

MANITOBA CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

BIPOLE III TRANSMISSION PROJECT  
PUBLIC HEARING

VOLUME 9

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Transcript of Proceedings

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## APPEARANCES

## CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

Terry Sargeant - Chairman  
Pat MacKay - Member  
Brian Kaplan - Member  
Ken Gibbons - Member  
Wayne Motheral - Member  
Michael Green - Counsel to the Board  
Cathy Johnson - Commission Secretary

## MANITOBA CONSERVATION AND WATER STEWARDSHIP

Elise Dagdick

## MANITOBA HYDRO

Douglas Bedford - Counsel  
Shannon Johnson  
Patrick McGarry

## PINE CREEK FIRST NATION

Warren Mills  
Audrey Brass  
Chief Charlie Bushie  
Elder Gordon Brass  
Elder George Munro  
Francis Nepinak  
Rene Gambler  
Reg Nepinak  
Billy Delaronde

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1 Monday, October 22, 2012

2 Upon commencing at 10:00 a.m.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies  
4 and gentlemen, I'd like to call the hearings to  
5 order. My name is Terry Sargeant. I'm the chair  
6 of the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission, as  
7 well as the chair of this hearing panel.

8 With me on the panel this morning are  
9 Patricia MacKay, Wayne Motheral, Ken Gibbons and  
10 Brian Kaplan. As well from the Commission we have  
11 our Commission secretary, Cathy Johnson, and our  
12 administrative assistant at the back of the room,  
13 Joyce Mueller. There are other staff and  
14 officials from the Commission, from the Department  
15 of Conservation and Water Stewardship and a number  
16 of people from Manitoba Hydro. Manitoba Hydro  
17 will be here to make a presentation on the  
18 project. They will also be available to answer  
19 some, if not all, questions you might have of the  
20 project.

21 We are in the territory of the Pine  
22 Creek First Nation and there is a large delegation  
23 this morning from the Pine Creek First Nation. I  
24 have been asked and I have agreed to invite an  
25 elder from that community to say an opening

1 prayer. So, sir, will you please come forward?

2 (Opening prayer by Elder)

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We will  
4 commence with a presentation by Manitoba Hydro.  
5 It's an overview of the Bipole III project.  
6 Ms. Johnson.

7 MS. S. JOHNSON: Good morning,  
8 Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, participants and  
9 members of the public. My name is Shannon Johnson  
10 and I'm the manager of licensing and environmental  
11 assessment from Manitoba Hydro. I have been with  
12 Hydro for approximately seven years, and I'm going  
13 to give you a brief overview of what the project  
14 looks like this morning.

15 First off we're going to talk about  
16 what the system looks like today, talk a little  
17 about the project, explain the reliability side of  
18 it, the environmental assessment process, as well  
19 as how we're going to build it. But to start,  
20 let's look at what our system looks like already.

21 Now, essentially from an electrical  
22 standpoint, we have got an HVDC system and an AC  
23 system. And what that means in English is DC is a  
24 direct current and AC is an alternating current.  
25 Now, if you look on the map here and we look up

1 here, we have got Limestone, Long Spruce and  
2 Kettle, and that's our HVDC system. Essentially,  
3 the power from here runs along here down to our  
4 Dorsey station. So you can understand if we lose  
5 this or Dorsey, all we have left to rely on are  
6 our AC systems. And those are in this area and  
7 that area. So let's spend a bit more time talking  
8 about what these transmission lines look like.

9           As you can see, we have a lot of  
10 transmission lines. It's spread over a fairly  
11 large area of Manitoba. We have a lot of  
12 experience installing these. In fact, we have  
13 installed over 18,500 kilometres of AC  
14 transmission lines from a 33 kV to a 500 kV in the  
15 last 60 years. Now, with this also comes the  
16 environmental licensing and the environmental  
17 assessment of those. And we have got a fair  
18 amount of experience in this area as well.

19           In 1988, March 31, the Environmental  
20 Act came into force. And what it required was the  
21 assistance of any transmission line 115 kV or over.  
22 Now, my area which I spoke about is the licensing  
23 and environmental assessment department and that's  
24 our responsibility on the transmission side.  
25 Within our area we've got ten environmental

1 scientists and we also engage several consultants  
2 to help facilitate this process to ensure that  
3 it's comprehensive.

4 Now, why are we here today? I'm going  
5 to just read a quick excerpt from the Manitoba  
6 Hydro Act.

7 "The purpose and objectives of this  
8 Act are to provide for the continuance  
9 of a supply of power adequate for the  
10 needs of the province."

11 Now, what do those needs look like?  
12 Now, I spoke a little earlier about the three  
13 hydroelectric dams we have running down our  
14 Bipoles I and II and going into Dorsey, which is a  
15 fairly large piece of our transmission. What this  
16 slide here gives you an idea of is, if we lost  
17 that Bipole I and II, including our imports, this  
18 is how much energy we have to supply. And it's  
19 hard to see, but this starts down in 1995 and over  
20 here we're looking at 2020. What this line is  
21 right here, this gives you an idea of the peak  
22 load that would have to be served in a  
23 catastrophic failure of either that Dorsey  
24 station, which is the station in Winnipeg, or  
25 Bipole I and II, and those were those transmission



1 lines that take the large generating from up in  
2 the north. And as you can see, there is a bit of  
3 a deficiency here. In fact, if we go to 2020, we  
4 would have a 1500-megawatt deficiency. So if  
5 those lines went down, we would be in a fair  
6 amount of trouble.

7                   Now, why is this so concerning? Right  
8 now the exposure of the HVDC system, and again  
9 that was those two lines that I showed, Bipole I  
10 and II, both of those lines run for about 900  
11 kilometres along the same right-of-way, which  
12 means they are very close to one another. And  
13 those two lines in the southern Dorsey Station  
14 transmit 70 percent of the northern hydro  
15 generation that we have right now. And Dorsey,  
16 which is that spot I showed you in the south,  
17 basically has most eggs in one basket. Both of  
18 those lines run into Dorsey. And there's no  
19 utility in the world that transmits that much  
20 power through one critical facility.

21                   And we've had some close calls on this  
22 system. I'm not going to go through all of these,  
23 but you can see there's been ice floods, there's  
24 been forest fires, there's been tornados. And  
25 just to put it in perspective a bit, you are

1 probably thinking, what would a forest fire do to  
2 a metal tower? And what it is, it's actually the  
3 smoke in the air. What happens is the air acts as  
4 a conductor when you have a forest fire, and what  
5 it can cause is a tripping of the line.

6 Now, I want to give a bit more detail  
7 on this first one here, on the September 1996, the  
8 downburst that we had 1.5 miles north of Dorsey.  
9 This was probably one of the larger wake-up calls  
10 for Manitoba Hydro. What happened was there  
11 were -- it happened about 75 kilometres from  
12 Poplar Point to Stony Mountain, and the winds were  
13 around a hundred kilometres. There was an actual  
14 downburst, which is an intensive wind phenomenon  
15 that pushes the air down. And what happened was,  
16 we figure it was anywhere from 150 to 180  
17 kilometres an hour. This downburst came down and  
18 took down one of our major towers. What  
19 subsequently happened is the pressure of that  
20 tower going down took down another 18 towers,  
21 causing us to lose 19 towers. This shows you a  
22 little where it happened and the location of the  
23 downburst.

24 Now, we were very lucky in that the  
25 weather was good the next day, it was close to

1 Winnipeg, we had all the equipment, and within  
2 four and a half days we had the power back up.  
3 But it was scary. We were very lucky. The thing  
4 that was most scary about this is a kilometre and  
5 a half from Dorsey they saw funnel clouds. So  
6 Dorsey is right down here. So as bad as it was  
7 with the towers, if it had been that much closer,  
8 we would have been in a bit of trouble.

9           There is also the Elie tornado and  
10 this was scary as well. In June 2007, the tornado  
11 touched down on the TransCanada. It headed  
12 through farm area. It severely damaged a flour  
13 mill to the tune of about a million dollars. It  
14 went to Elie where it flipped cars. Actually, a  
15 Chrysler 5000 on a house, the car wound up on the  
16 roof of a house. Essentially it went 40, it  
17 lasted for 40 minutes, it was 300 metres in width  
18 and did a fair amount of damage. Again, where  
19 this is scary is it was not that far from Dorsey.  
20 Had it been that much closer, again, we would have  
21 been looking at some major challenges.

22           Now, speaking of Dorsey, it has had  
23 its fair share of challenges. In August 2007,  
24 there was a storm that hit our Dorsey and Bipole  
25 I. It damaged equipment. We lost 1348 megawatts,

1 seven valve groups tripped off, and three  
2 transmission lines were tripped. So this again  
3 was a major instance for Manitoba Hydro and could  
4 have caused and did cause a fair amount of  
5 challenges.

6 Now, let's talk about, a little about  
7 what this project looks like. So essentially  
8 there is a northern converter station up in  
9 Keewatinoow. It's essentially 79 kilometres from  
10 Gillam, which translates to about 50 miles. And  
11 there we convert the AC power coming from the  
12 generating stations to DC power. We then take it  
13 down the line at our southern converter station,  
14 which is Riel, which is over here. We convert it  
15 back to AC, and then all along is the transmission  
16 line.

17 Now, let's have a quick look and see  
18 what those towers look like that are going to be  
19 on this transmission line. In Northern Manitoba,  
20 we're going to be looking at guyed towers. And  
21 essentially what a guyed tower is -- and I think  
22 at the back of the room we've got a display. It's  
23 hard to see on this, but they have wires that come  
24 down here. And why we have the wires is if you're  
25 putting your tower in unstable ground, you can

1 adjust them, so you can help keep that tower  
2 stable.

3           Now, when we move down further south  
4 and into agricultural areas, we have got what are  
5 called self-supporting towers. Now the  
6 right-of-way for these is exactly the same, we  
7 still will clear 66 metres, but these stand on  
8 their own. The idea behind that is for  
9 agriculture machinery, it's a little easier to  
10 maneuver around them. Now, in this area we will  
11 have a mix of both the guyed towers and the  
12 self-supporting towers.

13           So we've talked about the towers.  
14 Let's talk a little about the converter stations.  
15 And again, those were up in the north and down in  
16 the south. We've got the Keewatinoow Converter  
17 Station, which we've developed the access but the  
18 site itself isn't developed yet. Its remote  
19 construction location means that we're going to  
20 actually have to develop camps up there. For the  
21 Riel Converter Station, it's partially developed,  
22 and because it's down in the south, there's no  
23 camp requirements on this.

24           Now, I like this picture because it  
25 basically puts everything into perspective. So as

1 I mentioned, we've got generating stations here,  
2 and this is basically the dams. We take the power  
3 from the dam and we run it along an AC, an  
4 alternating current line, and we run it to the  
5 Keewatinoow Converter Station, and then we convert  
6 it to DC.

7                   And you are probably thinking, why do  
8 we have to convert it? Now, if you plug your hair  
9 dryer or your TV in, what you're getting there is  
10 AC power. The reason why we convert it rather  
11 than just taking it straight down is because of  
12 the distance that we're travelling. By converting  
13 it to DC, we have less line loss. Therefore,  
14 we're able to get as much energy as possible from  
15 the dams down to the grid system.

16                   As you can see here, when we get to  
17 the Riel Converter Station, we'll convert it again  
18 into the AC lines, and then it goes into the  
19 distribution centre to our homes.

20                   So that's a quick overview of how the  
21 system works. Let's talk a little about the  
22 environmental assessment process.

23                   The environmental assessment for this  
24 project has entailed going through a comprehensive  
25 site selection, an environmental assessment

1 process. As you can see here, this section right  
2 here, this yellow section was the original study  
3 area. And it covers approximately 20 percent of  
4 Manitoba. We embraced engagement through public  
5 consultation, through four rounds of consultation,  
6 and we used the input from that consultation to  
7 adjust the route and build on knowledge in working  
8 with different people in the community.

9           Now, what did that assessment process  
10 look like, if you go in a step-by-step? If you  
11 look at this, we had a round one where we provided  
12 project information. Round two, we were able to  
13 get some routing constraints, i.e., where can we  
14 not go and things we shouldn't do. We had the  
15 alternative route review. And throughout this you  
16 can see the different outcomes and the public  
17 consultation that took place. In the end, we  
18 looked at the preliminary preferred route review,  
19 and then we came up with the finalized preferred  
20 route selection.

21           Now, how are we going to build this  
22 route? Essentially, as I mentioned, we have got  
23 Keewatinoow up here and we have got Riel down  
24 here. Throughout that we have got eight  
25 construction segments where we're going to be

1 building the line. And it's a little difficult to  
2 see, but if you want to come and chat with me at  
3 the coffee break, I can show you where the  
4 construction areas are. We're going to work with  
5 stakeholders and the public during this phase.  
6 And in regards to actually tower placement and  
7 where they are actually going to go, we're going  
8 to fine tune it as we move along to ensure that we  
9 put it in the right spot in the fields.

10 Now, throughout this, how are we going  
11 to ensure that we're protecting the environment?  
12 Essentially, there's three pieces to this. The  
13 site selection process, and this is used to avoid  
14 impacts wherever feasible for the routing. We've  
15 got the Environmental Protection Program, and what  
16 that is, it's a broad umbrella through which we  
17 provide a framework for the delivery and  
18 management of monitoring and environmental  
19 mitigation measures. And then within that  
20 program, we've got environmental protection plans,  
21 that prescribes general protection measures,  
22 compliance with regulatory requirements and  
23 identifies and prescribes mitigation for specific  
24 sensitive sites. And to ensure that we are aware  
25 of where those sensitive sites are, that we're not



1 going to be disturbing them, we'll work  
2 throughout, as we move down the route, we'll work  
3 with communities to ensure that we're not  
4 impacting that.

5 So, essentially, I have talked to you  
6 a little about with what our system looks like  
7 today, why we need Bipole III, how we're going to  
8 build it, and how we hope to protect the  
9 environment all along the way. Thank you.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Johnson.  
11 If anybody has questions of Ms. Johnson, just in  
12 respect to this presentation, I'd invite you to  
13 come forward and ask them now.

14 Sir, will you state your name to the  
15 record?

16 MR. DELARONDE: Thank you,  
17 Mr. Sargeant. I didn't catch your name?

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Johnson.

19 MS. S. JOHNSON: Shannon Johnson.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Your name, sir?

21 MR. DELARONDE: Billy Delaronde. The  
22 question and comment is, you talk about, you keep  
23 referring to the environment, and I think that's  
24 what we're here for. There's a clarification of  
25 what -- what do you mean by southern? When do the

1 different type of poles end and where do they  
2 start, number one? Number two, we need to take  
3 into consideration the other dams that you  
4 referred to and not only those ones that you  
5 pointed up at the north, but including Grand  
6 Rapids dam which is the first one, and the impact  
7 on environment and in our territories that those  
8 dams have and continue to have. And I don't think  
9 you have any kind of plan to project in any way  
10 the kind of impacts, environmental and human  
11 impacts that it's going to have on our  
12 territories.

13                   Secondly, I don't think you have a  
14 plan, because you keep saying, well, we'll make it  
15 up as we go along. That's kind of like  
16 loosey-goosey kind of planning. I think you  
17 should have that plan in place and that it should  
18 be preapproved, and every possible catastrophe,  
19 and also any type of impact, human impact, and  
20 specifically the kind of impact you're going to  
21 have on Indians and in our territories. So what  
22 if you come up with something that you didn't plan  
23 for -- so we make it up as we go along you say, I  
24 think that's your words, make it up as we go. I  
25 don't think that's a very good way of proceeding

1 with this, make it up as we go. We would like to  
2 know before you start bringing those lines from  
3 the north into our territories, what is your plan,  
4 not make it up as we go. Miigwech.

5 MS. S. JOHNSON: In regards to your  
6 first question, I think you were asking what types  
7 of towers we were going to have, where the cut-off  
8 line is. And it will be a mixed -- it will be a  
9 mixed use, depending on the type of land. And as  
10 I explained, and you'll have to bear with me here  
11 because I'm not an engineer, but I do understand  
12 that if it's unstable land, the guyed towers make  
13 more sense because it allows to give you  
14 stability. If it's agricultural land, then what  
15 we will be looking at is a self-supporting  
16 structure.

17 MR. DELARONDE: And I understand that.  
18 But you also in your presentation refer to farmers  
19 and accommodating farmers. What about  
20 accommodating Indians and their environment,  
21 accommodating beaver dams, accommodating muskrat  
22 houses, accommodating moose environments?

23 MS. S. JOHNSON: And those are all --

24 MR. DELARONDE: Are we saying there's  
25 one set of rules for farmers and there's a

1 different set for Indians?

2 MS. S. JOHNSON: Absolutely not. This  
3 was specifically in regards to tower structures.  
4 There's certainly other portions of this project  
5 as well. And to further allude on the  
6 Environmental Protection Plan, currently as part  
7 of our filing we do have a draft Environmental  
8 Protection Plan. So it is certainly not make it  
9 up as you go. But as you move down the line and  
10 we work with different communities, there's going  
11 to be different environmental pieces that come to  
12 light. And by working with communities and  
13 looking at the whole process as a whole, it will  
14 allow us to better develop that Environmental  
15 Protection Plan. By no means is it a make it up  
16 as you go. And within our filing there is a draft  
17 Environmental Protection Plan that exists right  
18 now.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Johnson, isn't  
20 there a line where more or less there's a change  
21 from the guyed to the self-standing?

22 MS. S. JOHNSON: There is, and I did  
23 check before we started today's presentation to  
24 find out what it would look like in this area.  
25 And depending on the land, it is going to be

1 mixed. There is clear land which I think is  
2 slightly south of here, but in this area we will  
3 be looking at mixed use.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Sir, this  
5 is just questions at this time, no statements.

6 MR. DELARONDE: Okay.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: You'll have an  
8 opportunity later if you wish to make a statement.  
9 Chief Bushie?

10 CHIEF BUSHIE: Thank you very much,  
11 Acting Chief Charlie Bushie, Pine Creek First  
12 Nation.

13 Just the question is the pesticides  
14 and the herbicides on the Dorsey, right from the  
15 south to the north, is there a figure or an amount  
16 of use for the Dorsey and the other transmission  
17 line? Thank you.

18 MS. S. JOHNSON: In regards to  
19 herbicides, I don't think I'm able to give you a  
20 clear answer on that right now, but we certainly  
21 have people that can. So I think we will take  
22 that as an undertaking so that I can ensure that  
23 we give a comprehensive answer to your question.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Any other questions?

25 MR. GAMBLER: My name is Rene Gambler

1 and I'm from the Pine Creek First Nation, as you  
2 can see in the map there. Bipole III came to our  
3 nation a couple of weeks ago to address the stuff  
4 that's going on with the lines coming through our  
5 area. It was mentioned that three rivers were  
6 going to be affected with the lines. And I'd like  
7 to ask you guys, what effect this is going to do  
8 to our fish that we eat in that area? I notice  
9 when you look at that map, there is not only two  
10 or three rivers that you guys claim that it is  
11 going to come across, but there is 12 rivers  
12 there, because we actually hunt there. We  
13 actually fish in that area and that's where our  
14 fish spawn. And that's a question I'd like to  
15 ask. A lot of my people eat from there. We fish  
16 every year, we eat the fish there. We live, a lot  
17 of single people, we hunt in that area for our  
18 families. You know, we live on \$195 a month, a  
19 month, \$195. We have no choice but to eat from  
20 the rivers. We eat that fish. They are affected.

21 Now, our lake there in Winnipegosis is  
22 already depleted with fish. Do you know what kind  
23 of effect this is going to have on the fish that  
24 we eat? These are the people that live off them  
25 rivers. The moose are already gone. You have

1 already clear-cut the area. Our moose -- my  
2 brother is lying in the hospital right now wanting  
3 to hunt for his kids to eat. There is no moose.  
4 You put signs up there for us not to hunt, and yet  
5 that's where we eat from.

6 We live on welfare. A lot of these  
7 people here work, they make money, but 90 percent  
8 of them are out there in the bush right now as we  
9 speak trying to live off that land. That's all we  
10 want to do is survive, to feed our kids.

11 I lived here all my life. Right  
12 there, that map, you see Pine Creek. You see  
13 where that line is coming through, right through  
14 our rivers, there's 12 of them. That's where the  
15 fish go to spawn, and we have to eat those fish,  
16 what's left of them. What effect is it going to  
17 do to the people? We live on welfare, 90 percent  
18 from that community right there, 90 percent people  
19 don't work. You guys make 195, probably double  
20 that today to be here. My people can't be here to  
21 speak for themselves. And we eat for survival.  
22 The fish is going to be affected, the animals. We  
23 chase that bush to hunt, to feed the kids. \$195 a  
24 month, one month we live on and we have to eat  
25 from there. Our blueberries, we hunt there and

1 you're coming right across. You talk about all  
2 the electricity going through the blueberries.

3 My brother Pat Gambler is in the  
4 hospital right now, and I'm glad he's there  
5 because he can't hunt the moose, you clear-cut  
6 that area.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: We're not here to hear  
8 about --

9 MR. GAMBLER: Well, I'm questioning  
10 your people, what is it going to do to the fish?  
11 That's my question.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Do you want to let the  
13 Hydro officials try to answer that for you?

14 MR. MCGARRY: Good morning,  
15 Mr. Chairman, Commissioners. In response to that  
16 question on fish, I appreciate the gentleman's  
17 concern and frustration he's having with harvest.

18 For the fish in particular, that's  
19 part of our assessment, and the transmission line  
20 will cross a number of streams and rivers. There  
21 is provision to try and protect fish habitat in  
22 doing so. And the actual crossing itself is --  
23 the construction part of it is fairly temporary in  
24 nature and we're able to cross the river fairly  
25 efficiently and try and protect fish habitat as we



1 go. We don't believe we'll have a large -- we  
2 don't believe we'll have much of an effect at all  
3 on fish and fish habitat. We are doing our best  
4 to protect that as we cross these multiple streams  
5 and rivers. And the electromagnetic force, I  
6 believe the gentleman referred to, the forces that  
7 come from transmission lines really do not have an  
8 effect on fish or wildlife, or people for that  
9 matter. And we'd be happy to explain and talk  
10 more about that. And I'm not sure if you have a  
11 follow-up question, sir?

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Are there other  
13 questions, sir?

14 MR. MUNRO: My name is George Munro,  
15 Pine Creek band member. I live off reserve in the  
16 community of Duck Bay. You talk about all these  
17 consultations that have taken place. Hydro has  
18 come to my community, but never the Clean  
19 Environment Commission. And the people of Duck  
20 Bay and Camperville that sit on each side of Pine  
21 Creek First Nation have never had no consultation  
22 from nobody regarding Clean Environment  
23 Commission. Where this line is going through, it  
24 affects our people. And the people have been  
25 going there for hundreds of years, regarding the

1 berries. You have already demolished the hunting,  
2 the trapping. I've seen this happen, highways go  
3 by, you have destroyed our lakes, no Clean  
4 Environment. Louisiana Pacific, where is the  
5 Clean Environment there? They are poisoning our  
6 berries, our animals, the farmers. Chemicals  
7 going down the water. We have got a million  
8 dollar pumper station in our community and we've  
9 got a boil order. What about the chemicals that's  
10 coming off the farmers? You don't seem to be  
11 addressing their situation. They are poisoning  
12 our waters. Where is the Clean Environment  
13 Commission there?

14           These are major concerns our people  
15 have and I'd like answers. There's nobody come to  
16 our community and said, this is what we're going  
17 to do. All you say is, this line is going  
18 through. I don't think that's fair to the people  
19 that put these people in office and work for our  
20 systems.

21           Besides, another question is what  
22 about Keeyask and Conawapa? Is this agreement  
23 here if approved, if the Clean Environment  
24 Commission approves this, are these, are Keeyask  
25 and Conawapa also approved? That should be

1 another consultation for those two other dams  
2 that's coming up in the future. I don't want to  
3 see a back door here, because you approved  
4 Wuskwatim, Conawapa and Keeyask can walk right  
5 through the door. So we need more consultation  
6 here. Our people got to know exactly what's  
7 coming down. Because you people, Hydro is making  
8 billions of dollars and selling all this natural  
9 resource from our people -- our waters and poison  
10 them -- to the United States of America. And  
11 that's got to stop. Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Sir, to respond to your  
13 last point, sir, approval or non approval of the  
14 Bipole line will have no impact whatsoever on  
15 Keeyask and Conawapa. Those will be separate  
16 reviews, and we expect to be conducting hearings  
17 in review of Keeyask in particular next year.

18 Sir, this part is just to ask  
19 questions of Hydro in respect of their  
20 presentation.

21 MR. NEPINAK: Reg Nepinak, Pine Creek  
22 First Nation. In your presentation you said a  
23 couple of things, and I missed the part that lead  
24 up to where you said to supply electricity for  
25 Manitobans, I missed the part before that. So I

1 may be mistaken here, but again my relative just  
2 talked about selling power to the U.S.A.  
3 interests. But the power generated from the  
4 previous dams, I'm sure is enough to service  
5 Manitobans already, simply because the dams you're  
6 building today are not giving us any power and  
7 we're doing fine without them, okay. Can you put  
8 up the map that shows Bipole III?

9           So, my point while we're waiting for  
10 the map is to the Commission; if Manitobans are  
11 being served, as she says, with the existing  
12 generating stations, why build more, if that's  
13 their goal is to provide Manitobans with  
14 electricity? So you'll see at Keewatinoow is  
15 where the power is going to come in, starting with  
16 Bipole III, and it's going to go all the way  
17 across the province down to Riel. It's going to  
18 go from AC to DC back to AC, and then it's going  
19 to get redistributed to the province. So you're  
20 taking it from the extreme north, bringing it down  
21 to the extreme south, and going back up into the  
22 province. Why don't you just build something say  
23 around Thompson and completely let go of this  
24 Bipole III project? Because you already have a  
25 grid system from Thompson that will supply the

1 rest of the province. That's my question. Thank  
2 you.

3 MR. MCGARRY: Thank you for that  
4 question. In terms of the design of the system,  
5 first of all, Bipole III is primarily being  
6 designed and built as a reliability project, as  
7 Ms. Johnson pointed out in her presentation,  
8 meaning that we need the power on a reliability  
9 basis because we are so vulnerable on the existing  
10 two lines. There has been a long term plan to  
11 build this project, just because of our exposure  
12 to nature and the impact of losing Bipoles I and  
13 II would be enormous in terms of potential  
14 blackouts and other situations associated with  
15 loss of power, which is something we rely on very  
16 heavily.

17 As to your question about where we  
18 would put a DC converter station, in part, the  
19 economics of running DC lines is based on line  
20 length. Over very long distances like we have in  
21 Manitoba between the generation points and where  
22 the power is needed, we have what we call line  
23 loss, this is not a power loss, and there's more  
24 line loss or more power loss with AC transmission  
25 over long distance than DC. So when you're going

1 to transmit over long distance, the choice  
2 economically is to convert to DC power. And at  
3 that point then we -- the design is to put that DC  
4 converter in a place where that converted power  
5 will be used most readily and available to the  
6 general system.

7                   So we're somewhat unique in Manitoba  
8 in having our generation so far away from our load  
9 centre in the south. So that power comes down to  
10 outside of Winnipeg, it's re-injected into the  
11 system as AC power and then distributed. I'm not  
12 sure if that --

13                   MR. NEPINAK: No, actually it doesn't  
14 answer my question, simply because what you just  
15 told me doesn't mean anything to me. Because  
16 you're still taking that power and redistributing  
17 it through the province from Riel, which could end  
18 up going to Churchill. So what you're saying is  
19 you're taking the power from Keewatinoow, going  
20 down to Riel, and then you're going to send it  
21 back up to Churchill, as far as Churchill. And  
22 then you say you're going to lose power because of  
23 that. So if you put something in the middle of  
24 the province and distribute it from the middle,  
25 it's not going to travel that far. Is that what

1 you're just saying?

2 MR. MCGARRY: First of all, I  
3 apologize, I'm not a system engineer so if we need  
4 a more complete --

5 MR. NEPINAK: Well then why are you  
6 answering the question?

7 MR. MCGARRY: I'm trying to give you a  
8 conceptual idea of how this works. Well, for  
9 instance, Churchill, actually the power does come  
10 from a switching station on the lower Nelson from  
11 the generation point.

12 MR. NEPINAK: Okay. So why don't you  
13 put a transfer to a Riel type of station there?

14 MR. MCGARRY: Well --

15 MR. NEPINAK: Basically, get rid of  
16 Bipole III, because you can put something in the  
17 middle of the province to redistribute the power  
18 to Manitobans. Because that's what the lady's  
19 statement was, providing Manitobans with power.  
20 She didn't say anything about providing the U.S.  
21 with power, which we all know is what Bipole III  
22 is about.

23 MR. MCGARRY: Well, I mean, let me  
24 just explain it this way. The transmission system  
25 for DC power is being proposed to being built as a

1 reliability project. Yes, it has additional  
2 capacity, so if future generation is built, it  
3 will be able to carry additional power.

4 Manitoba Hydro does export energy to  
5 the U.S. It's part of our business and  
6 development plan. It brings revenue into the  
7 province from sale. It's part of a corporate  
8 plan.

9 The future for Bipole is to meet  
10 Manitoba power requirements now and into the  
11 future, plus having additional capacity for any  
12 new generation. But the system is required mainly  
13 for those issues we showed earlier, or Ms. Johnson  
14 did, about the effect mother nature can have on  
15 our system. And the fact that we have two fully  
16 loaded Bipole lines bringing power from the north  
17 to the south, to the load centre, they are  
18 extremely vulnerable. And as you can imagine,  
19 when you've got 750,000, or whatever the  
20 population of the surrounding area of Winnipeg,  
21 just by its nature, it has a huge demand. Whereas  
22 if we put a station in Thompson, there is not  
23 quite as much demand there. And the cost of  
24 building the systems is enormous. So the approach  
25 is to bring the power in DC over long distance to



1 the point where it can be used where it's needed  
2 most. And that's the rationale for designing the  
3 system that way.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Chief Bushie, do you  
5 have another question?

6 CHIEF BUSHIE: Yes, thank you,  
7 Mr. Chair, just one more question.

8 The watersheds is a big concern to  
9 Pine Creek First Nation. Is there any  
10 calculation, or amount of litres or whatsoever  
11 that's going to be released into the watersheds in  
12 Pine Creek First Nation? As the gentleman said,  
13 there's 12 rivers. Again, protecting what is  
14 existing, the species, okay, the fishery has been  
15 already devastated. And more devastation if, as I  
16 said, okay, more chemicals added into the  
17 watersheds is critical. We need answers that --  
18 again, you say that there's no effects. Now  
19 anything is going to -- more release of chemical,  
20 it's going to add to more devastation to what's  
21 currently existing. Thank you.

22 MR. MCGARRY: Thank you, Chief Bushie.  
23 I'm not sure if I identified myself earlier, but I  
24 will now. It's Pat McGarry, Manitoba Hydro.

25 Yeah, I would share your concerns

1 about use of herbicides, it has to be very  
2 judiciously used. And in fact, in this area where  
3 it's being brought to our attention, for  
4 construction and maintenance, we will agree not to  
5 use a herbicide program where it's a concern to  
6 the First Nation or anyone else. I mean, when we  
7 do use herbicides in some transmission line  
8 maintenance programs, it's done under regulation  
9 and controlled quite well. But nevertheless,  
10 we're listening, and I think we have agreed not to  
11 use herbicide on transmission maintenance in areas  
12 that are important to you.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any other  
14 questions of Hydro specific to this presentation?

15 Just let me outline what's going to  
16 happen in a few minutes. Do you have any other  
17 presentation, Ms. Johnson?

18 MS. S. JOHNSON: No.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. There are a  
20 number of people, as I noted earlier, from the  
21 Pine Creek First Nation who will be making  
22 presentations. We will start off -- we will take  
23 a short break in a couple of minutes, let them get  
24 ready to line up their people to make their  
25 presentations. Once they are done, and I believe

1 there's about a half a dozen who will be making  
2 presentations, Mr. Mills?

3 MR. MILLS: Perhaps more.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Once they are finished,  
5 then other people will have an opportunity to make  
6 presentations. If you wish to make a  
7 presentation, you should let our administrative  
8 assistant at the back of the room, Joyce Mueller,  
9 know that you wish to say your piece.

10 I would also note that presentations  
11 are generally held to 15 minutes. I have a couple  
12 of little cards here that say five and two, and I  
13 will let you know when time is running out. There  
14 may be some, a couple of occasions or some  
15 occasions where this rule will be not enforced  
16 strictly.

17 I would also say that for the most  
18 part, we don't want to hear the same thing over  
19 and over again. So if somebody repeats a point  
20 and it takes a minute or two, I'm not going to  
21 stop you from doing that. If you're repeating the  
22 same thing for 20 minutes that somebody else has  
23 said, I will probably stop you from that.

24 Let's take a break until about  
25 11:00 o'clock. We'll come back and then Pine

1 Creek will have the floor for the first however  
2 long.

3 (Proceedings recessed at 10:50 a.m.  
4 and reconvened at 11:00 a.m.)

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Come back to order,  
6 please. Could everyone take their seats, please?  
7 We have a fairly busy few hours ahead of us, so I  
8 think we should get to it as quickly as we can.

9 I'd also like to note that I am not  
10 terribly tolerant of conversations in the audience  
11 while hearings are going on. I think we should  
12 show respect to the speakers by keeping our  
13 conversations to ourselves or taking them out in  
14 the hallway.

15 Chief Bushie will make some opening  
16 comments and that will be followed by  
17 presentations from a number of people from Pine  
18 Creek. So Chief Bushie?

19 CHIEF BUSHIE: Thank you very much,  
20 Mr. Chair. It is a big honour as I represent my  
21 people in Pine Creek First Nation. What I want to  
22 say, first of all, is the grassroots people are  
23 here today, very important for the leadership,  
24 very important that the Commission recognizes the  
25 voices of our elders and try to speak for what's

1 existing today, our traditional values, our  
2 culture, what we depended on for centuries, Pine  
3 Creek wants to maintain. But also coming from  
4 leadership, as I said a couple weeks ago at the  
5 PUB gathering, I recognize the economy in this  
6 province. Everybody is a winner. But we must  
7 take into consideration our values, our sacred  
8 pipes, our sweat lodges, they are reminders of our  
9 people. Our medicines need to be protected, our  
10 diets, our foods that we depend on. As I spoke  
11 about the watersheds, I didn't get a clear answer.  
12 It will be more water released as they open up  
13 more bush. So I'll get down to my presentation.

14 Canadian Government is structured, how  
15 it makes decisions, how it has treated the  
16 original habitat of Canada, again, protecting our  
17 traditional ways, our foods. The opportunity is  
18 to learn more about our history. We also want to  
19 make comment, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern  
20 Development Canada, INAC is what we refer to them,  
21 our trustees as we sign contribution agreements  
22 with their departments. The question is, what are  
23 they planning for First Nations in the future?  
24 This Province of Manitoba needs to be on board  
25 with the First Nations collective, grassroots

1 input is necessary. All we see from INAC  
2 currently is, we invited them to our table, policy  
3 advisor, senior advisors, and we support the  
4 accountabilities and transparencies, but they  
5 should have been representing us here also. They  
6 have the capabilities, they are engineering. The  
7 solution is ongoing. The Canadian Environmental  
8 Assessment Agencies also should have been here.  
9 What is the impact? How do they mitigate the  
10 problems and the concerns First Nations have? And  
11 moreover, the species, the fishery as we talked  
12 about, we need solutions.

13                   What I'm saying is, as I said, the  
14 Canadian Government and its structures, there has  
15 to be ongoing reviews to make change for First  
16 Nations' input. Because somebody else is deciding  
17 on our behalf, Federal review and major resources  
18 and infrastructure projects in Manitoba.

19                   The past 30 years has seen a growing  
20 recognition of indigenous people rights, both  
21 internationally and domestically. In Canada the  
22 rights of Aboriginal people were recognized and  
23 affirmed in 1982, in section 35 of the new  
24 Constitution. At that time nobody knew what the  
25 full implications of the section would be.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Chief Bushie, could I  
2 just interrupt? I'm being distracted because some  
3 people are talking at the back of the hall, and  
4 it's hard to pay attention to your words, which  
5 are quite -- it's right in the back row I think.  
6 Okay. I think we have taken care of it. Thank  
7 you.

8 CHIEF BUSHIE: Nobody knew the full  
9 extent of activities which would find protection  
10 under section 35, and nobody knew what courts  
11 would do when confronted with government  
12 legislation or administrative decision which very  
13 clearly infringes those rights.

14 As I said at the last PUB gathering,  
15 we need to introduce the enforcements of our  
16 waterways, the protection of our species. Who is  
17 going to monitor what Bipole III is going to do?  
18 The Manitoba Acts, all legislation needs to be  
19 reviewed. And very important, our input as First  
20 Nations and our government departments need to be  
21 added, the trappers' associations, the tribal  
22 offices, the effects and the impacts, where we  
23 have no voice, is being moved forward without a  
24 meaningful process.

25 I commend my people for coming here

1 today to actually witness and hear what is Bipole  
2 III.

3           There is going to be more water  
4 released because there is going to be trees taken  
5 down, and what are the impacts?

6           We are honoured to be at the table.  
7 We are honoured to say that, as all Manitobans you  
8 need to recognize, and you do, you need to  
9 recognize the First Nations.

10           There are thousands of governments  
11 deciding, decisions made each year that now  
12 require consultation with Aboriginal communities.  
13 This has created many jobs for many Federal  
14 department and Provincial ministries, federally  
15 and including Natural Resources Canada, Fisheries  
16 and Oceans Canada, Transport Canada, every  
17 industry. For me it's so significant what's  
18 happening here today. As one band member said how  
19 can we continue with the social system? \$195 a  
20 month.

21           Both levels of government have to come  
22 to the table. I keep on saying that. New  
23 introductions into today's legislation, who is  
24 currently representing us at the Provincial  
25 building to reflect on our needs, our wants? The



1 government's decision that requires the highest  
2 levels of consultations are often those that  
3 relate to major resources and infrastructure  
4 projects, pipelines, mines, oil and gas  
5 development, roads, hydro dams, et cetera. And so  
6 private companies in each of those sectors have  
7 also created many positions, while the legal duty  
8 to consult is the responsibility of the  
9 government. Many private companies have come to  
10 recognize that the successes of their projects  
11 often depend on the securing of social licence  
12 from those communities who will be impacted.

13                   We have our own original laws -- not  
14 one day has reached the First Nations level, our  
15 input was ever offered, and it's no disrespect.

16                   We need to collectively move forward.  
17 If I'm going to accept Bipole III, I have to go  
18 back to my homeland in Pine Creek First Nations  
19 and ask them for their blessing.

20                   As I said in 2011, my brothers to the  
21 east First Nations, Fairford First Nations, Lake  
22 St. Martin, they were flooded out. Where is the  
23 answers today? If I'm going to allow Bipole III,  
24 I need proper commitment from Federal Government  
25 and its regions to honour the solutions. As I

1 said, I will not accept bandaid solutions,  
2 sandbagging, moving to, no disrespect, to hotels.  
3 The sweat lodges and the sacred pipes is reminding  
4 me disaster is going to occur. I have a meeting  
5 at 6:00 today with a couple of individuals that  
6 are going to remind me water is a big critical  
7 issue. We need to evolve, we need our  
8 involvements.

9 As I said to INAC, your presence is  
10 needed. We need to secure proper funding to  
11 actually identify each of the communities, mainly  
12 Pine Creek First Nations. What is it going to  
13 take for the water to come over the bank? We need  
14 drainage plans, and this is what we offer, we need  
15 industry to partner. And that's what looks  
16 forward for me, a meaningful relationship with all  
17 Manitobans and all industry. Where is my trappers  
18 going to trap when there's a fence, no trespassing  
19 signs? I'm reaching out to the panel, I'm  
20 reaching out for their decisions. It has to be  
21 broader than just what we're talking about Bipole  
22 III.

23 I wish, my hopes in securing a future,  
24 protecting what we have. I commend one of my band  
25 members that said, feasibilities, what's more

1 feasible than putting a central converter station?

2 But Manitoba Hydro replies, because of the costs.

3 I question also the chemicals. I'll  
4 refer to that. Our fish is being -- occurring in  
5 the negative way. We have been doing a lot of  
6 studies. I will never go unless I have to, it has  
7 to come from my people in taking legal action, to  
8 which I never want to go. The answer is working  
9 together. That's my position, a collective way.

10 My people tell me that, to do things  
11 proactively, but at the same time reaffirm my  
12 position. I have to have hard evidence.

13 Mr. Chair and the panel, I wish you  
14 hear me loud and clear. The Aboriginal  
15 communities, are they at risk? Water is going to  
16 flow. We are already all saturated in our lands,  
17 in our homes. We dig a hole in the highest point  
18 of Pine Creek First Nations, guaranteed one day it  
19 will fill up with water.

20 That's my brief presentation,  
21 Mr. Chair. We have a lot of people coming up to  
22 the table and I want the panel to hear them.  
23 Thank you very much.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chief  
25 Bushie.

1 MS. BRASS: Up next we have Gordon  
2 Brass senior, elder of our community, and Gordy  
3 Brass junior, they are going to be speaking about  
4 the medicines.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: They will be speaking  
6 together, will they Ms. Brass?

7 MS. BRASS: Yes.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Will you please  
9 come forward?

10 Now, we will ask everyone who makes a  
11 presentation to just affirm that what they are  
12 saying will be the truth. We didn't do that with  
13 Chief Bushie because he did it in Winnipeg a week  
14 or two ago and it still carries forward. So I'll  
15 ask the Commission secretary to do that, please?

16 MS. JOHNSON: Could you please state  
17 your names for the record?

18 MR. BRASS SR.: Gordon Brass senior.

19 MR. BRASS JR.: Gordon Brass junior,  
20 Black Thunderbird.

21 Gordon Brass senior: Sworn

22 Gordon Brass junior: Sworn

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. You may  
24 proceed.

25 MR. BRASS SR.: We're here about our

1 herbs, the things we use for ourselves. All the  
2 hunter people from Pine Creek and all over the  
3 place, they use herbs for medicines. And there's  
4 so many kinds of medicines, a lot of them, but  
5 some of them are gone now on account of high water  
6 and everything else, especially wild ginger,  
7 (Native word spoken) we call it. That's the  
8 number one medicine for Natives. That's what they  
9 go for.

10 MR. BRASS JR.: (Native word spoken)  
11 is the key to all medicines for Anishinaabe and  
12 Cree people.

13 MR. BRASS SR.: So we have to go quite  
14 a ways to try to get medicine up top in the  
15 mountains, like (Native word spoken), and that's  
16 another good medicine.

17 MR. BRASS JR.: I secured that root  
18 with wildlife. It's a heart medicine that heals  
19 placentas in pregnant women and it makes sure that  
20 they carry the full term until they give birth,  
21 and I secured that once already for Treaty 4 Pine  
22 Creek First Nation. I secured that once already.

23 MR. BRASS SR.: So there is a lot of  
24 things about Natives that nobody knows. There's  
25 all kinds of medicine for your heart, for your

1 body, for your mind.

2 MR. BRASS JR.: Your spirit.

3 MR. BRASS SR.: Your spirit, your  
4 legs.

5 MR. BRASS JR.: Blood.

6 MR. BRASS SR.: It helps you. You  
7 have to know exactly what kind of medicine that  
8 you pick. There's lots of elders, Pine Creek and  
9 all over these First Nations, that's what they use  
10 for medicines. I don't see a doctor when I'm  
11 sick, I heal myself with medicine. And I'm  
12 turning 80 now. I'm still active because I  
13 don't -- all I do is use herbs for medicine. And  
14 that's the biggest problem we have with all these  
15 things that -- Hydro and all that, they kill our  
16 medicines, especially if they go through the  
17 lines, and the lines, they eat up everything.  
18 That's what our Chief was talking about. Now we  
19 have to go some place where there's no hydro to  
20 get what we want for medicines. It's a very  
21 important thing to have.

22 MR. BRASS JR.: It seems that modern  
23 day life affects the medicines that we pick.  
24 Herbicides and the chemicals the farmers use as  
25 well affect the spiritualism of our medicines, and

1 that's why we always go to the mountains and  
2 wildlife where there's no electricity or no  
3 farmers to go pick our medicines, so they are  
4 genuinely bringing to life the spirit in which we  
5 need to heal ourselves.

6 MR. BRASS SR.: So I guess it says,  
7 that sign says there, to go up the mountains,  
8 you're not allowed to go to the mountains, but for  
9 picking our medicine, that's not hunting, that's  
10 getting something for your family to heal. That's  
11 the reason why we go up the mountains to pick our  
12 medicine. So that's just what I want to let you  
13 guys know.

14 MR. BRASS JR.: And if the rangers  
15 catch us, they chase us out of there.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Chase you out of where,  
17 Mr. Brass?

18 MR. BRASS JR.: Northern -- usually we  
19 go to the Duck Mountains or Porcupine Mountains,  
20 usually the Duck Mountains we go to, and we always  
21 have to try to keep a low profile. Because like  
22 already when we were picking medicines in the  
23 Riding Mountains, we were stopped by the rangers  
24 and they told us to stop picking, and that all  
25 that medicine that we had belonged to the

1 government and we weren't allowed to pick no more  
2 after they caught us picking the herbs we were  
3 picking. So we have to do it like (Native word  
4 spoken), slowly.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Why would they stop you  
6 from picking medicines?

7 MR. BRASS JR.: Because they said  
8 we're trespassing.

9 MR. BRASS SR.: We're trespassing.

10 MR. BRASS JR.: And those medicines  
11 belong to the government they said, they stated to  
12 us. Those medicines belong to the government, not  
13 us Treaty Indians who are just picking our herbs.

14 MR. BRASS SR.: That's what all this  
15 younger generation that are stopping us for that,  
16 because they don't know. They are just there to  
17 work, they don't know exactly. You go to the  
18 older ones that are there, they understand. And I  
19 always go there and ask them permission to go to  
20 the mountains. And they told me you go ahead, go  
21 and pick your medicine. That's all. Because they  
22 don't carry guns.

23 MR. BRASS JR.: We run into a lot of  
24 bears too.

25 MR. BRASS SR.: He's scared of bears,



1 but me, I'm not.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm with him.

3 MR. BRASS SR.: Because my Indian name  
4 is Bear Rattle (Native word spoken) they call it.  
5 That's the only thing that we are concerned about,  
6 is our medicine that we could get from the  
7 mountains.

8 MR. BRASS JR.: Yeah, and our freedom  
9 to pick these medicines because these herbs  
10 support our way of life. We don't sell them, we  
11 just pick them for our own self use. And the  
12 people who come to us for help, we try to help  
13 them as much as possible. We don't sell these  
14 medicines. If they offer us tobacco, that's all  
15 we ask for is tobacco, not money. As long as they  
16 offer a little bit of tobacco, like a pouch or a  
17 package of smokes, we try to help them for  
18 whatever cause we can. We don't do this for  
19 money.

20 MR. BRASS SR.: I also have a sweat  
21 lodge that I run behind my house, and I always go  
22 to where the gravel is and I always go ask that  
23 old man if we could pick grandfathers, we call  
24 them these rocks. And he said as long as you  
25 don't destroy anything. We said how can we

1 destroy anything just picking grandfathers rocks?

2 It's got to be different --

3 MR. BRASS JR.: It can't be limestone.

4 MR. BRASS SR.: They have to be the  
5 ones that don't break in pieces. And it's hard to  
6 get those. We are running out of grandfathers, so  
7 I don't know where we're going to go for  
8 grandfathers pretty soon. So that was my thing I  
9 was saying about that. So I wouldn't mind to get  
10 a letter from you guys saying that I could go to  
11 the mountains and pick my medicine instead of  
12 getting chased out of there. All you got to do is  
13 give me a letter to prove it.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm not sure that a  
15 letter from us will carry much weight, but we'll  
16 certainly consider what you said and comment on it  
17 in our report. But we don't have the authority or  
18 the weight to give you that permission, but I'm  
19 sure that others in government do.

20 MR. BRASS SR.: Thank you.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: We can't promise  
22 results, but we can certainly put your concern  
23 forward.

24 MR. BRASS SR.: There's a lot of  
25 medicines missing from our area too that are being

1 destroyed by water or electricity and all that.

2 MR. BRASS JR.: Like wild ginger.

3 MR. BRASS SR.: And it's pretty hard  
4 to find medicine nowadays, you have to go a long  
5 ways. You have to go up north, and that's a long  
6 ways to travel to get some medicine from around  
7 north that way.

8 MR. BRASS JR.: Like a lot of picking  
9 places that we usually have are logged out, or  
10 been farmed out, or just basically disappeared.  
11 At one time cranberry bark was really wanted by  
12 people who used medicines and a lot of the people  
13 picked the cranberry bark, and now it's really  
14 hard to find the cranberry trees we need for our  
15 combination of medicines that we use for  
16 ourselves. They just disappeared because too many  
17 people were picking them because they wanted them.  
18 And now in (Native word spoken) where we go pick,  
19 someone has discovered our picking ground and just  
20 depleted our area. So we have to try to find  
21 another area in the Duck Mountains in order to  
22 pick. Like someone found our picking ground and  
23 just depleted that whole area.

24 MR. BRASS SR.: Well, at one time they  
25 were selling this cranberry bark and everybody was

1 cutting cranberry bark all over the place. And  
2 now I can't find cranberry bark any place around  
3 home there. In the reserve there used to be a lot  
4 of it in our area, it's all gone. You've got to  
5 go towards the mountains now to get cranberry  
6 bark.

7 MR. BRASS JR.: Even there they went  
8 to cut down a lot of the cranberry bark trees and  
9 it's hard to find those branches. Like when we  
10 pick, we don't pick to support a large amount of  
11 people, we only pick to support ourselves and the  
12 people that come to us. And there's not very many  
13 people who come to us for medicine, so we just use  
14 it as a family medicine. And this family medicine  
15 is what we kind of keep -- we tried to secure ones  
16 with other Treaty Indians, I don't know if they  
17 have yet or not, but we have our own unique  
18 combination that we use for, we call it (Native  
19 word spoken), and we use this for basically  
20 anything, like to keep our bodies clean and to  
21 cleanse ourselves. And these medicines also, like  
22 they cure illnesses like gangrene, it cleans your  
23 blood, cleans your mind, body and spirit, as my  
24 dad said. But once again, like our medicines are  
25 disappearing very quickly and we don't really know

1 what to do about it.

2 MR. BRASS SR.: A lot of these older  
3 people, that's what they have for their medicine.  
4 A lot of us in the reserve use Indian medicine  
5 like that from the ground, herbs. A long time ago  
6 my dad used to pick all kinds of medicines, and he  
7 lived for a long time. He never went to the  
8 doctor, he doctored himself all the time. So  
9 that's what we're trying to do ourselves, trying  
10 to teach these younger people that medicine can  
11 cure your body, no matter what, you believe in  
12 medicines because it was made by the creator. So  
13 this is the most important thing in our lives, us  
14 Natives.

15 MR. BRASS JR.: That's basically the  
16 only thing we have left is our combination of  
17 medicines. And we don't believe in using  
18 fertilizers or anything, chemicals, to grow these.  
19 We go to them straight where they grow wild to get  
20 the spirit of the medicine to work for us. And  
21 basically, like spirit is in the east, body is in  
22 the west, mind is in the north, and together it  
23 comes into blood. And I don't want to repeat  
24 myself, but it's just a way of cleansing and  
25 healing yourself.

1 MR. BRASS SR.: Well, that's all we  
2 have to say for now. I'm glad you listened.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for  
4 coming out today and making your presentation.  
5 Thank you gentlemen.

6 MR. BRASS JR.: Thank you very much.

7

8

9 MS. BRASS: Next I have elder Francis  
10 Nepinak from Pine Creek First Nation. And he's  
11 going to speak about the change in our life and  
12 our culture over the years that he's been living  
13 in the reserve.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Before you run off,  
15 perhaps just for the benefit of the others who  
16 haven't met you, you should introduce yourself?

17 MR. BRASS: I'm Audrey Brass, I'm from  
18 Pine Creek First Nation, and I've been helping  
19 with the Bipole III project, like with the  
20 community and meetings and information.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Nepinak.

22 MR. NEPINAK: Miigwech, that means  
23 thank you in my language, Ojibway. I need to talk  
24 in the stick.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, it would help so

1 we can record you. First I'll ask the Commission  
2 secretary to affirm.

3 MS. JOHNSON: Could you please state  
4 your name for the record?

5 MR. NEPINAK: Yes, I was going to  
6 introduce my name, but I forgot my name. My name  
7 is half English and half Ojibway. Francis  
8 Nepinak.

9 Francis Nepinak: Sworn

10 THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed.

11 MR. NEPINAK: Miigwech. I thank the  
12 Creator for the help that he taught me in 1992,  
13 and the elder I made in 1982.

14 We spoke about how life will change on  
15 Mother Earth. Like when I was young, first when I  
16 was young, it was before going to residential  
17 school, I recollect when I used to go fishing, the  
18 water was clean. There were a lot of animals,  
19 ducks, fish, and big game you call it, big game.  
20 We called them big animals, the moose, the elk,  
21 caribou or deer. When my co-elder spoke about  
22 medicines, these animals also ate the medicines,  
23 and their bodies, they were healthy. Today they  
24 are sick from technology and industrialization.

25 But I remember at about 1946, '47, I

1 was with my brother-in-law going fishing. I told  
2 him, can I go too? Yeah, but you'll have to camp  
3 in the boat. That's when they used gas boats  
4 then, five men to a crew, or five to a boat. But  
5 about the second day, the water was just like a  
6 mirror, glass, beautiful. All of a sudden I seen  
7 against the moon, I seen something black on the  
8 water, different colours a little bit. And then I  
9 asked my brother-in-law, what's that stuff there  
10 in the water? And he said a boat just went by.  
11 And then after that I saw them and they are coming  
12 close together, three boats, they were tossing all  
13 the garbage in the lake. They didn't keep any of  
14 the garbage that they had. They threw everything,  
15 all the oil cans or whatever they had made of --  
16 not all of them made of tin. Oh, yeah, I was so  
17 ignorant because I was just a young boy there.  
18 But I began to recollect these things that were  
19 happening through my spirit. Like the white  
20 nation told me in the residential school, you have  
21 a soul and we call that the spirit. Yeah.

22 Well, long ago we had -- I mentioned  
23 to one gentleman here, we had three beautiful  
24 things, long ago before the Europeans came to this  
25 great island with the sister island to the south,



1 and it was called Turtle Island. And I said we  
2 had three beautiful things. When I spoke with the  
3 university students in archaeology, and I said we  
4 had past, present and the future. That's how come  
5 our people -- their education came from the  
6 animals, from the land, and the water and the sky.  
7 They were our teachers. They knew more about the  
8 natural life on Mother Earth because they were  
9 living off -- they were right on Mother Earth,  
10 while the two-legged walked to get the animals  
11 that they need to live, and also the plant life  
12 give up their life. When they speak about  
13 medicines, there are spirits in the medicine,  
14 there are spirits in the animals, same as the  
15 human being.

16 But anything artificial like Hydro  
17 technology, the industrial is all materialism.  
18 There is no spirit. The Creator never made those  
19 things that way. But he give a nation, my white  
20 brothers were given a gift to be the teachers of  
21 things, and they went the wrong way. And when  
22 they invented money, they went crazy, that become  
23 their blood life.

24 And our people, their blood life was  
25 Mother Earth. Because how did they know, we had

1 no books, our teachers were the animals, how they  
2 live off the land? And then if we got confused  
3 and then the elders said, you go on a vision  
4 quest, you have to fast, sacrifice your life,  
5 depends how many days, four days, seven days  
6 without food and water. Because when you go about  
7 those natural things that heal you, your mind,  
8 your body, your spirit and your feelings. Without  
9 these things, then you get confused.

10 I had been on a vision quest many  
11 times. And I went alone several times to find out  
12 about how come my other people, they all come to  
13 this great island, now with this breaking up made  
14 in boundaries called provinces and states, it's  
15 all cut up in squares. Our land was in territory,  
16 like the way the animals live in the forest, they  
17 had their own territorial area. And the fish,  
18 they are the stargazers in the water, day and  
19 night. They had been given a gift too.  
20 Everything was related, even the flowers.

21 Today, when you go in the lawn and if  
22 you see a dandelion, what do you do with it? You  
23 go and cut it. It's no good. No, it's a  
24 medicine, yeah, but they didn't know.

25 And then our statistics long ago was

1 100 percent. Today it's just the opposite --  
2 opposite, 95 percent. Because the one homeland  
3 that we had, Turtle Island and South America, the  
4 sister island. Now today we have 633 little  
5 Turtle Islands called reservations, and I call  
6 them compounds. And that's what's happening to  
7 the animals too. They are being put in compounds  
8 and they are getting numbers like our Treaty  
9 number, tricks or treat. They are being  
10 controlled.

11 I feel sad about the non Native people  
12 not understanding about the life of God's  
13 creation, about the animals, the plants, the soil  
14 and the rock. Even the rock has medicine. That's  
15 why we have the sweat lodges. That represents  
16 Mother Earth, the circle of Mother Earth. You  
17 just cut it in half. In the middle she burns the  
18 medicine inside her. But then when you are in  
19 balance, even when you are in balance or natural  
20 course, then she gets sick too. Like what the  
21 elder told me in '82, Mother Earth will retaliate  
22 in four ways against those that misuse the  
23 Creator's gift to mankind. First, she's gonna use  
24 water, lots of water. She's going to flood a lot  
25 of populated areas. And there's some poor ones

1 still that will be flooded, because they are  
2 suffering. Why should they suffer?

3 And the next, see that Hydro, under  
4 this water, Bipole III won't be there very long,  
5 the next generation will experience that.

6 And then the next he mentioned about  
7 the water and then the wind. But he used his  
8 hands, he couldn't talk in English, he just used  
9 his hand and started blowing towards the ground.  
10 Mother Earth is going to blow on her body hard,  
11 hard. He meant tornadoes, hurricanes, twisters,  
12 and you'll hit a lot of populated areas, starting  
13 mid 1990s. It was 1982 when he told me that. And  
14 then I seen that -- he told me he'll be one of  
15 them that will see those things happening. And I  
16 saw that flood coming in '97 in Winnipeg, just  
17 before it happened. And I didn't know how to warn  
18 the people how to prepare themselves to get away,  
19 the ones that will be hit. And then she was  
20 there, and that's why there's a lot of them  
21 hurricanes from the ocean, (Ojibway spoken) we  
22 call it. (Ojibway spoken) is the smaller ones.  
23 (Ojibway spoken) is the veins of Mother Earth and  
24 in your body too. The amount of water that there  
25 is on earth, that's the same amount of blood that

1 we have in our body.

2           The same with the soil will not give  
3 life anymore because it's poisoned. Even the  
4 animals, the crawling ones that crawl, they are  
5 the ones that know the earth the most because  
6 their whole body touches the ground, and they call  
7 the snake. Oh, I don't like the snake some say,  
8 yuck. Well, I can carry the snake.

9           I say my brother or sister, I'll let  
10 you go out, you don't belong in the building, you  
11 belong in the natural environment.

12           You too, you are caught with the  
13 square buildings. Because our homes were all in a  
14 circle, like your lodges, beaver lodge, muskrat,  
15 bird nests. Dogs even go in a circle when they go  
16 to sleep. And then in a square building, they are  
17 stationary, that's why they are easy to be  
18 destroyed.

19           And our people used to move with the  
20 season, but not anymore. We are stuck, we are  
21 fenced in our reservation. And we become an  
22 economic commodity to supply work for the people  
23 outside. And yet the taxpayer says, you get  
24 everything free. I spoke to our Attorney General  
25 in Saskatoon and asked him, why do you say we get

1 everything free? Like say \$5 billion, what can I  
2 do with \$5 billion? He said, well, you can buy  
3 food -- he hit them right on -- you can buy  
4 clothing, you can have education. Well, with that  
5 money you give me, I can't eat it, I can't wear  
6 it, and I can't educate myself with it. So  
7 somebody outside has to come and teach me  
8 something, or buy something from him. I give that  
9 money back to the taxpayer to make greater job.  
10 We are job makers, same thing with the animals,  
11 that's our lot.

12 I wish we had Indian time -- no,  
13 there's no such thing as Indians, we're not  
14 Indians. We're Aborigines, yeah. And I want to  
15 thank the people from Hydro and our visitors,  
16 because it's important to know the history. I  
17 don't believe in the history books. Miigwech.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Nepinak.  
19 We'll hear from one more person from Pine Creek  
20 before lunch and then some more after lunch.

21 MS. BRASS: Next I would like to call  
22 Rene Gambler. He works in the housing department  
23 in Pine Creek First Nation.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gambler, I'll ask  
25 the Commission secretary to affirm you.

1 MS. JOHNSON: Could you please state  
2 your name for the record?

3 MR. GAMBLER: Rene Gambler.  
4 Rene Gambler: Sworn.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, sir.

6 MR. GAMBLER: I'm from the Pine Creek  
7 First Nation, as I have said before, and I have  
8 lived there most of my life, so I know a lot about  
9 the community and also the members. I visited --  
10 a lot of my people that I live with in the reserve  
11 and the conditions of the houses in our reserve is  
12 very bad, very bad -- very, very bad, desperate  
13 need of housing. A lot of chiefs and leaders need  
14 negotiations with the governments and stuff, but  
15 right now the situation we're in, in Pine Creek,  
16 is very, very bad for the people.

17 The woman that works for Frontier  
18 School Division in Pine Creek, I didn't actually  
19 see the records, but half of our children are  
20 suffering from mould, living in mould. And I see  
21 these houses, I see them everyday. That's the  
22 situation we're in. Our elders are in the  
23 hospital, going to the hospital. And that's the  
24 mould. I know it.

25 When you people out there -- the

1 governments see mould in schools in First Nations,  
2 a little bit of mould, you shut them down. But  
3 where I come from, the people are living in mould,  
4 and half of the children in the school are  
5 suffering from it. I see it everyday.

6 I got up in the morning and thanked  
7 the Creator for the sun rise coming up, thanking  
8 the Creator for the day, and give thanks to what  
9 he's given us, the animals, to give thanks to  
10 that. And that's how we live and survive. That  
11 that's our survival, the animals.

12 The moose -- but the moose, as you  
13 know, is gone now and we can't hunt. We can't put  
14 food on our tables for our children, for our  
15 families. We're not allowed to hunt. And that's  
16 the province that gave LP the rights to clear-cut  
17 Duck Mountain, our hunting grounds.

18 As I mentioned before, we live on \$195  
19 a month. Single people live on that. You guys  
20 have the records on that. The people that are  
21 here today can travel with their vehicles. You  
22 guys have the numbers, 90 percent, probably more  
23 of them are still out there in the bush in Pine  
24 Creek. They can't come here to your meetings.  
25 Even to the meetings you are putting at the First



1 Nation, they've got to walk to the band office.  
2 They have to walk because they don't have money to  
3 travel.

4 I've got to speak on behalf of the  
5 housing, as they said, it affects our people and  
6 our First Nation. And it's a really sad situation  
7 that we're in. We live in a swamp, that's where  
8 we live. And everyday we have to get up and see  
9 the conditions of our houses and our homes, our  
10 children have to get up and go to school.

11 The people in my reserve see that  
12 everyday. And it's the governments that put us in  
13 that situation we're in. You'll give us education  
14 and we try to go out there and work, but we don't  
15 get enough from the governments. And yet the  
16 governments keep taking and taking. You guys know  
17 the situation we're in. The governments know the  
18 situation we're in.

19 I only have one more thing to say, and  
20 I'm not going to say what the leaders here tell me  
21 to say. Those people out there, 90 percent of the  
22 people out there are suffering, those are the  
23 people I'm going to be representing when you guys  
24 put your lines through. If they don't want your  
25 people to come through there with the lines to

1 affect the fish we eat, running through our  
2 rivers -- 12 rivers run through that piece of  
3 land. If these people out there say they don't  
4 want you guys coming through there, I will be  
5 representing them. And I will do all my power and  
6 our power to put your lines elsewhere. Those  
7 lines that are going to be coming through is going  
8 to affect the fish, whether you say it's not, it  
9 is going to affect it, because we know that from  
10 our neighbours out there what it does to our fish.  
11 That's more than 90 percent of that area of people  
12 out there that can't make it to your meetings.

13 We die from the chemicals, the  
14 pollution, the mercury, from the animals we eat.  
15 And if those people out there say they don't want  
16 your lines coming through our hunting grounds,  
17 where we eat from, where we live from, where we  
18 survive from, I will be standing there with them  
19 to tell you guys to put your lines elsewhere.  
20 That's all I have to say.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Gambler.  
22 We'll take a break now for about an hour and we'll  
23 reconvene at 1:00 o'clock.

24 (Proceedings recessed at 12:00 p.m.  
25 and reconvened at 1:15 p.m.)

1                   THE CHAIRMAN: Can we come back to  
2 order in about a minute? We had a slight delay.  
3 Some of the members of the First Nation, or of  
4 Pine Creek First Nation got delayed a little bit  
5 over lunch, so some of them are not here yet to  
6 make their presentation. One of their  
7 consultants, Mr. Mills, wants to say a few words  
8 now. I believe there might be one other member of  
9 the community here who is ready to go, so he or  
10 she will follow. And then there are other people  
11 who want to make presentations as well. So  
12 Mr. Mills?

13                   MR. MILLS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
14 Warren Mills for Pine Creek First Nation.

15                   We appreciate you giving us the  
16 breathing room to get our members back for their  
17 formal presentation. We have a little bit of  
18 housekeeping we'd like to follow up on. On  
19 October 4th, on pages 903, 910 and 911,  
20 Ms. Zebrowski from Manitoba Hydro made commitments  
21 to give us answers, and we haven't received or had  
22 any follow-up on those. So if we can table that  
23 as a reminder that those answers are still  
24 outstanding.

25                   We had two questions as to process

1 that we need a little bit of help with. Are rules  
2 of discovery in place here? And my specific  
3 question is, if Manitoba Hydro, as an example, has  
4 technical information which is counterpoint to  
5 their arguments, are they required to provide  
6 those, or if we ask of those, are those able to be  
7 provided to us?

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, quite frankly,  
9 I'm not sure that it's ever come up in the way you  
10 ask it, so I'm not sure. I can't give you an  
11 answer.

12 MR. MILLS: I can give you my  
13 specific -- an anecdote, if I may. Through our  
14 meetings in Winnipeg, Manitoba Hydro in  
15 particular, Mr. Dyck, made several very specific,  
16 very complete assurances that the clear-cutting of  
17 the right-of-way would have no affect on the  
18 watershed. I reviewed the October 4th and 5th  
19 transcripts yesterday and I found at least three  
20 instances where he was absolutely specific in that  
21 regard.

22 We had a meeting in the community last  
23 Thursday, and Manitoba Hydro provided a  
24 hydrologist, who in passing admitted that he  
25 thought that there was a good possibility that

1 three ice cream pails, I can't make that up, three  
2 ice cream pails per second might be contributed to  
3 the watershed in each river and creek crossing  
4 based on their modeling. So if you multiply three  
5 ice cream pails per second times the 12 creeks and  
6 rivers that we cross, times minutes, times days,  
7 times weeks, times months, times years, I arrive  
8 at more than 100 million litres of water. And so  
9 the information that the community got in the  
10 community isn't even close. Either he didn't know  
11 what he was talking about, or Mr. Dyck's sworn  
12 testimony was what it was.

13 So I'm just trying to understand how I  
14 can tie information that Manitoba Hydro gives us,  
15 that's clearly in conflict, together. And if you  
16 could help me in that regard, I'd appreciate it?

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bedford?

18 MR. BEDFORD: I'm aware of the  
19 presentation that was put on in the First Nation,  
20 I think last week, as Mr. Mills said. And we  
21 would be I think quite pleased to put that  
22 presentation on before this hearing, this  
23 Commission. I'd suggest you give us some  
24 direction as to when we ought to do that. My  
25 thinking was next week we have a full agenda, plus

1 you do have what I'll call a 14 day rule. So we  
2 ought to file this information, and the CV's, the  
3 resumés of the employees of Hydro who would come  
4 before you and be affirmed and put it on. But it  
5 might fit nicely in the first full week of  
6 November. I think we are scheduled to bring  
7 forward an employee to talk about the  
8 Environmental Protection Plan, and an employee to  
9 talk specifically about herbicides and maintenance  
10 practices on these right-of-ways once they are  
11 built. And it occurred to me that might be the  
12 best time to add an additional presentation, the  
13 one that Mr. Mills is referring to and that he's  
14 seen, and that some of the members of Pine Creek  
15 First Nation have seen. Alternatively, if you  
16 wanted more notice, we could bring it forward in  
17 rebuttal. But it strikes me that's rather late in  
18 the process, with less opportunity for  
19 participants like Pine Creek First Nation to  
20 publicly have an opportunity to question the  
21 employees who have prepared this presentation and  
22 who have, I gather, made some reference to ice  
23 cream pails.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Would the first week in  
25 November, full week in November be suitable to

1 you? That's about two weeks from now.

2 MR. MILLS: That would be fine with  
3 us, Mr. Chairman. If we could ask, there was a  
4 PowerPoint presentation wrapped around the words  
5 we heard. And if we could have that PowerPoint  
6 presentation in advance so that we can be ready  
7 to -- it's very detailed, very technical. It's a  
8 computer model of water flow based on many  
9 parameters, and we need our experts to give us  
10 some knowledge of it. So as long as we could have  
11 it in advance, that would be great.

12 MR. BEDFORD: Ms. Johnson will be back  
13 in Winnipeg tomorrow, and I think one of the  
14 things on her agenda is to file that presentation.  
15 And therefore, I would anticipate as early as  
16 tomorrow, perhaps the day after, it would be in  
17 Mr. Mill's hands and in the hands of everyone else  
18 who is participating in the proceeding. Now that  
19 might crimp us on the 14 days by, I'm told, one  
20 day.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: We can probably excuse,  
22 as long as we get it tomorrow or Wednesday, I  
23 think we might allow 12 or 13 days in this  
24 instance.

25 MR. MILLS: That's great. Thank you

1 very much, Mr. Chairman.

2                   One other point, perhaps you can tell  
3 me when we might have access to this source, but  
4 we have received some correspondence from Mr. Don  
5 Dojack in the Provincial Forestry Branch to Elise  
6 Dagdick, who is here today. And in it he makes  
7 specific references to his concerns with respect  
8 to the impacts and costs associated of the  
9 right-of-way clearing. He refers to the  
10 right-of-way clearing as having -- as causing  
11 significant change to the forest. And we don't  
12 know if or when we're going to be allowed to  
13 question or call provincial contribution, so if  
14 you could help us in that regard?

15                   THE CHAIRMAN: Any environmental  
16 issues will be canvassed during the next couple of  
17 weeks when we're back in Winnipeg, as Hydro  
18 presents the environmental assessment part of the  
19 EIS. As far as calling and examining provincial  
20 officials, that's typically not part of our  
21 process. You can use information from them as  
22 such, and examine how Hydro might have used or not  
23 used that information, but we typically don't call  
24 provincial officials to appear before us.

25                   MR. MILLS: I respect that,



1 Mr. Chairman, but I do observe that Mr. Dojack  
2 seems to have, speaking as the head of the  
3 Forestry Branch for the Province of Manitoba, he  
4 seems to have concerns as great as ours with  
5 regards to the effects of cutting in the  
6 watershed, and as unfunded participants, we're  
7 looking for every source of support that we can  
8 find.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, you're free to  
10 use Mr. Dojack's written comments in asking  
11 questions of the proponent, but we don't call  
12 provincial employees to come before us.

13 MR. MILLS: Okay. Great. If you  
14 could just bear with me for one moment, a very  
15 brief anecdote. I observe in today's Winnipeg  
16 Free Press that it's been discovered that  
17 overgrowth can have a significant effect on  
18 reducing water flow run-off. And it's leading  
19 edge technology, and apparently the penultimate  
20 proof of this is the fact that Manitoba Hydro has  
21 opted to include significant foliage on the  
22 rooftop of their office building in order to  
23 reduce water flow run-off to the drainage system  
24 downstream of them. And apparently it can be  
25 reduced by as much as 44 percent. And on that

1 basis Manitoba Hydro is practising that very own  
2 concept in their own office building and Pine  
3 Creek First Nation commends them and can't help  
4 but observe the convenience of the point.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: And I would fully  
6 expect that, if not during your cross-examination  
7 of the environmental assessment, certainly in your  
8 closing comments you would remind us that Hydro  
9 has engaged in this.

10 MR. MILLS: Yes, it is part of their  
11 holistic plan of managing their environment.

12 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, those are my  
13 only points.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Mills.

15 Ms. Brass? I should note also that I  
16 may interrupt the Pine Creek presentations because  
17 there is at least one person who would like to  
18 make his presentation about 2:00 p.m., and he's  
19 not part of your group. But if we do that, we'll  
20 get back to your group afterwards.

21 MS. BRASS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
22 I'd like to call up elder George Munro. He's  
23 going to be speaking about the hunting and the  
24 fishing.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Mr. Munro?

1                   MR. MUNRO: Hello, my name is Norman  
2 White Bear, I'm an indigenous person. I'm an  
3 original, I'm not Aboriginal of the land. I'm  
4 here to protect Mother Earth and Turtle Island.

5                   I have four points here I'd like to  
6 make.

7                   THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Munro, I'm sorry,  
8 what was your other name, your Aboriginal name --  
9 your original name, sorry?

10                  MR. MUNRO: Aka George Munro.

11                  THE CHAIRMAN: We'd like to affirm  
12 your testimony.

13                  MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Munro, I'd just like  
14 to make you aware that it is an offence in  
15 Manitoba to knowingly mislead this Commission. Do  
16 you promise to tell only the truth during  
17 proceedings before this Commission?

18                  MR. MUNRO: I do.

19 George Munro: Sworn.

20                  MR. MUNRO: I'd like to make a point  
21 here, being an original of Turtle Island, I'd like  
22 to appoint the Commission as trustees of this  
23 trust that our people have been put here to  
24 protect, and us, originals, as beneficiaries of  
25 Turtle Island. I appoint you, council, sitting in

1 the front here as trustees of this trust. I'm  
2 sure you know what a trust is. Thank you.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: That's a pretty heavy  
4 onus.

5 MR. MUNRO: Well, I've got a big  
6 responsibility to look after Mother Earth as a  
7 steward of this land.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

9 MR. MUNRO: Thank you. My comments  
10 regarding hunting and fishing and trapping, I was  
11 at a meeting at Opaskwayak, known as The Pas, and  
12 I heard some disturbing remarks by indigenous  
13 hunters where they found carcasses of moose in the  
14 bush while hunting, and all that was missing was  
15 the head of the moose, the antlers. So it's not  
16 our people that's devastating the moose  
17 population, it's the white hunters that's taken  
18 trophies so they can mount on their walls and say,  
19 look what I got. It's a prize for them. We don't  
20 do that with our animals. We preserve everything  
21 that we take from the wild. We use bones, the  
22 hide, anything, as materials for our people. We  
23 make clothes. And that's a big -- I just about  
24 cried when I heard that these people are finding  
25 carcasses of the moose. And I have heard other

1 comments in Winnipeg where geese are being  
2 slaughtered, and all that's taken are the breasts.  
3 And you blame us indigenous people of ravaging our  
4 lands, when I think that's wrong. You should look  
5 at the people that you give licences too.

6 As you just heard on the news just the  
7 other day, 40,000 hunters in Quebec City, in  
8 Quebec, for moose hunting, when they can only  
9 handle maybe 5,000 -- 40,000 licences sold. It's  
10 all for the all mighty dollar that this government  
11 is creating these licences. And our people, you  
12 blame our people for poaching and doing this. We  
13 do not poach. We only take off the land what we  
14 need, as was discussed here before.

15 Vegetation, the vegetation, the  
16 pollution that's being caused by these hydro  
17 lines, you got the magnetic fields that's killing  
18 vegetation and harming our animals. It's never  
19 been discussed what this EMPs or EMFs are,  
20 magnetic fields and vegetation, killing the moose.  
21 And these are serious things that impact our way  
22 of life. And we can't allow that to happen just  
23 for the all mighty dollar. Because we don't live  
24 on the land to make a dollar, we live on the land  
25 to protect it and survive off it, as indigenous

1 people.

2                   So there's a lot of concerns here that  
3 hasn't been addressed. Magnetic fields, there's  
4 health issues, cancer causing -- it's been proven  
5 now that people who live near hydro lines have  
6 cancer. You've got these poles with the BPC's or  
7 whatever, tanks that are dripping on our hydro  
8 lines everyday right next to houses, that are not  
9 addressed. And this is a Crown corporation. It's  
10 a government. And we're here to address the  
11 situations regarding these things.

12                   Another thing that's disappointing  
13 here, like the Environment Clean Commission states  
14 that we have met with all the people. I think  
15 that's wrong. The grassroots people have never  
16 been heard. I live outside a reserve, I'm a First  
17 Nation person but my community of Duck Bay, or my  
18 brothers and sisters who live on the other side  
19 called Camperville, have never had a presentation,  
20 have never been at the table to discuss their  
21 issues. These are our traditional lands too, not  
22 only First Nations. We're all brothers and  
23 sisters here and we protect the land. But it  
24 seems like you are only making presentations with  
25 First Nations people. As an original here, I have

1 more rights than an INAC person has to that land  
2 and territory. I protect Mother Earth, I'm not  
3 there to abuse it just for a dollar.

4           As a Crown corporation, I mean, they  
5 want to make agreements with First Nations people  
6 regarding the territories. Another thing that was  
7 at a meeting last week, they said they will not  
8 interfere with future TLE lands. Duck Bay is in  
9 communication regarding the reinstatement of the  
10 original reserve. And all that territory that  
11 this Bipole III is coming through is our  
12 territory. I grew up there as a kid. You can  
13 drop me off there in the middle of the bush in the  
14 middle of the night with my hands tied, and I can  
15 walk out the next day without a map or anything.  
16 Any place here within 150 miles of this territory  
17 where I grew up in, I know this like the back of  
18 my hand.

19           And for Hydro to come here and sell  
20 all that energy to the United States for a dollar,  
21 you've got Keeyask, Conawapa coming down in the  
22 future. I think we need to sit down and have a  
23 serious talk with the people of this Province, not  
24 only the First Nations people, all the communities  
25 that are involved. Because if you make a

1 negotiation with the MMF in this province, that is  
2 a corporation, that is not the people. We need  
3 the people to be at the table, not a corporation,  
4 grassroots people, people that it is going to  
5 affect their lives, people like this blueberry  
6 patch that they are talking about where Louisiana  
7 Pacific is poisoning all the foliage around it,  
8 poisoning the animals.

9           The farmers and all this run-off  
10 chemicals that's going into our water. You hear  
11 them talk about 12 rivers that empty into  
12 Winnipegosis. There's cattle washing down these  
13 rivers and nobody does nothing about it. Oh, it's  
14 the farmers, you lost one cow. That's poison.  
15 They are poisoning our water system, our fishing  
16 supply and our hunting supplies.

17           As you heard from the elders here  
18 about medicine, it's disappearing because the  
19 farmers -- all the chemicals that's being used.  
20 And that's got to stop. We've got to address the  
21 situation. We're not against economic  
22 development, we just like to be a piece of the  
23 puzzle. We'd like to address this to protect our  
24 land too and our rights.

25           I know everybody sitting up there all



1 works for the government. I don't work for  
2 nobody, I'm an individual, but I bring my concerns  
3 forward whenever I have a chance to speak.

4           So that's what I have to say to this,  
5 the leadership here that's addressing these  
6 concerns. Because Keeyask and Conawapa is just  
7 down the road, and if this isn't handled right  
8 here today regarding Wuskwatim, just imagine the  
9 problems you're going to have with Keeyask and  
10 Conawapa. Because you're going to start a  
11 revolution here, and the people are not going to  
12 stand for it. I mean, Wuskwatim, 400 million was  
13 given to Wuskwatim and Nelson House. Those  
14 guys -- that money disappeared within two years.  
15 What happened to it? The only people that's got  
16 it is the lawyers that's fighting the court cases.

17           We don't want to go to court. As  
18 sovereigns we don't have to go to court. We know  
19 our jurisdiction, we know our titles as keepers of  
20 Turtle Island.

21           So this is my presentation to the  
22 Commission. I hope you take heed, because we  
23 haven't begun to fight. We know our rights. What  
24 will you people do with allodial title? Do you  
25 know about the allodial title? It supersedes your

1 corporations, your fee simple, your land scrips or  
2 whatever you call them, that supersedes. We know  
3 about this, and our people do, and we will have to  
4 use all the power in the international arena to  
5 stop the corporation ravaging our lands and  
6 resources. Thank you.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Munro.

8  
9 Now I don't see Audrey so I'm not sure if there's  
10 anybody else from Pine Creek here at this time.  
11 Here she comes.

12 MR. BRASS: Sorry about that. Next up  
13 we have Marvin McKay. He's a Pine Creek First  
14 Nations lands manager.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

16 MR. MCKAY: Good afternoon.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon. We'll  
18 just have the secretary affirm you, Mr. McKay.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Could you please state  
20 your name for the record?

21 MR. MCKAY: Marvin McKay.

22 Marvin McKay: Sworn.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. You may  
24 proceed, sir.

25 MR. MCKAY: I have caught some part of

1 the presentation, I was late coming this morning,  
2 but I understand that this is a Clean Environment  
3 Commission hearing for Bipole III, and that it's  
4 not about Hydro. Am I correct?

5 THE CHAIRMAN: It's not about Hydro?  
6 Is that what you said?

7 MR. MCKAY: Yeah.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, it is about Hydro  
9 inasmuch as they are the company proposing to  
10 build Bipole III, but we're an independent  
11 government agency that has been asked to review  
12 the environmental impact and Hydro's consultation  
13 process, to review their assessment of potential  
14 environmental impact, as well as the consultation  
15 process. So Hydro is a party to this proceeding,  
16 but we're the group that will make decisions on  
17 whether or not to recommend a licence, or to put  
18 conditions on the licence.

19 MR. MCKAY: Okay. Thank you. I have  
20 one more question.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Certainly.

22 MR. MCKAY: What happens if you don't  
23 give them that licence?

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, we don't make the  
25 final decision on whether or not to give the

1 licence. The Minister of Conservation and Water  
2 Stewardship does. But we give advice to the  
3 Minister. Typically the Minister will accept our  
4 recommendations. And if we were to say no  
5 licence, and if the Minister were to accept that,  
6 then Bipole III wouldn't be built, at least not  
7 now.

8 MR. MCKAY: Well, they started the  
9 dams already.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: I don't believe --  
11 well, they are probably two-thirds or  
12 three-quarters of the way through completing  
13 Wuskwatim. They haven't started Keeyask or  
14 Conawapa yet.

15 MR. MCKAY: It's a lot of investment  
16 though. Okay. Thank you.

17 The lake back in '99, we had fish  
18 floating in the lake which was from the non  
19 movement of lake water causing a lack of oxygen  
20 because of the dams. When I was growing up we  
21 used to swim in the lake and the river, we used to  
22 drink water directly from the lake. I noticed  
23 that the quality of the water began to diminish  
24 when these dams were starting to be constructed,  
25 like Grand Rapids, Limestone. I think there is no

1 connection starting to be made regarding the lake,  
2 the quality of the lake water in relation to the  
3 dams, but they are all interconnected. It's one  
4 big circle.

5           Bipole III is being constructed to  
6 bring hydro from the dams, the dams up north, dam  
7 up the river. The lakes flowing to these rivers,  
8 when the dams are closed everything quits moving  
9 and it affects the fish and the lake bottom  
10 itself, which causes this acidification of the  
11 water, which in turn affects the fish and the  
12 plant life.

13           Historically, our people settled where  
14 they did because of the good fishing that there  
15 was and the good hunting that there was. There  
16 was mention of moose management and all of this.

17           We had no qualms initially about the  
18 building of the dams because we didn't see how  
19 much of a resource this is going to become for the  
20 Province of Manitoba.

21           Today not many people realize that  
22 there are nine more dams to be built yet, after  
23 these ones that are being proposed. So that means  
24 more Bipoles. And there's only one place where  
25 these Bipoles are going to run.

1                   So in looking at Bipole III, because  
2   Bipoles are to be run adjacent to it, which is  
3   what I believe myself, that it's going to compound  
4   the problems later on. And if this hearing is --  
5   as you mentioned, there will be other hearings for  
6   other lines, supposedly, but once one line is put  
7   in, I don't know what effect that will have on  
8   future expansion of these lines, and what sort of  
9   a hold the CEC would have on it. When you build  
10  one line, there's nothing stopping you from  
11  building one, two, three, four more. I say this  
12  because Bipoles I and II have a corridor of 137  
13  metres. Bipole III has a corridor of 600 metres,  
14  which is three times the size of what I and II  
15  have.

16                   THE CHAIRMAN: I think, if I can just  
17  interupt, I'm not here to defend Manitoba Hydro,  
18  but I believe the right-of-way is 66 metres.

19                   MR. MCKAY: I understand it's 600.

20                   THE CHAIRMAN: I could be wrong.

21                   MR. MCKAY: And 1200 up north, north  
22  of Birch River. I just wanted to mention that we  
23  had our people -- you may have heard one of our  
24  band members, Mr. Gambler, this morning, he's  
25  pretty upset. Not only -- it's not only him, but

1 others of our band are pretty upset in that, you  
2 know, in the past we have had an involvement -- or  
3 non involvement with Hydro. I'm referring to the  
4 forebay agreement, Grand Rapids, where we lost  
5 traditional territory, Chemawawin were relocated  
6 within our territory. Now, it is this lack of --  
7 our non involvement that has created a great deal  
8 of dissent from our people, and rightfully so.

9           When Bipole III initially came to our  
10 First Nation, I brought up that very issue. They  
11 stated that they are not dealing with old issues,  
12 is what I was told at the time. Now, we don't  
13 consider Grand Rapids Forebay an old issue. It is  
14 an unresolved issue. We lost land in that  
15 process. It is traditional land, but it's still  
16 our land, and Chemawawin was established within  
17 our territory, on our land, without any  
18 compensation to our people. And that is a very  
19 big issue.

20           Canada and Manitoba continually  
21 trivialize what we consider our traditional  
22 territory. Our traditional territory is no less  
23 important to us than the 200-mile offshore  
24 territorial rights that Canada claims on  
25 international waters, and they are respected by

1 other countries. We expect Canada and Manitoba to  
2 respect our traditional territory as well. All  
3 this traditional territory also lies within  
4 Ojibway territory, which is another matter.

5           We look at the Metis, claim of the  
6 Metis bread basket. The Metis have always been  
7 part of our people, but governments, the  
8 Government of Manitoba has sort of pulled us apart  
9 in that regard. But our First Nation view is the  
10 Metis people are part of our people and we include  
11 them in whatever we do, as far as Duck Bay and  
12 Camperville are concerned. They are the blood of  
13 our blood, that's the way we look at it. That's  
14 the way we intend to treat them. What we ask for,  
15 we will give them also.

16           When this process began, Hydro stayed  
17 away from Pine Creek after our initial meeting. I  
18 don't know why. If we instilled any fear in them,  
19 they did not say. But our initial meeting we were  
20 adamant that Chemawawin, or what is known as Cedar  
21 Camp, would be dealt with, and we remain in that  
22 position.

23           Our opposition to Bipole III and its  
24 environmental impact is still up in the air. So  
25 should a new consultation for other Bipoles ever



1 happen, Hydro should consider that, you know,  
2 First Nations be afforded funding in order to do  
3 their own investigative work. We are always asked  
4 what we think, when we can't see for ourselves in  
5 our own way. We have our own things that we have.

6 I could speak on, you know, other  
7 issues such as our elders, our forefathers, the  
8 history of my people, but you only give me 15  
9 minutes.

10 Everything has an impact on what we  
11 talk about. We have to look at the full picture.  
12 I myself was in council for our First Nation for a  
13 number of years. I thought I knew a lot. Most of  
14 everything that I have learned, I have learned in  
15 the last four years, and I'm 57 years old.

16 It's things that we weren't taught,  
17 the failure of governments to educate their people  
18 of the government's responsibility under Treaty  
19 that has created the dissention there is today,  
20 why we have to have hearings like this. Our  
21 people deserve better than that and they will get  
22 better than that.

23 This country has had a hidden agenda  
24 for our people that has yet to be exposed. That  
25 agenda is a complete assimilation of our people.

1                   You look at the Treaty. Why is the  
2 Treaty here today when it's such a thorn on the  
3 government's side? Why can't they not just  
4 legislate it away like they do everything else?  
5 Because they can't. Because the Treaty created  
6 this country. Without the Treaty, this country  
7 doesn't exist either. Only we, the Anishinaabe,  
8 the Cree, can break this Treaty. Canada cannot,  
9 yet they trivialize the rights that we have in  
10 this country as if they are nothing. If they were  
11 nothing, then they would have done away with the  
12 Treaty long ago.

13                   That is the basis of our argument  
14 today. But there is a greater power than the  
15 Treaty itself, and that is the Ojibway Nation, the  
16 Cree Nation, the Dene Nation. Canada fails to  
17 answer these questions that we have on  
18 sovereignty, or they shy away. We ourselves, the  
19 original people of this land, fail to see this  
20 also, but it's there. It's there for us to use if  
21 we need it. And at this time everybody says  
22 Bipole III is going to be built. I for one think  
23 that we can stop it. In fact, I know we can stop  
24 it.

25                   The understanding that the governments

1 have on what our people want must be addressed.  
2 Our people want recognition. They want some  
3 value, what little it may be, from the use of  
4 their lands. Many years ago one of our elders,  
5 who has passed on, as we sat in council together,  
6 a meeting with Conservation, talking about moose  
7 hunting licences, and the outfitters that operated  
8 in this area who owned all these licences was told  
9 by the gentleman from Brandon, quite harshly I may  
10 add, you know what, everybody had an equal chance  
11 to do what these gentlemen have done for their  
12 businesses, he told our elder, which angered me  
13 quite a bit. And I told him, hold on a minute  
14 here -- I didn't say it quite that nicely but -- I  
15 asked him if he was aware that until 1951, our  
16 people could not leave our reserve without  
17 permission from the Indian agent. He said he was  
18 not. And I told him, well, what's so equal about  
19 that?

20                   It's always been that way for our  
21 people. We couldn't even hire a lawyer to fight  
22 for our lands that were being stolen. All they  
23 could do was sit and cry on their own land.  
24 People ask why our old people never did anything  
25 to save this land from being taken away from them.

1 It is because laws were created to stop them.  
2 That is the same law that I was taught in school  
3 to respect and obey. It's the same law that was  
4 used against my people all these years to rob them  
5 of their land, their children, incarcerate them in  
6 residential schools and beat the Indian right out  
7 of them. That is the same law that is in effect  
8 today that is encoded within the Treaty.

9 What happened to our laws? We had  
10 laws too. There are two sides to the Treaty, but  
11 only one side has all the resources. And there  
12 lies our predicament.

13 But in closing, I would like to say  
14 that our band is open to continue this discussion  
15 with Hydro. We would like to convey to Hydro  
16 that -- don't forget our people, they are the ones  
17 that will ultimately decide on what we do. And  
18 our problems are nothing new, they are well  
19 documented. Our people will fight this if they  
20 have to, and we will win, that I assure you.  
21 Thank you.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. McKay.

23 MR. BRASS: Next I would like to call  
24 up Louis Chartrand and Willy Beauchamp. They are  
25 going to be speaking on the changes in the

1 trapping over the years.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

3 Just before we ask the two of you to  
4 affirm, I just want to clarify something. At the  
5 start of the lunch break, a couple of people from  
6 Pine Creek came up and asked me why we were asking  
7 people from Pine Creek to affirm that they were  
8 going to speak the truth, but we didn't ask the  
9 Hydro officials who had made the presentation to  
10 do that.

11 This is actually a very good question.  
12 I never thought of it. We should have explained  
13 it earlier. We did ask the Hydro officials to  
14 affirm their testimony, but we did that during our  
15 hearings in Winnipeg. And you may have noted that  
16 when Chief Bushie spoke this morning, I didn't ask  
17 him to affirm his evidence because he had been  
18 affirmed in Winnipeg. So once a person affirms  
19 anywhere, as far as our proceedings are concerned,  
20 they have affirmed for the whole length of the  
21 hearings. So the Hydro people, any witnesses,  
22 Hydro witnesses, the people we have seen in Gillam  
23 and Thompson and The Pas the last week, we ask  
24 everybody, if they are giving testimony, to  
25 affirm. If they are just asking questions, as we

1 head first thing this morning, we don't ask that.  
2 So we're not being unfair, we're not asking some  
3 to do it and others not to, we ask everyone to do  
4 it, but not necessarily at the same meeting.

5 So having said that I'll ask the  
6 Commission secretary to affirm the two gentlemen  
7 before me right now.

8 MS. JOHNSON: Could you please state  
9 your names for the record?

10 MR. CHARTRAND: Louis Chartrand, Pine  
11 Creek First Nation.

12 MR. BEAUCHAMP: Willy Beauchamp.  
13 Louis Chartrand: Sworn.  
14 Willy Beauchamp: Sworn.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Go ahead.  
16 I'd just ask you to speak closely to the mic  
17 because it doesn't pick it up very well.

18 MR. CHARTRAND: I would like to talk a  
19 little bit about trapping. Trapping was good in  
20 the old days, not like today. Before when we used  
21 to go trapping up north in the Camper/Duck area,  
22 there was a lot of fur and we stayed there all  
23 winter. We used to come home by boats in the  
24 spring. But to make it short, since Grand Rapids  
25 and Easterville got flooded out, it seems to me

1 our government took our block way and gave it to  
2 Easterville, without asking the trappers from  
3 Camper/Duck. And after that, when we couldn't go  
4 there anymore, then we have a fur block here which  
5 is Pine Creek, where the Bipole III is running a  
6 line through. To start off with, we had a  
7 trapping area that's south of Camperville, it was  
8 Crown land and it was fenced off. That's what  
9 puzzled me, how can a white man come and fence out  
10 our trapping area, which is Crown land. That's  
11 supposed to be our land. And then we moved to the  
12 block in Pine Creek, which is our fur block.

13 Now Bipole III is coming through  
14 there, which is going to kill everything as far as  
15 the trapping.

16 Last week I was talking to Audrey  
17 Brass and she told me that there is two  
18 instructors coming to teach youths to trap, 11, I  
19 think, if I'm not mistaken, to get certificates.  
20 I was wondering, why are they getting certificates  
21 when there's no place to trap? I don't know. But  
22 I know one thing, no matter what we say, we could  
23 roll around here and beg, but Hydro is going to  
24 come through whether we like it or not.

25 To me, I'm 75, I'm an elder, this is

1 all a show where we're sitting, just to make it  
2 look good saying, we met with Pine Creek. I don't  
3 know if another member here -- he's a big trapper,  
4 maybe he'll have a few words to say about it.

5 MR. BEAUCHAMP: Well, really I don't  
6 have really that much to say, because it's spoke  
7 to. Like he said what I wanted to say, you know.  
8 But as far as trapping like -- well, I can prove  
9 because I have some receipts here, like the fur  
10 that I sold to NAFA, that's North America Fur  
11 Auctions, that one sale that I shipped my fur, you  
12 know, I got over \$2,000, but that's just the one  
13 sale. Now, I'd be lucky if I get half of that,  
14 because we're all fenced. Where we used to trap,  
15 it's all fenced in now. Where could we go?  
16 What's going to happen when Hydro comes in? I  
17 think, from my point of view, I think that would  
18 be worse yet, you know, because probably there  
19 will be the no trespassing signs there all over  
20 the place.

21 MR. CHARTRAND: I think where we are  
22 today, there isn't much old trappers anymore, they  
23 are dying out because we're all getting old, I  
24 guess. But I still think trappers should be  
25 compensated somehow for the loss we have taken



1 from Hydro. I don't know if we need proof what  
2 kind of trappers they were or not, but I have  
3 never kept my receipts.

4 I guess there's not much more I can  
5 say about trapping except Bipole III is sure  
6 hurting our livelihood.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, the Commission  
8 can't consider issues beyond Bipole III, but we  
9 can certainly consider any potential impacts from  
10 Bipole III. And I do know from other  
11 presentations in Thompson and The Pas that  
12 Manitoba Hydro does have a program for trappers  
13 who might or will be affected by Bipole III.  
14 That's not something that we administer, but you  
15 might talk to Hydro officials about that. And if  
16 Bipole III affects your trapping, then they may be  
17 able to help you.

18 But for other older issues, I  
19 recognize that there are legitimate concerns but  
20 they are not within the terms of reference of our  
21 review.

22 MR. CHARTRAND: I guess that's all I  
23 have to say. Thank you.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you  
25 gentlemen. Audrey, do you have any other?

1 Mr. Mills?

2 MR. MILLS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, some  
3 words were just spoken that troubled me because  
4 they weren't exactly accurate as to what's  
5 happened. To my knowledge, trappers' compensation  
6 program has not been brought to Pine Creek's  
7 attention. We discovered it in touring sites on  
8 the Internet late last week, and we took it off  
9 and provided it to the First Nation on Friday  
10 morning. If we have learned anything from that,  
11 and we continue to stumble upon this, if Manitoba  
12 Hydro could be encouraged to be as forthcoming as  
13 possible, these gentlemen could have and should  
14 have been made aware of that trappers' program  
15 quite some time ago. The information got to the  
16 band office on Friday at about 10:00 a.m.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you for that  
18 observation.

19 MR. MILLS: Thank you.

20 MR. BRASS: I have elder Reg Nepinak  
21 coming up next, and he's from Pine Creek First  
22 Nation.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

24 MR. NEPINAK: Good afternoon. Reg  
25 Nepinak, Pine Creek First Nation.

1 Reg Nepinak : Sworn.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, sir.

3 MR. NEPINAK: And I want to thank  
4 Audrey for the designation of elder.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: As soon as we get some  
6 white hairs, they think we're older.

7 MR. NEPINAK: Yes. What I want to  
8 talk today about is the environment of superiority  
9 from the immigrant societies on our people, and to  
10 be blatant, it is racism.

11 Today in Canada, Canadians are allowed  
12 to be racist towards my people. I have seen new  
13 Canadians coming into Canada and show racism  
14 towards our people, which really surprises me, you  
15 know, and bothers me actually, you know.

16 Let me back up a little bit and give  
17 you a little bit of history of myself. I am 57  
18 years old, like my cousin Marvin, and at the age  
19 of 12, mom and dad moved us to Winnipeg, and that  
20 was 1967. 42 years later in 2009, I returned to  
21 the reserve to work. So for 42 years I lived  
22 among you guys, and I know your lives very well,  
23 and I experienced a lot of racism in that time.

24 My wife is non Aboriginal, and when we  
25 moved here from Calgary in 2009, she was appalled

1 at the type of racism that happens in this area.

2           So with that, I wanted to bring this  
3 forward for you to ask yourselves, do I allow  
4 racism? Do I allow racist comments towards  
5 Aboriginal people? And it's something that you  
6 have to ask yourselves because of the job that  
7 you're doing. And if you do, then you need to  
8 change your attitude. Like I said, for 40 years I  
9 have lived amongst you immigrant societies. And I  
10 strongly believe that somewhere in the future, we  
11 are all going to be one society at some point in  
12 time, but we have to get over this attitude of  
13 racism, this attitude of superiority.

14           The Manitoba Government and Manitoba  
15 Hydro have this attitude. I've seen it from 1975,  
16 when I lived in Leaf Rapids, lived and worked in  
17 Leaf Rapids, when the Notigi Rat River dam project  
18 first started. And I moved back to Winnipeg in  
19 late '75, and I was invited to go to a meeting  
20 similar like this to listen to the Minister in  
21 charge of Hydro at the time, who was Sydney Green.

22           Sydney Green said, we're not going to  
23 displace anybody from their homes. I was a young  
24 man at the time and I wasn't self-confident enough  
25 to stand up and tell Sydney that he was telling

1 lies, which he was. Because I just left the area  
2 that he was talking about and people were being  
3 displaced from their homes. It was common  
4 knowledge in the communities that Manitoba Hydro  
5 brought their engineers, and they asked the old  
6 people and the trappers, this is what we're going  
7 to do and this is how far we're going to cut the  
8 tree line so that we don't flood the tree line  
9 out. Islands were flooded over, completely cut  
10 down and flooded. I witnessed this.

11           The Manitoba Hydro engineers didn't  
12 believe the people that were on the land, didn't  
13 believe the Aboriginal people, the First Nations  
14 people, or the Metis people, that these things  
15 were going to happen. And over the years these  
16 things did happen. Because these people were on  
17 the land, they lived the land, the land was part  
18 of them. Just like today, the land is a part of  
19 us.

20           I was gone for 42 years from my  
21 community. I may have spent two weeks of that 42  
22 years on the reserve, but the reserve never left  
23 my heart. The reserve was always a reminder, at  
24 least once a week I remembered being on the  
25 reserve. That's how much the land means to us as

1 people. Okay.

2                   The other thing is the water. When I  
3 was a child, like my cousin Marvin said, we were  
4 able to drink the water, swim in the water, you  
5 know. I won't drink the water today. One of my  
6 jobs recently was working here in Dauphin for West  
7 Region Tribal Council, as a fish habitat  
8 specialist on Dauphin lake. Within that time I  
9 was also invited by the man who was my superior to  
10 come home to Pine Creek and take part of a meeting  
11 with Manitoba Hydro on Aboriginal traditional  
12 knowledge. So what we had was our old people, I  
13 think I was the youngest of the group. And I saw  
14 some uncles that I hadn't seen for a long time and  
15 I was very happy to see them.

16                   But what was supposed to be an  
17 Aboriginal traditional knowledge meeting wasn't,  
18 compared to what I used to do as the Aboriginal  
19 specialist for fish habitat.

20                   Tobacco was handed to one person I  
21 believe to say a prayer, which is normal, we did  
22 that here this morning, but nothing was asked of  
23 the way we do things as Aboriginal people.  
24 Nothing was done in a traditional manner. Nobody  
25 asked, how should we do this in a traditional

1 manner? So I think as part of your package you  
2 were given this -- the meeting I was talking about  
3 in 2010, I believe it was. And I wouldn't call  
4 that Aboriginal traditional knowledge research,  
5 simply because I have conducted Aboriginal  
6 traditional knowledge as part of my job. And it's  
7 garbage. They were interested in -- they started  
8 asking us about minerals, what kind of minerals  
9 were found in the ground? What kind of resources  
10 were found in the ground? They didn't ask us  
11 about our language and what we thought about our  
12 language, that I remember, I don't remember all  
13 the questions. But the way I conducted my  
14 Aboriginal traditional knowledge is I went to the  
15 elders, elders that are sitting here in this room  
16 today, I went and asked them, I gave them tobacco,  
17 and I was very minimal in what I asked them. I  
18 told them, this is my guidelines for what I need  
19 to know. I need you to tell me about fish  
20 habitat, and I listened. And the elders did most  
21 of the talking. And if they paused, I waited.  
22 Because most elders will pause and collect their  
23 thoughts before they move on. And I asked  
24 specific questions, because I know -- I have  
25 somewhat command of our language, I have lost a

1 lot of our language.

2 So the people that were brought in  
3 were hired by Manitoba Hydro. These were not even  
4 people -- because I asked them -- they were not  
5 even employees of Manitoba Hydro, they were a  
6 third party organization, and this is the kind of  
7 thing that they did.

8 So I strongly would recommend to the  
9 Commission that that evidence, if it was presented  
10 to you, throw it out the window because it's not  
11 Aboriginal traditional knowledge. It was a fact  
12 finding mission on finding more minerals and how  
13 they could extract more minerals. I'm surprised  
14 Manitoba Hydro even hired them.

15 Today I have a little brown dog, he's  
16 about this tall. And I won't let him swim in  
17 Dauphin or Lake Winnipegosis because I don't trust  
18 the water. In Dauphin lake, there are algae  
19 blooms. I wouldn't say so much -- I have seen  
20 much algae blooms on Lake Winnipegosis, but I'm  
21 sure they are out there. I wouldn't let my dog  
22 swim in them. That's how much I don't trust this  
23 water.

24 You have already heard that the water  
25 is stagnant. It is. In the 42 years that I was



1 gone, when I came back the first place -- one of  
2 the first places I went was to go back to my old  
3 playground. I couldn't go to my old playground  
4 because it was under water.

5           You know, one of the things I heard  
6 was our -- in my job as a researcher, I found a  
7 book in the Manitoba building, in the Conservation  
8 office, I found a book on water mercury -- mercury  
9 in water. And I'm sure you all understand that  
10 when you flood land, that creates mercury  
11 contamination. How many times has the -- we just  
12 went through a flood in what, 2010, 2011? The  
13 land got flooded, there's mercury contamination.  
14 Next time the land gets flooded, there's going to  
15 be more mercury contamination.

16           I can't believe that with all the  
17 scientists that Manitoba Hydro has, I don't  
18 believe that they are doing us any favours that  
19 they are not poisoning ground -- they are not  
20 poisoning us. And that's something that you need  
21 to do is keep that into consideration.

22           My main thing is racism. This town  
23 still has racist attitudes towards our Aboriginal  
24 people. This area still has racist attitudes  
25 towards Aboriginal people. And that's an

1 environment issue, it's not a clean environment  
2 for us to be in. Okay.

3 Thank you very much.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Nepinak.

5 Ms. Brass, I think -- do you have  
6 other people? Okay. Can we hold that person  
7 until a bit later? I'd like to give an  
8 opportunity to at least a couple of other people  
9 who have expressed an interest. I know that one  
10 of them has a time commitment, so I'd like to give  
11 them an opportunity now, and then we'll return  
12 later to Pine Creek.

13 Mr. Delaronde.

14 MR. DELARONDE: Good afternoon,  
15 Chairman Sargent, members of the Commission board,  
16 Hydro, and recorders, and the participants  
17 present. My name for the record is Billy  
18 Delaronde.

19 MR. CHARTRAND: David Chartrand.

20 Billy Delaronde: Sworn.

21 David Chartrand: Sworn.

22 MR. DELARONDE: With that Chairman  
23 Sargent, we are here representing Anishinaabe  
24 Indian government.

25 For your records, I guess, I am

1 officially the Chief of Camperville. And this  
2 gentleman with me is David Chartrand, and he's the  
3 vice Chief of Camperville. And also we have Peter  
4 Paul Chartrand here, our secretary/treasurer. So  
5 we make this presentation on behalf of our nation.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

7 MR. CHARTRAND: I wanted to enlighten  
8 you a little bit about Winnipegosis, the lake  
9 itself. Manitoba Hydro -- like we could sit here,  
10 everybody seems to go back to the past, I might as  
11 well go back too. Like I was -- Camperville, Pine  
12 Creek and Duck Bay are three unique communities,  
13 very unique. We went through everything. All the  
14 way down to residential school, day school, 60  
15 scoops, you name it, we went through it.

16 When I left here when I was young, in  
17 Lake Winnipegosis lake, we have a river there.  
18 Now, you should have seen all the people angling  
19 there. My mom used to send me to the river to go  
20 get suckers, the mullets, because we were sick of  
21 pickerel. Pickerel was very good, but we had too  
22 much of it so she'd send me out to get suckers.  
23 We would. You should see people just lined up  
24 along the river. That was our resource, by the  
25 way, because we made money off of that, believe it

1 or not. And when I came back after 16 years  
2 later, back home, there was no pickerel, none. I  
3 fish for my brother, and we had checked about 27,  
4 maybe 30 nets, we were lucky to get four pickerel,  
5 even if that.

6 I don't know what happened. I really  
7 don't. And to this day, I kind of investigated  
8 it, you know, somebody had to be in fault here.  
9 The boats, was it the boats that did a massive  
10 killing?

11 And then I went to highway number 6  
12 and I seen a dam there, went and checked it out.  
13 Our fish go down that dam but they don't make it  
14 up. This is Manitoba Hydro. Now that I don't  
15 have the pickerel -- well, I like pickerel, hey,  
16 I'm sure you guys do too. I have to go to Lake  
17 Dauphin because they have lots of it. On a  
18 harvest run, I go there. I have to angle like  
19 this now, hey. We had a co-management agreement  
20 there. But you know what, in harvest time when I  
21 have to eat, I spend 40 bucks on gas and they are  
22 only to give me six fish. That's all you are  
23 allowed, David, bang, six fish, that's it, go  
24 home.

25 Now, it's somebody's fault here, it is

1 somebody's fault why my fish is gone. It's not  
2 ours. We don't own boats. Maybe one person or  
3 two people may own boats at the time the fish was  
4 gone.

5                   Now we could sit here and point  
6 fingers, but I know two fingers that could be  
7 pointed to was Manitoba Hydro. We were not --  
8 nobody has ever come to us and told us, hey,  
9 David, it was our fault your fish is gone,  
10 nothing, nothing. And now we have consultation.  
11 That's why you are here, so they don't do stuff  
12 like this again. And they have done lots of this.

13                   They have saturated grounds, you know.  
14 Do you know what saturated means? A ground will  
15 get so saturated that it will even create a  
16 perfume smell, that's even in our community that  
17 I'm smelling this and so are other people.

18                   If you ever want to see that dam that  
19 they made, please do so. Go over there and look  
20 at it for a while, just go look. You'll see a  
21 bunch of people angling on that side, but there's  
22 nothing on this side, and that's the side I live  
23 on. Like who do I blame that they took all our  
24 pickerel? Who? You know, that's my livelihood,  
25 that's my inherent right that I can take that fish

1 and eat it. That's my Treaty right.

2 Now I have to go to Lake Dauphin here  
3 and go get that fish, and get charged because I  
4 overfished or I used a scoop net, I went against  
5 my rights. I'm going to court on that right now  
6 by the way.

7 Somebody has to tell us something,  
8 because we don't know. You know, we can presume.  
9 And honestly, you know, if you are going to sit  
10 here and say, well, we've got to do this, you  
11 know, check to see if Hydro is on key and all  
12 that, well, I don't think they were on key. I  
13 think somebody dropped the ball here on Lake  
14 Winnipegosis.

15 And now we have moose, we have moose  
16 that we can't even hunt because there's not enough  
17 moose. They have an H line that goes all the way  
18 up through the mountains here. I was on that H  
19 line. When I was walking through that H line, all  
20 you would see is heads, bones, the moose. That is  
21 what you would see. It's wide, it's bigger than  
22 this place. That's how wide the H line is.  
23 That's free easy access to moose. And people are  
24 killing them up there in the mountain. Now  
25 there's no moose.

1                   So was it managed good? Did they take  
2 this into consideration that this was going to  
3 happen to us? To us, that we're not going to have  
4 our fish, we're not going to have our animals?  
5 You know, they didn't consider this, but it's here  
6 now. There is no fish, there is no moose, and now  
7 what do we do? Well, we have a guy here with a  
8 bunch of buffalo and, you know, Tom Olson.  
9 Fortunately, he's a white guy too, and he said,  
10 oh, we'll give you one moose a year David --  
11 Camperville -- excuse me, not moose, buffalo, and  
12 I'm still waiting for my buffalo. But anyways, in  
13 saying that, I hope you do consider all these  
14 points I'm talking about. All I've got left is  
15 the mullet, my suckers, I don't want them to go,  
16 you know, because I don't have no pickerel no  
17 more. And my moose, I'd like to know where my  
18 moose is too, you know, because it's not there.

19                   And you're not Hydro -- I know in the  
20 long run we have to deal with Hydro. We know  
21 that, all aboriginal people know that. Hydro gets  
22 their way. Why do they get their way? I don't  
23 know. They got lawyers and they got money. And  
24 usually at the end of the day, everything all  
25 works out. It's the money. It is the money, the

1 money buck that moves this thing. We can't stop  
2 it, you know, I know that. But can we prevent  
3 some of these things that are happening to us.

4 In our community right now, if you  
5 were to go there, we don't die of natural causes,  
6 we die of diabetes, we die of cancer. I have yet  
7 to see one person in my community yet die of  
8 natural causes. I don't know what's going on. I  
9 really don't. I know us as Aboriginal people we  
10 are delicate people, meaning we will get the cold  
11 first and we'll probably die from it before you  
12 people do, really. I just wanted to say that, so  
13 in your decision making here, you should consider  
14 that what the big damage overall is on it that  
15 you're going to do to us as Aboriginal people, to  
16 think about us and not Hydro.

17 MR. DELARONDE: Chairman Sargent, I  
18 guess I understand the parameters and the  
19 limitations of your terms of reference. And I  
20 understand, or at least I assume that everything  
21 is recorded here. And I would think that if I  
22 misunderstood something, then it will show in the  
23 transcripts. But I'm sure -- Shannon Johnson I'm  
24 sure used the term, we'll make it up as we go  
25 along. And I think that the transcripts can be



1 checked. That concerns me that we make it up as  
2 we go along.

3 Secondly, Patrick McGarry spoke as  
4 well, and what he says is more disconcerting than  
5 maybe the unintentional comment by Ms. Johnson.

6 But Mr. McGarry says, where it is most  
7 needed, when he talks about Hydro he says where it  
8 is most needed. And from the context and the area  
9 that he was talking about, he's talking about the  
10 City of Winnipeg. So I think that he really has  
11 to rethink that kind of statement because -- and  
12 Hydro would have the statistics for that, so I  
13 won't bore you with it, of how many times the  
14 hydro has gone off in Camperville and Pine Creek  
15 and Duck Bay. And how many times those people  
16 have had to throw their meat out and their food,  
17 and their preserves, because of the lack of hydro.  
18 So does that mean that the person who has a fridge  
19 in Winnipeg has more need than the person who has  
20 a fridge in Camperville? I don't think so.

21 So I think that those kind of comments  
22 are probably not intended, but they are not very  
23 well thought out.

24 Secondly, I think that we are of the  
25 position that there's others who may want to speak

1 for us, but we speak for ourselves. And we want  
2 that opportunity to be consulted, and this is not  
3 a consultation, this is a hearing.

4 We welcome Hydro to sit down with them  
5 to have a proper consultation, as was decided and  
6 as was envisioned by the Supreme Court decision of  
7 Regina versus Sparrow. We welcome that  
8 opportunity.

9 We also say that we want inclusivity,  
10 we want to be included. Not after the lines are  
11 built, we want to be part of making those  
12 decisions. We want that opportunity to have a  
13 proper consultation. You have heard I think, bar  
14 none, every presenter here has talked about the  
15 environmental impact of Hydro from 1965 roughly  
16 on. We don't know, because decisions and studies  
17 were not made. We know the big impacts. We look  
18 at Cross Lake and what is happening there. But in  
19 the meantime, we don't even know how far those  
20 dams affect this province. As an example, they  
21 were doing some satellite shots of Lake Winnipeg,  
22 and the south basin of Lake Winnipeg is just full  
23 of algae. And why is that? Because that Lake  
24 Winnipeg has a natural flushing system. And  
25 that's why every so often we would have a flood in

1 the Red River Valley and it would flush that whole  
2 land and whole south basin north and clean it.  
3 But because of these hydro dams, there is impact  
4 on there. And they are talking about it now. So  
5 there is impact, there is more than footprints in  
6 our territory. And what we want to do is we want  
7 an opportunity to party with Hydro, to say you  
8 have your consultant, you've got your Ph.D.'s and  
9 your masters degrees. We have as well our own  
10 people who know a little bit, and that we should  
11 have the choosing of our own experts that is Hydro  
12 free, that do not have an agenda or look like they  
13 have an agenda. Because Hydro, in a sense we own  
14 it. It is owned by the people of Manitoba and  
15 it's mandated by the government, the province.  
16 And we in turn vote those people in. So we want  
17 to say, we don't want to stop progress, we don't  
18 want to shut the lights out on anybody.

19                   And the last thing I guess that's  
20 important here to say, and it's been said by  
21 Ms. Johnson, and she was very succinct in her  
22 comments that, what if we have those kind of  
23 disasters, and she named a few and listed them,  
24 what if we had those kind of calamities that come  
25 again, unexpected calamities? Then those two

1 Bipoles, I and II, could possibly shut down so we  
2 need this one. And that's fine. But we also know  
3 that there's thousands and thousands and thousands  
4 of kilowatt hours, millions that are being sold  
5 south of the 49th parallel. And that's economic  
6 opportunity. That's an opportunity for us to  
7 participate in the economy and environment. But  
8 we want to do it in a meaningful way. We don't  
9 want to be told that this is what's going to  
10 happen, we have consulted you, and move on, you  
11 can scream and yell all you want but we're going  
12 to do it. No. We're saying give us an  
13 opportunity to be part of this.

14           Because I have looked at those hydro  
15 towers on the table over there, and somebody's got  
16 to tell me how are you going to hook-up those  
17 hydro towers on land that becomes so saturated  
18 that it becomes like bog? We have a word for it  
19 in Anishinaabe language, (Native language spoken).

20           So if those hydro lines and towers  
21 start falling, I think Ms. Johnson talked about 18  
22 or 19 towers that fell. Well, if they start  
23 falling in our territory, there is a lot of water  
24 in these lands, how is it going to impact on the  
25 people, the animals, the fish, the environment?

1                   We don't oppose development, we don't  
2   oppose economic opportunity. We just want to be  
3   part of it and we want to be part of it in a  
4   meaningful way.

5                   THE CHAIRMAN: Just before you leave,  
6   Mr. Chartrand, you talked about a dam on highway  
7   6, the Fairford dam?

8                   MR. CHARTRAND: The Fairford.

9                   THE CHAIRMAN: I thought that might be  
10  the one. Thank you. Is Mr. Delaronde from the  
11  MMF here? No?

12                   Just give us a moment as we pass out  
13  the copies of your presentation.

14  John Parenteau: Sworn.

15                   THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, sir.

16                   MR. PARENTEAU: Good afternoon, my  
17  name is John Parenteau. I'm an elected board  
18  member for the Manitoba Metis Federation for the  
19  northwest region. I currently live in Duck Bay.

20                   The MMF's northwest region is one of  
21  the most populated regions in the province. We  
22  have over 20 MMF locals in locations such as  
23  Camperville, Duck Bay, Minitonas, Roblin, San  
24  Clara/Boggy Creek, Shell River, Biggs, Ste. Rose  
25  and Spence, just to name a few.

1                   Our Elders, harvesters and citizens  
2    have significant concerns about Bipole III, but  
3    many of them couldn't be here today because travel  
4    constraints and the fact that these hearings are  
5    conducted during the days, which makes it  
6    impossible for people with jobs to attend.

7                   I'm here to ask on behalf of our  
8    region that the Commission come to Swan River or a  
9    location close to Swan River for an evening  
10   hearing session so our people can tell you  
11   firsthand about the community's concerns.

12                  Because of Manitoba Hydro's  
13   ill-informed routing choices, our region will be  
14   facing even more challenges with respect to  
15   harvesting practices, from the damage to Moose  
16   Meadows, to the loss of valuable blueberry and  
17   gathering places.

18                  Manitoba Hydro has no idea on the  
19   significant impacts its choices will have on us on  
20   the MMF northwest region. Further, it has not  
21   worked with us to put any solid plans in place for  
22   mitigation.

23                  We are asking the Commission to come  
24   to the areas that will be most directly impacted  
25   to ensure fairness and accessibility in the public

1 hearing process. I also think it will be helpful  
2 for the Commission to actually see Moose Meadows  
3 and some of the areas that are going to be damaged  
4 by Manitoba Hydro.

5           Apart from being muskeg, as Manitoba  
6 Hydro conveniently describes it, Moose Meadows are  
7 a valuable source of moose harvesting in the  
8 region that is seeing most of those opportunities  
9 decrease, along with facing increased pressures  
10 from other areas.

11           We promise we will be welcoming hosts.  
12 We may even teach you the jig too. We think it  
13 would be helpful for you to see the land as well  
14 as to hear our people continue to use and rely on  
15 these areas everyday. If the Commission can't  
16 come up to see us, then we'll come down to see you  
17 in Winnipeg. We'll be working with the MMF home  
18 office to arrange to bring our elders, harvesters  
19 and citizens down to Winnipeg in November in order  
20 to present. We want to make sure the panel hears  
21 from the people that will be affected by Bipole  
22 III, not just from Manitoba Hydro's staff and  
23 consultants.

24           I also want to restate, as other MMF  
25 presenters have said before me, that Northern

1 Affairs Community Councils do not, and I emphasize  
2 not, represent the Metis community in relation to  
3 our rights and interests as Metis. Mayors and  
4 councils are under the control and beholdng by  
5 the Manitoba Government and they do not -- and  
6 they are not elected or mandated to speak or  
7 represent the Metis community in any way.

8           The Metis people are represented by  
9 the MMF based on an objectively verifiable  
10 registry, democratic elections, the governing  
11 structure that ensures Metis represent Metis. The  
12 Manitoba Government does not get to decide who  
13 represents the Metis. The Metis people do.

14           We are also not part of some pan  
15 Aboriginal communities created by Hydro to suit  
16 its own agenda and purposes. While we live in  
17 villages, towns and cities with our First Nations  
18 relations, that does not make us one Aboriginal  
19 community.

20           There are First Nation communities and  
21 then there is the Metis community. While we are  
22 related and friends, we are distinct peoples and  
23 communities. We must respect and treat it as such  
24 by governments and agents of the Crown. Canada's  
25 Constitution guarantees that -- I want to read



1 something here from the Supreme Court. It's in  
2 the statement that you are looking at. It's a  
3 recent statement from the Supreme Court of Canada  
4 on the issue that I think will be helpful for the  
5 Commission to keep in mind on why the MMF keeps on  
6 raising this issue.

7 In the case of Cunningham versus  
8 Alberta, the Supreme Court of Canada said:

9 "Since their emergence as a distinct  
10 people on the Canadian prairies in the  
11 1700s, the Metis have claimed an  
12 identity based on non Indianness.  
13 They have persistently distinguished  
14 themselves as a people from the other  
15 dominant Aboriginal group in their  
16 territory - Indians. The obverse side  
17 of the struggle of the Metis to  
18 preserve their distinct identity and  
19 culture is the fear that overlap and  
20 confusion with the larger Indian  
21 cultures would put their identity and  
22 culture at risk. The right of the  
23 Metis to their own non Indian culture  
24 is confirmed by Constitution Act,  
25 1982, s. 35. Line drawing on this

1 basis, far from being irrational,  
2 simply reflects the Constitution and  
3 serves the legitimate expectations of  
4 the Metis in society."

5 So the point we, the Metis people,  
6 keep raising is not just about Aboriginal politics  
7 at play. It should not be dismissed as such. The  
8 games that the Manitoba Government and Manitoba  
9 Hydro continues to play to try and -- try to  
10 divide and conquer the Metis to avoid dealing with  
11 our community as a distinct Aboriginal group  
12 undermines the clear promise of Canada's  
13 Constitution to the Metis, and the Commission  
14 should care about that.

15 Quite frankly, Manitoba Hydro is a  
16 master at playing this game and is trying to get  
17 the Commission to look at another way to accept  
18 its pan Aboriginal traditional knowledge, the  
19 study that did not engage the actually rights  
20 bearing Aboriginal communities as represented by  
21 the Manitoba Metis Federation and First Nations  
22 Governments.

23 We say this issue is on the  
24 Commission's mandate, because you need to consider  
25 how the project affects the collectively held

1 rights of First Nations and Metis community, not  
2 just a few Aboriginal and non Aboriginal people  
3 Manitoba Hydro has paid some money to in order to  
4 conduct a few interviews.

5           For the MMF's northwest region, we  
6 want to clearly, on the record, because of  
7 Manitoba Hydro is attempting to pass off  
8 interviews in our region as interviews with  
9 Aboriginal communities. There are no such things,  
10 and the Commission should not buy into the  
11 misinformation Manitoba Hydro is trying to pass  
12 off as Aboriginal traditional knowledge.

13           With that said, I hope that we will  
14 see the Commission up in the Swan River area soon.  
15 But if not, our people will make sure our voices  
16 are heard when you resume in Winnipeg. Thank you.

17           THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,  
18 Mr. Parenteau. Any questions? Thank you,  
19 Mr. Parenteau.

20           MR. PARENTEAU: Thank you.

21           THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Brass, you have one  
22 more witness?

23           MR. BRASS: I have actually two.  
24 There is tribal elder, Donald Catcheway, and then  
25 Calvin Meekish from Pine Creek First Nation.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

2 MR. CATCHEWAY: Good afternoon elders,  
3 my brothers and sisters, and the Commission that's  
4 sitting in front of me.

5 MS. JOHNSON: Could you please state  
6 your name for the record?

7 MR. CATCHEWAY: My name is Donald  
8 Catcheway.

9 Donald Catcheway: Sworn.

10 MR. CATCHEWAY: I thank the Chair for  
11 permitting me to speak this afternoon. I  
12 represent the ten reserves on this tribal council.  
13 I'm an elder. I hate to say how old I am, but I'm  
14 an elder.

15 So first thing that's coming to my  
16 mind when I was down at the meeting with the  
17 Manitoba Hydro in Pine Creek, they were saying  
18 that they had to come up with, just like something  
19 that will -- to hurry up the meeting, hurry.  
20 Because what they said at that time was that they  
21 had five judges waiting for the decision to be  
22 made for the hydro to go through. I'd like to  
23 find out if them judges are still there waiting.  
24 And you say to Manitoba Hydro -- they didn't say  
25 nothing about the Commission at that time. So I'm

1 glad I attended this meeting again this afternoon,  
2 which I wasn't aware of the Commission to attend  
3 this meeting.

4           So we are representing the Manitoba  
5 Hydro -- and what is the problem now, for the  
6 Manitoba Hydro to be signing the Commission? And  
7 what they said to us at that time, the judges were  
8 waiting to issue licences. Now, the Commission  
9 says he's got to issue the licences. That's what  
10 I picked up here. Which is which? Which one is  
11 it going to be, I asked myself, Manitoba with its  
12 army of lawyers and judges and whatever.

13           We, the people of, I might as well say  
14 Manitoba, the First Nations, are all affected by  
15 this Manitoba Hydro. As I stated back in there at  
16 Pine Creek First Nations, I said that to Manitoba  
17 Hydro, you have an army of lawyers, you have an  
18 army of judges. And what do we have? Only one  
19 little Chief, that's sitting here right now. And  
20 with all the knowledge that you have with you, I  
21 myself don't have the knowledge that you have. I  
22 only went to grade eight, and I was raised up in a  
23 residential school, which I endured right to the  
24 end. Now I ask myself, where is all that  
25 knowledge that I was promised at that time? We,

1 sitting here in front of you people, with all the  
2 knowledge, with all the degrees, the highest  
3 degree that you could ever get, and I sit here  
4 like a little boy. And I'm not trying to beg  
5 anything from anybody. The Native's reserves, on  
6 behalf of the Manitoba Hydro, on behalf of the  
7 province, to be working with us. When I attended  
8 meetings, consultation and accommodation, I  
9 attended three meetings like that, and it's the  
10 first time I heard it. I went through the  
11 international law. I wonder if the Province or  
12 the government is listening to that international  
13 law, what it says about Native people having their  
14 rights on anything, to sit beside government  
15 officials and the Commissions. What are we now?  
16 What have I got? I wanted to complain. I live in  
17 an environment where it's polluted, the water is  
18 polluted, the earth is polluted. Are we going to  
19 go through with this Manitoba Hydro to have more  
20 pollution?

21 All the dams that are being built up  
22 north, somewhere, somehow, that water is going to  
23 escape. It's going to escape from underground  
24 where they have the underground springs. There  
25 will be so much pressure that will be coming out

1 of the ground. The Manitoba Hydro -- we have the  
2 Fairford dam where I protested at one time with  
3 the Native people over there. I went down there  
4 and protested when they were building that power  
5 dam, whatever it is, the dam. It's now up ladder,  
6 the way the fish was supposed to come up. They  
7 have to be strong swimmers. They are not salmon.  
8 Salmon can go as high as 12 feet high. But these  
9 ones, it's about 10 feet, 10, 12 feet, slanted,  
10 and it's only open on one side where the other one  
11 is underneath somewhere. I took a look at that,  
12 and it's narrow, not wide at the base, it's  
13 narrower than the river.

14                   You wonder why it says we're getting  
15 pollution. It slows the water down and it's  
16 stale. All that water that comes down from up  
17 north where that Bipole III is going to pass,  
18 probably create dams on the way like that one man  
19 had said. By the way, do I have limited time?

20                   THE CHAIRMAN: Well, you haven't got  
21 forever, sir, but you still have a few minutes.

22                   MR. CATCHEWAY: So all these things  
23 affect all the people all the way down east,  
24 because this Lake Winnipegosis, it all runs down  
25 there. Of course, through Lake Waterhen where the

1 people are drinking that water that's coming down  
2 from Lake Winnipegosis, coming down all the way  
3 from Swan River, coming down from Red Deer Lake  
4 and all them lakes where that power is going to  
5 be, the Bipole III passing through, and all them,  
6 the Duck Mountain, the Riding Mountain empties  
7 into Lake Dauphin, all them rivers, tributaries  
8 and everything into Lake Dauphin. I wonder why  
9 that water is stagnant. And the people have to  
10 drink all that water that's coming down.

11 Does the Commission consider that? I  
12 ask that question. Are you going to let the  
13 people die with cancer, diabetes, not drinking  
14 that water? I drank water from what they sell.  
15 It doesn't taste like the water that comes out  
16 from these other lakes, fresh water. But it's  
17 slowly being polluted by fishermen on Lake  
18 Winnipegosis.

19 And the other lakes that are coming  
20 down from Saskatchewan, you can follow them all  
21 the way down. In between the valley of Duck  
22 Mountain and Riding Mountain, there is the Valley  
23 River. All these rivers flow down to Lake  
24 Dauphin.

25 And they say the fish is polluted



1 there, pollution, people are dying of cancer. I  
2 myself have cancer, colon cancer. They took out a  
3 piece, a chunk of my gut out, about 12 inches  
4 long. I'm still alive though. I still drink that  
5 water. I don't drink the water that they sell,  
6 very seldom, the one they sell in stores, it  
7 doesn't taste like water. There's nothing in  
8 there.

9                   It's so vulnerable to disease, that  
10 water that you people drink, because there's  
11 nothing there to kill that, to kill whatever germ  
12 centres into that water. You have to down it  
13 right away when you buy a bottle.

14                   But as far as I'm concerned, that  
15 power that's supposed to go down to Winnipeg, and  
16 then from there it's transferred, selling it to  
17 the States, and nobody mentions that here in that  
18 book that I have there. It doesn't mention there.  
19 But I know that for a fact that's going to be  
20 sold. Someone had told me that. It's not going  
21 to stay there, it's got to come out from some  
22 place, it's got to go some place.

23                   So we have a very, very great concern,  
24 all the people that live around the mountain, the  
25 Metis people. The animals, like they said, the

1 gathering of medicines are gone. And when they  
2 put that power line out, they have to kill the  
3 shrubs every certain periods of time, three, four  
4 years because they are growing in. And when they  
5 kill that with polluted fumigation, let's say, is  
6 that they are going to kill all the animals that  
7 eat all them shrubs and everything like that,  
8 moose, elk, deer, and possible buffalo, the bison.

9 Now, there is a growing concern in  
10 Pine Creek about the 6,000 herd of bison, I call  
11 them, buffaloes, prairie bison that they moved in  
12 there, guys from Alberta. Don't they have enough  
13 land in Alberta to keep them in there? You have  
14 to bring them here, but it's for the purpose of  
15 mineral softening. That's what they going to use  
16 it for.

17 Now, the people that have a grave  
18 concern about the trappers, even though there  
19 isn't that many trappers, but you take a look on  
20 the outside around the Swan River area, all these  
21 little towns, how many trappers have you got?  
22 Have you ever counted, the outside trappers that  
23 are there trapping? They have traplines, they  
24 have taken what the Metis people wanted, and these  
25 are farmers that are trapping in there, because I

1 know because I'm one trapper. So, you take a look  
2 at that. They have no concern. They barely  
3 started there, as soon as, like I said, they put a  
4 sign saying no hunting no trespassing. We have  
5 signs all over they seem to come up. And when  
6 Metis people put up a sign saying no trespassing,  
7 you get the white people going through, the  
8 fishermen going through. They have that in Lake  
9 Waterhen, Reserve of Waterhen, which is Skownan.  
10 They just go right through, they just like  
11 intimidating the people so that they will go, they  
12 will fight back, but they are not like that to  
13 fight.

14 Okay. I guess I only have a couple  
15 minutes to say, but I have a lot of things to say.  
16 There are a lot of concerns in my mind right now,  
17 in my heart. That's what I'm saying right there,  
18 what I got in my heart. There's a lot of it here  
19 written, which I can talk to you people to  
20 understand my views, what I have in my heart, what  
21 I have to say. But I'm going to help with the  
22 people of Camperville, Pine Creek. That's what  
23 I'm saying.

24 So you will remember my name, Donald  
25 Catcheway, remember that. I haven't got very much

1 time in my life myself, but I still do trap, I  
2 still do a little bit of fishing. Every time I  
3 pick up a net or an angling rod, I consider myself  
4 a poacher because I don't have a licence. I don't  
5 need a licence. That's why I call the Metis  
6 people poachers, and that's how they are called  
7 all over. Thank you very much.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,  
9 Mr. Catcheway.

10 Before we proceed I'd like to take a  
11 short break for about ten minutes or so. After  
12 the break, there is I think one more person from  
13 Pine Creek, as well Cindy McKay from the West  
14 Region Tribal Council.

15 MR. BRASS: I have Randi Moosetail and  
16 Devon Chartrand. They were supposed to be making  
17 a presentation. I am the mentor for the community  
18 active measures for one of them, so I'll be saying  
19 a few minutes for them.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

21 (Proceedings recessed at 3:10 p.m. and  
22 reconvened at 3:24 p.m.)

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Can we come back to  
24 order, please? Cindy McKay from West Region  
25 Tribal Council, is she here? You want to make a

1 presentation, do you? Come forward, please. I am  
2 I'm sorry.

3 MR. MEEKISH: I'd like to make a  
4 presentation. I was one of the names that was  
5 mentioned, Calvin.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry, what's your  
7 name, sir?

8 MR. MEEKISH: My name is Calvin  
9 Meekish.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: I didn't have your name  
11 so I wasn't aware that you wanted to make a  
12 presentation.

13 MR. MEEKISH: My name was there. If I  
14 may, Mr. Chairman?

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, no, that's fine.  
16 There's no problem with it. I just wasn't aware  
17 of it.

18 MR. MEEKISH: Okay.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: So you're going ahead  
20 of Ms. McKay?

21 MR. MEEKISH: Yes.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. I'll have the  
23 Commission secretary affirm you.

24 MS. JOHNSON: Could you please state  
25 your name for the record?

1 MR. MEEKISH: My name is Calvin  
2 Meekish. I'm a band member of Pine Creek First  
3 Nation.

4 Calvin Meekish: Sworn.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, sir.

6 MR. MEEKISH: Thank you.

7 Mr. Chairman, I'm not too sure what the powers  
8 here -- or if I have to take off my hat or what  
9 have you. But anyways, I'd like to just start off  
10 by thanking my community members. If I may,  
11 Mr. Chairman, can I just move over so I can face  
12 my respected peoples? Any time I talk to my  
13 people, I like to look at them just to show my  
14 respect.

15 I'd like to try my opening remarks and  
16 say (Native language spoken).

17 It's hard for me to say specific words  
18 in my own language. This is one of the things  
19 that I lost as a status person. We lost a lot of  
20 stuff over the years. And the Commission here  
21 today, I'd like to believe that they have  
22 authority, some kind of authority over Manitoba  
23 Hydro. I'd like to think as a Native person, as  
24 Anishinaabe, I want to say, people of the land.  
25 You know what, I can't help but get emotional any

1 time I talk to my people. And when I do talk to  
2 my people, I do not lie.

3 I have a hard time in raising kids in  
4 our community, the rights, the wrongs. I have a  
5 hard time in supporting my family. We are a poor  
6 society, we are poor people. Major companies  
7 build with the ultimate goal of absolute power.  
8 And when I say absolute power, I mean money,  
9 money.

10 Our ancestors never dealt with money.  
11 Our ancestors felt power, felt inner power by the  
12 amount they gave.

13 I have one sole question that I'd like  
14 to address to the Commission and this is it: What  
15 is your authority or your power over Manitoba  
16 Hydro? Do you have the authority to request or  
17 even to demand that Hydro deal with us directly?

18 Because I always believed in my time  
19 here, my short time on this earth, that we are a  
20 sovereign nation. And I honestly believe we are a  
21 powerful people in the politics on a Canada level.

22 I have great respect for my leaders.  
23 They try hard, they work hard. It's a thankless  
24 job they have, and they know that. I'd like to  
25 just give recognition to the Chief for his hard

1 work that he's been doing. Very thankless job  
2 that he has, especially when he has to represent  
3 the society of people that are poor.

4 But anyways, I'd like to get back to  
5 my question. If possible, if anything can come  
6 out of this Commission, I would like the  
7 Commission to direct Manitoba Hydro to deal with  
8 us first and foremost. Because the days of  
9 brushing us aside and not recognizing us as a  
10 people are over.

11 I have witnessed a lot of stuff in the  
12 short time that I spent on this earth. I  
13 witnessed the Premier apologizing for the stuff  
14 that it did in the past. And I honestly believe  
15 that the seven generation of people are here, they  
16 are my kids, and they are my legacy. They are the  
17 ones that make me feel rich. I have four kids  
18 with my wife, a wife that I've been with for  
19 almost 30 years. I have a lot of respect for my  
20 wife. She is the caregiver of our family. And  
21 when I say family, I have four kids, my wife and  
22 me.

23 And I think this is the stuff we as  
24 Indian people cherish, as like you all. We come  
25 from a generation, you know what, and hopefully



1 there's a future generation. But this much, I  
2 know as a person there's a seven generation, and  
3 that's those people. Three of my kids out of four  
4 already graduate. My last kid is 17 years old and  
5 she's graduating this year from high school. And  
6 that's just the start for them. I got to spend  
7 the rest of my life in guiding them, guiding them,  
8 right and wrong.

9 We as Aboriginal people know right  
10 from wrong, what's right, what's wrong. And the  
11 stuff that Canada did to us for years and years  
12 and years, we are at a point in time now where we  
13 should be like Arabs in our own country. Instead  
14 we live in third world country.

15 I need the Commission to direct Hydro  
16 to deal with us directly, and not tell us what  
17 they are going to do, what their ambitions are,  
18 what their plans are. Bottom line, show me the  
19 money. Because money, we all need money to raise  
20 our kids, put them through school. We live in  
21 poverty.

22 And this is the question I ask the  
23 Commission, are you guys willing, do you guys have  
24 the authority? Can you guys do this, direct Hydro  
25 to deal with us directly? We have a Chief that

1 represents us, we have a council. This is what  
2 I'd like to see come out of this Commission. And  
3 that's my question. Can anybody in the Commission  
4 answer? Mr. Chairman?

5 THE CHAIRMAN: I can answer, yes,  
6 Mr. Meekish. We don't have the authority to order  
7 Hydro to do anything. What we do have, we make  
8 recommendations to the Minister, and the  
9 recommendations we make are essentially in respect  
10 of issuing a licence to Manitoba Hydro or not  
11 issuing a licence. But if it's to issue a  
12 licence, then we can and we do recommend that  
13 certain conditions be attached. And I can note  
14 that in the past on the Wuskwatim hearings, for  
15 example, we did recommend that Manitoba Hydro have  
16 some specific dealings with some Aboriginal groups  
17 and that was included as a condition of the  
18 licence.

19 So I can't tell you that we will do  
20 that on this one, but I can tell that you we will  
21 certainly consider what we've heard today, and in  
22 other Aboriginal communities over the last couple  
23 of weeks. And we will hear from more Aboriginal  
24 communities before we're done in late November.  
25 And we may very well do as you request, we may

1 not, but we may very well do that.

2 MR. MEEKISH: So, in essence,  
3 Mr. Chairman, you have the authority to revoke  
4 this licence and say, until these people are dealt  
5 with, we will not issue this licence, and this is  
6 our recommendation to the higher up?

7 THE CHAIRMAN: We can make  
8 recommendations to the Minister. The Minister  
9 issues the licence. It's his decision. But he  
10 will consider our recommendations very seriously  
11 and, in fact, as a rule, the Minister rarely  
12 doesn't accept our recommendations.

13 MR. MEEKISH: So I'd like the  
14 Commission to recommend that these procedures and  
15 processes not take place until people of this  
16 country are dealt with first and foremost.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, we will consider  
18 that. I can't make a commitment today that we  
19 will do that, but we will consider it.

20 MR. MEEKISH: Thank you very much,  
21 Mr. Chairman. You put a smile on my face.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your  
23 presentation, Mr. Meekish. Ms. McKay?

24 MS. C. MCKAY: Okay. My name is  
25 Cindy McKay. I work for the West Region Tribal

1 Council, economic development advisor.

2 Cindy McKay: Sworn.

3 MS. C. MCKAY: I'm the economic  
4 development advisor for West Region Tribal  
5 Council. I work with eight First Nation  
6 communities, chief and councils, I take directions  
7 from them. So, therefore, I have a lot of  
8 experience in economic development.

9 I will try to stick to my role as  
10 closely as possible without getting political,  
11 however, it will be very difficult for me. I wish  
12 I had taken the day off. However, I will have my  
13 chance to do that as well.

14 Well, to start off with, I guess I  
15 would like to acknowledge the elders who spoke  
16 earlier about the protection and depletion of  
17 medicines, fish, moose, berries, and trapping, the  
18 pollution of waters. And also the members  
19 speaking about housing problems, mould, swamps,  
20 water levels. The youth in particular, when they  
21 are asked to speak with this Commission would be  
22 the right thing to do. You have to include them.

23 All are very important concerns and  
24 issues relating to Bipole III and the construction  
25 of it. This has a lot to do directly and

1 indirectly with economic development opportunity.

2 So I am speaking within my role.

3           Although you stated that Bipole III is  
4 mainly to offset Bipole I and II, and that you  
5 will sell the hydro to the States, my question is,  
6 is one of your long term plans to share profits  
7 made by Bipole III with the First Nation  
8 communities? Because as it stands, this  
9 department here, Manitoba Hydro stands to gain  
10 what has been referred to as terawatt value of  
11 Bipole III. And to me that sounds like a lot of  
12 profit and money.

13           What I'm suggesting, and after hard  
14 core consideration and proper consultation with  
15 the First Nation communities regarding lands  
16 flooding, loss of moose, fish, hunting medicines,  
17 and also to fully mitigate those losses, jobs,  
18 training and business opportunities is all good.  
19 However, my advice to First Nation communities,  
20 and I work with eight of them including Pine  
21 Creek, is that we ask for a share of profits of  
22 Manitoba Hydro. Our people in Canada are the  
23 poorest in this country. Now, we should be the  
24 richest people here.

25           It is time for us in our communities

1 to negotiate this with Manitoba Hydro, and all  
2 future developments in this land, which is our  
3 territory.

4 Thank you. And I look forward to  
5 working with you in the future.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. McKay.

7 Audrey Brass? Okay. Chief Bushie,  
8 you were going to make some closing comments,  
9 acknowledging that you'll appear before us again  
10 in Winnipeg.

11 CHIEF BUSHIE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
12 Again, for the record, it's Acting Chief Charlie  
13 Bushie, Pine Creek First Nations. I represent  
14 3600 people, 1300 people living on reserve, many  
15 of my people living right across the province.

16 I have five concerns again that needs  
17 to be addressed: Number one, the watersheds;  
18 number two, the wildlife; number three, the plant  
19 life; number four, the herbicides; number five,  
20 employment benefits.

21 Let's sit down is what I'm offering.  
22 Mitigation needs to be honoured. 2010, ATK  
23 Aboriginal traditional knowledge in 2010 is not  
24 valid. This is valid here.

25 I want a similar opportunity with

1 Manitoba Hydro, in front of my people, that's  
2 accountable and transparent.

3 I commend my people for coming out,  
4 sharing their testimonies. I commend my elders,  
5 my technical people, my lands management team.

6 I wish and hope that Bipole III will  
7 be accepted by Pine Creek First Nations. Until we  
8 secure a quick meeting with Manitoba Hydro senior  
9 officials, as soon as possible, before the Clean  
10 Environmental Commission PUB grants permit to  
11 licence Bipole III.

12 I have disgruntled people, band  
13 members I have to address. We are so fortunate to  
14 be at the table today to represent all First  
15 Nations and set precedents. I am honoured. I  
16 cried about ten times.

17 But with that, my people, I love you  
18 for coming out. The Commission, with all  
19 fairness, the government's decisions without our  
20 input, is it democratic? Is it real? Is it  
21 meaningful?

22 We need to implement change to reflect  
23 on what's very important. The original people of  
24 this land is continuously shut down. The  
25 residential school legacy, it's been 140 years

1 since Canada was born and yet we still have these  
2 issues. That shouldn't be the case. The  
3 universities in this province need to do  
4 meaningful relationship, conduct proper studies,  
5 who we are, how we're dealt with, and perhaps we  
6 could secure a better society with all general  
7 public.

8                   As Acting Chief of Pine Creek First  
9 Nations, and my people representing me, who I  
10 represent also, I also want to inform the  
11 Commission, I chair the west region health  
12 department, 10,000 First Nation members, which we  
13 are conducting proper consultation with the  
14 regional health Authorities, the hospital  
15 services, the non-insured health benefits.  
16 Perhaps this is offline, but I must share because  
17 of who we are. We want to move forward  
18 proactively. If there's going to be drastic  
19 action taken by my people, I have to respect that.

20                   I also have to respect that decisions  
21 by majority of council is what I bring forward.  
22 We want to work forward in a positive way. That's  
23 the only way to go.

24                   I thank you very much, Mr. Chair and  
25 the panel. Please wish us luck, we have



1 grandchildren, we have mothers. Miigwech. Thank  
2 you.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chief  
4 Bushie. I'd like to thank you and all of the  
5 people from your community who came out here  
6 today. We have heard some very emotional and  
7 powerful and thought provoking presentations from  
8 the people of your community. And we will  
9 certainly consider all of the points that we heard  
10 here today.

11 I can't guarantee you, as I said  
12 earlier to Mr. Meekish, I can't guarantee you that  
13 we'll give you everything that you would like, but  
14 we will certainly give serious consideration to  
15 what we have heard here all day today.

16 I'd also like to thank Audrey Brass  
17 and Warren Mills for their work in coordinating  
18 your presentation here today. It was very helpful  
19 to us.

20 Having said that, I'd like to give an  
21 opportunity if there is anybody else from the  
22 community of Dauphin or this region, not Pine  
23 Creek, who would like to make a presentation,  
24 would you please indicate right now? Is there  
25 anybody else from anywhere who would like to make

1 a presentation right now? Not seeing anything,  
2 then -- sorry, Ms. Johnson?

3 MS. JOHNSON: We just have one matter.  
4 We have to put Mr. Parenteau's presentation on  
5 record. It will be DAU-1 will be the exhibit  
6 number.

7 (EXHIBIT DAU-1: Mr. Parenteau's  
8 presentation)

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Well then I  
10 guess that brings us to the end of today's  
11 proceedings. I'd like to thank, in particular all  
12 of the people, again thank the people from Pine  
13 Creek First Nation, but also those from  
14 Camperville and the Manitoba Metis Federation and  
15 the West Region Tribal Council who made  
16 presentations here during this day.

17 So we will now adjourn. We reconvene  
18 in Portage la Prairie on Wednesday morning and  
19 we're back in Winnipeg next week. And I know that  
20 we will be hearing from Chief Bushie again in two  
21 or three weeks when Pine Creek makes its  
22 presentation at the hearings in Winnipeg.

23 So we stand adjourned, and thank you  
24 all very much for coming out today.

25 (Proceedings adjourned at 4:00 p.m.)

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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 an electronic recording, to the best  
of my skill and ability, as taken by me at the  
time and place hereinbefore stated.

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Cecelia J. Reid  
Official Examiner, Q.B.

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