

MANITOBA CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

BIPOLE III TRANSMISSION PROJECT
PUBLIC HEARING

VOLUME 7

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Transcript of Proceedings

Held at the Juniper Centre

Thompson, Manitoba

OCTOBER 15 AND OCTOBER 16, 2012

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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

Bruce Webb

MANITOBA HYDRO

Janet Mayor - Counsel
Shannon Johnson

MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION

Julyda Lagimodiere

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1 Monday, October 15, 2012

2 Upon commencing at 7:00 p.m.

3

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Good evening, we'll
5 come to order now. For the benefit of northern
6 people, my name is Terry Sargeant. I'm the chair
7 of the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission. I'm
8 also the chair of the panel conducting the review
9 for Bipole III.

10 We are here today, or this evening and
11 tomorrow in Thompson as part of our review of the
12 Environmental Impact Statement and the
13 consultation process that Manitoba Hydro has
14 engaged in, in respect of the Bipole III project.
15 Tomorrow morning Manitoba Hydro will be presenting
16 a fairly brief overview of the project.

17 This evening we're going to hear from
18 a number of people, we have seven or eight people
19 who have indicated to us that they wish to make
20 presentations this evening.

21 Let me also introduce the other people
22 on the panel. Immediately to my left is Wayne
23 Motheral, at the end is Patricia MacKay.
24 Immediately to my right is Mr. Ken Gibbons, and
25 down at the end, Brian Kaplan. We also have

1 Commission staff with us, the Commission
2 secretary, Cathy Johnson, at the table just over
3 to my left, as well as other commission staff.
4 And there are a number of Manitoba Hydro officials
5 here this evening.

6 If anybody has questions of Manitoba
7 Hydro officials this evening, some of the
8 officials that are here may be able to answer
9 them. If they are not able to, if they are of a
10 technical nature that they don't have the
11 expertise, they will undertake to provide the
12 answers to the Commission at a later date, and to
13 the questioner, of course.

14 Those of you who are making
15 presentations, I should note that presentations,
16 oral presentations, are limited to 15 minutes. I
17 have a couple of cards, one says five and one says
18 two, so I'll give you fair warning as you approach
19 the end of your time. At the 15 minute mark, I
20 will let you know that your time is up. If
21 everybody who indicated they were going to show up
22 has shown up, then we will have to be fairly
23 strict on the 15 minutes, otherwise some people
24 may get left out.

25 Now, I have a list of people who had

1 indicated -- I will read them out in order. I
2 don't know if they are all here yet or if some
3 have changed their mind, but I'll read them out in
4 order. And then after I read them, I will call
5 the first, and if he is here, ask him to come
6 forward. Those of you who are making oral
7 presentations, please come to the front table just
8 on what would be your left end.

9 The list includes in order Solomon
10 Pranteau, Johnny Crait, Walter Head, Norman
11 Bignell, Robert Duncan, Doreen Disbrowe, Jason
12 Cook, and perhaps Julyda Lagimodiere. So is Mr.
13 Pranteau here? Okay. How about Mr. Crait? Could
14 you come forward please, Mr. Crait? Are you
15 wanting to make an oral presentation?

16 MR. COOK: I am supposed to speak on
17 behalf of the group.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, Mr. Cook. So are
19 each of those people proposing to make
20 presentations or is it you speaking on behalf of
21 them?

22 If you'd come up, Mr. Cook, to the mic
23 at the front table. I'd ask the Commission
24 secretary, Ms. Johnson, to give you an oath to
25 tell us the truth and then you may proceed.

1 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. Mr. Cook, are you
2 aware that it is offence in Manitoba to knowingly
3 mislead this Commission?

4 MR. COOK: Yes.

5 Jason Cook: Sworn

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Cook.

7 MR. COOK: Okay. First of all, I'd
8 like to acknowledge the residents of Thicket
9 Portage that showed up, that came with me and
10 asked me to speak on their behalf.

11 My involvement with the Thicket
12 Portage community is that I'm working as a
13 research and consultant on the Bipole III project
14 working directly with the fishermen and the
15 trappers.

16 In my previous involvement with Hydro
17 since 2008, we have had five consultation meetings
18 in our community. And in review of the proposed
19 policy on the -- just hold on for a minute here --
20 the trappers notification compensation policy for
21 the transmission line development, our concern in
22 Thicket Portage is that we have had many Hydro
23 projects that were built in the last 25 to 30
24 years. And we're in the surrounding area of those
25 hydro dams that were being built. So my concern

1 as an individual is that we have many issues,
2 outstanding issues that do have the adverse
3 effects in our community in relation to trapping
4 and fishing. So coming with the Bipole III line,
5 and some of our trappers in our traditional
6 territory, it's going to have the effects of the
7 fur bearing animals, the environment, forestry,
8 the water, the impact changes to the physical and
9 chemical and biological characters of the
10 environment. That's my findings on what has been
11 presented to me.

12 The other thing is the risk of injury
13 to health, safety and well-being, comfort and
14 enjoyment of life by members of the community of
15 Thicket Portage. That's what we're looking at.
16 Impact on interests in the exercise of rights,
17 including the Aboriginal and Treaty rights, in
18 relation to land, pursuit activities,
19 opportunities, lifestyles, and assets of the
20 association members of Thicket Portage.

21 When I say association members, we
22 have the Trappers Association and the Fishermen's
23 Association. This comprises of members within the
24 community who are active members in trapping and
25 fishing. So I had been asked to speak on their

1 behalf on issues.

2 We would like to have discussions
3 planned to conduct investigation of the
4 environmental scan condition in or near the
5 resource area which the transmission line will go
6 through, which is the Bipole III project.

7 The other thing we're looking at is
8 the continuous negotiations with Hydro. They have
9 been coming to our community, and I think one of
10 the guys that's working with us, his name is Ian
11 Blouw, he is the policy program worker. So he's
12 been working with us, but yet today we haven't had
13 a meeting with him.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Is he from Hydro,
15 Mr. Cook?

16 MR. COOK: Yes, he is.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you.

18 MR. COOK: One of the things we were
19 looking at is the compensation package, which
20 includes the breakdown of the value of the catch
21 within the five years, but we're looking at ten
22 years. You know, we'd like to base the income
23 that each individual trapper had made in that
24 given period. And I think -- I do have documents
25 and records of the catch and the registered

1 trappers in our area. I have that for information
2 purposes. And also the information on what they
3 caught, the amount of monies that were made.

4 So the formula that was presented in
5 the compensation policy package from Hydro, there
6 is some other issues that we had as individual
7 trappers and fishermen in our territory. And
8 that's why I stress to continue the consultation
9 with those that are affected in our community.

10 We are under the jurisdiction of the
11 Province of Manitoba. At the current time we are
12 not a First Nation community under the
13 administration of Northern Affairs. Our community
14 functions under the Northern Affairs Act, which
15 has an elected mayor and council.

16 The notification in the compensation
17 package that was received by e-mail on October 3rd
18 from Ian -- I can't say the last name -- it's
19 B-L-O-U-W. Blouw? He's a special projects
20 officer, policy strategic initiative department,
21 Aboriginal relations division, at 360 Portage
22 Avenue, that's where he works out of.

23 So there's much work that we have
24 identified that has to be done before we come to a
25 consensus and an agreement on how and what we

1 would like to see as compensation for the
2 individual trappers and fishermen. We are going
3 to work as a unit. We don't want to see
4 compensation going to individual trappers. We
5 come from the community where we want to be
6 unified. And when we have unity, it's a lot
7 stronger than an individual itself. That's my
8 opinion.

9 So in this consultation process that's
10 going to take place within a community with the
11 local trappers and fishermen, there's always a
12 monetary sense when you're discussing projects.
13 Also the environmental scan of the affected areas,
14 we want to gather information and data of what is
15 actually out there that's been affected by the
16 proposed project. We know what's been damaged
17 already because of the previous projects that were
18 developed by Hydro in the last 25, 30 years. We
19 know that because we were right in the middle of
20 the two lakes, like we're located between
21 Wintering Lake and Landing Lake. Landing Lake
22 branches off into the Nelson River. The Nelson
23 River is one of the main rivers that do provide
24 Hydro project dams.

25 So when we -- we in the community have

1 identified many issues that are outstanding. For
2 an example, we have grave sites in our community
3 area, our territory, which were affected by Hydro.
4 They are covered up with rock, 20 to 30 feet of
5 rock, buried. You know, that's our people that
6 used to live in our community. And that's another
7 issue that we have addressed to Hydro when they
8 came to our meetings in our community.

9 Our community is very small. We only
10 have about 125 people there. We try to work
11 within the system that's in place set by the
12 provincial government. So we as individuals from
13 the trapping and fishing industry decided amongst
14 ourselves to be unified and to work as a unit on
15 issues identified, that are issues that affect and
16 that are adverse effects from Hydro projects.

17 As I said previously, that prior to
18 the start of this project we had community open
19 house meetings. May 22, 2008, we had round one.
20 I think Hydro calls them by rounds I guess, I
21 don't know why. Maybe at round five we will be
22 knocked out, I don't know. Same thing in round
23 two, 2009, January 21st; January 27, 2010, round
24 three; September 23, 2010, round four.

25 So we have been trying to schedule a

1 meeting with the people that you work with, that
2 are part of your department, to move forward and
3 address those issues. But we haven't been, due to
4 weather, we have no control over that. So
5 hopefully in the near future we can move forward
6 and work in collaboration, in harmony, with the
7 understanding, and to respect the wishes of the
8 people in the community.

9 We have an elder that was supposed to
10 be with us. It's unfortunate that he's not able
11 to make it at this time. We respect our elder.
12 Our elder is a person with knowledge which see --
13 who had many years of experience in trapping and
14 fishing. Due to his health, he's not able to be
15 with us at this meeting but he'll be here
16 tomorrow.

17 So when I say traditional beliefs, my
18 strong belief is that to restore that grave site
19 and the sites that were buried, flooded out by
20 Hydro, to try to retrieve those bones and set them
21 in an area where there will be no more flooding,
22 that's a project in itself. We can get
23 archeologists to work with us, but it takes money
24 to do that. And that's one of the things we are
25 going to be looking at as a compensation to the

1 community.

2 Our history of Thicket Portage was a
3 main base for the Thompson project, which is Inco,
4 for information of those who don't know. But I'm
5 not going to tell you more about that, because I
6 think some of you like me know what the things are
7 about Thompson.

8 Our traditional land territory goes as
9 high as Wuskwatim project. We have maps, we have
10 documentation that includes that last project that
11 Hydro developed.

12 I have documentation back from 1946
13 that states that that's our territory. Yet we
14 were not consulted on issues that affected the
15 people in our community, on that big project that
16 you had with Nelson House.

17 So, again, being a community of
18 Northern Affairs under the jurisdiction of the
19 Province of Manitoba, I feel that we are excluded
20 from any consultation, because we're not a member
21 of a First Nation, we're not recognized. Yet our
22 membership exceeds a hundred people of First
23 Nation ancestry. And that's where I come in with
24 the respect of traditional land, the use of land,
25 without the knowledge you're passing on to the

1 youth respecting Mother Earth, and use it wisely.

2 Because if you don't use it wisely it's not going

3 to help you, it's not going to take care of you.

4 You have to take care of it.

5 I see in our northern Province of
6 Manitoba, you have many Hydro dams, Hydro projects
7 that you guys have developed. Our Mother Earth
8 has been wounded and it takes a long time for her
9 to heal.

10 And that's why we would like to be
11 involved in any other discussions that you may
12 have that have affected our area. We have maps of
13 maybe four or five trappers in the proposed line
14 area that this project is going to go through.
15 But what we need, our initial task is to do that
16 environmental scan, to find out what actually is
17 going to be damaged. That's my main focus on this
18 at the moment. I'm only tackling one project at a
19 time, but there's a lot of projects I've got to
20 work on, and I'm only one person.

21 But I get my energy from the people
22 that I work with. We talk about things. We
23 exchange information, we share ideas, regardless
24 of good or bad. We accept them all. That's what
25 makes us unique I guess, because we are always

1 left in the dark. I'm speaking because, from
2 previous projects that your corporation has
3 developed and built.

4 In closing, I respect the Commission
5 members, the employees of Hydro for providing me
6 with the time to give out my issues and concerns
7 in relation to your project that's going to be
8 developed. I'm available to be talked to on an
9 individual basis if someone wants to talk. I like
10 talking. (Voice from back of room)

11 THE CHAIRMAN: You'll get an
12 opportunity later. I just want to let Mr. Cook
13 finish his presentation, please.

14 MR. COOK: So when we are finished
15 here, I'd like to mingle around and talk to
16 individual people to find out who they really are.
17 Because I see you guys -- I may not see you guys
18 again.

19 So thanks again, Mr. Sargeant. I want
20 to ask some of the members if they would like to
21 add any information to what I have just said, if
22 that's okay with you guys.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I have a couple
24 of questions of you. Can I ask them now?

25 MR. COOK: Sure, go ahead.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: I'd just like to ask
2 you a little bit more about these grave sites that
3 you mentioned. You said that they had been
4 covered by rock?

5 MR. COOK: Yes, they have.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: And when was that done?

7 MR. COOK: Well, I can ask the guy
8 that's been in that area longer than I have,
9 because I just returned to my community seven
10 years ago.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.

12 MR. COOK: Johnny, do you know?

13 MR. CRATE: 1992.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: And that was done by
15 Manitoba Hydro you said?

16 MR. COOK: By Manitoba Hydro in one of
17 their projects I guess. I don't know what was
18 built then.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: So was it to
20 accommodate for some old flooding or?

21 MR. COOK: You see, what happens in
22 the Nelson River is that each summer, Manitoba
23 Hydro provides dollars for us to clean up the
24 debris that's flowing around the river, because
25 once it eventually -- if we don't pick it up here,

1 it's going to go down to the dam site and get
2 caught in the turbines or whatever. It will do
3 damage to the property. So I guess that's where
4 the clean-up is at, the purpose of the clean-up.

5 So in our community we go out 20 days
6 in the summer months. Hydro puts out money for
7 the community and we go out and do the cleaning.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: And the clean-up is
9 along the Nelson River?

10 MR. COOK: It's on the Nelson River,
11 yeah.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: And have you had
13 discussions yet with Hydro about this particular
14 grave site?

15 MR. COOK: We have had, I think the
16 third meeting that we had in the community, there
17 was some technicians that did come to our
18 community and they identified the area through a
19 Powerpoint presentation and they put it on their
20 maps. And they provided us with five folders of
21 reports from their findings of those meetings they
22 had in Thicket. So the information is there.
23 They also provided on a disk, and we could have
24 access to it, and maps.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

1 Mr. Gibbons?

2 MR. GIBBONS: Yes, two questions if I
3 may, just to clarify so I understand who you are
4 representing and the area that you are
5 representing. The Trappers Association and the
6 Fishers Association are separate associations?

7 MR. COOK: Yes, they are.

8 MR. GIBBONS: But nonetheless you are
9 consulting with both of them?

10 MR. COOK: Yes, I am.

11 MR. GIBBONS: Okay. And the other is,
12 when you talk about the community, and you're
13 talking about Thicket Portage, are you talking now
14 of the Metis community, or Metis and First Nations
15 community? Could you give me a little bit more
16 detail on what the community is that you are
17 representing when you are doing your consulting?

18 MR. COOK: The interest of the
19 individual trappers and the fishermen within that
20 community.

21 MR. GIBBONS: Are those --

22 MR. COOK: They are First Nation
23 members.

24 MR. GIBBONS: There are no --

25 MR. COOK: There is about a handful of

1 Metis.

2 MR. GIBBONS: A handful of Metis and
3 mostly First Nations?

4 MR. COOK: Yes.

5 MR. GIBBONS: I see. Thank you.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: There are a number of
7 these people are First Nation members?

8 MR. COOK: Yes, they are. The
9 majority are from the Cross Lake First Nation.
10 That's our parent band.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

12 Mr. Cook, are there any other -- I
13 think you indicated you were going to consult with
14 other people from Thicket Portage if they had
15 anything to add?

16 MR. COOK: Yes, I did. I asked openly
17 to members that are here, if they wanted to add,
18 if I missed anything in my presentation, if they
19 had any other issues that they should let me know
20 and then I can --

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Does anybody
22 from Thicket Portage want to come up to add to
23 what Mr. Cook has said?

24 MR. COOK: We have a member here
25 that's a trapper, and his name is Norman Bignell

1 and he's on that list.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Is he here? Mr.

3 Bignell, could you come to the mic, please?

4 Mr. Bignell, I'll ask the Commission secretary to
5 give the oath.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Could you please state
7 your name for the record? Could you just say your
8 name, please?

9 MR. BIGNELL: Okay, I am glad to be
10 here this evening. Oh, I'm sorry, I'm glad to be
11 here this evening. My name is Norm Bignell and
12 I'd like to introduce myself.

13 Norman Bignell: Sworn.

14 MR. BIGNELL: I'd just like to say a
15 few words. I don't want to take much time this
16 evening. I heard about this meeting here just
17 recently, maybe about four, five days ago. And
18 I'm glad to be here this evening, ladies and
19 gentlemen. I'd like to at least put a few words
20 for my -- well, I guess I can say my hometown.
21 I've been with Hydro for quite a while these past
22 years. I worked for Hydro in my younger days.

23 I know what's been going on at Cross
24 Lake, you know, (inaudible), but I reckon there's
25 a few down there. But whatever, like back home

1 here in Thicket Portage, we have a little problem
2 here because that water level comes up sometimes.
3 One of the line holders from 914 in Thicket
4 Portage District. All I need to say is, you know,
5 I'd like to see someone here to have all the help,
6 at least all the trappers and fishermen that are
7 involved with Hydro and them. And I met a friend
8 of mine, you know, he must be a friend of mine,
9 he's from Hydro, everybody knows him as Hadley.
10 He wrote a letter to me. I'd be happy to see
11 trappers get involved with this, you know, before
12 this -- what we have here right now, this issue.
13 And whatever happens in the future, I'd like to
14 see my friends from Thicket Portage, they are the
15 trappers, the main ones.

16 You know, it really bothers me
17 sometimes, because I've seen my own people, you
18 know, what happened to them back in Nelson River.
19 All these years, long before that I used to trap
20 down there, before I took my dad's line, back in
21 history, I was raised there from the camp. I knew
22 what's been happening all these years, all these
23 overflows and all that. But I'd like to see, you
24 know, like there's -- Canada is Canada for us.
25 Like, you know, there's transmission line going

1 through my country, not too far from Paint Lake,
2 from here down to Thicket Portage. But I'd like
3 to see someone do something about it, and whatever
4 is going to happen in the future, but I'm not here
5 to argue with anybody. I'd just like to see
6 what's going to happen in the future. You know,
7 the future life, like Hydro will be (inaudible).
8 Whatever happens in the future, like today and
9 tomorrow, I'd like to hear more. Maybe I'm taking
10 too much time. Thank you ladies and gentlemen,
11 and pleased to meet you gentlemen from Hydro.
12 Okay, thanks.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Bignell.
14 Any other Thicket Portage people? Mr. Cook?

15 MR. COOK: We have Solomon Parenteau
16 here right now. He was on the list of people that
17 was supposed to make a presentation.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Does he wish to say
19 something?

20 MR. COOK: I imagine so. I can't
21 speak on his behalf. He's sitting right here.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
23 Mr. Parenteau, I'll ask the Commission secretary
24 to administer the oath.

25 MS. JOHNSON: Could you state your

1 name for the record, please?

2 MR. PARENTEAU: Solomon Parenteau.

3 Solomon Parenteau: Sworn.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Lagimodiere took
5 the oath the other night, so that still carries.
6 Go ahead, please.

7 MR. PARENTEAU: Okay. We'll start
8 with my family has been trapping and fishing,
9 harvesting in Thicket Portage since the '50s. We
10 continue to trap, fish, harvest in the area. I
11 currently am teaching my grandchildren, other
12 youth and local schools in land based training for
13 school credits, plus the MMF.

14 These are two of my grandsons which
15 I'm teaching. One is eight and one is ten. The
16 one that's ten now, he's been with me for three
17 years, and he's learned a lot. He probably can --
18 actually, when I bring other people out, he wants
19 to teach. So he's picked up quite a few skills.
20 That's another one of my grandsons lifting our
21 traps.

22 And we had two sales this year, this
23 was our second sale we caught this year. The
24 grandson that was with me, he done most of the
25 work, plus one of the other kids, he done some.

1 But mostly the first we caught was just between me
2 and him.

3 This is some of the stuff we done at
4 high school. We brought some of the furs in to do
5 a presentation and show the kids how to skin. We
6 usually do the skinning and get kids involved.
7 Plus after the skin, we also get them -- how to
8 prepare the furs too. And this is part of the
9 same thing, that is with one of the other schools
10 with the smaller kids. We also skin with the
11 smaller kids -- some of the bigger kids, we also
12 get them involved with the skinning and the
13 stretching, as you can see here.

14 This is a camp. We set up a camp
15 every day, it is either a tent or we use a tarp.
16 We set up a camp, like it's part of the trapline.
17 We set up different things. This is stuff we
18 teach to kids.

19 And there's another one that we do
20 some -- also we do some cooking. Usually we try
21 to cook wild stuff and the kids get involved, and
22 what we cook is eaten up with the kids and they
23 enjoy it.

24 This is on one of our hunting trips.
25 We also teach the kids how to set nets. This is

1 also while she showed them how to set the nets in
2 winter. And after the fish are caught, we also
3 teach them how to fillet and to clean the fish.

4 This year we took the high school kids
5 out trapping. Before we took out the kids
6 trapping they had to, I think it was 150 hours
7 they have to put in, through the high school, it
8 was all paid for through the school. Their boat,
9 boat card was paid for through the school, and
10 their certificate for the guns, firearms. Also
11 they were taught CPR. And before we took the kids
12 out, they were taken out to the gun range and we
13 teach them how to shoot the guns. And this is one
14 of the kill we done with the kids. The kids
15 themselves shot the animal. That's after the
16 stuff is skinned, we usually hang our meat, we
17 usually wash it down good, then hang them.

18 This is also another hunt, winter
19 birds. We usually take the kids out bird hunting
20 and also this is one of the kids plucking a goose.

21 This was after supper, usually every
22 evening we make a bonfire outside, we usually have
23 a wiener roast, or we do marshmallows, and we also
24 tell some stories. The kids enjoy that.

25 The attendance too, with the kids with

1 the high school, we had 12 kids we took out last
2 year. The kids we took out with the program they
3 ran, they couldn't miss school. If their
4 attendance was dropping, they would be taken out
5 and somebody else would fill in. But that never
6 happened. When we started with the kids their
7 attendance was in the low 50s. By the time we
8 finished the program, their attendance was up to
9 97, and there was one kid that never missed a
10 class.

11 And that's a manmade dam. That's just
12 some of the traplines that are marked, that are
13 listed on the map.

14 The line we trap on is the 33, which
15 is the line that's going to be coming through.
16 And we feel that the stuff we do with the schools,
17 and my grandchildren and families getting
18 involved, with the line going through right now,
19 we're having trouble right now with people getting
20 into our line. They've been stealing some of our
21 furs, our traps. And we feel with Hydro line
22 coming in, it's going to open it up for more
23 people to get in, and right now it is having quite
24 a big effect on us. With the Hydro line coming
25 in, we figure the stuff I'm teaching with the

1 schools, my grandchildren and my kids, we're going
2 to have a big loss here.

3 And this is somebody else's pictures.

4 Yeah, that will be somebody else's pictures.

5 I'd like to mention too with my
6 grandsons, when we sell our furs they have been
7 keeping our money to put it away and they plan
8 on -- actually my grandson, they usually plan a
9 year ahead what they are going to buy with the
10 money they are making with their trapping. And
11 that's also another way of teaching the kids how
12 to handle their money.

13 My one grandson there, he planned last
14 year to buy himself a bike, and he spent \$700 on
15 the one bike. And this year he's planning on
16 buying something else already.

17 If the Hydro line comes in, that's
18 going to take it all away. Because right now it's
19 going to kind of push the animals away, and we are
20 afraid that it's going to affect us big time.

21 Okay. Julyda is going to speak on
22 this part, the letter. Thank you.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Could we have order in
24 the audience, please? Let the presenters speak.

25 MS. LAGIMODIERE: Good evening and

1 thanks once again for the opportunity to be up
2 here helping to share some of the concerns that we
3 foresee by having Bipole III, and as you see up
4 there, the Keeyask dam as well. We believe it's
5 definitely going to change the environment and
6 it's going to impact the way of life as described
7 by Mr. Parenteau and other members of the
8 community of Thicket Portage, that it's going to
9 really impact them and change the way of life.
10 They are who they are, in terms of being trappers
11 or fishers or harvesters, because of the way of
12 life. And if that's threatened, I think that's a
13 great loss. And it's not only a loss for the
14 members today, but it definitely will be a loss of
15 opportunity for future generations.

16 Through the MMF, we support these
17 programs that Mr. Parenteau has been talking about
18 as presented to you, not only for individuals but
19 for the schools, because it's very important that
20 our traditional way of life is known to our youth.

21 And as Mr. Parenteau mentioned to you,
22 some of our youth who had very poor attendance
23 initially at the beginning of the land base
24 training, or the high school credit that they were
25 taking, their attendance improved up to 100

1 percent for one individual and the high 90s for
2 the other youth. They were very happy to be here.
3 In fact, some of them didn't want to go home, they
4 wanted to stay out on the land.

5 So I wanted to share that with you,
6 and I'll let Mr. Parenteau finish his
7 presentation. But one of the things that concerns
8 us is the inadequate accommodation or lack of
9 accommodation for the losses that are perceived to
10 be forthcoming, that on traditions and Metis
11 identity, or Aboriginal identity, loss of income,
12 and again education opportunities for our youth
13 and future generations.

14 Recommendations that we are making is
15 that Manitoba Hydro acknowledge the losses and
16 work with the people who are impacted, and come up
17 with a mutually agreed upon compensation package,
18 because it is going to change the way of life.
19 There's no doubt in our mind about that.

20 And we are asking the Commission to
21 direct Manitoba Hydro to resolve the problems that
22 are presented here today before you, before any
23 licence is issued.

24 With that I'm going to pass the mic
25 back to Mr. Parenteau for closing remarks, if he'd

1 like to have any.

2 MR. PARENTEAU: Yeah, I should have
3 mentioned that with the hunting, fishing, myself,
4 I have been teaching my kids. I harvest my fish,
5 my food, my wild meat, and I live on it
6 year-round.

7 And the area we trap now was, Tolko
8 was in there, they took out quite a few trees and
9 I see a lot of our wildlife was kind of pushed
10 out. But with the new group coming in now this
11 year -- especially we notice it more this year,
12 especially the moose, there was quite a few moose
13 tracks. And this year I kind of went out to go
14 hunt further out, which has cost me more money.
15 But I see this year moose are coming in, I could
16 have stayed in my area and hunted.

17 Hopefully, we can keep it the way it
18 is and I can continue teaching my kids, and with
19 the high school and the other schools with the
20 stuff we're doing now. Thank you.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Parenteau, just in
22 your last comments you mentioned about the moose
23 coming into the area. Is this fairly new?

24 MR. PARENTEAU: Just this last year
25 there's quite a few spots where there's tracks.

1 Actually, there was a couple of moose shot between
2 here and Wintering. And it's been a while since
3 we've seen that kind of movement with the moose.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Are there typically a
5 lot of caribou in the area?

6 MR. PARENTEAU: We got that somewhere
7 else, we got that on Landing Lake.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: So there weren't very
9 many around Thicket Portage?

10 MR. PARENTEAU: There's a few, it is
11 the same caribou that is going back and forth, but
12 we haven't seen them in Wintering. But some may
13 spot them by planes and they are in the area.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: And the Bipole line,
15 you say that it's going to go through your
16 trapping area. Will the entire line go directly
17 through your area?

18 MR. PARENTEAU: A good part of it, the
19 area we're trapping now.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: And how much of your
21 trapping area will be affected directly? I mean,
22 I know that there will be indirect.

23 MR. PARENTEAU: I would have to have a
24 better look at it right now, but it's probably
25 right now looking at it, it's probably 50 percent

1 or more.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: 50, 5-0 percent or
3 more?

4 MR. PARENTEAU: 50 percent or more.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you.
6 Anybody else?

7 MR. PARENTEAU: Yeah, I mentioned the
8 moose, I think I mentioned it, they had been
9 pushed out from Tolko. I see they are back in
10 again, and if Hydro goes through, they are going
11 to push the moose out again.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: How long has Tolko been
13 in the area?

14 MR. PARENTEAU: It's been probably a
15 few years since they have moved out, but it's been
16 years, certain areas have been cut years back, but
17 there's new growth coming in which is getting
18 higher for the animals in heat.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Do they cut a lot of
20 trees in the area?

21 MR. PARENTEAU: Quite a bit, most of
22 it is quite bare. When the growth comes in you
23 can see probably a couple of miles away if you
24 have flat ground.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: So there's a fair bit

1 of bare area, is that what you are saying?

2 MR. PARENTEAU: Most of it has grown
3 in already, it's getting pretty thick.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Sir, can you please let
5 Mr. Parenteau speak?

6 I imagine that's affected the
7 wildlife, the cutting of trees by Tolko?

8 MR. PARENTEAU: Yeah, but we noticed
9 the animals are coming back, because the trees are
10 getting higher and there's lots of new willows.
11 Even the rabbits the last couple of years, there's
12 been a lot of rabbits, which are coming back too.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: So is your concern that
14 cutting the Bipole through will chase the animals
15 away again?

16 MR. PARENTEAU: Yeah, it will probably
17 chase them out again and it will probably be years
18 again before we see it, before they come back.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you. I
20 don't think we have any other questions right now,
21 but thank you very much for your presentation
22 today.

23 MR. PARENTEAU: Thank you.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,
25 Ms. Lagimodiere.

1 Are there any other people from
2 Thicket Portage who wish to speak? Is there
3 anyone else who wishes to make a presentation at
4 this time? Anyone else in the audience want to
5 make a presentation about the Bipole III project?

6 Well, it's only 8:00 o'clock. We said
7 we'd be here for a while longer. We'll take a
8 short break, and if anybody decides in the next
9 few minutes they want to say something, please let
10 us know and we will give you the opportunity. So
11 we'll take a few minutes break and we'll come
12 back.

13 MS. JOHNSON: Just before we break,
14 we'll put this presentation on as THOM number 1.
15 Thank you.

16 (EXHIBIT THOM 1: Presentation of Mr.
17 Parenteau)

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

19 (Proceedings adjourned at 8:15 p.m.)

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1 Tuesday, October 16, 2012.

2 Upon commencing at 9:00 a.m.

3

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Good morning. We are
5 going to start the morning's proceedings off with
6 a presentation by Manitoba Hydro.

7 MS. S. JOHNSON: I am the department
8 manager of environmental licensing and assessment
9 for Manitoba Hydro in our transmission planning
10 and design area. What I'm going to do for you
11 today is just give you a quick overview of the
12 project, some of the stuff that's going on right
13 now so that you can get a better idea of where
14 we're going.

15 So what does our system look like?
16 Basically, you've got two types of electrical
17 systems. You've got a HVDC system as well as an
18 AC system. Basically, the HVDC system is supplied
19 by the largest generators in Manitoba Hydro's
20 fleet, which is Kettle, Long Spruce and Limestone.
21 And if you look up on our map here, you can see
22 them. They are these guys up here. And basically
23 what they are connected to is Dorsey.

24 So what's important to understand is
25 if we lose this, all we have left is the AC system

1 to rely upon in order to provide the energy for
2 Manitoba.

3 So let's have a look at the
4 transmission lines in a bit more detail. We have
5 a lot of transmission lines and we have a lot of
6 transmission expertise. As you can see, we have
7 installed 18,500 kilometres of AC transmission
8 lines from 33 kV to 500 kV in the last 60 years.

9 Now, with that expertise in
10 transmission lines, we have also got expertise in
11 licensing and environmental assessment. The
12 Environment Act was proclaimed in force in March
13 31, 1988. And essentially what that meant was
14 that you had to have assessment of transmission
15 lines of 115 kV and over. As you can see in the
16 list here, we have been involved in a fair amount
17 of licensing endeavours.

18 Within the department that I manage,
19 we have ten professionals with a variety of
20 expertise in environmental science and we also
21 engage with several different consultants with
22 additional expertise.

23 Now, why are we here today? In the
24 Manitoba Hydro Act, the purpose and objective of
25 this Act are to provide for the continuance of a

1 supply of power adequate for the needs of the
2 province. Now, what are those needs and what do
3 they look like? This chart basically shows you,
4 on the bottom, which is in the blue, the load that
5 Manitoba Hydro could supply without Bipole I and
6 Bipole II, including imports. What we see up here
7 at the top is the peak load that would have to be
8 served in a catastrophic failure of Dorsey or
9 Bipole I and Bipole II. It's difficult to see the
10 dates here, but essentially what you can see is
11 when we get to 2020, we are going to have a
12 1500-megawatt deficiency if we lose them.

13 Now, why are Bipole I and Bipole II so
14 vulnerable? Basically, we've got two Bipole lines
15 that are approximately 900 kilometres long, and
16 they're on the same right-of-way. These two lines
17 and the southern Dorsey Station transmit
18 70 percent of northern hydro generation.
19 Essentially, Dorsey has the most eggs in one
20 basket. And there's no other utility in the world
21 that transmits so much power through one critical
22 facility.

23 And we have had some close calls. I'm
24 not going to go through all of these, but
25 essentially I'll talk a little about the downburst

1 in Dorsey, the tornado, as well as another event
2 we had in Dorsey. There are a couple of different
3 events that happened. The one that you might find
4 interesting is the forest fires, because it's not
5 actually the fire at the towers that cause the
6 problem, it's the smoke. And essentially what
7 happens is that the air becomes a conductor when
8 you have smoke and it can cause your lines to
9 trip. And that's why when you talk about forest
10 fires in around our towers, we are so vulnerable.

11 So let's have a first look at the
12 September 1996 downburst. Basically, what a
13 downburst is, it's a wind event that can cause
14 structural damage due to its intense low level
15 outflows. This storm had winds of approximately
16 100 kilometres an hour, and ran 75 kilometres from
17 Poplar Point to Stony Mountain. There was a
18 microburst that ran anywhere from 150 to 180, that
19 actually took one of the HVDC towers down. And
20 due to the pressure from that, we wound up losing
21 another 18 towers, which resulted in 19 towers
22 down. This was a huge wake-up call for Manitoba
23 Hydro with some of the risks.

24 Now, we were lucky, the next day the
25 weather was good, it had dried up, we had the

1 equipment and we could access these lines. And
2 within four and a half days we had power back up.
3 But we were lucky.

4 The tornado in Elie was also another
5 major challenge for us. Basically, June 2007, it
6 touched down on the TransCanada Highway at about
7 6:30 p.m., picked up speed, headed towards Elie,
8 and did a fair amount of damage there. It
9 basically travelled for about six kilometres, at
10 its widest berth it was about 300 kilometres and
11 lasted for about 40 minutes.

12 Now, the reason this is so scary is
13 that this tornado was only about 25 kilometres
14 from Dorsey. And if it had been that much closer,
15 we would have been in a whole lot of trouble.

16 Speaking of Dorsey, we also had some
17 lightning strikes in Dorsey in August 2007. The
18 result of this, as you can see, was a fair amount
19 of damage to our equipment. We lost
20 1348 megawatts of power, seven valve groups
21 tripped off, and we had three transmission lines
22 tripped. The result of this was we had to call
23 MISO, which is the Midwestern Independent System
24 Operator, to ensure we could get enough power from
25 there. We had to look to Bipole II and increase

1 it, Brandon Generating Station, as well as Grand
2 Rapids to make up for some of the deficiencies
3 that this caused.

4 Now, let's talk a little about what
5 this project actually looks like. Essentially, as
6 you can see up here in Keewatinoow, we have our
7 northern converter. And this is about 79
8 kilometres away from Gimli. What it does is
9 converts the AC power to DC so we can move it down
10 the line. At the bottom you'll see we've got
11 Riel, and that's essentially the southern
12 converter. It's just outside of Winnipeg and it
13 converts back that DC power into AC. And then in
14 between we've got our transmission line. So let's
15 talk about that transmission line just a bit more.

16 In the north we've got what are called
17 guyed towers. And essentially it's a little
18 difficult to see, but there's wires coming down on
19 each side of these. And the reason why we use
20 those in the north -- and there's a good example
21 of them at the back, or there was last night there
22 somewhere, those are what the towers look like.
23 And the reason why we use them in the north is
24 because of the permafrost in the ground, the guyed
25 wires allow you to create a bit more stability and

1 you can adjust them.

2 Now, when we move into the south, we
3 can use free standing or self-supporting
4 structures. And this gives you an idea of some of
5 the different ones.

6 Now, what's important to note here is
7 whether or not you use a guyed tower or a
8 self-supporting, your right-of-way is still 66
9 metres. So the amount of land we have to clear,
10 even if we've got the guyed wires, is still 66
11 metres.

12 Now let's talk about the converter
13 stations that attach these. In Keewatinoow, which
14 again as you can see, is up north. We have
15 developed access but undeveloped site. Due to the
16 remote area, we are requiring full scale worker
17 accommodation, and we are under the
18 Burntwood/Nelson labour agreement.

19 For Riel, the area is partially
20 developed and there's no camp requirements.

21 For those of you that aren't familiar
22 with the Burntwood/Nelson labour agreement,
23 basically it's a no strike walk-out bargaining
24 agreement which covers major Northern Manitoba
25 Hydro projects, sets out hiring preferences,

1 including priority for northern Aboriginal
2 residents, wages and certain benefits.

3 Now, we've talked about all the
4 different sections. This gives you a quick
5 overview of what everything looks like when you
6 put it together. Essentially, you start at your
7 generating station, you use AC lines to go to your
8 converter, and then you convert it to DC and run
9 it down your line, and take it back to your other
10 converter.

11 Now, for those of you curious why we
12 converted to DC, when you're running a line this
13 long, it makes more sense to run a DC line because
14 you have less loss. And that's the reason why we
15 convert it. It arrives at Riel, we convert it
16 back to AC, which is what we use when we plug in
17 electronics, and we distribute it to the homes.

18 Now, let's talk a little more about
19 the environmental assessment process. The
20 environmental assessment for this project has
21 entailed going through a comprehensive site
22 selection and environmental assessment process.
23 If you look on the yellow section here, this is
24 essentially the area that we started with and it
25 encompasses 20 percent of the area of the Province

1 of Manitoba. We embraced engagement through
2 public engagement, we had four rounds of
3 consultation, and we used the input from those
4 rounds of consultation in order to adjust the
5 route.

6 Now, let's have a little better idea
7 of exactly what that consultation process looked
8 like, which was a very big part of the assessment
9 process. Essentially, we had four rounds of
10 consultation. And as you can see, there are
11 different stages, and we came out with different
12 decisions at the end of each one of them, and then
13 came out with a map of a preliminary preferred
14 route, which we presented, and then in the end, a
15 final preferred route. We believe that we have
16 selected the route with the least impact on the
17 environment, communities and residents along the
18 proposed path, while meeting Hydro's needs for
19 reliability and technical feasibility.

20 Now, how are we going to build this?
21 Essentially, you've got your converter station in
22 the north, and then as we go down the transmission
23 line, we're going to have eight construction
24 segments. We're going to work with stakeholders
25 all along the way. And in regards to tower

1 locations, they are not actually committed to in
2 the design right now. We'll do fine-tuning in
3 terms of exact tower spotting in the field, taking
4 into consideration accounts for ground constraints
5 and construction logistics.

6 Now, throughout this process, how do
7 we ensure that we're protecting the environment?
8 Through the site selection process, we did
9 everything we could to avoid impacts wherever it
10 was feasible through this routing. Then we have
11 an environmental protection program. And
12 essentially what that is, it's almost an umbrella
13 that provides a framework for the delivery,
14 management and monitoring of environmental
15 mitigation measures. And then within that, we've
16 got the specific environmental protection plans.
17 These are prescriptive general protection
18 measures, they ensure compliance with regulatory
19 requirements, and they identify and prescribe
20 mitigation for specific sensitive sites.

21 In regards to stakeholders, finding
22 those specific sites is important, and the EPP or
23 Environmental Protection Plans will work
24 throughout the process to ensure that we talk to
25 communities to make sure we avoid some of those

1 sites.

2 It's a work in progress and we will do
3 whatever we can to ensure we maintain integrity
4 and work with all our different partners and
5 stakeholders. Thank you.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Johnson.
7 Does anybody in the audience have any specific
8 questions of Ms. Johnson? I guess not. So thank
9 you for your presentation this morning.

10 We have at least one person who has
11 indicated he wishes to make a presentation, and
12 that's Mr. Robert Parenteau senior. He's here
13 with Jason Cook who will introduce him. So
14 Mr. Cook and Mr. Parenteau, if you can come to the
15 mic?

16 MR. COOK: First I would like to thank
17 the panel for providing us with this opportunity
18 to give our elder, our uncle and our friend in the
19 community of Thicket Portage. Mr. Parenteau has
20 been a long-time resident of Thicket Portage. He
21 moved from Camperville in the late '40s due to
22 hunting and fishing, trapping, and made his
23 residence in Thicket Portage.

24 Mr. Parenteau is 78 years of age, and
25 currently his health has taken him down quite a

1 bit. And his experience in this area as a
2 frontiersman, trapper, fisherman and a geology
3 worker for INCO. Earlier in the days it was
4 called Canaco. And he did some exploration work
5 in this area. He has many stories to tell about
6 Thompson, on how Thompson came to be the city it
7 is right now.

8 So Mr. Parenteau is an elder with the
9 Manitoba Metis Federation. And Mr. Parenteau has
10 been trapping in Thicket Portage, our traditional
11 land area, until his health has stopped him.

12 We were supposed to wait for Julyda,
13 Julyda had some briefing notes for Mr. Parenteau,
14 but we didn't want to hinder the presentations and
15 the agenda process that the Commission has taken
16 upon --

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Cook, if you wish
18 to wait, we can accommodate you later this morning
19 or this afternoon. It's not a real problem.
20 Would you prefer that? I don't see Julyda here
21 yet, so if you would prefer to wait till later on,
22 that's fine with us.

23 MR. COOK: Okay. Maybe about
24 11:00 o'clock would be good, because we don't want
25 to keep Mr. Parenteau here too long.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: No, I can understand
2 that too. So if Mr. Parenteau is fine with
3 waiting until Julyda comes, we'll accommodate
4 that.

5 MR. COOK: Thank you. He said it's
6 okay with him. You can proceed now.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. So we'll see you
8 again then in an hour and a half or so, whenever.
9 If Julyda shows up earlier, we can go then.

10 MR. COOK: Okay.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anyone else in
12 the audience who wishes to make an oral
13 presentation today? Well, nobody is leaping
14 forward to make a presentation, so we will be
15 here, we'll take a break, and if anybody shows up
16 and wishes to make a presentation, we'll
17 reconvene. And of course we'll reconvene when
18 Mrs. Lagimodiere shows up.

19 (Proceedings recessed at 9:20 a.m. and
20 reconvened at 9:38 a.m.)

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We'll come to
22 order. We have a presentation. Mrs. Lagimodiere
23 has arrived and she will be introducing and
24 assisting Mr. Parenteau. Mr. Parenteau hasn't
25 been sworn in, so I'll ask the Commission

1 secretary to attend to that.

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

4 MR. PARENTEAU: Robert Parenteau from
5 Thicket Portage.

6 Robert Parenteau: Sworn.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed.

8 MS. LAGIMODIERE: Good morning
9 everybody. Please allow me to introduce Metis
10 elder, Robert Parenteau senior. He's a registered
11 trapline holder. His traplines are numbers 7 and
12 16, and he's used the land since he moved to the
13 Thicket Portage area with his parents.

14 On this map you will note the
15 traplines assigned to him, or that he's registered
16 as number 7 and 16, that's on the map and on your
17 handout. And the Bipole III goes through 33, but
18 it will have residual effects as to being on the
19 radius of that.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Can one of you, maybe
21 Mr. Cook, can you show us where the Bipole line
22 will go through? Can you come up and just point
23 it out? Perhaps you can go back a slide,
24 Mrs. Lagimodiere?

25 MS. LAGIMODIERE: While he's preparing

1 to do that, yesterday you heard from
2 Mr. Parenteau's brother, Solomon, and he's gone to
3 get a map that we're hoping is going to have a
4 more visual effect than what you have up to the
5 side here. Because it will show the rivers and
6 the creeks that are going to -- how it's going to
7 affect Mr. Parenteau's, Elder Parenteau's
8 trapline. Go ahead, Jason.

9 MR. COOK: On this map here we have
10 the Thompson, between here and Thicket Portage in
11 here. The proposed line is just south of Paint
12 Lake. This is Paint Lake here. And the line that
13 we see from the presentation that Hydro has given
14 us through is number 33, then down through 14, and
15 number 11.

16 In our community, Thicket Portage, we
17 have trapline owners in those areas and the names
18 are on there. That's where we have -- and from
19 that line, I don't know what radius that the Hydro
20 has indicated to us, or what the effects may be.
21 It may be within five kilometres, I'm not sure.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Thirty-three, 14 and
23 11?

24 MR. COOK: Yes.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you. Go

1 ahead, Mrs. Lagimodiere.

2 MS. LAGIMODIERE: Thank you. In this
3 next slide here, this is -- what do you call that?

4 MR. COOK: This one is a manmade dyke
5 put in by Conservation. It's on Wintering River.
6 It's one of the trapline holder's area, noting
7 that the water, when it fluctuates, it has effects
8 on the fur bearing animals within that surrounding
9 area. So this is one indication that shows that
10 if the water goes up or down, then it has the
11 effects on the animals within that area.

12 MR. PARENTEAU: Yeah. That dam has
13 been there for as long as I could remember. When
14 the fish, you go there in the spring, sometimes
15 that dam would be full of pickerel there. Once
16 they get across there, they go to Portage crop,
17 and you never get the fish back because that dam
18 is there. It's good for 214, but it's no good for
19 us.

20 MS. LAGIMODIERE: And just maybe,
21 Jason, you want to explain what 214 means?

22 MR. COOK: 214 is one of the names
23 that we use for the community of Pikwitonei. It's
24 on the Hudson Bay railroad line and it's 214 miles
25 from The Pas. That's why we call it 214. And

1 this flooding area is in the Nelson River. I took
2 this photo of some of the things that do happen in
3 that area when the water is being raised by Hydro
4 from their dam, either Jenpeg or up north by
5 Norway House. So you can see the effects that it
6 has on, when water is being raised and the dams
7 are being built. And from that you will note that
8 there's always, I guess the summer clean-up, a
9 request to our community to go clean up the mess
10 that's been there by the raise of the water. That
11 has the effects also on the animals in that
12 surrounding area. So that's what we're concerned
13 about.

14 And also the fishing, you know, it
15 does move high or low, then you know there's
16 damage to the fisherman's props and boats. And it
17 could be dangerous because you have debris
18 floating in the rivers and the lakes.

19 MR. PARENTEAU: Like what Jason said,
20 I had this trapline since 1956. I had one river
21 there, you will see it on my map, that's where I
22 started with my beavers. But when Hydro moved in,
23 when I go set my traps -- I go, you go and look at
24 beaver traps everyday, at least every second day,
25 sometimes your trap is way up in the bush. They

1 let the water down and your trap is not -- and
2 your trap, they are there where you put them but
3 the water is gone, hey. One time they give us a
4 job there to cut that, to cull cross Portage.
5 When we got across, I was with Johnny Crait, he is
6 around here some place -- there's high ground
7 there. We knew there was a burial ground there.
8 When we got across there, there were bones laying
9 all over, there were bones laying there all over,
10 and they just had to pile the bones up, and Hydro
11 came in there with the helicopter with all the
12 cement and just covered it up there. And they are
13 still there. Johnny Crait seen that himself.
14 They were from Cross Lake.

15 MR. COOK: Yeah, I mentioned this
16 yesterday at my presentation on the grave site.
17 So clearly you can see on the screen, that's
18 freshly laid out gravel. And that's the works of
19 the Hydro, because just about maybe 150 feet from
20 the shore, there's three cabins there. So that
21 shows that there was people living in that
22 surrounding area.

23 And prior to -- in our tradition when
24 we lose someone, they usually bury them in that
25 surrounding area because that's their land, that's

1 out of respect for the individual. So they put a
2 cross there to mark or keep people aware that
3 there is a cross and some grave sites in that
4 area. That's why it's still standing. And that's
5 an issue that we would like to work on to restore
6 the bones.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Where is that?

8 MR. COOK: It's on the Nelson River.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: That's on the Nelson,
10 that picture?

11 MR. COOK: Yeah.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you.

13 MR. PARENTEAU: Now, there's a lot of
14 graveyards. Like I remember there was guys
15 trapping there, they were trapping in Cauchon,
16 three of them, George Evans, Halgerson was there,
17 and Ben Larson. And they died over there. And I
18 was in Thicket Portage and when they -- to go and
19 get the body, they just buried them. They asked
20 me, them young guys, like where their dad is
21 buried? You see, a long time ago they never
22 called -- that was never called that Cauchon Lake,
23 everybody called it Clearwater Lake. I don't know
24 why they changed it to Cauchon lake. I think that
25 is where he's buried up there some place in

1 Cauchon lake. So they don't know where their
2 dad's buried.

3 There's lots of graveyards, though.
4 You go down that Nelson River, you'll see lots of
5 graveyards. Sometimes you'll go on a little
6 island, you will see just one grave. And we
7 happen to ask -- it was Johnny Crait's mom, we
8 were telling them about these graves there. There
9 was some kind of sickness that came through there,
10 just wiped them right out, some kind of a flu.
11 But she did remember him. She died when she was
12 about 80 years old, but she still remembered that
13 sickness went through there.

14 And you could still see, when you go
15 across, where the people had gardens and houses.
16 That's where they would spend the summer, live off
17 the land up there.

18 And we done the same thing in Comorant
19 before we move to Thicket Portage. So only the
20 good thing that was in Thicket Portage, we move
21 into Seaforth Lake. We had sturgeon, that's the
22 first time I ever seen a sturgeon. We had
23 sturgeon. We lived right off the land. But you
24 don't see that anymore.

25 MR. COOK: Yeah. On the screen you'll

1 note that there is a floating island, we call it a
2 floating island because it's still sitting there.
3 And that's one of the areas that our elders have
4 indicated that there was a burial site there at
5 one time. But you will note that the water is so
6 high. Water has done a lot of damage in our
7 traditional land and territory. It's unfortunate
8 that this happens, but we as residents and
9 traditional land users have to go with what's
10 being presented or developed. So we strongly
11 believe that we need to restore what was lost.
12 And that's my project that I would undertake. I
13 have addressed this issue to many Hydro employees
14 in the past, and I will continue to try to restore
15 some of those grave sites that we have lost due to
16 flooding and previous Hydro projects.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: How would you like to
18 see that done? How would they be restored?

19 MR. COOK: Well, there is technicians
20 that we could get from the archeologists, and
21 there's ways and means of recovering grave sites.
22 We don't have that expertise, but I have some
23 contact names that I could work on. But there
24 again, when you want to work ahead and move on
25 issues, it always takes money, and that's the

1 thing we don't have. But that's the thing I'll be
2 working on, is trying to get some funding so we
3 could get this project on the go, so we could
4 retrieve those bones that are under water. And
5 those are dear friends of ours, relatives, that
6 live in the area.

7 This was back in the early '50s, so
8 after Hydro started building dams, that's when we
9 lost them. It's unfortunate that happens but
10 that's -- I guess that's development, I guess.

11 MR. PARENTEAU: There's lots of these
12 islands that we used to be able to see them
13 before, but a lot of them are under water now.
14 You don't see them until you break your motor,
15 then you know you hit something. Because I
16 remember one time I was with Johnny Crait, we were
17 fishing sturgeon, and I hit a rock and I broke my
18 motor in half. I never did get anything out of
19 it.

20 There is a lot of places you go there,
21 you see where they had camps, you could see where
22 people long ago had gardens in there. There's a
23 lot of graveyards along there. You can see where
24 Cauchon Lake comes into the Nelson River, just
25 across there. I was wondering, I couldn't figure

1 that out. When we were fishing sturgeon, we
2 didn't use corks and leads, we went in the bush
3 and got some dry sticks for our corks and little
4 rocks for our leads. And I went there, oh, you
5 should see the graveyard there, there's a lot of
6 that. Just a bunch of little white flags on it,
7 but there's no names on it. But then you'll see
8 some of them that -- you will see Metis signs on
9 them. So they must have been Metis in there too.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Kaplan.

11 MR. PARENTEAU: I knew guys came from
12 Cross Lake one time, they wanted to find out about
13 those graveyards. And they come and see me, and I
14 showed them on the map. I seen them later and
15 they say they found them. That's the ones they
16 were looking for.

17 MR. KAPLAN: If I can ask a question,
18 I'm not sure which of the three of you to put it
19 to, but any one of you may wish to answer. As far
20 as the grave sites, what, if any, discussions have
21 you had up to this point with Hydro officials?

22 MR. COOK: I mentioned that yesterday.
23 I think it was the third community round table
24 meeting. I indicated to the employees of Hydro
25 that we were concerned about those grave sites,

1 and they had put them on their map. They have
2 some technical system that they used to log it on
3 their map that they used. So we have that
4 presentation that was given to us from Hydro in
5 our community. It's just a matter of finding it,
6 and we could make it available to whoever wants to
7 actually see where we indicated to them where the
8 sites are. I can't tell you right now because I
9 don't have a map in front of me. But when we have
10 an organization or a group of people that are
11 trying to work with us, then we will make those
12 available to them.

13 MR. KAPLAN: And have you been to
14 these sites in the recent past to see what has
15 been done, I assume by Hydro?

16 MR. COOK: I was there two years ago,
17 two summers ago I was there, and I took some
18 pictures. These are the pictures that I have
19 taken. And it will show that -- you know, it
20 caught my interest and I was very concerned about
21 that. And that's why I'm making it an issue and a
22 concern and I'm going to work on it.

23 Okay. This area here that we were
24 talking about, where that cross is, that's a
25 registered trapper from our community of Thicket

1 Portage. They just put that gravel on there now,
2 and they just sort of buried their evidence I
3 guess you want to call it. But it's not a good
4 thing.

5 MR. KAPLAN: I'm not sure I understand
6 that answer. Who put gravel on?

7 MR. COOK: Cross Lake community
8 members. They were hired by Hydro. Hydro had
9 given them some funds to put some crushed rock
10 there.

11 MR. KAPLAN: What was your
12 understanding of the purpose behind that?

13 MR. COOK: Well, for me personally, I
14 think they just wanted to cover it up so the
15 people wouldn't see or do anything about it. But
16 we have a history that that's where they buried
17 their loved ones. So you know, when you have
18 history, and you can't doubt anybody when you say
19 it's that area, when they actually know that was
20 where they buried their father or their uncle.

21 MR. PARENTEAU: Like when he's talking
22 about those graves, they were buried and it was
23 high ground where they were buried. When you get
24 a good south wind, it seemed like it would be
25 washing down the ground, hey. And all of a sudden

1 we went there, we were cutting the road -- I was
2 with Johnny Crait. Johnny Crait can tell you, we
3 went across, we were clearing the road. That's
4 where all those bones, all that ground slid down.
5 And then they put the rocks right around that
6 island, because that island was drifting away.
7 Because I didn't believe my brother-in-law. My
8 dad was trapping there just above the Nelson
9 River, and he had a camp there. And he lost that
10 camp, it floated away. And he couldn't find it.
11 And then my -- but he's still alive, Joe, my
12 brother-in-law. My dad told me, I lost my camp he
13 said, it floated away. Yeah, I seen it going down
14 there, he said I could still see smoke coming out
15 of your chimney. So there was lots of camps like
16 that that drift away.

17 MR. COOK: Okay. This picture here is
18 just on the same shore as the one where the cross
19 was. So you go around the point. So if you walk
20 on the left-hand side of the cross there, you go
21 around that area, this is what you would see. So
22 you could see by the trees that they are not very
23 old, they are freshly green. So the flooding is
24 new. So it's within that same year that the water
25 has risen and it's damaging the environment, and

1 that's a concern of ours.

2 MS. LAGIMODIERE: And now concluding,
3 Elder Robert Parenteau is concerned that Bipole
4 III will affect the hunting, fishing and trapping
5 negatively, and it will impact his trapline. And
6 there's been no proper consultation with him or
7 his family. And trapping, hunting and fishing is
8 a way of life for his family. It is affecting
9 current land users and, of course, will affect
10 future generations.

11 And on that note, I'd like to hand the
12 mic to Elder Parenteau and he can say his closing
13 remarks.

14 MR. PARENTEAU: Yeah. We all depend
15 on fishing and trapping. Because at one time
16 that's all there was at Thicket Portage was fish
17 and trap. The only job you could find, you had to
18 go to CN, and that would only be a summer job.
19 Wait for the summer job, then as soon as fall
20 come, you go trapping. But now since Hydro has
21 come in, it's pretty hard to trap. It's not like
22 before. Before when I started to trap, there was
23 only leg-hold traps. And all of a sudden they
24 come out, we couldn't use them. Out comes out the
25 Connor bear traps. I hear some of the old

1 trappers, how am I going to set this trap? He
2 didn't even know how to set a Connor bear trap.
3 Well, I didn't too. That's just like starting to
4 trap all over again, because you couldn't use the
5 leg-hold. If they catch you with it, no matter if
6 you had a mink in it, they will take everything,
7 mink and all in your trap. So we had to stick
8 to -- but then we knew better after we got going
9 with the Connor bear traps, that was the best
10 traps we ever had. Because the poor mink or
11 martin or whatever, if it's worn, you'll cut its
12 foot off, he'll just chew it off and he's gone one
13 leg short. But you get him with a Connor bear
14 trap, it kills him dead, hey. But first they
15 promised us that they were going to trade us with
16 the leg-hold and give us Connor bear traps, but
17 they didn't do it.

18 That's about it.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: We have a couple of
20 questions for whoever wishes to answer them.

21 MR. GIBBONS: This is for
22 Mr. Parenteau and it's a very quick question. You
23 said they promised to trade the traps and they
24 didn't do it. When you say they, who are you
25 referring to?

1 MS. LAGIMODIERE: Conservation?

2 MR. PARENTEAU: Yes, because we
3 weren't allowed to -- well, we were allowed to use
4 leg-hold but that's for muskrats under water, hey,
5 or beavers.

6 MR. GIBBONS: But in terms of who is
7 going to do the trade --

8 MS. LAGIMODIERE: Game wardens.

9 MR. GIBBONS: Was it the game wardens?

10 MS. LAGIMODIERE: Well, we will say
11 Conservation.

12 MR. GIBBONS: Okay. Thank you for
13 that.

14 MR. KAPLAN: I have a question perhaps
15 more directed to Mr. Cook for an answer, if
16 possible. This Commission, I understand, can make
17 recommendations to the Minister whether or not to
18 grant the licence to Hydro or not. Based on what
19 you are saying and what I've heard over the last
20 few weeks, is it your recommendation that no
21 licence be granted to Hydro? Is that what you are
22 asking for or hoping for? I'd just like to get a
23 sense of where you're coming from?

24 MR. COOK: No, we're not here to
25 oppose the development of this Bipole project,

1 we're here to address our issues to the Commission
2 to hopefully pass them on to the rightful
3 department heads, so that they may work with us to
4 deal with the stuff that we have in our community.
5 We're not opposing the development of this line.
6 We want to work with you guys.

7 The other thing too is, you will note
8 on my previous remarks that as a community we
9 would like to sort of work on a community
10 compensation for the residents of Thicket Portage,
11 which would include the trappers and the
12 fishermen, and those previous trappers and
13 fishermen that we have in our community.

14 The system, the way it's been going,
15 is that the fathers, the grandparents, are passing
16 on their equipment to their grandsons and nephews.
17 So that keeps the cycle of trapping and fishing
18 going in our community. And it's pretty hard now
19 to make a decent living from that when we have to
20 look at, watch out for the debris that's in the
21 river, waterways. Because once we damage, then
22 it's a big expense for us. And that would be one
23 of the things that we would be looking at, is
24 compensating the trappers and the fishermen with
25 equipment, because that's what they use for their

1 livelihood and making a living for their families.

2 That would be one of the items that we would
3 include in the compensation for the residents.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

5 MR. PARENTEAU: When we are using
6 those leg-hold, when we set them along the
7 lakeshore, or sometimes you are back in the bush
8 and set them in the bush, but then Hydro will say
9 they are going to raise the water 2 inches, the
10 water is going to go up 2 inches. But we knew
11 that. We knew how much to expect the water would
12 go up 2 inches. We knew that. But all of a
13 sudden you listen to the radio, it's the opposite
14 way. The water is going to go down, I can't say
15 that word, not inches -- centimetres. Well,
16 nobody knew what that was. Then they give us a
17 two-way radio. You should have heard those guys
18 in Split Lake -- would listen to them in the
19 evening, swearing at Hydro. They don't know what
20 that meant. Lots of us didn't know that water was
21 going to raise. So what we done is we put a nice
22 log right in the water and we'd measure it
23 everyday. That's when we'd know the water is
24 going up or going down.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Parenteau, you're

1 not the only one, many of us have trouble with
2 many of the things in the metric system. I still
3 think in miles.

4 MR. PARENTEAU: Yeah, I know,
5 everybody does.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: At least us older
7 folks.

8 MR. PARENTEAU: They should have
9 stuck to that. If they would have raised our
10 water 2 inches or 3 inches, we knew we could
11 expect that they were going to go up 3 inches.
12 But when you say the other one, I can't pronounce
13 it, we don't know if it's going to be 4 inches or
14 if it's going to be a foot, we don't know.

15 And like when you go in the fall
16 there, you go start setting your traps and it will
17 snow, well, you've got snow on top of the ice
18 pushing it down, then you raise the water, now
19 you're pushing the ice up and the snow is pushing
20 it down. That ice is bound to crack. Then you're
21 going to get slush. Because I've seen a lot of
22 them in Thicket Portage, when they take off I go
23 behind them. You only go a few miles, you're
24 already, you're short of belts. Well, you're
25 stuck all the time in slush. You see the ice is

1 pushing down the -- the snow is pushing down the
2 ice, and you are raising the water up and pushing
3 it up. Well, that ice is going to crack and that
4 water has got to go some place, and you run right
5 into it with your skidoo. And a lot of times,
6 that's where you'll stay.

7 Because I've seen that, I don't know
8 if they are here, Louis and Marcel, I know they
9 trap harder than I do. I call them up, they are
10 only gone about 3 miles in. Lucky thing they had
11 four belts or they would have had to walk home,
12 ran out of belts, too much slush. You see the
13 snow is pushing that ice down and you are raising
14 the water, you are pushing it up. Well, that ice
15 has got to crack.

16 MS. LAGIMODIERE: Thank you very
17 kindly for listening to Mr. Parenteau's
18 presentation, and with Jason and I assisting him.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, thank you, all
20 three of you very much. Thank you, Mr. Parenteau,
21 for coming out here this morning. It was
22 interesting to hear your stories and it was
23 helpful to us in our deliberations as we consider
24 some of these issues. I'd like to thank Mr. Cook
25 and Mrs. Lagimodiere for their assistance, but

1 also for the presentations you made last evening,
2 and we will certainly consider what you have said
3 last evening and this morning in our
4 deliberations. So thank you to the three of you
5 and the other people from Thicket Portage.

6 MS. LAGIMODIERE: Mr. Chairman, just
7 for the record, because this is Mr. Parenteau's
8 presentation, I do want it noted, but I don't want
9 to expand on it. MMF's position is slightly
10 different than what Mr. Cook presented, but
11 because it's not our presentation, I'm here out of
12 respect to our Metis elder, I'm not going to, you
13 know, expand on my comments.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: I understand what
15 you're saying and thank you for that
16 clarification. So thank you all.

17 Is there anyone else in the audience
18 who wishes to make a presentation at this time?
19 Well, if not, we'll have an informal recess. And
20 if anybody arrives who wishes to make a
21 presentation, we'll reconvene. Thank you.

22 (Proceedings recessed at 10:17 a.m.
23 and reconvened at 1:15 p.m.)

24 THE CHAIRMAN: The one presentation we
25 had scheduled for this afternoon is now here, so

1 we should move on.

2 Ms. Campbell, you are ready to go?

3 Come to the front table, please? Thank you.

4 We'll ask you to take an oath. The Commission

5 secretary will administer it.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Could you please state

7 your name for the record?

8 MS. CAMPBELL: Anita Campbell.

9 Anita Campbell: Sworn.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed.

11 MS. CAMPBELL: Thank you. They told

12 me this was a non threatening environment.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, we like to think

14 it is. We try our best to keep it at that.

15 MS. CAMPBELL: Good afternoon, my name

16 is Anita Campbell. I am a Metis person who has

17 lived up north for the majority of my adult life,

18 actually about 31 years. Currently I live in

19 Thompson. I am the elected spokesperson for the

20 Metis women of Manitoba, which is a part of the

21 Manitoba Metis Federation's governance structure.

22 I am also the MMF's minister responsible for

23 Manitoba Hydro. In that capacity, I am here today

24 to present to the Commission on behalf of the MMF.

25 So even though we are in Thompson, my

1 presentation is going to focus on key issues that
2 are relevant to my role as the MMF's Minister for
3 Manitoba Hydro. Other Metis presenters here today
4 are going to speak about their specific concerns,
5 or have spoken about their specific concerns about
6 the impacts of Bipole III on Metis in the north,
7 as a part of the larger Manitoba Metis community.

8 As a part of my presentation, I am
9 providing the Commission a copy of the recently
10 produced MMF Bipole III update report, which has
11 been sent via e-mail, based on the MMF's
12 province-wide consultations with our people. This
13 document provides a high level overview of what we
14 heard in our community consultations that were
15 held in Dauphin, Swan River, Brandon, Binscarth,
16 St. Ambroise, Thompson, Gillam, Cranberry Portage,
17 The Pas, Mafeking, Thicket Portage and Pikwitonei,
18 as well as other internal MMF engagement
19 activities since the Bipole III Environmental
20 Impact Statement.

21 The MMF has also provided more
22 detailed concerns to the Crown and Manitoba Hydro
23 through direct engagement, as well as through the
24 information request process. Unfortunately, none
25 of these concerns have been addressed to date.

1 While Manitoba Hydro claims to be
2 meeting with the MMF to discuss our concerns, it
3 is not. We currently have no meaningful process
4 in place with Manitoba Hydro. Recently, all
5 Manitoba Hydro has provided to the MMF is a high
6 level Powerpoint presentation on a, to be
7 developed, environmental protection plan that is
8 inadequate and incomplete. We also have not had a
9 meaningful process in place with Manitoba Hydro
10 throughout the development of the Bipole EIS,
11 despite written commitments that we would be
12 involved. Manitoba Hydro has consistently ignored
13 the MMF concerns about EIS deficiencies, routing
14 concerns, and the impacts Bipole III will have on
15 the Metis community. We want the Commission to
16 know this, because from the MMF's perspective,
17 Manitoba Hydro is creating a smoke and mirrors
18 narrative in this hearing process that Aboriginal
19 engagement and consultation on the Bipole III EIS
20 was significant and meaningful. It was not.

21 It is worthy to note that all the
22 Aboriginal community groups participating in the
23 CEC are at least united on this. Nicely printed
24 Powerpoint presentations and thousands of pages of
25 EIS filings cannot mask a willfully lacking

1 engagement and consultation process with
2 Aboriginal people generally, and Metis
3 specifically.

4 The MMF is participating in this
5 hearing process to scratch underneath Manitoba
6 Hydro's claims, but also to make the Crown aware
7 that these claims are fiction.

8 In my presentation I am going to
9 outline how Manitoba Hydro has not met its
10 requirements in the Bipole III EIS scoping
11 document. We want the Commission to know that it
12 cannot trust or rely on Manitoba Hydro's
13 assertions, and that the company's claims must be
14 scrutinized in this public review.

15 Before I detail the MMF's concerns, I
16 want to raise two preliminary points about our
17 concerns with this ongoing review. The MMF's
18 legal counsel has raised these concerns in his
19 opening comments, but I want to restate them so
20 that they are on record as evidence.

21 First, we want to restate our concerns
22 that the current EIS is deficient and does not
23 provide the Commission or the government with
24 sufficient information to make reasonable
25 decisions about this project in relation to the

1 impacts on Metis rights, interests, and way of
2 life.

3 More specifically, essential and
4 required information about socio-economic impacts,
5 addressing areas of significance to Aboriginal
6 communities, Aboriginal resource youths, and the
7 implementation of adequate measures is missing
8 from the EIS. We would note that this is not just
9 the MMF's perspective. We want to draw the
10 Commission's attention to the letter from Ron
11 Missyabit of Manitoba Conservation dated August
12 17, 2012, which is attached to my presentation.

13 In this letter Mr. Missyabit makes a
14 series of requests in relation to socio-economic
15 issues and Aboriginal resource information in
16 order for Manitoba Conservation to complete its
17 review of the EIS. Clearly, Manitoba Conservation
18 does not believe Manitoba Hydro's EIS is complete
19 either.

20 We also want to highlight for the
21 Commission that the information being requested by
22 Manitoba Conservation is not specific to the
23 Crown's duty to consult and accommodate.

24 If you look at the second paragraph of
25 Mr. Missyabit's letter, he is requesting this

1 information based on the information Manitoba
2 Hydro committed to collecting in their Bipole III
3 transmission project environmental assessment
4 scoping document.

5 So we ask the question, how can the
6 EIS be deemed by Manitoba Conservation as
7 deficient in relation to important filing
8 requirements under the scoping document on
9 August 17, but then deemed sufficient for public
10 review on August 31st, without any acknowledgment
11 of these outstanding information requests?

12 The current situation leaves the Metis
13 community in an untenable and prejudiced position
14 in this hearing. While we can appreciate that
15 environmental assessment process can be somewhat
16 iterative in nature, we do not believe that it is
17 so iterative that it abandons the rules of
18 fairness and common sense to the Aboriginal
19 peoples who are participating in good faith.

20 It is now two months since this
21 information was formally requested from Manitoba
22 Hydro by Manitoba Conservation, yet we still have
23 no answers to these fundamental issues that go to
24 the completeness of the EIS we are currently
25 reviewing. We also have no idea when this

1 information will be provided.

2 Similarly, the MMF wants it noted that
3 we object to this public review process continuing
4 when there may be important changes to the route
5 in four areas that are of fundamental concern to
6 the Metis community. It is simply unfair and
7 impossible to meaningfully review and test a
8 project based on a proposed route that may
9 ultimately change. This is not consistent with
10 the principles of natural justice or fairness.

11 Just because Manitoba Conservation
12 calls the changes minor, that does not make it so.
13 In particular, when hundreds of kilometres of the
14 route is in question and the discussions on this
15 re-routing is held behind closed doors. The
16 public, including Aboriginal groups whose
17 traditional territories will be impacted, have a
18 right to know what the final project route that is
19 being reviewed actually is.

20 Based on Manitoba Conservation's
21 August 31st letter, the route may change in some
22 of the most sensitive areas of our traditional
23 territories, but we are essentially having to
24 guess where the line may end up. This is not
25 fair, nor is it honourable.

1 Again, we ask the Commission to
2 adjourn this hearing on its own initiative until
3 we receive answers to these routing and
4 outstanding information requests. We object to a
5 review of Bipole III being pushed through to meet
6 Manitoba Hydro's artificial timelines, while the
7 public, including Aboriginal people, are left
8 wondering what is actually being reviewed in this
9 process. If this is not done, it is almost a
10 certainty that future delays will ensue because
11 parties will be left with no other option but to
12 seek remedies from the courts. This is not in the
13 interest of the Commission, the Crown, Manitoba
14 Hydro, the public or Aboriginal peoples.

15 While we acknowledge that the Minister
16 has discretion on the Environmental Act and
17 related legislation in relation to the reviews of
18 major infrastructure projects such as Bipole III,
19 this discretion must be exercised in a manner that
20 ensures meaningful public review of the actual
21 project based on a complete EIS. This is not what
22 is happening in this process.

23 Moreover, in relation to the
24 constitutional duties owing to impacted Aboriginal
25 peoples, the Minister's discretion under the

1 Environmental Act and related legislation must be
2 exercised consistent with the honour of the Crown.
3 The current process which leaves the Aboriginal
4 people guessing about what was actually being
5 reviewed, with no meaningful Crown consultation
6 process in place, fails to meet these legally
7 enforceable duties owing to the Metis community.

8 With that said, I now want to talk
9 about the MMF's specific concerns on the Bipole
10 III project and Manitoba Hydro's EIS. You are
11 going to hear a lot from the Manitoba Metis over
12 the next few weeks on why we are urging the
13 Commission to not recommend this project move
14 forward based on its current form and EIS.

15 We ask that the panel listen with open
16 minds to the real concerns of the Metis people who
17 will most directly be impacted by Bipole III. We
18 may not be consultants, environmental experts or
19 lawyers, but we have an understanding of the on
20 the ground and multi-generational impacts projects
21 like Bipole III have on our people, who rely on
22 these lands for our cultural, economic and social
23 well-being.

24 We respect and have faith in the
25 independence of the Clean Environmental Commission

1 process. We understand that you are mandated to
2 listen to what we, the public, have to say. We
3 want you to hear our collective voice, not just
4 the voices of Manitoba Hydro, the consultants,
5 experts and lawyers. That is why we are here.

6 I want to start by outlining MMF's
7 overarching concerns with the EIS in relation to
8 consultation with Aboriginal communities. My
9 presentation will hopefully illustrate that
10 Manitoba Hydro's EIS is built like a house of
11 cards, where its initial flawed approaches
12 essentially corrupt the environmental assessment
13 in relation to Aboriginal communities. Just to be
14 clear, I am talking about the consultation
15 required under the June 2012 EIS scoping document,
16 not the Crown's duties to consult and accommodate.

17 The MMF's legal counsel has and will
18 continue to make submissions on the Crown
19 consultation issue. I am focusing on the
20 requirements of the June 2012 Bipole III EIS
21 scoping document, wherein Manitoba Hydro was
22 directed to obtain, collect, assess, and consider
23 information from Aboriginal communities.
24 Specifically, I would point to sections 5.2, 6.0,
25 7.2 and 7.4.3 of the scoping document.

1 Unfortunately, Manitoba Hydro has not provided any
2 clear descriptions or detailed information within
3 the EIS on the Aboriginal communities it engaged,
4 even though it was required to do so pursuant to
5 the scoping document.

6 Moreover, the limited information that
7 has been provided by Manitoba Hydro was confusing
8 at best, misleading at worst, in particular in
9 relation to the impacted Metis community as
10 represented by the MMF.

11 We want to provide some background
12 information on these issues because most people's
13 knowledge on Aboriginal issues generally is mainly
14 about First Nations, Indian Treaties and the
15 Indian Act, which established Indian bands and
16 reserves. Information about the Metis people, our
17 rights and our governance structures is not as
18 well known and is often misunderstood.

19 These issues are not just relevant
20 because of the EIS, they are also relevant because
21 this Commission has already indicated that it will
22 consider the impacts of Bipole III on Aboriginal
23 rights. Specifically, the chair acknowledged this
24 at a pre-hearing conference. As such, the MMF
25 believes that a general understanding of those

1 rights and who holds them will be of assistance
2 and is required.

3 A helpful starting point is to look at
4 what our constitution actually says about
5 Aboriginal peoples, specifically section 35 of the
6 Constitution Act 1982 states:

7 "1. The existing Aboriginal and
8 Treaty rights of the Aboriginal
9 peoples of Canada are hereby
10 recognized and affirmed.

11 2. In this Act, Aboriginal peoples
12 of Canada includes the Indian, Inuit
13 and Metis peoples of Canada."

14 It's important to highlight that the
15 term Aboriginal is inclusive of Indian, First
16 Nation, Inuit and Metis peoples. Aboriginal is
17 essentially a term of art that includes First
18 Nations, Inuit communities and Metis communities
19 under it.

20 However section 35 does not support an
21 interpretation that it creates a new Aboriginal
22 peoples or new Aboriginal communities. The term
23 Aboriginal in section 35 simply recognizes that
24 already existing Indian, Inuit and Metis peoples,
25 and Indian, Inuit, and Metis communities

1 respectively are Aboriginal.

2 For example, while a First Nation or
3 Metis community can be correctly described as an
4 Aboriginal community, the plain text of section 35
5 does not support that proposition that simply
6 combining First Nation and Metis individuals
7 together create a new Aboriginal people or
8 Aboriginal community. Moreover, judicial
9 decisions on section 35 do not support such an
10 interpretation either.

11 Unfortunately, this is exactly what
12 Manitoba Hydro attempts to do through the
13 definition of Aboriginal community it uses within
14 its EIS. Specifically, the EIS states that an
15 aboriginal community is, A, community where most
16 of the residents are Aboriginal, i.e., Indian
17 Metis or Inuit, and it has a separate form of
18 government, provides some level of service to its
19 residents and has clear community boundaries.

20 This definition flies in the face of
21 the Constitution, the law and common sense. It
22 also does not reflect the perspective of Metis.
23 The use of this definition results in information
24 about Aboriginal communities being purportedly
25 collected, assessed and incorporated into the EIS,

1 but is not from actually impacted aboriginal
2 communities.

3 So you may be asking, why is this an
4 issue important to the Commission's role? It goes
5 back to my house of cards analogy. Instead of
6 engaging directly with or waiting for the
7 self-directed Aboriginal traditional knowledge
8 studies from actual First Nation and Metis
9 communities in order to integrate into the site
10 selection environmental assessment, the SSEA
11 process, and used in the EIS, ATK information from
12 various Manitoba Hydro created "Aboriginal
13 communities" that include a hodgepodge of
14 Aboriginal individuals who are paid to participate
15 in various workshops is used.

16 This ATK information is not from
17 methodologically sound and representative
18 samplings of rights-bearing First Nations and
19 Metis communities that will be impacted by Bipole
20 III. It is from random interviews with
21 individuals who may be First Nation, Metis or non
22 Aboriginal, which is then passed off as legitimate
23 ATK from rights-bearing communities. Nothing
24 could be further from the truth.

25 So while Manitoba Hydro makes it sound

1 all wonderful about how ATK was collected and
2 integrated into the SSEA and the EIS, it is a
3 fallacy and the house of cards quickly falls apart
4 when you scrutinize the information that is passed
5 off as ATK for impacted First Nations and Metis
6 communities.

7 Again, we would highlight that it's
8 not just the MMF who takes this position. I would
9 like to go back to Mr. Missyabit's August 17th
10 letter. You will note that he is asking Manitoba
11 Hydro for ATK information from First Nations and
12 Metis, not amorphous Aboriginal communities
13 created by Manitoba Hydro. We would submit that
14 this is why Manitoba Hydro is having such a
15 problem and delay in responding to these
16 outstanding information requests.

17 With respect to actually collecting
18 ATK information from the impacted Metis community,
19 the MMF began to engage with Manitoba Hydro in
20 2009. We had hoped the company was sincere in
21 changing the way it dealt with the Manitoba Metis,
22 or lack thereof.

23 We assume that this new willingness
24 came from the Manitoba Provincial Court's decision
25 in Goodon and direction from the government, not

1 any real desire to work with Metis, since Manitoba
2 Hydro's work with the Metis is one of neglect and
3 indifference.

4 In May 2009, Manitoba Hydro entered
5 into a work plan with the MMF to engage on Bipole
6 III and undertake a self-directed ATK study. The
7 MMF called its ATK study a traditional land use
8 and knowledge study, or TLUKS for short.

9 Unfortunately, contrary to the rosy
10 picture put forward by Manitoba Hydro's
11 presenters, the MMF wants the Commission to know
12 that the spirit and intent of the work plan was
13 not achieved, nor were many of its commitments in
14 the executed work plan. Specifically, the
15 following work plan objectives have not been
16 fulfilled despite repeated requests from the MMF
17 for engagement on these issues. One; establish
18 and maintain an ongoing working relationship
19 between MMF and Manitoba Hydro with respect to the
20 project.

21 Two; support the MMF by engaging Metis in relation
22 to the project in order to identify issues,
23 concerns and opportunities related to the project.

24 Three; provide a collaborative process for MMF and
25 Manitoba Hydro to work together to attempt to

1 identify, share and address issues and concerns
2 related to impacts and opportunities associated
3 with the project.

4 Four; create a process between the MMF and
5 Manitoba Hydro in order to develop an ongoing
6 respectful and mutually beneficial relationship on
7 the project.

8 Five; Identification of issues arising from the
9 SSEA process, the TK study and the MMF's community
10 engagement process and the discussions of
11 measures, if any, required to address these
12 issues.

13 Six; Discussion and identification of economic
14 opportunities for Metis arising from the project.

15 Instead of meaningfully engaging with
16 the MMF, Manitoba Hydro developed its EIS in
17 isolation. It did not respond to the MMF's
18 request to be meaningfully involved in aspects of
19 the EIS such as the identification of heritage and
20 archeological sites, nor did it even meet with the
21 MMF during the SSEA process. Essentially all
22 Manitoba Hydro did was simply append the MMF's
23 TLUKS into the EIS. It did not integrate our
24 TLUKS findings into the final preferred route
25 selection as it was required to do pursuant to the

1 scoping document. In fact, Manitoba Hydro did not
2 have any TLUKS information for the Metis community
3 until after the final preferred route was
4 selected.

5 Manitoba Hydro representatives openly
6 admitted this in their testimony already provided
7 to the Commission. So essentially no Metis
8 traditional knowledge or land use information was
9 incorporated into the SSEA. Again, we want to
10 emphasize that Manitoba Hydro has no verification
11 or credibility that the Metis individuals it
12 interviewed as a part of its ATK study were
13 actually Metis or part of a contemporary
14 rights-bearing Metis community. The MMF also
15 wants to stress the point of its TLUKS was not
16 designed to show specific impacts from routing, it
17 was designed to generally show land use patterns
18 in areas of importance to the Manitoba Metis that
19 could then be integrated into the SSEA process.

20 Unlike First Nations with concentrated
21 populations of a few hundred to thousands of
22 people who live on common reserve lands, the
23 Manitoba Metis constitutes on large and expansive
24 community of tens of thousands of people standing
25 throughout Bipole III's study area. The

1 geographic extent of this Metis community, along
2 with the MMF's mandate to represent this
3 rights-bearing Metis community, has been
4 recognized by the Manitoba courts in a case called
5 R versus Goodon, as well as more recently in the
6 signed MMF Manitoba Harvesting Agreement.

7 For the Commission's information, I am
8 attaching a copy of the Goodon decision as well as
9 our harvesting agreement. These have also been
10 emailed. We believe these documents will be
11 helpful in relation to understanding the rights
12 and governance structures of the impacted Metis
13 community. So we designed a TLUKS that fit our
14 unique community and would further require
15 discussions and collaborations work with Manitoba
16 Hydro in order to truly integrate our knowledge
17 and use into the SSEA process. Of course, this
18 was not done because Manitoba Hydro had selected
19 the route before it even considered or received
20 the MMF's TLUKS. We would note that this is
21 similar to what Manitoba Hydro did with most of
22 the self-directed studies from other
23 rights-bearing Aboriginal communities for that
24 matter.

25 Based on all of this, we believe

1 Manitoba Hydro's claims that it integrated ATK
2 into the SSEA process are false. Manitoba Hydro
3 does not get to make up its own definitions of
4 aboriginal communities to serve its process, and
5 then attempt to portray it met the requirements of
6 the scoping document in relation to integrating
7 ATK into the SSEA and the EIS.

8 We ask this Commission to reject
9 Manitoba Hydro's attempts to pass off its ATK
10 information from unknown Aboriginal communities as
11 a legitimate substitute for actual ATK information
12 from the impacted First Nations and Metis
13 communities. We say Manitoba Hydro's approach
14 does not meet the requirement of the EIS scoping
15 document.

16 It is the MMF's opinion that Manitoba
17 Hydro must be directed to go back and consider its
18 current routing based on the actual traditional
19 knowledge of impacted First Nations and Metis
20 communities in the study area.

21 As the MMF will continue to raise in
22 more detail throughout this hearing process, the
23 current preferred route threatens the meaningful
24 exercise of Metis harvesting rights in the name of
25 avoiding landowners or increasing costs for the

1 company. This is unacceptable and Manitoba Metis
2 won't accept their rights being sacrificed because
3 Manitoba Hydro did not do what the scoping
4 document directed it to do.

5 Similarly, the MMF wants to raise
6 other deficiency concerns about the EIS. For
7 example, Manitoba Hydro did not consider the
8 Manitoba Metis as a distinct Aboriginal community
9 for the purposes of its socioeconomic impact
10 analysis. It did not include our input in
11 relation to its archeological and heritage site
12 analysis. It did not consider our rights based
13 claims in areas that Bipole III will impact such
14 as our lands claims within the "old postage stamp
15 Province of Manitoba" that is currently before the
16 Supreme Court of Canada.

17 Collectively, the results of this is
18 an EIS that is deficient as it relates to
19 obtaining and assessing information from the
20 Manitoba Metis, specifically, as well as other
21 Aboriginal communities.

22 For these reasons alone, the MMF
23 believes the project should not be recommended in
24 its current form. Even more troubling than the
25 glaring deficiencies on Aboriginal consultation in

1 relation to the scoping document is the fact that
2 Manitoba Hydro's multitude of mitigation measures,
3 promises and commitments throughout the EIS are
4 inconsistent, incomplete and lack the required
5 baseline and scientific evidence to effectively
6 monitor mitigation.

7 As the Commission has already
8 recognized in its recent letter to Manitoba Hydro
9 dated September 28, 2012, there are
10 inconsistencies between these mitigation measures,
11 promises and commitments throughout the EIS and in
12 the technical reports. We are concerned that
13 Manitoba Hydro will rely on this confusion in the
14 EIS in the future in order to not follow through
15 on these commitments.

16 It is also troubling to the MMF that
17 Manitoba Hydro is asking this Commission to
18 recommend one of the largest infrastructure
19 projects in Manitoba's history based on a lot of
20 promises but no concrete plans on how all these
21 promises will be achieved.

22 Essentially, Manitoba Hydro is asking
23 this Commission, the Metis community and all
24 Manitobans to trust them that they will follow
25 through on all of their EIS commitments. While we

1 cannot speak for others, we do not trust Manitoba
2 Hydro to follow through on its promises. The
3 broken promises in our existing Bipole III work
4 plan with Manitoba Hydro demonstrates to the MMF
5 that Manitoba Hydro's commitments are not worth
6 much, even when they are in writing. The MMF
7 wants to make this point very clear to the
8 Commission: If we don't have a legally
9 enforceable, meaningful and cost effective way to
10 hold Manitoba Hydro to account for the multitude
11 of EIS promises it makes in order to get its
12 approvals, those promises will essentially be
13 meaningless. Simply put, in future battles to get
14 Manitoba Hydro to uphold those promises, the
15 company will always win against Aboriginal
16 communities with limited capacity, internal
17 environmental expertise and funding. This reality
18 should not be able to be used as an advantage for
19 a Crown agent such as Manitoba Hydro.

20 While it is the MMF's position that
21 the current Bipole III project should not be
22 recommended in its current form, throughout this
23 hearing we will also be making suggestions for the
24 Commission to consider if it does recommend the
25 project. For example, we believe that prior to

1 granting a licence, Manitoba Hydro must provide
2 concrete plans on how it will put its various
3 mitigation measures, promises and commitments in
4 place. In order to achieve these commitments,
5 Manitoba Hydro must be directed to enter legally
6 binding contractual arrangements with impacted
7 Aboriginal communities in relation to mitigation
8 measures. These agreements must be in place prior
9 to Crown authorization or construction. This is
10 the only way the MMF will be provided certainty
11 that it can hold Manitoba Hydro to account.

12 We also want to stress that including
13 various commitments in a provincial licence is not
14 sufficient because the MMF will then have to rely
15 on the Manitoba Government to enforce these
16 commitments. Increasingly, Manitoba Conservation
17 does not appear to have the desire or internal
18 capacity to monitor and enforce these licensing
19 conditions, so proponents such as Manitoba Hydro
20 end up self-policing themselves and ignoring
21 interventions and efforts from impacted Aboriginal
22 communities such as the MMF.

23 As the MMF will outline in greater
24 detail, in MMF president David Chartrand's
25 presentations that will be held in November, these

1 commitments to Aboriginal communities on
2 provincial licences have proven to be worthless.
3 Specifically, the MMF's recent experience with
4 respect to the Victory Nickel Mine is just one
5 example.

6 We also believe that if a licence is
7 ultimately to be granted to Manitoba Hydro, it
8 must be a conditional or staggered licence. This
9 means that while Manitoba Hydro will be allowed to
10 proceed with some of the initial stages of Bipole
11 III, it will be required to have certain approved
12 plans, re-routing, negotiated agreements or other
13 conditions in place before it can begin to move to
14 subsequent stages of Bipole III's construction.

15 The MMF notes that Manitoba Hydro has
16 acknowledged that it will not begin construction
17 on all parts of Bipole III at the same time. So
18 this type of licensing approach will be consistent
19 with the Manitoba Hydro's overall plan. More
20 importantly, instead of giving Manitoba Hydro
21 carte blanche with respect to Bipole III and
22 hoping Manitoba Conservation has adequate capacity
23 to monitor and protect Aboriginal interests, a
24 meaningful check and balances can be put in place
25 through a conditional or staggered licence. So,

1 for example, if Manitoba Hydro does not put into
2 place an access management plan or adverse effects
3 agreement with the MMF prior to beginning
4 construction on the west side corridor, Manitoba
5 Hydro could not proceed with that phase of the
6 project. Similarly, if Manitoba Hydro had not
7 completed agreements with Metis and First Nations
8 in the north prior to construction, the project
9 would not be authorized to proceed.

10 In the MMF's opinion these types of
11 conditions are the only way to ensure that
12 Manitoba Hydro fulfills its commitments as set out
13 in the EIS. From the MMF's perspective, when it
14 comes to Manitoba Hydro the saying, fool me once,
15 shame on me, fool me twice, shame on you, is apt.
16 Unfortunately, from the MMF's experience, the
17 fooling of our community on the part of Manitoba
18 Hydro has continued for generations.

19 We ask the panel to assist us by
20 recommending that we have the necessary tools in
21 order to make sure Bipole III doesn't become one
22 more chapter in Manitoba Hydro's long history of
23 broken promises to Aboriginal people generally and
24 the Metis people specifically.

25 I want to thank the Commission for the

1 opportunity to speak to you today. You play a
2 fundamental role in this process, and we are here
3 to make full use of the opportunity. We hope you
4 truly hear our concerns and stop Bipole III from
5 being one more chapter in the long history of
6 Manitoba Hydro's neglect and indifference to the
7 Metis people in this province. Thank you.

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

10 Questions? Just give me a moment. Go
11 ahead, Mr. Gibbons.

12 MR. GIBBONS: Yes, Ms. Campbell, it's
13 a question just of clarification, because I think
14 we have heard this once before when we were in
15 Winnipeg, and it was a reference to individuals
16 who were paid to participate in various workshops.
17 Could you elaborate just briefly as to what the
18 concern was? Was this more than just a token
19 payment, for example, and why it might be of
20 concern to the public, to the Metis community, of
21 course, but also to the public more generally?

22 MS. CAMPBELL: My understanding from
23 the process that had occurred was that individuals
24 were separately identified to attend a workshop
25 and were paid to attend this workshop, to come and

1 say that they were consulted on impacts that the
2 Bipole III project would have on them. And so it
3 wasn't to the general community or the general
4 area that people were invited to, but rather that
5 there were certain individuals that were either
6 identified as Aboriginal, to come and attend this
7 workshop.

8 MR. GIBBONS: Just as a quick
9 follow-up, is it your understanding that this
10 payment was more than just a token of gratitude
11 for talking part? Was it something more than
12 that?

13 MS. CAMPBELL: I think the problem
14 that we had with it was that it was individuals
15 that were paid to attend the workshop and not so
16 much over and above what they normally should have
17 been paid in terms of their travel. We were
18 trying to get the information in terms of the
19 amounts and how this was broken down and we still
20 haven't been able to get that yet. So we're still
21 waiting for the detailed information on that. But
22 the individuals did give us an amount, they just
23 didn't know how they got it, like what it broke
24 down to.

25 MR. GIBBONS: Thank you.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Could you just -- the
2 Victory Nickel Mine, what was the situation there,
3 can you describe it?

4 MS. CAMPBELL: The Victory Nickel
5 Mine, from my understanding was -- an agreement
6 was reached and we thought everything was lined up
7 to go, and it didn't transpire. And so I think,
8 from my understanding in speaking with our legal
9 counsel, the reference was made in the
10 presentation only as a show of, sometimes you tend
11 to sign agreements and you think that the
12 agreements, because they are a written document,
13 that that's what's going to happen. Not
14 necessarily is that the case with some instances.

15 For example, with Victory Nickel, we
16 had signed an agreement with them to hire -- we
17 would train so many Metis individuals and they
18 would hire them. I guess the kicker to that was
19 they would only hire them for short periods of
20 time and then let them go. So it wasn't -- it was
21 more the capacity for them to get the licensing to
22 say that they partnered with a Metis group, a
23 Metis community, and therefore getting the
24 licence.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Well, I

1 don't think we have any other questions this
2 afternoon. I know for myself that when we hear
3 from President Chartrand and the other
4 presentations made by the -- brought forward by
5 your counsel in Winnipeg, I know I will have more
6 questions and others may as well. But I think for
7 me I'd like to hear the rest of the presentations
8 that we're going to hear in other communities as
9 well as from President Chartrand before I turn to
10 those questions.

11 So thank you very much for making a
12 very informative presentation this afternoon, and
13 you can rest assured that your presentation and
14 others we hear from, other representatives of your
15 community, will be part of our deliberations when
16 we get to that phase of this review. So thank you
17 again for coming out this afternoon.

18 MS. CAMPBELL: Thank you.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, I would
20 like to put some of the documents on record. The
21 presentation from Mr. Parenteau this morning will
22 be THOM number 2; Ms. Campbell's presentation
23 number 3; the package of letters from Manitoba
24 Conservation from August 2012 will be number 4;
25 the court decision R versus Goodon is number 5;

1 and the MMF Harvesting Agreement will be number 6.

2 (EXHIBIT THOM 2: Presentation of Mr.
3 Parenteau)

4 (EXHIBIT THOM 3: Presentation of Ms.
5 Campbell)

6 (EXHIBIT THOM 4: Package of letters
7 from Manitoba Conservation from August
8 2012)

9 (EXHIBIT THOM 5: Court decision R
10 versus Goodon)

11 (EXHIBIT THOM 6: MMF harvesting
12 agreement)

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Is there
14 anybody else in the audience who hasn't made a
15 presentation who would like to make a presentation
16 at this time?

17 I'll try one more time. Anybody else
18 wishing to make a presentation today?

19 Well, as we did this morning, we'll
20 take an informal break, and if anybody who hasn't
21 spoken wishes to make a presentation, please let
22 either me or the Commission secretary know. And
23 if anybody else comes in who wishes to make a
24 presentation, we will very quickly reconvene. So
25 we're not leaving the room but we stand down for

1 however long.

2 (Proceedings recessed at 1:50 p.m. and
3 reconvened at 3:00 p.m.)

4 THE CHAIRMAN: I call the proceedings
5 back to order, although probably only for a moment
6 or two. I'll give one last chance, if there's
7 anybody in the audience who hasn't said his or her
8 piece and would like to make a presentation, as
9 far as Thompson goes, this is the last
10 opportunity. So going, going, gone.

11 So we will adjourn. We will reconvene
12 tomorrow evening in The Pas at 7:00 p.m. at the
13 Kikiwak Inn. Anything else we need to deal with,
14 madam secretary? If anyone wishes to make a
15 submission in writing, they become as much a part
16 of the record as any oral presentation, and we
17 would like them submitted by November 1st, so
18 another couple of weeks.

19 Again, let me thank all of the people
20 who did come out here today, particularly I note a
21 number of people from Thicket Portage as well as
22 from the Manitoba Metis Federation. Thank you for
23 coming out and sharing your thoughts and concerns
24 and a little bit of your lifestyle with us. And
25 we will -- we may not give you all that you want

1 but, believe me, all that you've said to us in the
2 last couple of days will certainly be taken into
3 serious consideration.

4 So again, thank you and we are now
5 adjourned.

6 (Adjourned at 3:10 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 my Stenotype notes, to the best of
my skill and ability, as taken by me at the time
and place hereinbefore stated.

Cecelia J. Reid
Official Examiner, Q.B.

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