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(Commission Secretary)

Presentation to the Clean Environment Commission(CEC)

By R.Irwin Kehler Thompson, Manitoba

Concerning Manitoba Bipole III Hearings

Greetings Mr.Terry Sargeant and your panel of CEC Commissioners for Manitoba's Bipole III hearings. Also, greetings to the panel for Manitoba Hydro and all its members.

As an Aboriginal Manitoban and as a veteran of the Manitoba Aboriginal media industry I want to thank you for your time in listening to my presentation.

I would like to give a bit of a background of my Manitoba family. My two older children are Band members of the Sandy Bay First Nation on the west side of Lake Manitoba. My grandmother was a Band member of Lake Manitoba Indian Reserve in Manitoba's Interlake region. And my youngest daughter is a Band member of Little Black River First Nation on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

Further, my younger son is a grandson of the late Eddie Simard, a mentor of the current President of the Manitoba Metis Federation, Mr.David Chartrand. I spoke recently to Oliver Boulette of the MMF who was involved with the recent Convocation of a Doctorate of Letters ceremonies for Mr.Chartrand at the Universtity of Winnipeg. Mr.Boulette, a former Manitoba Deputy Minister of Northern & Aboriginal Affairs told me in private about his great respect of my younger son's grandfather, Eddie Simard, and his great relationship with current MMF President David Chartrand. Premier Selinger presented to President Chartrand during these ceremonies.

What has this all have to do with the current Bipole III hearings you may ask?

My answer is quite simple...ladies and gentlemen...everything! Everything that the current Manitoba Hydro panelists and the CEC panelists sitting in front of me represent is...is what I am talking about...people. Manitobans. No matter their familial, ethnic, or other characteristics...we are all affected by business and economic undertakings such as the Bipole III transmission line project. And we must all find ways that this project will provide benefits to us all... that WILL outweigh the costs involved.

I believe if Bipole III is developed and created properly for the benefit of all Manitobans then this project will succeed.

But a fair, honest, open, and transparent presentation must be made to all Manitobans that the Bipole III project will benefit all Manitobans and not leave environmental, financial, cultural, or business deficits that will take away from our current standard of living or create a deficit for our future standard of living.

As a business and economic undertaking Bipole III must allow for business opportunities...no matter how financially minute or large...any and all Manitoban's must be allowed to participate in business and economic opportunities provided in the building and construction of the Bipole III transmission line

project. Business opportunities must include employment and training opportunities as well.

I propose that this panel of CEC Commissioners and this Manitoba Hydro panel of experts sitting and listening to me now make all efforts to ensure the maximization of business, employment, and training opportunities for all Manitobans.

I found out recently that a cousin of my wife has been and still may be working on the building of transmission line towers such as those that are required for this hydro project. He is in one of many crews who are building transmission line towers and they are doing this work outside of the Province of Manitoba. He is a Manitoban. I cannot tell you for sure if those towers that his crews are building are slated for Bipole III. But I can tell you he does a lot of work and makes a good pay cheque. That is good!

Not too long ago, I sat in on a meeting at the Wuskwatim hydro dam site, while it was still being built. The two others who were in this meeting were the late Wuskwatim site manager John Markowski and the chief at that time of NCN...the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation. These two gentlemen were haggling it out that too many jobs were NOT going to NCN members and that rather these Wuskwatim jobs were going to people from outside of Manitoba.

Further, during this meeting the NCN Chief had complained to Mr. Markowsky that even though NCN companies had submitted proposals to do service contracts, Manitoba Hydro had awarded these service contracts to companies outside of Manitoba.

In fact, some people who were trained by Manitoba Hydro training dollars and successfully completed their certified training were not being employed by the Wuskwatim hydro project. I can provide this CEC panel with names in confidence if so required.

Last winter when Manitoba Minister of Finance Stan Struthers visited Thompson at a local church, I happened to attend this community meeting and tape recorded it and took photos. Minister Steve Ashton was also present. It was during this meeting I questioned Minister Struthers on the LACK of maintaining business, training, and job opportunities throughout the Wuskwatim process and he admitted that this was indeed an honest summary of the situation at Wuskwatim and that, in his words, "We'll do better next time." And I told him if he meant what he said, then he had my support on projects such as Keeyask and Conawapa.

And to do Bipole III properly, ladies and gentlemen, I urge that the proponent of Bipole III, that is Manitoba Hydro, and I urge Terry Sargeant and his commission to see to it that there is some sort of guarantee in writing that any and all Manitobans who want to do business with, train with, or be employed with the building and maintaining of the Bipole III project...are given a fair chance to do so. Please follow through on what Minister Struthers stated in Thompson, Manitoba not too long ago that 'we'll get it right.'

In conclusion of this presentation, I would like to return for a brief moment to my introduction of this presentation on the point that we are all Manitobans.

Recently, my wife's two uncles, that is, her mother's two brothers, had presented to this Bipole III

hearings when they were in Thompson. My sister-in-law's best friend is a current Vice President of the MMF Thompson Region and she presented to this CEC hearings. In fact my wife's late father is formerly from Grand Rapids, Manitoba which is a community that has a great history with Manitoba hydro projects.

I worked with two Chief&Councils of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, NCN, using the Native media and non Native Media of Manitoba to promote pre- Wuskwatim, and during the construction of Wuskwatim. A time span of about 10 years.

There were times when Wuskwatim had problems in moving forward but it succeeded. And as Minister Struthers admitted in a public meeting in Thompson which I tape recorded...mistakes were made. But, I also believed Minister Struthers when he stated we can find ways for everyone to benefit from these types of projects. I urge this Manitoba Hydro panel and CEC Panel in front of me today to ensure that all Manitobans benefit...especially through business, jobs, and training. You must make these efforts because that is your responsibility and the Manitoba public has placed its trust in all of you.

One final point, I recall a one-on-one interview I tape recorded with one of the NCN Chiefs during my work in promoting Wuskwatim. This NCN Chief was frustrated that not enough NCN workers were being employed by Wuskwatim. Further, this NCN Chief vented to me his frustration in this interview about dealings he had with Bob Brennan in negotiations over Bipole III and a letter that Mr.Brennan had written to this NCN Chief and his two other partners who were the chiefs of the Tataskwayek Cree Nation and Fox Lake Cree Nation. He basically called Mr.Brennan a forked tongue for not following through on a promise to share Bipole III with the three partnering First Nations of NCN, Fox Lake, and TCN.

Right now you have an opportunity to prove this NCN Chief wrong! You can show all Manitobans that Bipole III will benefit everyone and not just Bob Brennan and his Manitoba hydro empire.

I would like to dedicate this presentation to a former MMF Vice President of the Thompson region and community resident of South Indian Lake. When he presented to the CEC hearings for Wuskwatim on behalf of the Manitoba Metis Federation at the Radisson Hotel here in downtown Winnipeg a number of years ago, I assisted him in drafting his submission to this Commission.

chi'miigwiich    Winnipeg Manitoba Thursday, November 8, 2012

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Volume 7 • Number 7

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## Nelson House to get new training facility

By Ray Common

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, in partnership with Indian and Northern Development announced plans for the construction of a new state-of-the-art training facility and business incubator on-reserve.

The multi-million dollar Atoskiwin Training and Employment Centre of Excellence (ATEC) in Nelson House will provide First Nation people with trade and entrepreneurial skills needed to take full-advantage of opportunities from hydro development and resource projects in northern Manitoba over the next two decades.

Training at the centre will focus on hydro development in the immediate future and the scope of activities will eventually extend into other areas as well. The facility will benefit members of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation and other First Nations communities nearby.

"The creation of the new Atoskiwin Training and Employment Centre of Excellence will provide our people with unprecedented access to quality training and educational opportunities," said Chief Jerry Primrose.

"It is an exciting time for us and the future looks bright. I am filled with pride when I think of the generations that will directly benefit from this endeavour now and in the future. The centre will help us move ahead in new and innovative ways that will increase and expand our economic base. It is key to our prosperity and will build a strong foundation for our youth," he said.

The centre will cost \$6.5 million. Of

that Indian Affairs and Northern Development committed \$3.26 million through its Regional Partnership Fund. Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation and other partners will provide the remainder.

Training offered by the centre includes literacy and upgrading, security and catering, labour and rehab work, skilled trades, heavy equipment operating, truck driving, clerical skills and women in trades and technology.

There will be extensive business support services planned. They include accounting, business planning writing, computer services, graphic design, market analysis, human resource support, legal assistance, care services and mentoring.

The Centre of Excellence is expected to create 19 full-time positions for the day-to-day operations. An addi-

tional 35 full-time positions will be needed for the construction phase.

It is estimated that 215 members from Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation will benefit from training programs.

The campus will include a 15,300 square-foot training and employment centre and a 6,400 square-foot dormitory that will be home to 24 students from outside of Nelson House along with a 1,500 square-foot day care centre.

There will be three classrooms, a computer lab, science lab, along with industrial shops to provide extensive training for trades programs. About 100 students will attend the campus at a time.

Construction is expected to start in May and the campus could be completed by late 2003. Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation is about 800 kms north of Winnipeg.



Band Councilor William Thomas smiles as Robert Nault, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development shakes hands with Chief Jerry Primrose after the announcement of the new centre.

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## Windtalker Does A Tour Of Duty In Manitoba

By Irwin Kehler

Manitoba born Aboriginal actor Adam Beach recently completed a tour of Manitoba Aboriginal communities, on a quest to share his success story with Aboriginal people, especially youth and it appears the connection was made. "Well, I think everyone enjoyed his visit. I think he really made a strong impression on the youth. He was very positive as a role model and his message to the students was well received," stated Grand Rapids First Nation Director of Education Linda Ballantyne. Grand Rapids First Nation was one of over a dozen communities Adam visited. Ballantyne added, "I was impressed by the positive behavior of the students." She pointed out they had a lot of questions for Adam as he sat in with them during presentation sessions. She continued, "We also had a dinner with him and the Elders. He was very respectful and he talked to all of them. He made a point to talk to each and every one of them and they got pictures and autographs. I think it would have been nice to have more time in the school. I got a hug and I got an autograph." During Adam's visit to the Grand Rapids Band Office, Councillor Murray Cook presented Adam with a painting of a bear as a gift from the community.

Another community Adam visited on his Tour of Duty was Chemawawin (Easterville) and Melvin George, Director of Education had these points to make about Adam. Mr. Beach was well received by the



**THE INDIAN METIS CONNECTION. WHO ARE THESE GUYS? SEE PAGE 18 FOR CONTEST DETAILS (FREE AUTOGRAPHED CHRIS BEACH CD)**

community. He visited a few local organizations which included: Chemawawin School, Chemawawin Cree Nation Administration Office, Little Feathers Day Care, Chemawawin Head Start, Chemawawin Health Complex, and Chemawawin Education Authority Administration Office. "We hope the visit inspired some of our future leaders to go into the acting and drama fields. The entire community was pleased to have met Mr. Beach and were also pleased with his warm sense of humour. He had the entire

community buzzing and most took pictures during his visits. He was very cooperative and gave advice to students and community members on effects of violence, drugs, alcohol and health. We hope to see Mr. Beach again in the near future and wish him the very best of luck with his career."

There was some very interesting feedback from Pimicikamak Cree Nation about the effects of Adam's visit to that community. Otter Nelson River School Principal Bob McKenzie said he had tried to get a drama club going in Cross Lake. It was a tough sell in relation to participants until Adam showed up and now his drama club is full and it is doing very well and he has also started a music club. He felt Adam's visit was inspirational in many ways for his students and that Adam's message about

making your own dreams come true is hitting home and the students are realizing that you must take action if you want your dreams to come true.

Yvonne Moose, Administrative Assistant for Q-pipon-na-piwin Cree Nation (South Indian Lake) Band Office shared some of her observations about Adam's visit to her community, "Both the kids and community members were very excited to see him. It was exciting especially for the kids. They

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### REWARD



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## Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Forging Historic Hydro Development Agreement

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation is breaking new ground as it negotiates an equity partnership with Manitoba Hydro to develop the 200-megawatt Wuskwatim hydroelectric power dam at Taskinigup Falls on the Burntwood River, within the Nelson House resource management area.

This project is a prototype, which can provide useful guidelines for the involvement of other First Nations pursuing future northern hydroelectric developments with Manitoba Hydro.

The proposed development, that offers NCN equity ownership of up to 33 per cent, is subject to the support of NCN members, who will be asked to vote to approve a Project Development Agreement between NCN and Manitoba Hydro.

"Wuskwatim is a unique partnership, in which we would share profits, while safeguarding our natural resources and traditional way of life," NCN Chief Jerry Primrose said. "In the long term, the project can provide an important source of revenue for NCN for decades to come and a brighter future for our people. In the short term, jobs and business opportunities will be created for NCN members and other residents of northern Manitoba during construction."

Hydro and NCN are confident the projects have been planned and designed with careful attention to the environment and concerns of people in the region.

"NCN's negative experience with the Churchill River Diversion made us very cautious in proceeding with this project and to ensure there would be minimal environmental impact," said NCN



*W. Elvis Thomas, NCN Councillor with the Future Development Portfolio, at launch of a new training center to ready the community for Wuskwatim-related jobs and business opportunities.*

Councillor and Future Development Portfolio Holder, W. Elvis Thomas. "We were instrumental in the selection of a low-head design for the generation project, rather than Manitoba Hydro's initial preference of a high-head design."

The low-head design reduces flooding to just one-half square kilometre compared with 140 square kilometres with a high-head design.

Community support for the project has been high. A 2001 vote on an Agreement in Principle with Manitoba Hydro attracted 82 per cent support from voting NCN members in Nelson House and two-thirds support from all voting NCN members on and off reserve.

Despite rigorous attention to environmental concerns and community consultation, the project has attracted contrary views from some groups opposed to the development.

"Opponents seem to ignore the considerable work that has been done to ensure the development benefits both sides of the partnership and the wider Manitoba population," Thomas said. "They're trying to address other agendas they have with Manitoba Hydro and past hydro developments. Wuskwatim isn't the forum to do that."

### *Traditional Knowledge used*

NCN and Manitoba Hydro jointly prepared the Environmental Impact Statements for Wuskwatim, which for the first time includes traditional as well as scientific knowledge.

Traditional Knowledge, based on interviews with resource harvesters, medicine people, Elders and others, included effects on people, heritage resources, aquatic environments, and contributed to defining the size, scope and location of the plant

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**Metis Family Day**  
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## Construction Begins on Atoskiwin Training and Employment Centre of Excellence in Nelson House

8.1 Million dollar project a credit to leadership and people of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation and its partners in the Atoskiwin Training and Employment Centre of Excellence (ATEC) marked the beginning of construction of the non-profit, community-based, fully-accredited, post-secondary training facility at Nelson House, with an official sod turning ceremony.

"Jobs and training initiatives have been central to our discussions with Manitoba Hydro as part of our negotiations for our participation in the Wuskwatim project," said NCN Chief Jerry Primrose.

"We realize for our members to have meaningful participation in that project and other northern development projects, we need to acquire the training, skills and experience necessary for employment."

Construction of the \$8.1 million ATEC facility is expected to take 10 months to complete and will open as soon as it is ready to accept students, next summer. It will be an energy efficient building, constructed with quality materials to respect the intent of the facility as a cornerstone for future development. It is being built to last.

The facility will be around 28,000 square feet and include the ATEC campus, dormitory, day care centre and an internet café.

"The planning for this centre includes the potential for expansion to accommodate future demands of our fast grow-



The official sod turning ceremony took place at Nelson House Cree Nation last month for the ATEC Centre

ing community," said NCN Councillor and Future Development Portfolio holder W. Elvis Thomas.

"The operations of the centre will focus on hydro development in the immediate future, with the scope of its activities expanding into other areas in the future. The new facility is conveniently located on NCN's reserve to make it accessible for NCN members and residents of other First Nations in nearby communities," Thomas said.

"ATEC will provide First Nations people with the entre-


preneurial and trades skills needed to take full advantage of opportunities created by extensive hydro development and other projects that will be taking place in northern Manitoba over the next 20 years.

"The project will create job-training opportunities for NCN Members. Around \$500,000 will flow into the local economy, benefiting business and creating employment for Members during construction. There will be training opportunities in the areas of concrete, framing, welding, electrical, drywall, and mechanical, such as h-vac and plumbing, for example," he said.

Overall, Councillor Thomas said, the sod turning event was very encouraging to see. We have been working on the Wuskwatim project as a whole for a very long time and it is very heartening to see a portion of this institution will not only meet the present needs of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation but will continue to serve the community well into the future," said Thomas. We have taken every step possible to ensure that this facility can and will be sustained for a very long time to come.

I am very happy that we as a community have been able

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Update by Chief Jim Moore:

## Nisichiwayasihk Cree Nation and MB Hydro Project

by B. Irwin Kehler

Well folks, is the historical deal between the Nisichiwayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) and Manitoba Hydro a good deal for both sides?

Weetamah visited the offices of NCN Chief Jim Moore and asked him to share some thoughts and feelings. Speaking can-

tially, NCN could be an owner of 1/3 of the Wuskwatim Hydro Project and Moore specifies, "...but we will not own or be part of Wuskwatim Hydro Project's transmission line project."

That part of this historic deal left previous NCN Chief and Council out of the loop and not part of this deal. This was done by Chief Moore

NCN, of course, because this would also affect traditional NCN territory.

Asked for his perspective on how the approval process by members of NCN went during a referendum vote for the Wuskwatim Hydro Project, Moore stated, "I respect the majority voters." But Moore is concerned about NCN's involvement that is the

are going to celebrate this recognition event regarding the Wuskwatim Project but I'm not quite ready yet to pat myself personally on the shoulder and say the Wuskwatim Project done wonders for Nelson House. That has yet to be seen! With the road construction, yeah, we'll live through it. And that's only the first phase—see! Thanks

not there yet! It's sort of premature for me to celebrate because I haven't seen full benefits yet till such time when they flick the 'SWITCH'. Until that time it's yet to be determined and assessed." During this interview, Chief Moore spoke of other concerns such as the daily work schedule of members of his com-





# Magazine

August 2009

## NCN TRUST UPDATE

Where did the money go?

## ELDER MILES HART

The legacy continues with a bridge

## CHIEF MOORE VISITS

Wuskwatim Hydro Project

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# NCN CHIEF JIM D. MOORE

## WUSKWATIM HYDRO DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS-AUGUST 2009

By M. Campeau



Chief Jim Moore spent some time recently with NCN magazine to share some thoughts and feelings about the Wuskatim Hydro Projects, including the WDHP and the subsequent building of the Wuskatim

Hydro transmission lines that will deliver power from the Wuskatim dam to other parts of the province and perhaps beyond.

Chief Moore pointed out that he would share his thoughts and feelings with us based on the beginnings of his elected leadership, as Chief of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation which is also commonly referred to as Nelson House or NCN.

“Previous to my election as Chief I raised my concerns about the Wuskatim project primarily because I felt that NCN had no control over the transmission lines coming out of Wuskatim. Additionally, there did not seem to be an equity plan in place to reach the 33% equity required for ownership.” Chief Moore also

questioned the full knowledge of the Wuskatim Project for the NCN people, specifically how can the NCN achieve 100 million dollars in a short period of time without proper planning.

*“Our people should be getting more jobs and business opportunities there. So, something has got to be done! I’m really not satisfied with that!”*

*NCN Chief Jim Moore*

The building of the Wuskatim Hydro Development Projects came about after an intense community consultative process between Manitoba Hydro and members

of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation.

Part of the negotiations includes jobs, training and business opportunities related to the WHDP and includes as part of an agreement between these two entities.

This agreement is referred as the Project Development Agreement also known as PDA. NCN members held an referendum to vote yes or no, in accepting the agreement which is legally binding the community voted yes.