
12 told after the fact. I mean, that's something
13 that's most important here today as we sit. If we
14 are going to start regulating and doing licences
15 that impact First Nation communities, we need to
16 make sure that we are consulted and notified.

17 Whatever happens to Lake Winnipeg for
18 the future is starting from today moving forward.
19 It is important that we are at the table so we can
20 address those concerns.

21 When things happen in our communities,
22 leadership gets the first call. Why is it then we
23 are not consulted when things are going to happen
24 along Lake Winnipeg? Yes, it is put on the
25 internet and it is, you know, whatever, but we

1 need to be consulted right away when things happen
2 in our community that's going to impact our
3 community. It would be interesting to see why we
4 are not part of those boards or appointments that
5 regulate Lake Winnipeg also. Is there First
6 Nations membership that are involved in that, is
7 there First Nations peoples represented on those
8 boards? I don't think so, or I'm not really sure
9 who sits on those boards.

10 If you take a look at our lake today,
11 it is very sick. If you look, read about it in
12 the papers about all of the things that have been
13 happening along the lake, about all of the
14 pollution, everything that's going into our lake.
15 That's why our people can't -- they can't even
16 swim in it, or they can't fish, or they can't
17 sustain what we used to do when we were growing
18 up.

19 I have a difficulty sitting here
20 listening to my colleague from Manitoba Hydro
21 saying that there is no impacts of the regulation
22 of lake water levels. I think there is a big
23 impact. And I think the Commission needs to
24 really seriously take a look at that. No
25 disrespect to Manitoba Hydro, I have to say what I

1 think and what I believe in for my people.

2 40 years ago, this first licence, I'm
3 not sure if our community was ever consulted, but
4 it has taken 40 years to finally come here and
5 say, look, what do you guys think about the lake?
6 When we lost so much already over these 40 years,
7 how is that going to be addressed moving forward?

8 I have some ideas and recommendations
9 that I would like to present to the board. The
10 water level information must include water levels
11 during the winter, under the ice, when impacts can
12 be identified. If the issue of generating more
13 hydro during the winter, or whenever the season,
14 how are these things happening -- when they do
15 this to make more money, of course, it is all
16 about money, right, I mean, Hydro is there to make
17 money, they are not there to lose money. So how
18 does that impact our waters, spring, winter and
19 summer, right, or the levels? I think it is
20 important that all communities be informed and be
21 notified when things like this happen.

22 I'm not sure what entails the Manitoba
23 Hydro Lake Winnipeg Regulation licence, I'm not
24 sure what the whole agreement is about or what the
25 licence entails, but I think that is something

1 that we should be, as a community, or all
2 communities to review it, take a look at it, can
3 it be revised so that whatever those things that
4 we don't think are applicable to it, we can
5 address as part of that licence. Are we using the
6 old licence from 1970 or are we going to use one
7 from now moving forward? Maybe take a look at the
8 regulation and also the power act, the Hydro power
9 act, whatever we are utilizing, you know, for the
10 licensing.

11 A lot of questions about data, in
12 regards to gauges at the power dam, how come we
13 don't have gauges at the mouth of the lake,
14 halfway through Sagkeeng, and then also at the
15 beginning of the dam, so we know the different
16 levels, because our reserve is impacted so much by
17 the water levels.

18 I'm just wondering if the Commission
19 would be able to access some information with
20 regards to surveys on the shorelines of Lake
21 Winnipeg, when the regulation of the water, lakes
22 started in 1970?

23 Thank you, Lyle.

24 I sure can't access maps. I would
25 love to find some maps for our community as to the

1 impacts of the water, the regulations of the
2 water, of the lake. Because it is so important,
3 again, how much we have given up, as the young
4 lady was talking about, our loss of land. If you
5 don't have land, where are we going to live?
6 That's what we have to protect as Indian people,
7 Anishinabe people, we have to protect the land and
8 the water because that's what we were given.

9 I'm not sure if the Commission would
10 be able to do this, but I think you need to
11 involve the First Nation communities again, when
12 we talk about traditional knowledge, in regards to
13 the regulation of the lake. We can help you. We
14 have the knowledge, we have the expert people. As
15 one of the committee members said, you know, with
16 the elders, they have been the ones that have
17 grown up in this. They are the ones that have to
18 live through this and tell their grandchildren,
19 the young people that are here today, what
20 happened to our land.

21 We can work together as First Nations
22 people to regulate the lake, but just have us at
23 the table. Don't make decisions on behalf of us
24 and then come to us and say, well, here is what we
25 decided for you. We need to be at the same table

1 with whoever is making the agreements and the
2 regulations on licences for the Lake Winnipeg.

3 You know, we talked about the lake up
4 north and the issues down in the south here, and
5 what is happening in our community. We have the
6 bathtub effect in our community, because you have
7 the dam in Pine Falls and you have the big lake to
8 my left here, right. So whenever the water goes
9 high from the lake, it is not going to go to the
10 dam because that dam is too high, right. So what
11 is happening to our community again? It is like
12 the bathtub effect, right?

13 Somebody said to me, had the audacity
14 to say to me, it is just natural erosion. I have
15 a difficult time with that. Six years ago when I
16 first got on council I asked that question,
17 explain to me what natural erosion is, I said,
18 because you are regulating the water, you are
19 causing the high water table in the community.

20 Our community is very big, and the
21 more that we jeopardize what is happening with the
22 Lake Winnipeg Regulation, our community is in
23 jeopardy also. We are going to be here forever,
24 we are not going anywhere. And I think with the
25 Commission here today to hear and listen to what

1 we have to present is very important because it
2 all comes down to what was said earlier in our
3 presentations, water is life. We don't have
4 water, we have nothing. I have to have water just
5 so I can talk, it is so dry in here.

6 But we have to protect our community
7 for the future of these young people sitting
8 behind me here today. I'm just so appreciative
9 that they are here today from our school to listen
10 to what we have to say today. Because I'm not
11 going to be sitting here forever. They are going
12 to be the ones that are going to be leading our
13 community, and it is important for them to see
14 that these things are important to our people.

15 The water is the most important thing,
16 and the land. And we need to be at the table so
17 we can discuss these, on good terms. We have to
18 stop doing things where we say, now, here is what
19 you are going to do. We can't do that anymore, we
20 have to stop that kind of policy where we are told
21 what we have to do. We want to be part of the
22 process. And you've heard that time and time
23 again today, you know, that it is important.

24 We are the first peoples of Canada.
25 It is important for the Commission, when you make

1 these recommendations, that they are considered
2 whole-heartedly from each First Nation that you
3 are dealing with. Because this is what we have in
4 Sagkeeng, you haven't seen all of the community,
5 you have seen the facility here, but this is what
6 we have in our community. We have got to protect
7 that. It is important, for me as a leader sitting
8 here today, that we protect what little we have.
9 Because we have difficulty when we are fighting
10 governments, day in, day out, for everything that
11 we want.

12 You know, I can go on and on and on.
13 I know that our time is limited, but I just think
14 it is important when we talk about regulating
15 certain things, you know, regulating the lake and
16 the water flow and everything else.

17 The question the young lady asked
18 about the resource sharing and why do we have to
19 pay all -- you know, we have the highest,
20 probably, everybody says we have the lowest rates
21 for Hydro, but I don't know, I have a hard time
22 with that when our Hydro bills are \$450 a month in
23 our community, or whatever. It is something that
24 needs to be considered by this Commission, and I
25 really, really think that it is important -- just

1 the impacts of our community that are most here.
2 And to hearing some of the younger people, and the
3 older people talking about how it used to be,
4 right, in our community, how it used to be in our
5 community, that's what they used to be. Like it
6 has changed so much in so many years here. And it
7 is important that the Commission, when you are
8 making your recommendations, it is important that,
9 what was said here in Sagkeeng today is important
10 for Sagkeeng and its people, not for me as a
11 leader, but Sagkeeng and its people.

12 I want to thank you for listening.
13 Thank you for allowing me to present to you on
14 behalf of my community. Our water is our life, it
15 is a waterway, you know, and we just can't use it
16 as we used to use it before. So thank you,
17 miigwech, for listening.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,
19 Chief Henderson for a very thoughtful and
20 thought-provoking presentation.

21 I would just like to respond to two or
22 three points. You probably won't find my
23 responses satisfactory, but it's sort of the way
24 things were. You noted that when Lake Winnipeg
25 Regulation was built, you don't recall or you had

1 never heard of anybody coming to consult with your
2 community. At that time in the early '70s, nobody
3 did that, no indigenous people or no First Nation
4 communities were consulted when all of the
5 projects were built at that time. In one of the
6 communities the other day we heard from a
7 professor of Native Studies who noted that it
8 wasn't really until after the 1973 Supreme Court
9 ruling on Calder that governments even started to
10 think about consulting with indigenous peoples.

11 And as far as environmental
12 assessments in Manitoba, the first Hydro project
13 that was reviewed with an environmental assessment
14 and reviewed by the Clean Environment Commission
15 was Wuskwatim in 2004. So in some ways this is a
16 new science -- not a new science, a new art, this
17 review process. We certainly hope that in future
18 First Nations people and other indigenous people
19 are not left out of the process. And given sort
20 of the series of court cases over the last two
21 decades, it is unlikely that you will ever be left
22 out in the future.

23 You asked about Lake Winnipeg boards.
24 To my knowledge there are no active Lake Winnipeg
25 management boards right now. About a decade or so

1 ago there was a Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board,
2 which was set up mostly to study the pollution,
3 the nutrification of Lake Winnipeg. And I know
4 that there were First Nation people on that board,
5 I know for one, Bev Smith from Brokenhead was a
6 member of that board for a number of years.

7 And you also asked about a new licence
8 and whether there could be changes to this
9 licence. Hydro is not asking for a new licence at
10 this time. They are just asking for the existing
11 licence to be designated as final instead of
12 interim. So while we may suggest some terms to
13 the Minister, whether the licence will change
14 before 2026, I can't tell you.

15 ACTING CHIEF HENDERSON: So all they
16 are doing is just asking for a renewal of this
17 licence then, so we can't make no changes to it
18 then?

19 THE CHAIRMAN: It is not even a
20 renewal. It is a strange system under the Water
21 Power Act. This is unusual to us too, because all
22 of our reviews in the past have been under the
23 Environment Act, and it is a very different
24 process. This is under the Water Power Act. They
25 are granted an interim licence when they start to

1 construct a project. I think that the thinking in
2 the Act is that once the project is completed,
3 they would apply for a final licence, but they
4 don't need to. And so for some reason, Manitoba
5 Hydro didn't apply for a final licence from 1976,
6 when the project was completed, until 2010, which
7 is -- what is that -- 34 years or something? Now,
8 when they do get the final licence it will only be
9 good for 10 years.

10 I think the benefit of our process
11 right now, the Clean Environment Commission
12 process, is that we may well -- we may make
13 recommendations to change the terms, we may not,
14 that remains to be seen. But I think the real
15 benefit is to just to listen to people in
16 communities around the lake, and then later in
17 Winnipeg, and hear concerns about Lake Winnipeg
18 and Lake Winnipeg Regulation, and make those
19 concerns widely known. And hopefully set things
20 up so that five or six years from now, when Hydro
21 applies for the renewed licence after 2026, we
22 have identified a lot of serious issues that need
23 to be addressed before that next licence goes
24 forward.

25 It is small steps, it is slow steps.

1 As I've said in other communities, it took us many
2 years to screw up this lake, it is going to take
3 us many years to fix it.

4 ACTING CHIEF HENDERSON: So after
5 they get the renewal, is it going to be another
6 50-year licence? Like I mean, why can't we make
7 recommendations to make them 15-year licence or
8 10-year licence? Because 50 years is a pretty
9 long time, right? And I know they all look for
10 certainty all of the time, I know that that's
11 always a term that I hear when we are at the
12 table, right? But that certainty for them is
13 uncertainty for us here. Right?

14 THE CHAIRMAN: I understand fully what
15 you are saying. And I think it is certainly open
16 to your community or anybody to recommend that the
17 renewed licence in particular isn't for a full 50
18 years. The way the Water Power Act is right now,
19 that's what is allowed, you can get up to a
20 50-year licence. We think we are going to hear
21 from one presenter in Winnipeg about necessary
22 changes to the Water Power Act, so that may play a
23 role in what goes forward from this.

24 ACTING CHIEF HENDERSON: So you have
25 to change the Water Power Act before you can

1 change the licensing regulation? I guess that's
2 what it is, right?

3 THE CHAIRMAN: I can't say yes for
4 sure, but I think that's correct.

5 ACTING CHIEF HENDERSON: Okay. Thank
6 you.

7 MODERATOR RUBEN BUNN: Thank you,
8 Acting Chief Derrick Henderson.

9 We will now be moving right along with
10 our next presenter, Councillor Lyle Morriseau.
11 Just a reminder, that if you are in attendance,
12 please turn down your cell phones or make them
13 vibrate, we don't need to hear an oncoming phone
14 call. Thank you.

15 MR. LYLE MORRISSEAU: My name is Lyle
16 Morriseau, I'm a councillor with Sagkeeng First
17 Nation. I want to thank the drums this morning,
18 prayer from the elder, and our guests for coming
19 today. I think this is a very important part of
20 their process that has been -- that has left a lot
21 of people out because of the recent lack of
22 funding that was promoted in the CEC hearings.

23 I want to start by just saying that
24 Sagkeeng itself has certainly reached its maximum
25 amount of \$25,000 to prepare the consultation, or

1 the discussions, not the consultations. And it
2 has been very limited. I think there is a lot of
3 work that needs to be done in terms of preparing
4 presentations, not only from us, but from
5 community members to be here today. And as a
6 result you see those -- you see the lack of
7 participation because they are unable to prepare
8 their presentations in an adequate manner.

9 I want to start by saying that it is a
10 honour to serve as a council member and to be
11 involved in some of those developments that are
12 going on, not only in traditional parts of our
13 communities but also the ongoing part of
14 development. And one of the biggest impediments
15 have been, in terms of development in our
16 community, has been the result of the chaos that
17 Manitoba Hydro has caused in terms of the
18 inadequate use of funds to address those issues
19 such as land loss. Our community has spent,
20 through the Department of Indian Affairs and
21 Northern Development, we acquired \$1.4 million to
22 remove ten houses from the shoreline in the last
23 two years. And that money came out of a budget
24 that was already strained to its maximum. And
25 this year we see almost 10 to 15 houses in the

1 same predicament, that's going to happen in terms
2 of the result of trying to remove those houses
3 away from the shoreline because of the erosion.

4 I want to talk a little bit about the
5 amounts of the water levels and the shoreline that
6 has been lost in our community as a result.

7 I have a map here, I don't think that
8 there is any visuals to show it, but this map here
9 shows the time lines of 1874, 1948, 1970 and 1983.
10 I want to begin by saying that the first people
11 affected and impacted by Hydro development in
12 Manitoba have been the people of Sagkeeng. In
13 1911, they built the first dam along the Winnipeg
14 River and it affected our way of life
15 dramatically. So you see a loss of shoreline from
16 those areas, it actually goes up to 1983, and
17 since 1983 it has almost been, it is almost 30
18 years of loss of land that is not recorded there
19 yet. And it continues to be more.

20 The inflows to the lake have doubled
21 and we need to know what happens when they are
22 tripled. Study is needed to be ready for the
23 future. Traditional knowledge is important, it is
24 important for us. The inflows to the lake and to
25 the Winnipeg River all through the land, flow all

1 through the lands and through our community. We
2 are losing shoreline in our traditional territory,
3 in our community. We are losing reserve lands to
4 our community from the flow of Lake Winnipeg. We
5 are losing reserve and traditional lands along the
6 shoreline of Lake Winnipeg.

7 Sagkeeng is not alone in watching
8 their reserve lands go into the water. Mitigation
9 is needed to block loss of our lands, and the
10 concentration and the restriction is needed to
11 replace our lands.

12 It is not good enough for Manitoba
13 Hydro to say that this loss of land has nothing to
14 do with us. Manitoba Hydro admits limited
15 responsibility to Sagkeeng, but this is not part
16 of Lake Winnipeg Regulation. The inflows of the
17 river are part of the regulated waters, they are
18 part of the decisions about water levels.

19 As a people we are connected to all
20 aspects of the water and land. And to
21 compartmentalize it or to make it fall into
22 compartments of the lake and not considering the
23 river flows is unjust. Because it all contributes
24 to one another.

25 We have a map, and I showed you the

1 map of the shorelines of the 1870s. We need to do
2 more work to show our shorelines and the effects
3 of water level changes to Lake Winnipeg, but we
4 wanted to show this map today. Clearly, the red
5 lines show changes to shoreline seven years after
6 Jenpeg and regulation of lake water levels started
7 in 1983. 30 years have past since the date of
8 that map and our shorelines along Lake Winnipeg
9 continue to erode.

10 For the information for the CEC panel,
11 it is a community where our homes are going into
12 the river. We constantly have to -- we have to
13 negotiate with the utility to try to safeguard
14 shorelines, homes and roads and buildings, and
15 traditional gathering areas. We ask the CEC to
16 avoid a simple message from Manitoba Hydro. They
17 want to say that there is no impacts or effects
18 from regulation of Lake Winnipeg on the lake,
19 saying over and over again the benefits to the
20 utility, but there is no benefit to the community.
21 We all need to know that we have been going on --
22 and what to expect from continued regulation of
23 lake levels. We need to know how drawing down of
24 lake levels affects the lakes and the tributaries
25 connected to the lake. We need to know the

1 effects of the spring and summer years when the
2 water is high and kept by Manitoba Hydro. We know
3 the levels of 711 and 715 water levels, but to us
4 they just seem like numbers, but more importantly,
5 there is no means of monitoring or looking after,
6 or being directly involved in those water levels.

7 Our people have been sacrificed for
8 this archaic system. The majority of power
9 generated from Manitoba Hydro is sent to the
10 United States for export, creating massive -- a
11 lot of wealth for Manitoba Hydro, with no
12 dividends to the First Nations.

13 We need to see the impacts of what can
14 be done by reducing dam activities along the lake.
15 We need to restore our lake to its natural state.

16 Sagkeeng has lost and continues to
17 lose many burial sites along Lake Winnipeg
18 shorelines. Despite confirmation of this pattern,
19 despite lots of archeological studies, there is no
20 plan to address the burial sites that have been
21 lost. On a regular basis in Sagkeeng about four
22 or five sites are being unearthed every year as a
23 result of shoreline erosion. These are graves
24 that are hundreds of years old that are still in
25 their blankets and have been separated from their

1 bodies by the earth falling into the river, into
2 the lake.

3 Sagkeeng has lost a lot of sites along
4 Lake Winnipeg, the beaches, the swimming areas and
5 boating areas are gone, and it is no longer safe.
6 Gathering berries, gathering medicines, gathering
7 sacred plants along the shores of Lake Winnipeg is
8 greatly diminished, sites are lost and it is not
9 even safe. Gathering areas where nations have
10 gathered in communities and talked for thousands
11 of years have been lost as a result. No amount of
12 money could ever bring that back, but certainly
13 there is more sites that are threatened every
14 single day and something has to be done. But the
15 fact is there is no plan and they have no plan.

16 Our people lived along the lake for
17 thousands of years since Lake Agassiz receded, but
18 the lake is more dangerous now. Severe weather
19 events are happening and they are different from
20 before. Fog and ice events are more common, and
21 we have walls of snow and fog along the lake that
22 are also different than before.

23 The warning systems must be better,
24 disaster planning and emergency planning regarding
25 weather events including Lake Winnipeg must

1 improve. We are not ready for climate change on
2 Lake Winnipeg and it is already here.

3 Our traditional knowledge and
4 honourable studies with scientists can help us all
5 get ready for climate change, including climate
6 change on Lake Winnipeg systems.

7 An elder in our community who was
8 leading many of the ceremonies and prayers to
9 bring our young people home from World War II,
10 predicted the changes of our sky, our air, our
11 water and our animals, predicting the weather and
12 climate change would change for future
13 generations. I tell you that story to let you
14 know that our people were smart, we knew the lands
15 and we know the water. Together we must work
16 together to take care of the lake and the water.

17 Perhaps some of you will remember
18 those ceremonies. You see it all -- it was all
19 illegal at the time. Our people are fighting for
20 the King in Europe and our people were secretly
21 asking their grandfathers to bring them home
22 safely.

23 We know the ice is different. The ice
24 in the community and ice on the lake has changed
25 dramatically. When a crew and equipment for our

1 winter road, for one side of the community to the
2 other, went through the ice a few years ago, we
3 lost not only a colleague, but he was a father, he
4 was a friend, but most importantly he was a
5 community member, he was valued. So the water and
6 the ice level have changed.

7 Taking care of Lake Winnipeg probably
8 all we want is a different approach to licensing
9 regulations of water levels. We hope just doing
10 it in the same old way is not what the CEC
11 recommends. Lake Winnipeg and the communities
12 deserve better.

13 So I have spoken about the shoreline
14 erosion, about that we have to plan current and
15 future inflows to Lake Winnipeg. I have let you
16 know important shorelines in Lake Winnipeg where
17 we are as a people. I know the dramatic increase
18 of sediment is also happening. It affects the
19 lake, the species and the shorelines. There does
20 not seem to be a plan for the lake and the licence
21 to regulate water levels is no plan at all. We
22 hope the CEC will advise the Crown to think about
23 the future of Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba Hydro's
24 greatest reservoir, and recommend a future for the
25 lake that makes sure that no effects from

1 regulation of the lake. It is too simple to say
2 that no effects from regulation from the lake
3 levels, Manitoba says, so it is not relevant. Is
4 it? Independent work is needed to find out how
5 impacts of the lake interact and perhaps multiply
6 when they are connected on regulation and lake
7 levels.

8 I would like to make some
9 recommendations, recommending a joint panel made
10 up of First Nations and harvesters to talk about
11 the lake levels at their harvesting season,
12 whether it be fishermen or people along the shore
13 to monitor the effects.

14 I would like to recommend a monitoring
15 system for weather, water levels, must have access
16 to this information, all communities along the
17 shoreline. Include traditional knowledge and
18 harvesters to form the panel for their opinions on
19 a regular basis to have that input, because it is
20 important that you know that where you come from
21 is where you are going.

22 I would also like to recommend that we
23 continue to be more involved as a community in
24 what is going on around us, that we no longer have
25 the ability or the right to ignore, and to

1 participate in these type of hearings and these
2 type of events that affect so many people. That
3 our lives are more important than the money of
4 Manitoba Hydro, and that our lives are more
5 important, and the future of our children. And
6 the CEC has a responsibility to ensure that these
7 voices are heard and continue to be heard, and
8 presented in a good way.

9 So with that, I would just like to
10 thank you again for coming to the community,
11 having the opportunity to speak with you at a very
12 short time, but also for giving community members
13 an opportunity to speak to you as well. Thank
14 you. Miigwech.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,
16 Councillor Morriseau.

17 MODERATOR RUBEN BUNN: Thank you,
18 Councillor Lyle Morriseau. We are going to be
19 breaking off into a coffee break right now. When
20 we come back we are going to be asking the general
21 public that is here if they are interested in
22 making any statements or making a presentation.
23 And about 4:30, we are going to end the session
24 and we are going to say a little prayer, and then
25 we are going to have some dinner at 5:00 o'clock.

1 Then at 6:00, we are going to be beginning our
2 evening session. At 6:15 we are going to be
3 presenting statements from the community members
4 as well. At 7:00 p.m. we are going to be ending
5 the session here with the Clean Environment
6 Commission. So for now we are just going to break
7 off and have a coffee break. Please feel free to
8 help yourself.

9 (RECESS TAKEN)

10 MODERATOR RUBEN BUNN: If we could
11 make it back to our seats, we can continue on with
12 our Lake Winnipeg Regulation hearings.

13 At this time I would like to thank our
14 Acting Chief Derrick Henderson and Councillor Lyle
15 Morriseau for making their presentations here this
16 afternoon, and also Councillor Joe Daniels for
17 making a clear point about the proceedings here
18 this afternoon. We do realize that a lot of our
19 members in the community, especially our elders,
20 are not here at this time. And I'm sure that if
21 they were here, you would be hearing a lot of
22 stories and a lot of information shared in our
23 Ojibway language. Like our language, we have to
24 survive and bring it back as a right for our
25 people. And also, the protection of our lands and

1 our waterways are also key things that make us who
2 we are as an Anishinabe people, especially here in
3 Sagkeeng where we were put by the Creator as being
4 Anishinabe. Aniche means put here. We were here
5 since the dawn of time, and it has always been
6 believed that we would remain here until the end
7 of time.

8 After the coffee break I'm going to be
9 opening up the floor to the people that are here
10 this afternoon so that they can make a
11 presentation or a statement or statements that
12 they feel is necessary that this Commission needs
13 to hear about with regards to the licensing of
14 Manitoba Hydro and the protection of our lake.
15 Our lake is our blood. It provides with us life.
16 And these are important, not just to me, not just
17 to my cousins or my relatives that are here, but
18 it is important for everyone, not just here in
19 Sagkeeng, but also in our neighboring First
20 Nations communities such as Hollow Water, such as
21 Black River, where our relatives come from. And
22 then to look at it in such a way that we all have
23 a responsibility as human beings to take care of
24 our water supplies.

25 With that, I would like to leave the

1 floor open to anyone who wants to make a
2 presentation at this time to our Commission here.
3 Miigwech, thank you.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Anyone wish to make a
5 statement or ask questions of the Commission?
6 Come on forward. Please state your name and then
7 say what you would like to say.

8 NICOLE: Hi, my name is Nicole. And I
9 was wondering why Manitoba Hydro wasn't here to
10 answer questions?

11 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry, I didn't
12 hear, could you just speak very close into the
13 mic?

14 SPEAKER: I was wondering why Manitoba
15 Hydro wasn't here to answer our questions?

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, there are two
17 people here from Manitoba Hydro and they did
18 respond to a number of questions earlier.

19 NICOLE: Well, why couldn't they
20 answer those questions that Sage and Kaylene
21 asked?

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I think -- I
23 can't remember exactly what she asked, but he did
24 say that he would -- yes, she asked about why
25 Manitoba Hydro doesn't share profits with the

1 community whose resources were being used. And I
2 think the response was that that's just something
3 that he is not involved in, other people at
4 Manitoba Hydro can probably answer that. And if
5 you talk to him, he could get back to you or to
6 Sage with a response from Manitoba Hydro on that.
7 He is only one person from Manitoba Hydro and he
8 has one area of expertise. He doesn't know the
9 answers to everything. But he will take questions
10 back to Manitoba Hydro and provide a response.

11 NICOLE: Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Anything else?

13 MR. MARK COURCHENE: I have a few
14 questions. My name is Mark Courchene, and my
15 question is for our leadership. You look around
16 here and see how many people are here right now.
17 There is not very many people here. And one of
18 the councillors had the audacity to complain about
19 the lack of attendance. But it is not our job as
20 people to inform all of the community members
21 about this very important meeting, it is your job.
22 And you don't post anything -- you post these
23 little flyers all over and you don't even inform
24 the people. Don't you think it should have been
25 up to you guys to prepare the people to make the

1 presentations to the CEC, get them prepared? And
2 you guys didn't do anything.

3 Now I'm sitting here, and there is
4 nobody here. If the students weren't here, how
5 many people would you have? You would have hardly
6 anybody here. And you sit here and make a
7 presentation, saying you represent the people, but
8 you never asked the people anything. You never
9 asked them for their input, and you never tell
10 them anything. So you are sitting there making a
11 presentation on your own, it is not a presentation
12 for the people, that's your own presentation. You
13 never asked them for anything, you never asked us
14 for our input, and you never informed the people.
15 You should have shut down all of the schools, you
16 should have shut down all the organizations and
17 made the people come here. Look at how many
18 people are here. There is nobody here.

19 And as far as the CEC, isn't this
20 whole CEC hearing inadequate, because we are
21 dealing with a licence that was issued in the
22 1970s, right, before Aboriginal and Treaty rights
23 were recognized in the Constitution in 1982. So
24 isn't the whole CEC process inadequate then? That
25 was just one question. But mostly I wanted to

1 make an example here and show, you know, where is
2 the leadership. It is not our responsibility, it
3 is -- that's all I have to say.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, in response to
5 your question about the CEC, and I know that
6 earlier you referenced Aboriginal and Treaty
7 rights were not recognized until the Supreme Court
8 decision in 1973, and then that was confirmed in
9 the Constitution in 1982, and this licence was
10 issued in 1976. But it is an ongoing process.
11 This is an important step in the licensing
12 process. In another ten years there will be
13 another application for a licence, and it is
14 important to consult with communities through each
15 of those steps. We don't want to go back the way
16 it was before 1973, when Manitoba Hydro and many
17 other organizations just did what they wanted, and
18 governments for that matter just did what they
19 wanted in traditional territories of First
20 Nations. So we do want to hear your concerns.

21 And as I noted earlier, we can't solve
22 all of the problems, and we certainly can't solve
23 all of the problems quickly, but perhaps we can
24 find ways to move forward slowly and in a positive
25 direction for the lake.

1 Anybody else have any comments that
2 they would like to make, or questions they would
3 like to ask? Mr. Nelson?

4 MR. BALDUR NELSON: Good afternoon
5 folks, my name is Baldur Nelson. I come from
6 Gimli, I'm a lake front property owner, hence my
7 interest in these types of meetings.

8 Firstly, I guess I would like to thank
9 Mr. Ruben Bunn here for personally offering me an
10 invite on behalf, I believe, of the community. It
11 was very good and surprising to me to see the
12 young folks come up and express their feelings.
13 It is probably right and correct that there should
14 have been more. I don't know, I don't know the
15 dynamics of the community. I do know that when I
16 came here an hour late, most of that was spent
17 searching around for this meeting. I stopped into
18 three, let's see now, the arena, the entertainment
19 centre and the health centre, and nobody seemed to
20 know it was over here. However, at the health
21 centre they offered me a phone to call up the band
22 office, which told me it was here.

23 I kind of hold a unique position as an
24 individual. My wife is Cree from Split Lake, or
25 Tataskweyak First Nation. My children with her,

1 and my relatives, one of which is sitting at the
2 back desk there -- ironically, I didn't realize
3 she was going to be here.

4 I have, I will call it the privilege
5 of being able to see some of the impacts that have
6 happened, not only on the south basin, but on the
7 north end, on the downstream side of things. I
8 have in the past, by way of employment, worked on
9 Lake Winnipeg as a fishermen and as a captain for
10 Natural Resources Fisheries Department. I've also
11 been captain on various northern ferry operations,
12 Cross Lake, Split Lake, South Indian Lake. All of
13 those have been impacted by Manitoba Hydro.

14 One of the most horrendous, that I
15 have heard, aspects of Manitoba Hydro was back in
16 the late 1960s when they were diverting the
17 Churchill River and were going to cause the
18 community of South Indian Lake to entirely
19 evacuate the area. That was the concept and
20 perception of people of those days, as was kind of
21 alluded to here by the chair of the board, who
22 recognized that native people were not included,
23 at least until the 1970s. It was almost the
24 attitude that you could do whatever you want, this
25 is for the good of all, and if anybody is impacted

1 by it, well, they can get out of the way, tough
2 luck. That attitude is still there, at least as
3 far as I'm concerned.

4 I am impacted, not severely, my home
5 property. I think one of the biggest things I
6 have in front of me is the untruth, the
7 misinformation, the scrambling, the bafflegab,
8 whatever name you want to call it, if you want to
9 call it outright lying, that is the perception of
10 Manitoba Hydro to people. For myself, looking at
11 you folks, you really are my only hope of
12 rectifying the attitude of Manitoba Hydro.

13 The white population that is
14 surrounding the lake, sitting there, is probably
15 in the neighborhood of \$400,000, or a million
16 dollars worth of assessed property values, cannot
17 do a thing because we are splintered.

18 I will recommend and I will offer a
19 suggestion, that if the native bands of Lake
20 Winnipeg would get together and form a united
21 front, much like the Northern Flood Agreement, you
22 can put a stop to this, or at least mitigate it to
23 the point of where you have more input.

24 I thank you for allowing me to be
25 here. Thank you very much. Miigwech.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Nelson.

2 Anybody else have any comments or questions?

3 MS. HOPE: Hello, my name is Devorie
4 Hope, and my Anishinabe name is (Ojibway spoken).
5 I carry the surname of the first birds you hear
6 singing in the morning. I carry the white eagle
7 spirit and I come from the --

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Can you bring the mic
9 much closer? You have to speak very close to
10 them, sorry.

11 MS. HOPE: Would you like me to repeat
12 all of that.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: No.

14 MS. HOPE: All right. I introduced my
15 first name, my spirit name. What it means to us
16 as Anishinabe people, it means I speak very dear
17 and sincerely from my heart. As a mother of five
18 children, my heart is sad because I feel as if one
19 day it is not enough, as our people sit here
20 today, to go through all of these things that have
21 been put before our people. What has been going
22 through my heart and my mind sitting here
23 listening to you, as humbly as I can, the way that
24 I was taught bringing up, my grandfather was Dave
25 Courchene and my grandmother was Margaret

1 Courchene. And where the land erosion is for
2 where we live, my grandpa Dave taught us how to
3 think ten years ahead of time, always think those
4 generations before so our children have that land
5 that has been expressed here today, that so much
6 land has been washed away. My grandpa Dave,
7 before he passed away, he did as much riprapping
8 as he could, and as far as he could. Those blue
9 notes and those documents are all in our hearts
10 and in our family, and we keep them because, you
11 know, something bigger has to happen in order for
12 anything to change.

13 Again, my question is of the erosion.
14 I can't express enough, I'm just sad because of
15 how much land we have lost in that area, and the
16 marina, and the flourishment that was supposed to
17 go through the area that we live, just that point
18 alone. And someone said the sacred burial grounds
19 that has been washed away, and of the
20 archeologists that have tried to come and take one
21 of them, you know, our people stood before and
22 stopped that archeologist from taking that body to
23 where they wanted to take it, you know. What
24 right did they have to take our -- you know, our
25 burial grounds, they are sacred things. And

1 that's where I live, by the point, by the Super
2 Store there, here on the south shore.

3 So that is my question, where are the
4 burial grounds, and for the land erosion and for
5 the riprapping or whatever -- I may not be
6 pronouncing that right, whatever that is called
7 exactly.

8 So, again, my name is Devorie Hope,
9 I'm a mother of five children, and like I said
10 before, that my concern is our burial grounds. I
11 mean, it could have been prevented how many years
12 ago, five years ago now, ten years ago? But
13 that's the way that we were raised. I was raised
14 to think ten years ahead of time before these
15 things happen, before they come. As Anishinabe
16 people, that's the way we were trained. And us as
17 a people, as a nation now, I believe that it is up
18 to us to come together and do something as a
19 people together. And I believe we will make a
20 change together, not fighting or separating and
21 all of those things.

22 So, again, those are my concerns. I
23 tried to narrow it down to two things, and those
24 are the two things that I could narrow it down to
25 without taking too much time. I thank you for

1 hearing me. Miigwech.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Hope.

3 Anybody else have any comments?

4 MS. BERNALDA ROBINSON: My name is
5 Bernalda Robinson, and I got up earlier and now I
6 have more notes.

7 In terms of the statement, I was
8 wondering like, what kind of statement were you
9 asking for? As I was listening and hearing the
10 presentations, I was thinking about what is more
11 important to us as Anishinabe people. And we have
12 always been told in the ceremonies and in the
13 teachings that we have the natural resources,
14 which is the fire that's from the sun, the air,
15 the water and the land. And all of those things
16 give us life, they give us medicines as well, and
17 they give us that healing for our bodies.
18 Therefore, we have a natural obligation to protect
19 all of those things. So we have an obligation to
20 protect the water, the land, the air, the fire.

21 As we've seen recently with Winnipeg
22 having to learn the hard way the sacredness of
23 water with their contamination of their source, we
24 are shown again as a teaching, by the Creator, you
25 know, that maybe we are not doing a good job of

1 protecting our water, and we need to wake up and
2 do more to protect that water.

3 And on another note, you know, with
4 the Lake Winnipeg Regulation, we can appreciate
5 the regulation of the flow of the water. What I
6 was thinking of, our people a long time ago,
7 before even technology and the man-made
8 diversions, our people knew how to regulate the
9 water. And when they did that, they were very
10 considerate of their neighboring communities when
11 they had to do something that could affect another
12 First Nation or community.

13 So my thinking is that First Nations
14 should have been a part of this plan, this big
15 plan that Manitoba Hydro talked about with Dale
16 Hutchison's presentation. He talked about the
17 project, you know, the project is actually for the
18 full province. I know they go in phases and stuff
19 like that. But have they been considerate of the
20 people that are affected? And a lot of places,
21 especially First Nations will say no, they haven't
22 been considerate. Yet we have been taught by our
23 ancestors in the past that they have always been
24 considerate of their neighboring community, any
25 time they had to do something that affected their

1 land and their waterways. And I feel that this
2 same kind of respect should have been offered to
3 the people by Manitoba Hydro today, and maybe by
4 doing that you would have the buy in of the First
5 Nations people by including them at the table.

6 As Acting Chief Henderson mentioned
7 that we should be included at the table right from
8 the start. But we are actually just finding out
9 about all of this just now. You know, like, it
10 has been years that it has been happening, but we
11 are just finding out that, hey, we have a voice
12 here, they are actually wanting to talk to us now.
13 Meanwhile, you know our people a long time ago
14 were very considerate of their fellow human
15 beings.

16 And to close off, some of things that
17 I was jotting down, the impacts that I've noticed
18 on the regulation, and like I was talking to
19 Darrell in the back there, I understand that a lot
20 of things are not necessarily due to the
21 regulation, or whatever Hydro does. But the
22 impacts that I've noticed and that I could
23 associate with Manitoba Hydro and their regulation
24 of the water levels is the land loss or the
25 flooding through our community of Sagkeeng. And

1 also the increase in the force of the currents
2 today, we have never had that many currents
3 before. And that in turn affects our ice roads.
4 Like we have one ice road and that always --
5 because of the geography of our community we have
6 a north and a south. And we depend on that ice
7 road right now. We don't have it very long
8 anymore because of the river getting so wide and
9 the current is very strong.

10 Thinking back to my childhood years,
11 we used to be able to swim down by the point, we
12 used to call it Bernard's Point. I think it used
13 to be also called Paul's Point. We used to swim
14 there all of the time as children, and they had
15 sand. Today you don't even see sand on the
16 shores. We used to call them beaches. Even
17 though there was very little sand at that time,
18 for us it was a beach. But those beaches were
19 gone. So today nobody ever hardly swims around
20 there.

21 And then I was thinking back, I used
22 to see pictures of relatives, uncles, that used to
23 fish. Like Allen was talking about the sturgeon,
24 I seen a picture at my grandmother's where they
25 had a six foot sturgeon, and that was common back

1 then. And today you don't see that.

2 I guess to close off I just want to
3 say that we are impacted by the regulation by
4 Manitoba Hydro, and we have known that for years
5 and years. If somebody was to tell me that, no,
6 we haven't been, I could not be convinced.
7 Miigwech.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,
9 Ms. Robinson.

10 Anybody else? Well, we will be here
11 for the next two or three hours, so we won't
12 completely close it down. If anybody decides in
13 the next few minutes that they would like to make
14 a presentation or ask questions, just let us know
15 and we will come back to order. Otherwise, we
16 will just sort of stand at ease for the time
17 being.

18 (Prayer before dinner break)

19 (Recessed for dinner)

20 MODERATOR RUBEN BUNN: Good evening,
21 ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to our session at
22 the Clean Environment Commission, Lake Winnipeg
23 Regulation hearing. I would like to take this
24 time to thank our cooks who made this feast for
25 all of you here. Miigwech.

1 We are going to get the ball rolling
2 right at 6:00 p.m. So if you would kindly start
3 getting ready, we are going to start quickly at
4 6:00 p.m.

5 If there are no presentations or
6 statements from any other community members, I do
7 believe that Mr. Terry Sargeant will start with
8 closing comments. If there is no presentations or
9 statements being made, about 15 minutes, 20
10 minutes after we open up the 6:00 o'clock session,
11 if there are no presentations we will just wrap it
12 all up.

13 (Evening Session)

14 MODERATOR RUBEN BUNN: Good evening
15 ladies and gentlemen, my name is Ruben Bunn, my
16 Indian name is Rising Sun. I come from the fish
17 clan. Welcome back.

18 The evening session, it states here
19 that I have to do some opening comments, and some
20 of the comments that I do have for this evening's
21 session is that I have heard what my people are
22 saying in our community, here in Sagkeeng, with
23 respect to our elders and the lack of enough of
24 our elders being here at this meeting with the
25 Clean Environment Commission. I heard a lot of

1 recommendations, I heard a lot of concerns coming
2 from our people from Sagkeeng, and a lot of anger
3 and frustration that I have a hard time with.
4 Because in listening to my elders, we are in a
5 very delicate time and space here, with the lack
6 of people that are showing up. Just let me remind
7 you that there were notifications into the
8 community with posters, and there were
9 announcements being made on both FM, the community
10 radio station here in Sagkeeng, with invitations
11 going out to all of the membership in our
12 community.

13 I understand that we have a lot of
14 concern with regards to the water levels on our
15 lake, that inflow from our river system, meaning
16 the Winnipeg River, and how the lake has
17 deteriorated due to the erosion of our lands here
18 in our First Nations community. I have empathy
19 for our members who live along the river's edge
20 with the loss of their land, with the loss of
21 their livelihood, whether they still practice it
22 or not, with regards to harvesting fish and the
23 wildlife that gains sustainability from our lake.

24 I've also heard from Dale Hutchison
25 and Manitoba Hydro on their intentions with

1 regards to regulating the amounts of water along
2 the Lake Winnipeg, the lake system.

3 It is hard for me to express my
4 feelings because a lot of it has to do with
5 emotions that my people feel as well. It is an
6 ongoing struggle that we have here in Sagkeeng
7 with regards to our river and the lake. And I
8 believe that this step here today is an open
9 opportunity for our community to work hand in hand
10 with the Clean Environment Commission, that leaves
11 the door open for us to take part, whether or not
12 there is regulations with time restrictions that
13 they have told us about and that we don't have no
14 control over.

15 Like one of our council members said
16 earlier today with regards to our elders, I've
17 seen and I've heard our elders speak about our
18 lands and our water and how we are supposed to
19 protect it, as being Anishinabe people. And to
20 me, it is the Clean Environment Commission intent
21 to make recommendations on behalf of all of the
22 people that surround the lake. What are the steps
23 on which way to go, not just here in Sagkeeng, but
24 other First Nations as well, and all of those
25 people that are affected by the proceedings and

1 what is happening with our lake right now? It is
2 a constant struggle to have clean drinking water,
3 and it is a struggle to keep that water clean.

4 Like the elder had said earlier today in her
5 prayers that we take the right direction. I
6 believe in my heart the only place that it could
7 start is at home, with our own kids first, and
8 then our family, our extended family, and then our
9 community.

10 I love Sagkeeng. That's why I moved
11 back home, to be here with all of these people who
12 have so much to offer, but at times are afraid to
13 show and share their stories. Maybe that's one of
14 the reasons why we don't have so many people here
15 today. They are interested, but they are somewhat
16 shy of making statements to proceedings such as
17 this, or an outright (inaudible) about how they
18 share the knowledge. Because at times maybe we
19 are not ready for the truth, maybe we are not
20 ready for those lessons, until our elders tell us
21 that.

22 As the moderator, I have sat here and
23 I have listened to my people address those
24 concerns. And it is heart breaking, because it
25 has to come to this, to where an outside entity

1 has to come on to our reserve and tell us what is
2 happening.

3 I believe in my heart, with a united
4 front, with not just Sagkeeng, but one of the
5 ladies who had made a comment there about the
6 other First Nations as well, that we put up a
7 united front and face this task together as one.
8 But that's just how I see it.

9 And with that I would like to turn the
10 chair over to Terry Sargeant, the CEC chair, and
11 gather his opening comments as well.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ruben.

13 I don't really have too much more to
14 say by way of opening comments. I think most of
15 you were here this afternoon. I think for the
16 benefit of those who weren't here this afternoon,
17 and who might be thinking about making a statement
18 or asking questions this evening, just let me tell
19 you that what we would like to hear from you is
20 who you are, and how Lake Winnipeg implementation
21 may have impacted you or your community. And if
22 you have any thoughts on what we might recommend
23 to be done about it, we would like to hear that
24 from you as well.

25 We heard this afternoon from a number

1 of people. We had some major presentations by
2 your acting chief and by two councillors, and we
3 heard from a number of other people in the
4 community, including some of the young people that
5 were here this afternoon. And I don't think that
6 you need to apologize for having a small crowd
7 out, I think what we heard were good comments,
8 they came from the heart, they told stories about
9 what has happened in your community. And what is
10 important to us is that they were stories that we
11 had heard in other communities, so it corroborated
12 what we heard in other communities, and just added
13 weight to what we have been hearing for the last
14 few weeks and what we expect to hear over the next
15 week or two when we are in some more communities
16 outside of the city.

17 We also know that we are going to hear
18 from Sagkeeng in Winnipeg in April. As well we
19 are going to hear from Lake Winnipeg indigenous
20 fishermen in Winnipeg. So they will be telling us
21 in other places and on another dates stories and
22 concerns that people in this community have. So I
23 think, you know, it has been a small crowd, but we
24 have heard good things.

25 So with that I would like to turn it

1 over to the public again and see if anybody in
2 this room wants to add any more to the
3 proceedings? Does anybody here have anything they
4 wish to say, more questions they wish to ask?

5 Just state your name please, and then
6 say what you would like to.

7 MRS. SPENCE: (Ojibway spoken). My
8 English name is Virginia Spence, I am from the
9 sturgeon clan. I'm from the reserve and I was
10 born here, and I have been living here. I'm 70
11 years old already. I'm a mother of seven
12 children, 36 grandchildren, 63 great
13 grandchildren, four great great grandchildren, and
14 these are the ones that I'm thinking about. I
15 know how old I am already, I'm not thinking about
16 myself, I'm thinking about my family, my children,
17 my great grandchildren, the future that are going
18 to be here after I leave. I'm thinking about them
19 before I leave them. I want to leave something
20 for them, something they could lean on as they
21 grow up, how proud it is to be an Anishinabe, not
22 to be ashamed of who they are. Because we are
23 Anishinabe and we are not -- I know we were told
24 to act like an Indian, but we are not acting, we
25 are Indians, we are Anishinabe here.

1 And I wanted to ask you something that
2 I don't know how you feel, if we invite you to the
3 reserve in the summertime, all of you to come and
4 camp out there by the cliffs and drink water from
5 down the bank, just like us, wash clothes from
6 down the bank just like us Anishinabe. We have to
7 get water from down the bank, although we have
8 running water but it still comes from the river,
9 it is not coming from some place else. We still
10 use the same water.

11 You know, before we had the power on
12 the reserve, we used to have washboards, tubs to
13 wash our clothes. I used to go down the bank to
14 go wash clothes. It was easy in the summer to go
15 wash clothes down the bank, change the water, make
16 fire down there, warm the water and wash, down the
17 bank. Today we can't even do that. We can't even
18 go down there.

19 And the kids could go swimming. We
20 used to like swimming down the bank when we were
21 young, young children, we always would go down the
22 bank to go and swim in the summer. Then one day
23 what happened was we found some rubber things down
24 the bank, and we played with them, we thought
25 those were balloons. We didn't know what they

1 were. Today, now we can't even go down the bank
2 to go get water. How come is that?

3 This water was given to us. Like, as
4 I understand, I'm a woman and God gave me water to
5 carry, that's why I have seven children, and
6 grandchildren, and great grandchildren already.
7 We were given that water to take care of as a
8 woman. But what has happened? Who is poisoning
9 our water for us? Who is poisoning us? Who is
10 poisoning everything? Even the wild animals, we
11 can't even eat the wild animals. We can eat fish
12 a little bit, but not too much because they are
13 being poisoned, them too. Everything is being
14 poisoned by what, by who? Who is poisoning
15 everything? Somebody is poisoning everything.
16 How can we help? How can you help us? Can you
17 find a way to help us to keep our waters clean?
18 Help us to keep the water clean. It is very
19 important to us. We need our water, we need our
20 land, we need our trees, we need our medicine, we
21 need our animals, so we can support ourselves with
22 wild meat that are out there. We need all of
23 that, because the Creator gave them all to us, he
24 created everything for us, and those are very
25 important to us as Anishinabe people. That's how

1 we grow up. That's how our elders have grown up.
2 They have grown up with everything. They ate from
3 the ground.

4 Where we stay now, my great
5 grandparents, they had a big garden for everybody
6 to eat from there. All of that land is gone down
7 the bank, there is nothing left of where they used
8 to have their garden, where their house used to
9 be, it has all gone down the bank. And how do we
10 get back that land?

11 Where are my grandchildren and my
12 great grandchildren going to live when all of that
13 land goes down into the water? Where are we going
14 to get the land from?

15 These things we have to think about,
16 those are very important to us because that's how
17 we live. We don't live in the big cities with big
18 mansions, we accept what was given to us. We have
19 to stay in those little houses, no matter how many
20 families there is, we have to stay in them. We
21 can't afford to have big mansions. And yet we see
22 big cities with big mansions all over. How come
23 we don't have anything like that?

24 And look at the farmers, all of the
25 land they have, just one farmer, all that land

1 over there that I always see when we pass by when
2 we go to the city. Lots of land for one family.
3 And here we are, we hardly have anything. The
4 houses, some of them are just so close to the
5 cliff already, just like they are going to go down
6 the cliff any time. And nobody is doing nothing,
7 nobody. And these are the most important things
8 to everybody. I'm sure that's important to you
9 too, to have a big mansion with the big yard, nice
10 water, power, and where does it come from? Where
11 does that power come from that you are using, and
12 the water, where does it come from?

13 These things, you have to realize what
14 we go through every day like. You don't -- you
15 don't have to worry about it, but we do have to
16 worry about them, because we are thinking about
17 our grandchildren. Those are the ones that I'm
18 thinking about, our grandchildren, the future.
19 Where are they going to live? Where are they
20 going to get water from?

21 Even if you don't let Hydro, like they
22 did to me -- two months ago Hydro cut my hydro off
23 at my house because I was one month behind. I'm
24 just a pensioner, I'm a widow. They came and cut
25 me off. I had to borrow money to pay for it. And

1 here, what is Hydro doing to us? Where is our
2 resources? What is happening with our resources?
3 Where is that money going? Who is getting all of
4 that resource money?

5 We are supposed to be the rich people
6 on this island, Anishinabe people. We are
7 supposed to be rich, that's what our elders used
8 to tell us. We are supposed to be the richest
9 people on this island with all of the resources
10 that we have. And yet we are the poorest people,
11 as Anishinabe people. You see it, you see it, but
12 we are trying to do our best to live our everyday
13 life to bring up our children, to feed them, and
14 to use that water. We can't afford to buy water
15 all of the time, we can't afford it. Today we
16 have to buy it. And yet our Creator gave us that
17 water, he created everything for us. He created a
18 big garden, and it is a nice garden, but what is
19 happening? Who is spoiling everything? Who is
20 taking everything from us?

21 Nobody is doing nothing. We are just
22 going to get poorer and poorer and poorer. With
23 our great grandchildren, they won't have nothing
24 if we don't do anything now. But I am not going
25 give up, I know Our creator will help us. I

1 believe in him, because he created for us. And I
2 keep on praying and asking him to help us, to make
3 the good things back the way it was before, to
4 have our water clean, our resources, to eat from
5 the garden, to eat from the wild animals. God
6 created those for us, he created everything for
7 us. It is a nice garden how he made it. It is
8 beautiful. This was a beautiful island where we
9 live, beautiful. But it looks -- it doesn't look
10 good when you go down the bank, the way our earth
11 is going down to the river, that doesn't look
12 good.

13 And why? Why is it like that? We
14 didn't create that. I don't think that God
15 created that for us, to lose the earth, he didn't
16 create that for us. But something is taking that
17 land, but it is not us. We hardly have any,
18 hardly have any, to enjoy our land, to see our
19 kids running around all over. We hardly have any
20 land left, just a little bit each now. Because
21 the land is, most of the land is going down in the
22 water. And that's the thing, I don't know if this
23 will go anywhere. Maybe I'm just talking for
24 nothing, maybe nobody will do nothing about this.
25 I don't know how long you are going to have this

1 meeting, and if you are going to let us know what
2 you are doing, if we are going to hear from you
3 again, see what you are doing for us on this
4 reserve or other reserves. I don't know. I know
5 you must be working for government, but I don't
6 know if anybody is going listen to us, to what we
7 are saying, what we are telling you, what is
8 happening in our reserve.

9 You heard these young kids talking
10 too. They have concerns already because they see
11 what is happening, they have concerns already. I
12 would like to see, or hear again from somebody
13 that will come and tell us, this is what we are
14 going to do for you, not just listening and just
15 fly away with the wind when we talk. I hope it
16 will stay some place where somebody can read it
17 and listen to our concerns.

18 We have a big concern here, our water,
19 these things, the trees, the medicine, the
20 animals. Those are very important to us. And I
21 hope that somebody will see it, somebody will hear
22 it. I know that God hears us, I know he does. He
23 knows what is in our hearts and he knows what we
24 want. And I hope, I hope you hear too, you will
25 listen, not just blow it away.

1 That's all I'm going to say. Thank
2 you very much for listening.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for
4 those comments.

5 Anybody else have anything they wish
6 to add? Anybody else want to make a comment, add
7 to the very good comments we just heard from
8 Mrs. Spence? Any questions?

9 MS. NANCY BRUYERE: I just want to say
10 thank you for sharing, for everybody sharing. I
11 want to thank -- there is a meeting at the church
12 for healing of the families.

13 I forgot to say, my name is Nancy
14 Bruyere and I'm a minister at the Anglican Church,
15 and I just enjoyed listening to everybody. This
16 is my first time listening to a hearing like this.
17 What I wanted to say is when I listened to the
18 people and listened to the elders and our young
19 people and all of you sharing the work that you
20 do, talking about the work that you do on the lake
21 and reserves and rivers, I just want to share with
22 you how much God, the Creator loves this world.
23 And he cares so much about it. And I think we
24 need to learn how to start caring for this world,
25 each and every one of us. Because if we don't, it

1 is just going to get worse. And I think we need
2 to start listening to one another and working with
3 one another.

4 And I just thank everyone for the
5 respect that was shown here today, because I just
6 felt the respect that was shared here today, and
7 that we had a chance to listen to each other.

8 So with that I say miigwech and God
9 bless you in this work, and I hope it gets better,
10 I hope it gets better for our community and all
11 surrounding communities that are affected by what
12 is happening with the lakes and rivers, our water.
13 Miigwech, God bless you.

14 ACTING CHIEF HENDERSON: Acting Chief
15 Henderson again, I just want to make one other
16 comment.

17 Sitting here with the elderly people,
18 one of the things that we are recommending is that
19 we get an interpreter when we have a session like
20 this, moving forward. I know we couldn't do that
21 today. It is another comment that I was hearing,
22 because some of them don't understand what we are
23 trying to say in the English language. If we say
24 it in Ojibway, it is much easier to understand for
25 our elders. If you could just make that as a

1 recommendation moving forward. Miigwech.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: That's a very good
3 recommendation.

4 Anybody else have any final comments
5 they wish to make?

6 Well, I will say a few closing
7 comments and then I will let Ruben close down the
8 day's proceedings. First, I would like to again
9 thank the chief and council and the elders of this
10 community for welcoming us into your community
11 today. I want to thank all of those who made
12 presentations or asked questions today. As I said
13 a few moments ago, we heard a lot of good stuff
14 here today, and it will certainly help us.

15 I want to say in particular to the
16 elder who just spoke a few moments ago and who
17 wondered if she was wasting her time speaking, I
18 want to assure her and all of you that we have
19 heard what you said. When our report comes out
20 you will see what you said at least reflected in
21 our report. I can't promise you that we will give
22 you everything that you would like, but I can
23 assure you that we have listened to you, and what
24 we have heard today will be in our minds when we
25 turn to deliberations and making, coming to

1 conclusions and making decisions and making
2 recommendations to the Minister.

3 What happens after today is we have
4 more hearings, as I said earlier, we have more
5 hearings in communities outside of Winnipeg and in
6 Winnipeg. The hearings will end about the third
7 week in April, and then after that we have about
8 three months to write a report. When we are done
9 with that, we will publish a report. It will be
10 available to anybody, anybody in your community
11 that wants copies, we will send it out, or you can
12 read it online at our website.

13 I think I'm going to -- I guess I'm
14 going to repeat myself, if we can just make some
15 small steps, I think again the elder who spoke a
16 few moments ago talked about turning things the
17 right way, and then Nancy in her comments a moment
18 or two ago said that we should all just come
19 together and be sensible and try and make life
20 better, and if we could do that the whole world
21 would be a lot better place. But it is easier
22 said that done, unfortunately. But let's all try
23 to at least move it forward by small steps in the
24 right direction.

25 So, again, I would like to

1 congratulate and thank the drum group for coming
2 out today. I would like to especially thank the
3 women who put on the dinner this evening, it was
4 delicious. That was perhaps the best bannock that
5 I have ever had, if not the best, certainly close.
6 It was very good. And as I was saying to the
7 folks I was sitting with at supper time, I love
8 raisin pie, but my wife doesn't so I don't get it
9 at home, so it was nice to get it here this
10 evening.

11 So with that, thank you for hosting
12 the sessions today. Thank you, good evening and
13 safe travels.

14 MODERATOR RUBEN BUNN: On behalf of
15 the community here we would like to thank Edwin
16 Yee, Commissioner, Terry Sargeant, the Chair, and
17 Bev Suek, the Commissioner, Neil Harden also one
18 of the Commissioners, Cathy Johnson, secretary to
19 the Commission, and the other CEC staff, Mr. Dale
20 Hutchison from Manitoba Hydro, our Chief and
21 Council, Acting Chief Derrick Henderson, and
22 Councillor Lyle Morriseau, and also to Joe Daniels
23 who was here earlier. I would also like to thank
24 the cook for making a really good supper.

25 And in closing, I would like to thank

1 the Clean Environment Commission for making its
2 way to the community. I do believe this is a
3 positive step in the right direction. Not just
4 from here in Sagkeeng, but also in other First
5 Nations communities that are directly involved
6 with the proceedings that are happening here
7 around the lake, Lake Winnipeg.

8 In the future when we decide to send a
9 delegation up to Winnipeg with the other
10 Commission hearings, I hope and I pray that our
11 elders are more involved with these proceedings so
12 that the Commission can hear the real stories of
13 what had happened here in Sagkeeng with regards to
14 our river, with regards to the lake that we share
15 with other First Nations and other communities,
16 all those non-native communities as well.

17 What you heard here today were
18 concerns that our community members have with
19 regards to the lake regulations on the water
20 levels. Some of them may understand, some of them
21 may not. Like the elders, like our elder said
22 just prior, I hope and I pray that these
23 proceedings have a meaningful direction on future
24 meetings, that we are not just put on the shelf
25 and forgotten about once again.

1 I would like to invite back Manitoba
2 Hydro and we will have more discussion on what
3 they really intend to do with our lake and how
4 they want to regulate it, not just the outflow but
5 the intake as well. And our river, the Winnipeg
6 River has a lot to do with that in the southern
7 basin of Lake Winnipeg.

8 I would like to thank all of those
9 people who have come out this afternoon and shared
10 their stories with us, and shared our stories with
11 the Clean Environment Commission so that they too
12 can take back what they have heard here today and
13 put it into their own terms so that they can
14 present it to their own ministers, so that they
15 have a real good idea of the situation that's
16 happening here in our community, that we do care
17 about our lake and what is happening to it, and
18 the devastating effects that are happening right
19 now with the pollution, with the algae.

20 I was always told by my grandfather,
21 as long the rivers flow, the grass grows and the
22 wind blows, our Treaties will be reaffirmed by the
23 Canadian Constitution, that we have a fiduciary
24 responsibility from the Crown of Canada, that we
25 make our steps meaningful with the wisdom and the

1 knowledge that comes behind it from our elders as
2 they are our knowledge. It is unfortunate that
3 you don't see them all here today, but their
4 spirit is, and that's what we have to protect, our
5 life blood, our water, not just for the Anishinabe
6 people, but for all people, to the fish that swim
7 in the rivers, that swim in the lake, to the
8 wildlife that drinks that water which in turn
9 feeds us.

10 I ask the Creator to lead us into a
11 meaningful direction that we work together as one,
12 in harmony and in good faith, so that they can
13 achieve the thing that is most precious to us as
14 people, our water. Without our water we are
15 nothing. We need that water to sustain life, to
16 sustain our ability to live together, because we
17 are all in it together.

18 So miigwech for coming out and sharing
19 your stories, and sharing your knowledge with us
20 here today. I thank you, I thank the Commission
21 for coming out and hearing our people's concerns.

22 At this time I'm going to make my way
23 over to our elder who had opened up our
24 proceedings here this afternoon, with a closing
25 prayer, and after she is done we will go back to

1 the drum and sing that song, to bring closure to
2 what has happened here today in hopes that this
3 doesn't just go away here, that we take it and
4 show the rest of the province, the rest of
5 Anishinabe people in our territories and in other
6 communities that we are ready.

7 (Closing prayer and drum ceremony)

8 (Concluded at 7:00 o'clock)

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OFFICIAL EXAMINER'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.

Cecelia J. Reid
Official Examiner, Q.B.

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