

Presentation of Cheryl Kennedy Courcelles

November 21, 2012

Dear Honorable Chairman, Distinguished Commission Panelists, and Fellow Presenters,

My name is Cheryl Kennedy Courcelles and I live with my family on the banks of the Red River, ten acres near St-Adolphe, Manitoba. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to share my truths with you today.

I come in peace as a Mother. I also speak for all those Manitobans and Canadians who do not have a voice here today, be that our unborn children, our elderly, our sick and for those who just don't know what to say anymore or of whom we have hurt their spirit too much to come forward. I speak on behalf of the wildlife and ecosystems including water, air and lands.

Sadly, if this project didn't negatively adversely environmentally affect every being of life that the Bi-Pole 3 Hydro Systems touch, I wouldn't have to be here today.

It is because we have our provinces energies, our environment, our families, communities, workplaces and animals, out of harmony that we are all here, but this very harmony has to be protected and sustained as stated in the Environment Act.

The importance of the word harmony is the fundamental backbone of the Environmental Act and our human right as equal citizens in Manitoba.

The Clean Environment Commission and us, concerned citizens spent weeks in the environmental hearings regarding the floodway operations and at the end of this whole necessary procedure, the Clean Environment Commissioners turned to the Manitoba Floodway Authority and in their closing remarks asked the MFA "What, are you going to do to restore the harmony to these people?"

So today, I am here to help restore some of the harmony. I come with a management tip from a role model of mine, an amazing talented green visionary lady, Landscape Architect, Cornelia Oberlander. She designed the Legislative Building in Yellowknife. She taught me two principles to get the work done.

- One is VIM: Vision, Imagination and Motivation
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- And the other management principle that could move mountains and part rivers is;
- The Five P's: Patience, Perseverance, Politeness, Professionalism and Passion

Having lived through five artificial floods - as well as being forced to live with the adverse effects of too fast of modern day drainage being flushed to the lakes in order to store the water for these Hydro Productions and because my babies and I lived through a hydro transmission line missing our house by 10 feet

in the Montreal Ice Storm, living for 12 days with no money, no gas, no electricity, no power on my own in what was like a war zone on the south shore. There are some things, due to my life experiences that I would like to share with you from my unique perspective that will help speed up the process of restoring the harmony to the affected parties and environment.

Environmental Harmony Truths:

1. The Fox Lake Aboriginal people, and other locally affected Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community and Métis people, directly affected by the dams and Bi-Pole 3 infrastructures shall be financially mitigated for the entire life of this project and until decommissioned, whether it is through local employment, CDIs, ATK or some other forms of mitigation. The good folks and families have had no choice, we the Crown Corporation is putting this monster hummer, zinger and zapper, eye-soar, fire and health hazard in their backyards whether they like it, accept it or not! We honor and respect this sad fact and properly mitigate their sacrifices as we have done so professionally and passionately in the Red River valley and for the town of Ste. Agathe that was sacrificed to save Winnipeg in the flood of 1997. And like we are currently doing for the flood of 2011.
2. The Community Development Initiatives for the whole Bi-Pole 3 project also shall receive financial compensation for the entire life of this project and until decommissioned.
3. Any other stake holder in the right of way or buffer zones or setback areas or in a 3 to 5 mile radius have the right to request to be bought out from living near any part of the Bi-Pole 3 Project and final preferred route, no matter where it is in the province, at fair market value plus.
4. All Aboriginal and Métis communities have the right to be hired by Manitoba Hydro to share their Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) with Manitoba Hydro on the affected Treaty Lands whenever they are ready to share this information. Ex. An amount of funding per year shall be designated in collecting ATK on a permanent basis for the entire life of this project and until decommissioned. The ATK to be shared with Manitoba Hydro and the Minister of Conservation. It shall include every aspect of life, be it traditional, local, family, heritage, spiritual, sociological, psychological, addictions, health and environmental. (As we have learned from the Residential School Abuse Reconciliation Commission the unveiling and revealing of truths for the aboriginal communities happens at a different pace than for the rest of society and that's a good thing and our modern day ways have to respect their traditions and be open and able to receive their knowledge when they are able and open to share it with us). Practicing the 5 Ps is essential.
5. Absolutely no hunting, fishing, extracting of any traditional plants, life, animals and resources on the Treaty and Protected Lands that Bi-Pole 3 touches, this has to be reserved to protect the Aboriginal and Métis traditions and peaceful way of living in harmony with Mother Nature and her ecosystems. It is not to be used as a recreational activity for others when in reality it is the Aboriginal's natural grocery stores and way of life.

6. No animals or birds shall be killed in the Right of Way areas or the artificially touched areas, except by the Aboriginal and Métis People of the Traditional and Treaty Lands. These, ROW lands are unnatural and give all predators an unfair advantage over the wildlife. Severe fines shall be enforced and all future hunting rights taken away if found guilty of hunting in ROWs. These hunting practices and bi-laws if necessary should be for all corridors that are human made in the province to preserve fairness and equality to the species and to protect traditional lands, culture and heritage.

7. Prohibiting and potentially fining any construction worker or contractor or person who hunts on behalf of the Aboriginal People. For example: I currently know of Hydro workers, contract workers who have gone on hunting expeditions with Aboriginal People, who, they have killed the animal, caught the fish and gave or sometime had to give it to Aboriginal People, either because they could or because the Aboriginal person had the animal ticket. However, the problem with this is that this is also killing the ability of the Aboriginal People to feed themselves and to pass on these skills to their young, to carry on their cultures and traditional ways of feeding their families and communities. It further decreases the animal, bird and fish populations unnecessarily. It is exactly what the ATK is worried about. And Hydro calls this "insignificant?" and it is anything but. And requires an environmental officer and ATK officer to restore the harmony.

8. No herbicide use in any where of Bi-Pole 3 and for the life of this project. As a crown corporation and most of this right of way is in protected, fragile, high water tables, environmentally sensitive areas, it only makes the best of common sense to ensure environmental, animal and human sustainability that we do so without chemical warfare. It shall only increase the health and wellness of those who come into contact with the ROW etc.

9. Winter construction must be taken advantage of to decrease our footprint on the natural order. GHG emissions have to be offset and minimized to our best abilities.

10. Hire ATK Landscape Architect, Archeologists, Shaman, Environmental Officers, ATK Officers and include NGO's to help harmonize the environmental "insignificant to significant from short term to medium to long term effects" of the Bi-Pole 3 Project Areas for its entire life and until decommissioned.

11. Once again, the voices and spirit of the people feel and believe that the CEC hearings should be Third Party and neutral, not connected to the governments or bodies of power, i.e. the developer. That the Commission should be from another province or at least have 50% of their panelists from other provinces.

12. Utilizing local aboriginal assistance and ATK, Environment Officer etc. transplant all affected areas that would be otherwise destroyed or negatively disturbed in the ROW and all other areas torn or dug up areas by this or past projects. (No reason to disrespect the existing natural local environment when it is needed to restore environmental harmony, healing eyesores on the landscape in other places of decommissioning older projects that we as a society have long been overdue in cleaning up!) We shall also respect that Saskatoons , raspberries,

strawberries, blueberries and so on are the local fruits in your natural organic grocery store and we shall transplant them if they are in hydro's way too.

13. Garbage * Sewer * Drinking Water * Surface Water * Ground Water * Lakes and Water Ways * Rivers and Streams * Bogs and Ferns * Wetlands, Peat Lands and Beaches and so on.

Manitoba Hydro and contractors are responsible for proper sustainable management under the Environmental Act for the full life and decommissioning of this Bi-Pole 3 Project. We will not do like we have done in Churchill or other Hydro project sites and make or leave this place an absolute mess, a sad and dangerous eyesore. Yearly, excess garbage, metal energy, hazard materials, waste projects and sewage if necessary shall be transported out of this area and returned to their proper recycling depots.

14. Hire and train the aboriginal and Métis locals to monitor, run, and own the service industries and trades needed to operate, police, patrol, protect and report on the Hydro Production systems, ROW and to continually record, share and upgrade the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK).

15. Visually mark, record and study all protected plants, animals, nests, dens, fish, birds, buffers, setback areas etc. in order to help assure survival and protection for the life of the project.

16. To effectively monitor and record information regarding heritage, culture, socio-economic, environmental, caribou and moose management, water, air and land management, hire environmental officers and ATK truth keepers to help maintain the harmony and accountability to the Aboriginal People, Hydro and the Public.

17. Every area that the EIS, TAC, VEC, ATK and MMF have said to be reviewed similar to past CEC hearings, we have to set up a Follow up and Accountable to do list. For example the Manitoba Floodway Hearing has to be reviewed in a 3 year, 5 year, 10 year, etc. follow-up for all parties that have originally participated in this hearing as well as all future stake holders, aboriginals and general public. It works; it gives us all a chance to fix the harmonies when they are broken down, community by community. When we know better, we do better. Just takes some time, patience comes in here, things do get better. Future studies are also needed as stated by fellow presenters just like they were in the Floodway hearings.

18. Based on the complexity and negative insignificant to significant damages, we shall be utilizing the "Precautionary Principle" that Bi-Pole 3 Project shall be accountable to the affected parties and general public for follow-up and clean up for its entire life and until decommissioned. Follow-up, every 3-5 years to be overseen by the Clean Environment Commission.

19. Bi-Pole 3 and the Dams shall honor the Environment Act and shall also include the Sustainable Development Act.

20. Wetlands, Peat lands, Muskeg, Permafrost, ferns areas etc. need to be visually marked and relocated if it is in the right of ways or landscape that shall be destroyed. These areas that would have been otherwise destroyed or negatively altered can be set aside for the decommissioning of Bi Pole 3 or used

to decommissioned other nearby old Hydro sites with ATK and Conservation's approval, ground-truthing, and overseeing.

21. For every tree that is cut down, we hire the ATK to plant the same amount new ones in nearby areas to offset the homes, feeding, wood, lungs and filtering that the sacred tree energy does for our environments.

22. There will be a ban put on spreading any manure or human waste on any ROW of the entire Bi-Pole 3 and other Hydropower line corridors. These active wastes are the fuel for unwanted adverse climate changes encouraged by the methane and other gases and temperature shifts associated with manure landscape management. Ex. The tornado that hit us so darn hard over by Elie touched down on lands that were saturated with manure and fertilizers. And if the whole point is to increase this and other hydro line safety than we shall do all in our powers to keep these lands natural, neutral, chemical free and out of Mother Natures cleaning tools of wind and water in a her nasty damaging forms when our modern day ways tip the scale of overloading. We get it, we are fast learners, and we do not need unwanted tornadoes! And we will keep all waste lagoon systems from a 3-5 mile radius of the ROW and any hydro infrastructures.

23. If securing the power and the future power in Manitoba is the priority then to not put all of our eggs in one basket we would like to see a percentage of Manitoba Hydro's profits off of Bi-Pole 3 designated yearly towards energy development in other forms, be it; conservation, education, electrical, solar, exclude any more wind energy, hydrogen, magnetic, geothermal and of course more money- budgets to be on spent for Hydro/Energy conservation programs and creative ingenuity development.

24. We have to go out of our way to protect the Moose, Caribou, Wolf and protected species of birds, plants, bugs, reptiles, animals, fish, culture, heritage sites, and burial grounds. Saying it is "insignificant" destroys and disrespects all harmony. The CEC and Conservation has respected all of this in other hearing outcomes, it is in our own very best interest and our birthright to protect! We lost the sacred Bison, we will not loose, any other four-legged creature! We have No educated reason to loose any form of life!

25. Very interested in hearing what other CEC hearings across Canada standards and recommendations have been. Have we even looked? Is a better Environmental Wheel already invented that could aid us in effectively communicating, trusting and moving forward in equal responsibility to the successful outcome that is developing a harmoniously economically safe effective hydro corporation, one that could teach the World how, we did it right, peaceful and respectfully to all. Same visions that we have for bringing awareness and protection to our sacred Polar Bears and World Unesco site and their environmental changing realities. The positive circle of energy by doing things the very best we can, shall bring jobs and people and life to our dear province. We can make a difference, we are the heart of the continent for a reason, cause we have heart and we do dare to care and share!

26. If a disturbed herd of caribou or some rutting moose, or a pack of hungry wolves, moved in beside you in your neighborhood, do you think you would notice? Of course you would. Do you think your children would? Of course they would. How

would you get to work? Who would walk your children to school? What would change for you in your environment and for how long? While the same truths hold true for the caribou and moose and wolves and Fox Lake and other aboriginal communities when Bi-Pole 3 moves in beside them becomes their new neighbor. Of course they are going to notice. Of course it is going to change their lives forever. We, the people of Manitoba, fellow Hydro users, have a responsibility to bring, to restore and to protect the harmony and sacred environmental life for these families, for these people and for these animals.

From a healing perspective, we accept Bi-Pole 3 on the West side; the West is the best side. We accept the societal responsibility of protecting our province's largest energy source and also cash cow. However, in doing so, we also take on and accept the responsibility in listening to, respecting, and taking the very best advice that every presenter and written submission has so passionately, professionally, perversely prepared to mitigate and bring harmony to Bi-Pole 3 and its success.

I believe in Tomorrow Now and a much Greener Manitoba! It is time to come peacefully together and make Manitoba the best place to live, work and raise our families.

I thank you for your time and attention and I look forward to all affected parties and environment groups working together respectfully and peacefully in order to achieve the best management principles in moving Bi-Pole 3 and our energy industry forward while maintaining our core harmony with all forms of sacred life.

Meegwetch, Thank you, Merci Beaucoup, I am grateful for the opportunity to speak and share my truths.