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Charlie Boucher
Warren Mills
John Stockwell

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|  | Monday, March 4, 2013 | Page 6482 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | Upon commencing at 9:00 a.m. |  |
| 3 |  |  |
| 4 | Monday, March 11, 2,013 |  |
| 5 | Upon commencing at 9:00 a.m. |  |
| 6 | THE CHAIRMAN: Good morning. We'll |  |
| 7 | resume the hearing. |  |
| 8 | Do you have people still to come? |  |
| 9 | MR. SOPROVICH: We still have one |  |
| 10 | person, he is just trying to find a parking space. |  |
| 11 | THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Then we'll put |  |
| 12 | resuming the hearings on hold. |  |
| 13 | Are there any matters that need to be |  |
| 14 | dealt with before we get to Wuskwi Sipihk? |  |
| 15 | Okay, Cathy? |  |
| 16 | MS. C. JOHNSON: Yes. As we discussed |  |
| 17 | on Friday, York Factory has actually requested |  |
| 18 | that their material be provided as a written |  |
| 19 | submission, so we will file that. We're just not |  |
| 20 | sure what the number is at this point in time. So |  |
| 21 | we'll get that to you when we get that figured |  |
| 22 | out. |  |
| 23 | THE CHAIRMAN: Any other preliminary |  |
| 24 | matters? Okay. We'll just go into a brief recess |  |
| 25 | and wait for the Wuskwi Sipihk person to find some |  |


|  | parking | Page 6483 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | (Hearings recessed at 9:05 a.m. and |  |
| 3 | reconvened at 9:15 a.m.) |  |
| 4 | THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Soprovich, we have |  |
| 5 | another presenter who was scheduled to go on later |  |
| 6 | this morning. He's here now. I think we'll hear |  |
| 7 | from him while we still await your fourth person. |  |
| 8 | You can probably stay right there and we'll have |  |
| 9 | this gentleman come up to the front table. |  |
| 10 | MR. TURENNE: Have you all got the |  |
| 11 | materials that I sent to the Commission prior to |  |
| 12 | today? You should have a package containing three |  |
| 13 | letters as well as a copy of the trapper |  |
| 14 | compensation policy? |  |
| 15 | THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, I have all of |  |
| 16 | that. |  |
| 17 | MR. TURENNE: Okay. That's good, |  |
| 18 | because I'll be referring to those throughout. |  |
| 19 | THE CHAIRMAN: We need to ask you to |  |
| 20 | promise to tell the truth, so I'll turn it over to |  |
| 21 | the Commission Secretary. |  |
| 22 | MS. C. Johnson: Could you please |  |
| 23 | state your name for the record? |  |
| 24 | MR. TURENNE: My name is Paul Turenne. |  |
| 25 | Paul Turenne: Sworn |  |

MR. TURENNE: Thank you for having me here today. As I said, my name is Paul Turenne. I am the executive director with the Manitoba Lodges and Outfitters Association. And just by way of background, we represent the fishing lodges and hunting and fishing outfitters in Manitoba. So these are the people who provide fishing and hunting guiding services, as well as accommodation at lodges, that sort of thing. We are the industry association for that sector. So it would be similar to, for example, the Manitoba Hotel Association or the Trappers Association. And so we represent about a hundred outfitters and lodges across the province, including a few that $I$ will be speaking about today.

And the substance of my presentation here, the reason we're here today is we're going to be asking the CEC to help us with a process for compensating outfitters who are affected by the Bipole project. We did go through Hydro, through the proper channels first, and as you'll see in the presentation, have not been happy with the response. So that's why we're here today.

So just by way of background, we're here representing two outfitters, mostly, it would
be, you know, anyone who is affected by the project. We did go to the outfitters who received letters from Hydro who are along the route, and there were only two who expressed, you know, concerns about it affecting their business. And therefore, they would be the only two who responded and are mentioned here today. But theoretically, anything we're asking for could apply to any outfitters in a similar circumstance.

And so the two outfitters, as you'll see in your information package here today are members of ours. One is called Adrenaline Outfitters and the other is All Terrain Bear Hunts. They are both bear hunting outfitters who have allocations from the province in game hunting areas 9 and 9A, which is the area around Thompson, and so, of course, the area that is affected by the Bipole III route.

And as I said, Hydro did send letters out to the outfitters who are affected by the rerouting. Those letters were dated

November 29th. And as I said, the MLOA made attempts to contact all of the outfitters who are on that list of people who were potentially affected by the line. These two got back to us.

And it's worth noting that Hydro actually invited our comment, invited us to be part of the consultation process. And we took them up on that offer and, you know, the result is me being here today, unfortunately.

So just a little bit more background.
The two outfitters who we're talking about today, one attended an open house in Thompson, the other attended an open house in Winnipeg, both were in December. And they personally directly expressed their concerns to Hydro staff at those open houses about them being affected. Primarily, we're talking about the bear population, wildife in the area being affected by the project, and they expressed those concerns, were invited to express those concerns more formally through meetings, letters.

I myself, Mr. McGarry here from Hydro attended a meeting just before Christmas with one of the outfitters. We expressed some of the concerns. And subsequently some letters were sent, formal letters to Hydro, individual letters, each on behalf of each of these outfitters, expressing the concerns and seeking compensation. Now, just to be clear, we understand

| 1 | and our outfitters understand the scope of the Page 6487 |
| :--- | :--- |
| 2 | project. We're not proposing a radical reroute or |
| 3 | blocking the project or anything like that. We |
| 4 | understand that no matter where it's run, someone |
| 5 | is going to be affected and some bears in some |
| 6 | areas are going to be affected. It happens to be |
| 7 | these two outfitters whose bears primarily are |
| 8 | going to be affected by this. And therefore, |
| 9 | accepting that, they ask only that they receive |
| 10 | some sort of compensation in order to be able to |
| 11 | adjust their businesses. Their businesses will be |
| 12 | negatively impacted by this. In essence, they are |
| 13 | going to be forced to relocate part of their |
| 24 | the fact and we'll consider it. Which frankly is |
| 14 | business in order to, you know, make up for the in both cases the response was, |
| 15 | fact that the bear population in the area is very |
| 16 | likely going to be scattered and unreliable |
| 17 | because of the project. |


|  | not the answer we were looking for. So it's not | Page 6488 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | the approach we were looking for either, |  |
| 3 | especially given that we were invited by Hydro in |  |
| 4 | the first place to the consultation table. And |  |
| 5 | the response that we got from them was, you know, |  |
| 6 | we don't believe you, prove it to us after the |  |
| 7 | fact and we'll think about it. |  |
| 8 | So I will refer you to one letter in |  |
| 9 | the package, if you will, please? I believe it's |  |
| 10 | the first one in your package. It's a letter |  |
| 11 | dated -- sorry it's not, it's the last one in your |  |
| 12 | package, a letter dated December 31st written by |  |
| 13 | Adrenalin Outfitters to Hydro. Have we all got |  |
| 14 | that one? |  |
| 15 | THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. |  |
| 16 | MR. TURENNE: Okay. So the reason I'm |  |
| 17 | referring to this is I'm just going to talk to you |  |
| 18 | a little bit about what the concerns are, why we |  |
| 19 | feel that the project is going to have an |  |
| 20 | environmental impact on the bear population and on |  |
| 21 | these businesses. |  |
| 22 | So you'll see there's sort of a point |  |
| 23 | form list about three-quarters of the way down the |  |
| 24 | first page of the letter. And this outlines |  |
| 25 | specifically what some of the concerns with |  |

respect to the bear population are. So you've got increased traffic, you've got sort of an under construction look now. We understand that most of the construction activity itself will take place in the winter time. The hunting season, by the way, is the spring and the fall. That being said, clearly you cannot undertake a project of this scope and have everything disappear, you know, a month after you stop building. There's, you know, cut lines, there's equipment, there's machinery and there is presence. There's people, there's trucks, there's roads, there's, you know, a lot of things going on even if, you know, the machines aren't actually in the process of digging or what the case may be.

Now, there's a concern here about a reduction in the number of accessible bait sites. When you're hunting bears in Manitoba, you know, personal morals aside, there is some question in Manitoba from time to time about the process of bear baiting. That being said, it's a perfectly legal activity that is very commonplace among bear outfitters. This is how you hunt for bears in Manitoba. You set up bait sites where the bears come to eat, and you set up stands and trails near
those bait sites so that the hunter can be nearby and intercept a bear that's coming to the bait site.

So they are concerned that there's going to be a reduced number of established bait sites where they know bears are coming. They have worked to get those bait sites going and establish them as reliable, where they know that there's bears that are coming to them. And of course, they are afraid that that's no longer going to be the case if, you know, there's roads that cut through those trails, or construction activity going on near those sites that the bears will no longer come, therefore, they've got very little to sell to their clients if there's no bears.

So you will see here too, they are
concerned that there are costs related to
relocating bait sites. So if they have to move further away from the construction area, they are going to have to take the time to cut trails, re-establish bait sites. There still won't be any certainty because, please understand, it does take some time to establish a bait site as being a reliable place where you know that the bears get used to it, the bears know that it's there, and
therefore you eventually know that the bears are there. So there is definitely some uncertainty there.

And of course, primarily the concern
is that just the construction activity itself, the presence, the traffic will simply drive the bears away, deeper into the bush away from where they are used to being.

And then a little bit further, right at the bottom of that page here, you will see -I'll just read to you, if you will. These anticipated impacts include the extra time, effort and labour required to find, scout and establish new bait sites, potentially increased travel cost to the new bait sites depending on their location, and also a concern that the clients will not be served a pristine wilderness style experience. Of course, no one wants to hunt in a construction zone. We're talking about primarily American clients who come up, spend thousands of dollars, which is money that comes into the Manitoba economy from outside and stays here in northern areas. And they don't want to come -- you know, there's bears all over the place, they can go hunt at the dump, you know, there's bears at the dump.

|  | But no one's going to pay thousands of dollars to | Page 6492 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | come hunt at the dump. And the same is true of |  |
| 3 | wherever Bipole is going to be built, you know, if |  |
| 4 | there is, you know, machinery, tractors, people |  |
| 5 | driving around, no one is going to pay to come and |  |
| 6 | hunt in an area where there's all that kind of |  |
| 7 | thing going on. |  |
| 8 | So those are primarily the substance |  |
| 9 | of the concerns, other than the concern and the |  |
| 10 | uncertainty for the animal population itself. You |  |
| 11 | know, no one really knows what's going to happen |  |
| 12 | in terms of denning sites, equipment hitting, you |  |
| 13 | know, hibernating bears, dispersing animals, this |  |
| 14 | type of thing. There is very likely going to be |  |
| 15 | some long-term effects there. |  |
| 16 | We, in terms of the compensation, we |  |
| 17 | have not asked for any of these types of |  |
| 18 | intangibles or long-term effects, as you'll see |  |
| 19 | later on, it's mostly just sort of the short-term |  |
| 20 | readjustment to the construction period itself |  |
| 21 | that we're seeking some relief for, and whatever |  |
| 22 | the long-term effects may be, we're prepared to |  |
| 23 | accept them. |  |
| 24 | So those are the concerns. Sorry, |  |
| 25 | should I give an opportunity for questions before |  |


|  | moving on, or do you take the questions just at | Page 6493 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | the end? |  |
| 3 | THE CHAIRMAN: Just carry on for now. |  |
| 4 | We may interrupt you if we need clarification, but |  |
| 5 | we'll save most of the questions for the end. |  |
| 6 | MR. TURENNE: Okay. Fair enough. |  |
| 7 | So those are the concerns. Now, I'll |  |
| 8 | refer you to the trapper compensation policy that |  |
| 9 | Hydro has here as part of your package. And the |  |
| 10 | trapper compensation policy would suggest to me |  |
| 11 | that Hydro accepts that there will be a disruption |  |
| 12 | to the wildlife population, as well as to the |  |
| 13 | land-use infrastructure in the area. |  |
| 14 | If you'll look at page 11 of the |  |
| 15 | trapper compensation policy, it notes that |  |
| 16 | trappers may be compensated for damage from |  |
| 17 | construction activities to trails used for |  |
| 18 | trapping. Okay. So clearly Hydro accepts that |  |
| 19 | some of this activity is going to cause damage to |  |
| 20 | trails that the trappers use. The same would, of |  |
| 21 | course, be true of the trails that the outfitters |  |
| 22 | use, the bait sites that the outfitters use, the |  |
| 23 | tree stands that the outfitters use. If there's |  |
| 24 | damage from construction to trapping trails, it |  |
| 25 | follows that of course there would be damage to |  |


| 1 | outfitting trails too. |
| ---: | :--- |
| 2 | If you'll flip the page, page 12, the |
| 3 | very first line there, when there is an |
| 4 | anticipated reduction in trapping income due to |
| 5 | transmission construction activities -- key word |
| 6 | there is anticipated. Hydro clearly accepts that |
| 7 | there will be some reduction in revenue, some |
| 8 | effect from this project. And there's an |
| 9 | anticipated reduction, therefore, they are not |
| 10 | asking the trappers to take the loss and prove it |
| 11 | after the fact. They are anticipating it ahead of |
| 12 | time compensating them accordingly. |
| 24 | very bottom, point $6, ~ a g a i n, ~ y o u ' l l ~ s e e ~ t h a t ~ H y d r o ~$ |

disturbance to the wildlife population because the trapper compensation policy quotes five years; one for clearing, one for construction, and of note, three years for wildlife to adapt. Okay. So we're talking about the exact same wildlife here. Trappers can take bears in the same season that outfitters can take bears. If it takes the bears that the trappers are after three years to adapt, one would assume that it follows that it also takes the bears that the outfitters are after three years to adapt. Okay.

So this is the compensation policy that Hydro has in place already for trappers. Now, if you'll look at the package that you were given this morning, the response that our outfitters got from Hydro to the requests for compensation are drastically different than what is being offered to the trappers.

You'll see here that -- give me one second, please?

Yes, the very bottom of the letter to the response of Adrenalin Outfitters, which I believe is at the front of your package:
"In the case of a potential claim such as yours, Hydro's policy is to review

|  | any alleged claim for busines | Page 6496 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | y alleged claim for business |  |
| 2 | interruption or economic loss on a |  |
| 3 | case-by-case basis at the time when |  |
| 4 | the loss has been incurred and when |  |
| 5 | damages can be lost or proven." |  |
| 6 | Okay. So this is a Hydro policy, |  |
| 7 | internal one would assume, and basically they are |  |
| 8 | saying take the losses, incur them, and then prove |  |
| 9 | it to us after the fact. So Hydro is ultimately |  |
| 10 | giving itself, essentially, the power to determine |  |
| 11 | whether or not a loss has occurred. And you'll |  |
| 12 | note this letter came directly from Hydro's legal |  |
| 13 | department, not from Mr. McGarry, who did the |  |
| 14 | consultation with us. This is clearly not the |  |
| 15 | approach that's been taken with the trappers. |  |
| 16 | Okay. |  |
| 17 | Now, just to be clear, we're referring |  |
| 18 | a lot to the trappers. We want to be clear that |  |
| 19 | we feel that the trapper compensation policy is |  |
| 20 | just and proper and is right, and that they have |  |
| 21 | every right to it. We feel it's the right way to |  |
| 22 | proceed. And all we're asking is to be treated |  |
| 23 | the same way. It's not a question of the trappers |  |
| 24 | shouldn't be entitled to this. They absolutely |  |
| 25 | should, because of the effects that we have talked |  |

about. And all we're asking is that we have something similar in place, recognizing that it's a similar industry. So don't feel that we don't think the trappers deserve it, they absolutely do. So we feel that they should take a similar approach with us.

As I said, for the animals, the black bear trapping season mirrors the black bear hunting season in the north, in that area of the north. You can actually hunt and trap at the exact same time for black bears, meaning that in some cases they may literally be going after the exact same bears. So you may have trappers and outfitters operating in the same areas, at the same time of year, going after the same bears with essentially different weapons, a trap versus, you know, bow and arrow or a gun.

So how Hydro can say that wildlife
will need time to adapt when it comes to trappers, but that somehow this isn't true of outfitters, you'll note in the letter that they respond to Cory Grant, who is the other outfitter in question, that should be the second letter. They list a bunch of point form things they are doing to mitigate their effects on the bear population.

There is no mention of that whatsoever in the trapper compensation policy. They are not saying oh, no, no, don't worry, it's not going to affect your animals. It clearly will. And these effects, notwithstanding the fact that some of them may well reduce the impact, I can't see how there could be any argument that there wouldn't be any impact at all when you've got a project of this scope cutting a swath through the boreal forest that, you know, there wouldn't be any impact on the animals and, therefore, an impact on the businesses that rely on those animals. So, you know, we would say that the reaction of the bears is going to be the same regardless of whether you are talking about trappers or outfitters going after those bears. One other thing to note in the first letter on the top of your package to Adrenalin Outfitters, Hydro makes reference to the fact that trappers' legal rights are being interfered with, and this is sort of the reason that they cite for there being trapper compensation and not outfitter compensation. With respect, trappers have no more legal right to the resource than outfitters do. It's a different process. But at the end of the
day, registered traplines and outfitter allocations are both controlled by the Province. I'm not sure how much the panel knows about the intimate details of registered traplines, outfitter allocations. Essentially, in both cases it's an allocation from the province where the Department of Conservation and Water Stewardship gives out essentially the right to use a section of the Province. It's divided into game hunting areas for outfitters and into trapline areas for trappers, but there's no legal tenure, even in the case of registered traplines. There is a process where it can be reallocated and people can apply for it, this kind of thing. It would be no different than, for example, you know, logging rights that are handed out to forestry companies or whatever. It's essentially a licence to use the natural resource in whatever area of the province. And you are allocated a certain area, you have to operate in that area. And so for one thing, our outfitters are limited in that they are only allowed to operate in certain areas. And if Bipole happens to be cutting a swath through that area, you know, they are kind of up the creek. So we don't accept that trappers'

|  | legal rights, as stated in the letter, are being | Page 6500 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | interfered with but outfitters are not. It's |  |
| 3 | essentially the same legal right. It's an |  |
| 4 | allocation from the Province. They don't hold |  |
| 5 | title to that land or anything. They are given |  |
| 6 | the right to operate on that land by the Province, |  |
| 7 | as are the outfitters. |  |
| 8 | And it's also worth noting that our |  |
| 9 | outfitters pay for this privilege. They pay the |  |
| 10 | province an annual resource tourism operator's |  |
| 11 | licence, and plus they pay $\$ 100$ per foreign |  |
| 12 | resident hunting licence that they sell. So every |  |
| 13 | guest that they have, they pay a hundred dollars |  |
| 14 | to the Province. And the theory behind that is, |  |
| 15 | you know, these guys are making use of a public |  |
| 16 | resource, i.e. the wildlife, to run a private |  |
| 17 | business, therefore, they are paying the people of |  |
| 18 | Manitoba for that right. So they are paying for |  |
| 19 | something that is now being scattered by this |  |
| 20 | project. |  |
| 21 | So, again, we reiterate here that, you |  |
| 22 | know, this is not a question of that we don't |  |
| 23 | believe the trappers' legal rights are being |  |
| 24 | interfered with or anything like that and that |  |
| 25 | they shouldn't receive the compensation, we're |  |

arguing that it's essentially the same legal right and that, you know, our folks are no different than the trappers, even legally speaking.

And so despite the, you know, the differences between the industries and the seasons, whatever, we could argue about detail, but clearly there's a completely different approach being taken by Hydro here. It's 100 percent the opposite. The trappers are being compensated up front. If you look at the, I think it's page 14 of this trapper compensation policy, there is a picture there of a happy trapper signing an agreement. You know, everything is all detailed here for them ahead of time.

And meanwhile, we go through the proper channels, we are invited to consult. We consult and ask for something that in our opinion is not at all unreasonable. And we're told essentially, take the loss, prove it, and then Hydro will think about it.

So we're not saying that the compensation formula has to be precisely the same, that it's based on the exact same revenue, et cetera. But we don't understand why the approaches in the first place are so drastically
different, why they would treat one group as, you know, yes, we want you, here you go, and they treat another group as no, no, no, get out of here. You know, prove it to us after the fact and contact our legal department. Right? So we think that approach is simply unfair.

It's worth noting that there were a couple of media stories done about this in the last week or so, one in the Free Press, one in the Thompson Citizen. They interviewed some of these outfitters about the situation. And each and every one of the comments written by readers on those stories were in support of the outfitters, questioning why there would be such a drastically different approach to similar user groups, recognizing of course that online comments are not even close to a scientific gauge. But still it gives you an idea what the general public sentiment would be, and that sentiment is that, frankly, Hydro's approaching is wrong.

So even if we were to accept that our outfitters were to prove their losses out after the fact, which we don't accept, we question how they would be able to even prove this anyways.

Cory Grant, who is the owner of All

Terrain Bear Hunts, told the paper in one of these media interviews, in a tongue-in-cheek fashion, what am I supposed to do, ask the bears to write a letter explaining why they stayed away? Now, of course, this is tongue in cheek, but there is some truth in it. How in fact is he supposed to prove that an outfitter's business was negatively affected, if the bears are scattered and dispersed, and not using the same trails and not hitting the same baits? And you know, even if they go a kilometre away in the deep forest where there's no trails and everything, a kilometre might as well be 500. So how is he supposed to prove that the bears weren't coming this year because of the construction project? Like he said, you can't ask the bears to write a letter explaining that after the fact.

An outfitter's business is putting clients on to bears. If there are no bears there, they are going to have unhappy clients, and those clients will not rebook, those clients will not tell their friends. A big portion of the marketing for outfitting is word of mouth. You know, friends who have come will tell their friends, you know, I had a good experience with
this guy, we got a great bear. And so with that word of mouth being as big as it is, are those clients then going to write a letter to Cory after the fact and say, $I$ didn't tell my friends about this because, you know, we didn't see any bears? Are that person's friends going to write to Hydro saying, I'm not coming because my friend didn't see any bears?

So we don't accept that there's even really a way to prove it after the fact. You know, so we don't expect that they can take these losses and then have any sort of quantifiable proof that they can then present to Hydro to prove that this is why the loss has occurred.

Okay. And just with that same approach, with asking them to prove after the fact, we feel that Hydro clearly doesn't show respect or understand the process of what I was talking about earlier, where it takes years to establish bait sites, establish stands, establish trails. You can't just show up and, lo and behold, there's a bear. I mean, I don't know how many of you have gone hunting before, but that's not how it works. It's actually very difficult. And the same, by the way, is true of trapping.

You can't just, you know, set a line and the bear walks into it. It's a complicated process, it's a very specialized skill. It takes years of experience to develop. And you know, there's a real science to it. And you know, these outfitters in both cases have spent literally years -- these are not new outfitters, these are guys who have been operating over a decade in one case and just about a decade in the other, and they have developed their areas into sort of reliable quality hunting areas. And they now fear that all that work that they have put in over the last several years is going to be, you know, cut right through with bulldozers and backhoes. So make no mistake, this project will have a profound effect on those operations because of that.

Okay. And the final thing I'd like to touch on is the fact that the whole process here, the whole compensation process is in Hydro's hands exclusively. Despite everything else, the entire process from start to finish rests with Hydro.

If you'll note page 2 of the letter to Adrenalin Outfitters, which again is the top of your package, the very last line:
"Please indicate past and present

| 1 | accounting business records to support | Page 6506 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | accounting business records to support |  |
| 2 | your claim to allow Manitoba Hydro to |  |
| 3 | determine if a loss has arisen |  |
| 4 | directly as a result of the Bipole III |  |
| 5 | project." |  |
| 6 | Okay. So obviously it's in Manitoba |  |
| 7 | Hydro's interest, financial interest to deny any |  |
| 8 | claims. If they are the ones deciding whether or |  |
| 9 | not there is a loss being taken, why would they |  |
| 10 | agree that there's a loss being taken if it's |  |
| 11 | going to come out of their own pocket? You know, |  |
| 12 | it only makes sense that if someone is asking you |  |
| 13 | whether you think that there is a loss, and it's |  |
| 14 | up to you to pay it, you're going to say, no, |  |
| 15 | there was no loss. So, clearly, they are going to |  |
| 16 | try and deny that there's any effect. That's what |  |
| 17 | they have done with the letter to Cory Grant |  |
| 18 | saying we are doing all these things, it's going |  |
| 19 | to mitigate it. So it's in their own -- and I |  |
| 20 | don't blame them, I would do the same in their |  |
| 21 | position -- it's in their own financial interest |  |
| 22 | to deny that there's going to be any effect. |  |
| 23 | So who is acting as an arbitrator in |  |
| 24 | that process? There's no third party here who can |  |
| 25 | question or challenge Hydro's arguments or version |  |

of the events if the compensation and the losses are ultimately up to them. You know, they are going to say what they are going to say, and who is going to question it?

So even looking beyond that, if our outfitters do agree that, okay, sure, we'll take the loss, we'll prove it to you after the fact. Let's say they do get some letters and they have some justifiable proof and they come to Hydro at the end of the day and Hydro denies it again, what recourse do we have then? The project is already built, this Commission is over. There's really no one to go to short of, you know, civil court. And you know, these aren't huge operations, we're not a huge operation, we're a non profit. You know, we don't have the resources to, you know, file a civil court claim against Manitoba Hydro and defend it as the process drags on, et cetera. At the end of the day, you know, the legal fees we might pay for that process would eat up whatever compensation there might be anyways.

So that's why we're here today. We're thankful that there are public bodies like the CEC who oversee these processes and can act on, you know, behalf of the public. So we're asking you
today to take some element of this process out of Hydro's control, so that at least there can be some kind of oversight. And you know, if there is some, you know, third party compensation body established or whatever it may be, and they decide at the end of the day that, you know, our outfitters' claims aren't justified, fair enough, we will accept that. But we can't accept it from Hydro because they are, you know, the defendant essentially. And you know, they are the judge, jury, executioner, and that doesn't really make any sense.

So we have gone through the proper consultation process with them. We attended meetings with Mr. McGarry. We sent letters. We made, you know, a claim for what we felt was fair, proper, not unreasonable compensation. We gave them the opportunity to respond in due course. You have seen the response that they gave our outfitters. And frankly, we have no reason to believe that their response is going to be any different down the road, because it's in their interest for it not to be any different. And so that's why we're here today asking for your help. THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Turenne.

Any questions from Manitoba Hydro?

MS. MAYOR: No, thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Panel
members? Mr. Gibbons? Mr. Kaplan? Ms. MacKay?
MS. MacKAY: Just one question, around the issue of how you tell if there's been a loss. One of your outfitters is saying they are reducing the number of reservations right away. But if you didn't do that and continued to accept clients and put them in the environment that you are describing, one that is disturbed, and they don't get a bear, do your outfitters have any -- it would be anecdotal, but any anecdotal data of any sort on whether people who come and don't get a bear do come back another year?

MR. TURENNE: I can certainly ask
them. I wouldn't have that information off the top of my head. Perhaps a better marker would be that they could prove that those who do get a bear do come back, or do tell their friends, and they could certainly quote, you know, references saying, you know, yes, I'm coming because, you know, my friend in Illinois, or whatever the case may be, got a bear and told me this was a great spot and so here $I$ am. There may be sort of more
quantifiable proof on that side of the equation. But certainly I can ask them if it's something the CEC feels is critical that, you know, if they could produce some data about, you know, who comes and doesn't get a bear and doesn't come back.

That being said, most of their clients do get bears these days, at least because, you know, they are good at what they do. So the success rate is very high. I'm not suggesting it's 100 percent, but it's very likely, you know, 85 to 90 percent plus.

But if it's something that you feel is important, I'm sure we can ask them for that data.

MS. MacKAY: I don't think myself
there's any need to go that far, I just was wondering if you had any information.

MR. TURENNE: I haven't off the top of my head, I'm sorry, no.

MS. MacKAY: That's okay.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Turenne, the
construction period itself will be relatively
short term. But how long do you think it would
take for the area to recover? I mean, you noted in here the trapper compensation program is a five year period. Do you think that would be a
reasonable time frame for the outfitters?

MR. TURENNE: Yeah, absolutely. As a matter of fact, $I$ think in the letter that Adrenaline wrote to Hydro they asked for only three years. It's not a matter of the area recovering, it is a matter of the area adapting. I don't think there is any question that the area will be changed permanently by this project, both in terms of just physical geography and also access. The bears will adapt. They will move to another area, they will find new denning sites, our outfitters will establish new bait sites elsewhere. It's a matter of short-term relief to accommodate their efforts in the process. So, yeah, three to five years is no problem.

And again, that's why we feel that what we're asking for isn't unreasonable. We're not saying we want compensation, you know, to infinity and beyond because this is going to have long-term permanent effects. As I stated earlier, they are prepared to accept that there are long-term effects, so long as the short-term effects are properly compensated.

And I believe that what Adrenalin has suggested where they say, you know, we know it's

|  | going to take us some extra work to, you know, cut | Page 6512 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | new trails, establish new sites, we want to run |  |
| 3 | fewer clients during that time because we're not |  |
| 4 | sure how the bears are going to react, and because |  |
| 5 | it's going to take us more time to do these other |  |
| 6 | activities. So I think that's an entirely |  |
| 7 | reasonable approach to this. |  |
| 8 | THE CHAIRMAN: Do you know if any of |  |
| 9 | your outfitters had experience on Bipoles I or II? |  |
| 10 | MR. TURENNE: Certainly some of them |  |
| 11 | do, yeah. |  |
| 12 | THE CHAIRMAN: Did they have |  |
| 13 | experience at the time they were constructed, do |  |
| 14 | you know? |  |
| 15 | MR. TURENNE: I can't say. That was |  |
| 16 | sort of too long ago that some of the current guys |  |
| 17 | may not have been operating back then, or may not |  |
| 18 | have been operating in those exact areas. There |  |
| 19 | are bear operators who operate near Bipole I or II |  |
| 20 | now in the Interlake. But whether they were |  |
| 21 | operating, you know, decades ago when they were |  |
| 22 | built, I don't know. |  |
| 23 | THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. To Hydro, |  |
| 24 | perhaps to Mr. McGarry directly, when we have the |  |
| 25 | panel up tomorrow to answer final questions from |  |

this panel, will somebody from Hydro be able to answer questions in respect of this?

MR. McGARRY: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Turenne.

MR. TURENNE: If you don't mind, sir, could I just ask a question quickly? I am just curious about the process now in terms of when this panel will be writing its report when the hearings end up. I just want to give my guys a sense of when we might hear some sort of response?

THE CHAIRMAN: We anticipate that hearings will end this Thursday. The record may stay open for a few days after that. And then we have by law 90 days following that to submit our report. So it's possible our report may go in a little before the 90 days, but April, May, June, so perhaps the end of May, early June.

MR. TURENNE: Can we reasonably expect that there will be some response to us, one way or the other, in that report?

THE CHAIRMAN: I honestly can't tell you right now. That comes of deliberations by the panel members. We've got dozens, if not hundreds of issues on the plate before us. This is

|  |  | Page 6514 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | people, and we'll consider that very seriously in |  |
| 3 | our deliberation, but I can't give you any idea |  |
| 4 | what our decisions may be. |  |
| 5 | MR. TURENNE: No, no, no, I'm not |  |
| 6 | asking about the decision. I am asking whether |  |
| 7 | there will be reference to a decision whatsoever |  |
| 8 | with respect to this? |  |
| 9 | THE CHAIRMAN: I'm sure we'll make |  |
| 10 | reference to your presentation. How far we go |  |
| 11 | with it, I can't tell you. |  |
| 12 | MR. TURENNE: Thanks very much, I |  |
| 13 | appreciate it. |  |
| 14 | THE CHAIRMAN: You are welcome. Thank |  |
| 15 | you for coming out. |  |
| 16 | Okay. I'd like to welcome the folks |  |
| 17 | from Wuskwi Sipihk First Nation. I understand |  |
| 18 | that you would like to have a prayer or a |  |
| 19 | spiritual address before we begin your |  |
| 20 | proceedings, so I'll turn it over to whoever. |  |
| 21 | MR. ZASTRE: We'd like to ask Elder |  |
| 22 | Buddy Brass to get up and do an opening prayer. |  |
| 23 | THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. |  |
| 24 | MR. BRASS: Good morning everybody, |  |
| 25 | it's an honour to be here with you this morning. |  |


|  | It is the first time I have been able to be at | Page 6515 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | these meetings, I'm really pleased to be here. |  |
| 3 | My name is Lawrence Douglas Brass, but |  |
| 4 | they call me Buddy, and I am an elder from Wuskwi |  |
| 5 | Sipihk First Nation. |  |
| 6 | I'd like to say a little opening |  |
| 7 | prayer for you this morning as we always do back |  |
| 8 | home. I would like to say it in my own language, |  |
| 9 | sorry about that. |  |
| 10 | 4530pening prayer) |  |
| 11 | Amen. |  |
| 12 | THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you Elder Brass. |  |
| 13 | Mr. Soprovich, are you taking the lead |  |
| 14 | on this presentation? |  |
| 15 | MR. SOPROVICH: Mr. Stevens will speak |  |
| 16 | first, Elwood Zastre will speak second, and myself |  |
| 17 | third, and then Mr. Stevens, and then a closing |  |
| 18 | prayer. |  |
| 19 | THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Before we |  |
| 20 | commence, we'll have to ask the two who will be |  |
| 21 | giving evidence to take the oath. You already |  |
| 22 | have, you took the oath in November and that |  |
| 23 | continues. So madam secretary. |  |
| 24 | MS. C. JOHNSON: Could you please |  |
|  | state your names for the record? |  |

MR. STEVENS: Craig Stevens.
MR. ZASTRE: Elwood Zastre.
Craig Stevens: Sworn
Elwood Zastre: Sworn
THE CHAIRMAN: You may continue. MR. STEVENS: I'd like to start by going over a traditional language study that was funded by Hydro, and work was completed by my First Nation in regard to this study. So basically what $I$ am going to do is I'm going to go over the report, like it's in Hydro's EIS. And I'm just going to go over briefly and speak to the major points in the report.

First of all, I'll give you a little description of my community. Wuskwi Sipihk First Nation is a First Nation located in the Swan Valley area in west central Manitoba. It's made up of a couple of communities, there is two main communities with like three smaller adjacent communities that's dispersed around the territory.

Like in my area, you know, we've got mountains to the west, mountains to the south, we got the Ducks to the south, the Porcupine Mountains to the west, we got Swan Lake to the east. So we're kind of trapped in a little area.

And in that area, we've got like a high amount of development happening. It has been happening over the course of the last 30 years, like an extreme basis, you know, farmland development. We have had LP come into our area and start logging operations the mid '90s.

So basically, in my lifetime I've got to watch my traditional land use shrink. Like we used to go a long ways, all the way to the Ducks for hunting, and the Porcupines, you know, there's big game areas. There is the berry areas in those locations that we used to utilize quite a bit. But due to all the private land that has since come into the valley due to development, we have lost a lot of this area. So the traditional area that still exists is very important to our community in that sense that it is shrinking at an increasing rate. So what's left there is we have to try our hardest to protect what we've got.

I'd like to make a little quote from my elder in regards to this.
"The more land the Nation loses, the more lost the Nation becomes."

This can kind of speak to all First Nations across Canada. You can see a lot of these issues go
across the country, but most of these issues are due to the loss of our land, the use of our land, like in regards to everyday living, but also in regards to traditional lifestyles. And you know, like hunting is a major way of lifestyle in my community, as well as gathering. And areas are going to be destroyed, very critical areas, because we have seen too much of our resource area be destroyed, that they are not usable any more. Now there's a farmland where there used to be a berry picking area. Now there's a farm where there used to be some salt licks for the big games. You've got farmers clear-cutting across creeks that used to be spawning creeks, so the fish ain't coming back. You've got marsh lands being drained and cleared out for farmland. So now we lost the waterfall that come with that, and all the plant life associated with those areas. And so like with this Bipole line coming through, it's almost like a nail in the coffin from where we stand. You know, it's more loss of use. And they are going to be going through about 200 kilometres of our tradition territory, smack dab down the centre, not along the edge, but in between our two communities which are about

10 miles apart. So this line is going to be right down the middle about five miles from each community. It's something that we're going to be seeing everyday for the rest of our lives.

And we're used to seeing nature. We've got a beautiful valley where we come from. Like eco tourism is a big part of the valley because of the pristine, the nature you see there, the beautiful hills, we got a lot of lakes, there is hunting, there is gathering, there's all these different things. There's a tourist site. There's cultural sites that are going to be lost with this line coming through.

You know, when they did their EA, from my experience a good EA is done on the ground. You walk this line, you see what's there and you document what's there. From what I have had to deal with this Hydro, in my experience, from what I have seen of it, you've got a guy flying by in an airplane who is doing environmental assessment, how is he going to see what's on the ground? How is he going to know what he is going to affect? It makes no sense to me how you can do an environmental assessment from your office or from an airplane, especially when you want to know
you're going to be disturbing on the land.

I can give a little example of that.
When LP came into our territory in the 190 s, we put opposition to it because there was no consultation done with our First Nation, no one came to ask what we thought of it. So we tried to push it where we were dealt with at least, you know, on a fair footing with everybody else. But basically we were kind of pushed to the back. And since then, LP has done a lot of work in our valley. We've seen the degradation of water, we have seen loss of habitat for a lot of the critical animals that we rely on as First Nations people. You know, like the economy is a big thing in this country, but more so in First Nations where there's hardly any economy. So, you know, like on these traditional resources, there's a lot more importance than just the cash volume that you see getting thrown around by Hydro all the time. Oh, yeah, we'll give you a thousand bucks, you can walk away and we'll destroy this land, it's all good. But what's my children going to be doing when they grow up and they can't get taught the ways of my ancestors because we lost all this land?

You know, like everyday, we fight the fight where Canada is trying to take our rights away as First Nations people. And this is just more of the same, we lose more of our land, we lose more of our rights to our land, we lose more of our rights to being First Nations.

And as Hydro is a big company, they don't got a good track record in Manitoba amongst First Nations people to start off with. So it's kind of hard to believe them when they say there's not going to be no impacts, you know, when like a neighboring First Nation to the north that's from our same tribe, but they had their nation flooded where they can see their ancestors' bones floating at the bottom of Cedar Lake once in awhile.

That's because of Hydro. They told them, you
know, we'll give you a good place to live, we'll take care of you. But $I$ guess that's taking care of them. And I hate to see that for my people. I hate to see my ancestors, like my ancestors' bones getting dragged up on to the side of a hill because they want to clear a corridor there.

Like the thing you guys call cultural artifacts, to me that's my ancestorial artifacts, that is my ancestors' proof in the ground that we
were there. That is the proof in the ground that we lived and died there. That's the proof in the ground, in my eyes, that that's where I belong, to that land, and that land belongs to my people.

As the Government of Manitoba seems to have no power over these guys, you know, like during the consultation process, a lot of times we have asked can Manitoba, as the governing body, direct Hydro to deal with some of these issues like more proactively? But like a lot of times you get these answers, $I$ don't know or we're not sure, we'll have to find out.

You know, same thing with Hydro. You ask them questions, they are like, I don't know, we'll have to get back to you. On a number of cases, we have got told a number of times -- we have come up against like a brick wall trying to get information, because nobody seems to know anything.

If they want to come through our land and destroy our land, they should know what they are doing before they come and do it. But a lot of times you ask them questions, and we don't have that information for you, I'm sorry, we can't pass it on to you. You know, I've got to talk to my
bosses before I can let you know. You know, there's all kind of comments you hear all the time.

So in regards to that, I guess, like the main issues my people had with this Hydro line is, first of all, as one of my councillors said, no one came to us and asked what we thought of it in the beginning. It wasn't until it was decided that the line is going in that they said, you know, we're putting the line here, what do you think?

So we start the consultation process, and during this whole consultation process, like Hydro through the whole -- put that thing in to a flux by making mistakes where they had to come back and make these changes. You know, if you're not doing your job properly, you're going to make mistakes and you're going to have to make changes. That's because they weren't on the ground seeing what was there in the beginning. And even now with the changes, there's nobody there checking what these changes are going to affect. You know, basically they took a map and said, we will draw a line here and that's where we will put it. We avoid Moose Meadows, let's destroy everything else
around there. So with a little bit more First Nations' input and more local people input, I think they would have had an easier time.

My First Nation stands to oppose this line until such a time as Hydro comes to deal with us as a nation and try to work out some agreement with our people for the loss of use of traditional land, for the loss of use of passing on the culture where people through these traditional areas, you know, for the loss of use of sustenance of food, that that is important to our people.

You know, there is a lot more value to this land than cash. I said that before, there's cultural value, there's traditional value, there's esthetic value. That's one thing that's going to be ruined from us is our view of our valley. Like if you guys ever been there, you'd see it so beautiful. If you're going to be seeing this big 200-foot high structure going through the middle of the valley, that's going to be a loss of a lot of revenue for a lot of businesses that rely on eco tourism. People come there because they like the natural of it. You know, it's nature at its best. But the more development that happens, the more that the nature is lost and the more we're going to lose these type of opportunities. And in an economy that's sagging, you don't want to lose too many economic opportunities. Especially with First Nations whose goal is to achieve economic prosperity, this goes backwards. This is taking us 20 years to the past where Hydro can just come and do anything they want, any time they want, to First Nations land. It's happened many times to the north of us. And this is like the cherry on the cake. It's going to break the -- it's going to bring everything coming down. Maybe I'll use a comment that you guys are more familiar with, it's the straw that broke the camel's back, that is what it is going to be.

You see Idol No More movement across this country and it's gathering strength. You see First Nations starting to stand up for themselves. This is just going to push First Nations a little bit more in that direction if they are not dealt with.

So I guess in regards to that, I'd like to bring up another point in regards to our community interest zone. You know, right now Manitoba is currently in the process of going through Treaty Land Entitlement with a bunch of

First Nations. They drew up these circles called community interest zones. And the government said, anything happens within this community interest zone that is going to affect you, we'll come and deal with you on a nation-to-nation basis so they can get our concerns and that they can kind of look out for our best interests. We don't see too much of that happening. We don't see the government looking out for anybody's best interests but their own. Because Hydro puts money into their campaign pockets, so that's why they look out for themselves. It's the big businesses that's going to prosper here, it's not the people.

And I hope you guys, as the panel here, you guys see it's going to destroy a nation, like you're going to destroy people's lives, you are going to destroy people's livelihoods, you are going to destroy a traditional way of life that's been in this country for thousands of years, that's unique in this world, that is unique in this country. Nowhere else in this world can you go and find what you find here in Canada when you come to First Nations people. It is unique that way.

The more we become civilized, the more
it seems like we're going backwards. There used to be a time when my people were never hungry. We never had to worry about it, we all prospered. But now in the civilized world we're living in poverty and third world conditions while the rest of Canada prospers, and they make billions and billions of dollars off our resources that we don't get to see nothing, you know. All we get to see is the destruction of it.

So that's where my First Nation stands on this issue, is there's so many areas that have slipped through the crack that Hydro has never even brought up. Like the fact that the Kettle Hills country, it's where the prime blueberry country is in Manitoba, probably in Western Canada for that fact. A lot of people come there, right, from Alberta right to Ontario, they come there to pick berries, like First Nations people. Like they've got land in this area, it belongs to our First Nation. We chose that land to help protect it because there's a limit to how much land you can take. We can only take little areas to protect, we can't protect it all.

And that's where a body such as yourselves here can step up that role of
protecting these areas for people such as us that don't have the money and the power that Hydro does to hire the best lawyers and the best that money can buy, to make people like me look small and tiny and that our words are insignificant and not heard.

I guess with that, I'd like it pass it on to my counterpart here and let him say what he has to say.

MR. ZASTRE: Good morning everyone. My name is Elwood Zastre, I'm a member of Wiskwi Sipihk First Nation. I also sat on the board for the Red Deer Shoal River block, which is a very big block in the area where the Bipole III is coming through. It's a major -- it runs right through from overflowing right up to Kettle Hills that way. That's a big area.

For ourselves at Wuskwi Sipihk, we have our area for trapping, which I'm not too familiar with. I live a bit out of Wuskwi Sipihk area there, which I have been trapping in area 12. And this line that's coming through there, I don't know what effect it's going to have on our animals. But according to some of the elders, our martins, our fishers, weasels, squirrels, it's

1 going to throw them off their cycle of where they
travel, what kind of foods they have, what their cover is in that area.

What I'd like to see is, like my counterpart there, Craig was saying, we should do a ground walk or something, instead of from the air, to go down there.

At one time, a few years back I was an outfitter and I had a business, Easy Outfitters. And when LP came in the '90s, like they didn't consult us much on stuff, and they'd call us into a meeting. And one of the questions I asked, I said, I'm an outfitter and there's a lot of salt licks that $I$ know about, $I$ can show you them on the map, I was wondering if you guys can have a buffer zone around the salt licks because these animals have been coming here for years, where my elders told me where these salt licks were. They said, yeah, we can do that. And then the following year I went back to my area where I put my tree stands in, all that's left is the three trees that $I$ had my stand on and everything else is cut right around it, it's wide open. And then the next couple of years after that, the animals are not there no more because everything is taken

all have local fur committees in our First Nations, and then we go to the main one and that's the one we deal with. I don't know why they are not sitting here today, but they should have been here, from the Manitoba Trappers' Association, in this Commission.
As for members of First Nations, there's a lot of off-reserve First Nations in our area. As for myself, I'm from one of them, and there's lots all around in that area. And now the Metis people got the right as Aboriginals, so that's another big concern. We have to let them know -- Bipole III, for it to be safe for our people, for everybody, not only our people but everybody, to have a safe, to make it safe for, you know, not just for the money, it has got to be safe for all the people, all our First Nations people.
We do all our gathering. Like Craig said, we do our gathering for blueberries, we got sweet grass, wild ginger, rat root, we got all of those in them areas.
I work out of The Pas, and I was up north in all these communities. I work up there, and I'm looking at these other transmission lines
that are going through. And I looked down there, down that transmission line and all I could see is orange the whole length of that line. Sprayed with some kind of a chemical killed everything. I don't know why they did that. Animals eat that stuff, moose, deer eat the fresh growth that's coming up. Sure, they can go in there and cut it and replant it, and it is good for the animals. But you spray that chemical, it will never come back. Because Manitoba Hydro used that on the sides of the road back home, and I think they stopped it now because people are complaining about it, because that affects the animals.

So that's kind of my concern there. I
was just getting into this. I didn't really prepare myself much, but that's how I feel right now for what's happening with Bipole III.

Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
MR. SOPROVICH: I'll just set up my presentation here.

THE CHAIRMAN: How long do you anticipate your presentation will be, Mr. Soprovich?

MR. SOPROVICH: How long do I have?

|  | CHATRMAN: You actually | Page 6533 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | fair bit of time, but I'm just sort of trying to |  |
| 3 | gauge when we should take a morning break. |  |
| 4 | MR. SOPROVICH: I can't see it being |  |
| 5 | more than 30 to 40 minutes. |  |
| 6 | THE CHAIRMAN: Well, then perhaps we |  |
| 7 | should take our break first and then you can set |  |
| 8 | it up while we break, and we'll come back in 15 |  |
| 9 | minutes. |  |
| 10 | MR. SOPROVICH: That will be fine. |  |
| 11 | (Hearing recessed at 10:21 a.m. and |  |
| 12 | reconvened at 10:34 a.m.) |  |
| 13 | THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. I'd like to |  |
| 14 | reconvene. Mr. Soprovich. |  |
| 15 | MR. SOPROVICH: Thank you. My name is |  |
| 16 | Dan Soprovich. I am Lands Manager with Wuskwi |  |
| 17 | Sipihk First Nation and I'm here presenting on |  |
| 18 | behalf of the Nation on the proposed Bipole III |  |
| 19 | transmission line. |  |
| 20 | Some 200 kilometres or so of the |  |
| 21 | proposed Bipole III line would pass through |  |
| 22 | traditional territory of Wuskwi Sipihk First |  |
| 23 | Nation. The line would be sited across the road |  |
| 24 | from already selected Treaty land entitlement |  |
| 25 | lands and would be viewed by many members of the |  |

Nation on a daily basis. The presence of the line would limit the ability of the nation to select the remaining lands owed to it under the terms of the Treaty land Entitlement.

Despite the fact that the line would impact on the Nation in many ways, we have not been involved in the Clean Environment Commission process until today, and we do not come here prepared to speak in full, respecting how the line would impact the Nation. This is because Nation concerns are being addressed prinicipally via the Section 35 Consultation process with Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, a process that provides funding to the Nation to assist its efforts in making government aware of impacts to its rights.

The Nation had completed a tour meeting and had scheduled a second community meeting when we had to suspend the consultation process in early December after the Commission suspended hearings. Suspension of the consultation process has resulted in a number of difficulties and inefficiencies and additional material to review and consider with the attendant additional time and cost to the Nation. Since the

|  |  | Page 6535 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | been in negotiations with Conservation and Water |  |
| 3 | Stewardship to access additional funding in |  |
| 4 | recognition of the additional cost to the Nation |  |
| 5 | and we have not yet resumed our consultation |  |
| 6 | process. |  |
| 7 | I'm going to speak briefly to the |  |
| 8 | scale of the transmission line. Prior to |  |
| 9 | beginning the consultation process, I asked |  |
| 10 | community members how high the tower on the |  |
| 11 | proposed transmission line would be and how wide |  |
| 12 | the right-of-way would be. The first two answers |  |
| 13 | were something like 20 feet high and 400 yards |  |
| 14 | across, and 300 feet high and 20 yards across. |  |
| 15 | Clearly people in the community were not aware of |  |
| 16 | the scale of the proposed transmission line. |  |
| 17 | Consequently, we decided that it was important for |  |
| 18 | at least some community members to have a real |  |
| 19 | world understanding of the scale of the proposed |  |
| 20 | development. We attempted to obtain funding |  |
| 21 | through the consultation process for a trip to |  |
| 22 | Grand Rapids to look at the existing Bipoles, but |  |
| 23 | were unsuccessful. So we decided to take a trip |  |
|  | up there anyhow and look at the right-of-ways and |  |
| 25 | the infrastructure, one is a little bit to the |  |


|  | north of Grand Rapids and to the west and it | Page 6536 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | shows where the right-of-way crosses in through |  |
| 3 | here. And also we looked to the south, so we can |  |
| 4 | see the Bipole crossing in through here. |  |
| 5 | Now to aid our understanding of the |  |
| 6 | scale of this development, we requested the |  |
| 7 | heights of the towers in the two areas that we |  |
| 8 | were going to examine. For Conservation and Water |  |
| 9 | Stewardship, Manitoba Hydro provided the following |  |
| 10 | responses: Firstly, Hydro has previously advised |  |
| 11 | that the height of the guyed wire towers varies |  |
| 12 | from 33.8 to 47.2 meeters, fairly wide range. I |  |
| 13 | have asked if they can provide some specific |  |
| 14 | heights or at least a tighter range of heights for |  |
| 15 | the towers in the immediate Grand Rapids area and |  |
| 16 | pass this on if they are able to provide it. Then |  |
| 17 | later, we received the communication: "I spoke |  |
| 18 | with our design team and due to terrain and |  |
| 19 | spanning of highways and waterways, the towers in |  |
| 20 | this area are approximately 32 to 38 metres." |  |
| 21 | This information, while of some use, was really |  |
| 22 | quite unsatisfactory in relation to our goal to |  |
| 23 | understand the size of the infrastructure that |  |
| 24 | would actually be or is proposed for the Bipole |  |
| 25 | III. Where we requested exact heights, Manitoba |  |

Hydro would do more than provide a range.

I'm going to talk a bit about spraying with chemicals. Members of Wuskwi Sipihk First Nation are very concerned relative to Manitoba Hydro's use of chemicals to control trees or for other purposes. The nation's people continue to pick berries and gather medicinal plants and drink water from the land and people are concerned about contaminants in their food and water. Spraying the line would eliminate the use of lands by the Nation for such purposes, thereby further eroding the land base available for people to practice their traditional use.

When we were in Grand Rapids, we observed a number of areas where spraying had occurred on the Manitoba Hydro right-of-ways. And this is just one example. You can see the brown shrubs and small trees had been sprayed and killed with chemical in the right-of-way. I can see no reason for these areas to have been sprayed given that the larger vegetation consisted of small shrubs that would never have become tall, and small trees no more than approximately two meters high. So what Hydro is doing here, in this example, and all the other areas around Grand

Rapids that we saw where areas had been sprayed on the rights-of-way, is they are just broadcasting the chemical. Places where the plants would never get large, they are spraying. No reason to do that. They are not taking a selective approach, they are just spraying the entire line.

So I suspect that it is just simpler from a management perspective and perhaps cost-wise for Manitoba Hydro to spray the whole line.

Wuskwi Sipihk First Nation does not support the use of chemicals to control vegetation on the line and expects Manitoba Hydro to use alternative means of control as has been done for transmission lines in other jurisdictions in Canada.

I'm going to talk briefly about the place. In past times and today, the people of Wuskwi Sipihk First Nation have lived and travelled in the vicinity of the Porcupine Mountain and lands to the east, north and south. Today the administrative centre of the Nation is near Swan Lake and east of the mountain. So what we're looking at is this area here, fairly close to the lake. Swan Lake is just to the east, to
the right there. Some people actually live in this area as well. What we have here is we have not only the administrative -- we have a band office in there, we have a health office, a number of residences are in there, and also the school is there.

On a daily basis, well, that's the administrative centre. There's also another piece of land here, right there, and that's just to the east of highway 10. And that's where quite a few residences are there. There is some, about 40 families in there. And on a daily basis, because people work out here and people go to school, what you see is there's a road going this way, like this and people travel back and forth, both coming from the community on the highway and from other areas, back and forth between this area.

Now a place called Charlie Audy's
Corner, which is this place right here, that's where that road that's going east/west crosses another road going north/south, that particular intersection is called Charlie Audy's Corner. Now the transmission line would cross the main road there. So the transmission line would come from the north along this road, past Charlie Audy's


Of course, this is a winter picture.
Maybe I will just have Craig Stevens speak briefly to what he sees over the course of the year when he travels back and forth looking towards the Porcupine Mountain from that place?

MR. STEVENS: Just in relation to the area of the picture, this is about the halfway point between both communities, about five miles from the highway community and from the main community along the lake. But basically when you are coming up to the hill, you've got like a long unobstructed view of the mountain. It's about like at least a good 30 kilometre view. It's very beautiful, very pristine looking mountain. You can see a few little cuts here and there from LP, but for the most part they cut on top of the hill. And you know, like that's something that words cannot express the beauty of this, you know, at any time of the year. Like whether it be winter, fall, spring or summer, there's always something beautiful to look at in that direction.

And then coming down, you know, you're coming towards the back country where our main community is, it's kind of right at the edge of the back country. And after that there is no
roads, after our community, it is all -- if you want to get around, you've got to go by boat or you've got to walk, unless you grow wings and fly maybe, but that's not possible. But just about half a mile from this picture, that's where the line is going to be. So you can see if this line goes there and I was coming up, I won't even be able to see my mountain anymore, that $I$ grew up with all my life.

That is what makes me feel at home, when I leave here and I go home, as soon as I see those mountains, I feel at home. I feel a sense of big relief to be home in my own country, in my own homeland. And something like that is going to obstruct some of that view, and it's going to take away some of that feeling that you feel. I don't know if you understand it. But go to a different country and hang out there, and come home and see how you feel when you get home. That's the feeling I'm talking about. Like there's no home but home, and that feeling is in here. And I don't want no one to come and wreck my home. Basically, that's what I'm saying. I don't go around and I don't view the destruction of the environment in really good light.

Like, they seem to do too many negative impacts to my community in regards to all this clearing. This used to be all forest, what you're looking at, but now it's all fields. And when $I$ was a kid, most of that was forest still. I'm in my late thirties now. So in 30 years I have seen such a degradation of my traditional land, it's almost unrecognizable from when $I$ was a child to now. So I thought I would share that.

MR. SOPROVICH: Thank you, Craig.

So looking the other way, on this particular picture it's again a half a kilometre from Charlie Audy's Corner, only now this is to the west of Charlie Audy's Corner looking east towards the lake.

Did you want to speak to that as well,

Craig?

MR. STEVENS: Just from here to about two miles until you hit the marsh land area is basically where we're kind of in the middle. It's really prime habitat for waterfall and whatnot, and it's also good moose country for the feeding habitat. It's a lot of marsh land, a lot of aquatic plants and whatnot.

So with this line being here where it
is, it's going to mess up a lot of the migration routes of the geese. For example, when they are coming from the north in the fall time, when they are going south, they you these hills as way points. And then they come over the hills and then from there they fly down into the valley, into these marsh land areas.

And with this big 200-foot high pole in the way, that's going to really affect how they come down into these areas, and it is going to affect the successes of our hunters, you know. Like if the geese are flying twice as high as they were before, they are going to be harder to hit, or else they are going to find alternative ways to get to those areas by flying somewhere else and coming in from a different direction.

So, like once again, it's more than aesthetic value there, there's cultural value, there's like human needs, you know, like humans need to eat. You need land to be able to get food to grow or to hunt, you know, and the more you wreck it, the less it's going to be able to provide for you. And the more you destroy it, the less it's going to provide from you.

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So once again, that's a little bit of
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Stewardship during the consultation process, government provides a draft record of the meeting for review within several days. The Nation is afforded the opportunity to review the record and to clarify inaccuracies, omissions and the like. This is good environmental assessment process, and consistent with the process that was used during my work on the $B C$ environmental assessment. The leadership and staff of the Nation met with Manitoba Hydro prior to Christmas, and Hydro also came into the community to deliver an open house in the new year, and we thank Hydro for that.

On both occasions, Mr. Craig Stevens sitting here next to me, community coordinator of the consultation process, requested that Manitoba Hydro provide the meeting notes to the Nation. Manitoba Hydro did not do so. Rather we see the record of the leadership meeting within Hydro's supplemental report, and have seen no record of the open house. Because Manitoba Hydro has not allowed the Nation the opportunity to review, the meeting records must be viewed solely as reflecting Hydro's perception of discussions.

For example, and I have the record of
the leadership meeting here, with respect to Hydro's record of the first meeting, Craig Stevens noted the following. While Hydro indicated regarding the game hunting area 19 area, Wuskwi Sipihk First Nation indicated that the area is used by the community for berry picking. So moose is not the only relevant issue here. Wuskwi Sipihk First Nation had also indicated that the same thing applied to Red Deer River area and Mafeking areas.
Where Manitoba Hydro indicated Manitoba Hydro explained the environmental inspector, environmental monitor and community liaisons positions, it was Mr. Stevens' view that the positions were touched on but not explained. With respect to the second meeting, I was unable to find a record of the meeting and I'm unsure if Manitoba Hydro has filed a record. If there is a record, the record should have noted, for example, the following: Manitoba Hydro and its environmental assessment attempted to survey American Marten, which is a small member of the weasel family, attempted to survey American Marten by looking for tracks in the snow from an airplane.


Environment Commission recommend that Conservation and Water Stewardship develop standards and that proponents of development be required to follow them. And this is specific to communications. Now, in the recent BC project that I was involved in, the Shishalh Nation was directly involved in the review and writing of the First Nation's section of the proponent's application for environmental assessment certificate.

Manitoba Hydro's Aboriginal
traditional knowledge, ATK report number 1, in table 5, indicates that Wuskwi Sipihk First Nation's interests are located within Hydro's region 3. So region 3 is this area here, this area to the north. Hydro's region 2 is this area to the south.

What's important here to note from this particular figure is the southern boundary of the region 3, you can sort of make out Swan Lake. Swan Lake runs about like this, kind of like that. So the boundary goes actually right through Swan Lake.

Important is that the Kettle Hills area, that I'll discuss later, is located to the south of Swan Lake. And including berry picking
areas -- the bottom line is, well, there's a highway that goes from Cowan out to Camperville right there, and Wuskwi Sipihk First Nation makes use of significant amounts of region 2 .
So anyhow, the basis for Hydro developing region 3, and actually in the table it indicates that Wuskwi Sipihk First Nations' interests are within region 3, is on the basis of the information derived from participating communities.
So, again, it's important to note that the Kettle Hills and surrounding area have been used by Wuskwi Sipihk First Nation and other First Nations in the past and are used in the present.
And this is why, when we look at it -so here's a map showing, this is what's called the community interest -- this circle is what's called the community interest zone of the Wuskwi Sipihk First Nation. What we can see here, this is the main reserve out at the lake. This is Swan Lake, so we can see Swan Lake coming down here. And this green area there, that's actually reserve lands now that Wuskwi Sipihk selected during the Treaty Land Entitlement process. The two kind of pink areas, one to the west and one to the

|  |  | Page 6551 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | So you can see that the nation |  |
| 3 | selected these lands, obviously very important for |  |
| 4 | the nation. And you can see these are south of |  |
| 5 | Swan Lake, well within this region 2, and contrary |  |
| 6 | to what Hydro indicated within its environmental |  |
| 7 | impact assessment, or statement. |  |
| 8 | And of course, Wuskwi Sipihk selected |  |
| 9 | these lands to protect them from development so |  |
| 10 | that First Nation peoples can continue to use the |  |
| 11 | lands. |  |
| 12 | So the reality is, again, that Wuskwi |  |
| 13 | Sipihk First Nation peoples make use not only of |  |
| 14 | region 3, but also a substantial portion of |  |
| 15 | Hydro's region 2. And indeed during our tour |  |
| 16 | meeting -- so our tour meeting was -- what we did |  |
| 17 | was we had a number of participants, people from |  |
| 18 | the community, elders, resource users and some |  |
| 19 | youth, that what we did was we put them on a bus |  |
| 20 | and we went to areas where the proposed Bipole III |  |
| 21 | transmission line would cross, would be accessible |  |
| 22 | to us. Unfortunately, we had a big snow by the |  |
| 23 | time we got this off the ground and we couldn't go |  |
|  | to a few places we got to. However, this highway |  |
| 25 | that you see here is what I'm calling the |  |


| 1 | Camperville Highway. This is the highway from | Page 6552 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | Cowan, Cowan is to the west and Camperville will |  |
| 3 | be to the east here. And this line is where the |  |
| 4 | Bipole -- and this is the alternate route, the new |  |
| 5 | route that was proposed, this is where it would |  |
| 6 | cross the highway. And it shows the location of |  |
| 7 | the line in the vicinity of the highway. |  |
| 8 | And during that tour meeting, when we |  |
| 9 | stopped -- we actually stopped here where it |  |
| 10 | crossed the highway. Some of you may have |  |
| 11 | actually heard something about a certain buffalo |  |
| 12 | fence and a bison ranch. Actually, the south side |  |
| 13 | of this is fenced right off, right along the |  |
| 14 | highway, as soon as you get out of the road |  |
| 15 | allowance. |  |
| 16 | So when you stop there, one of the |  |
| 17 | participants noted the presence of mineral licks |  |
| 18 | in close proximity to the proposed line. So the |  |
| 19 | point here is that this is well outside of Hydro's |  |
| 20 | region 3, and members of the nation have local |  |
| 21 | knowledge of mineral licks right in this area. |  |
| 22 | Another thing I'd like to point out, |  |
| 23 | at least five traditional land use and occupant |  |
| 24 | studies have been conducted, and these demonstrate |  |
| 25 | Wuskwi Sipihk First Nation's use of region 2. |  |

So getting back to process, if Hydro had done something as simple as coming to the community and asking if region 3 reflected an area of interest to the nation, its error would have been corrected.

I'd like to talk briefly about the focus of the assessment. What strikes one in particular when examining Manitoba Hydro's approach to the assessment is the lack of data from along the proposed right-of-way, when the right-of-way is the area that will be subject to by far alterations to the environment. Further to this, perhaps the bulk of the data are developed by remote sensing means. And such data are subject to the inherent problems and errors in the absence of validation from the ground. For example, and this is right out of Hydro's terrestrial ecosystem and vegetation technical report. Again, if we look at this, there is the main community with the administrative centre near the lake. The road, and it goes like this, right down here, and there's Charlie Audy's Corner. Now, according to this map, this is Hydro's map, the brown areas are cultivated lands. So by cultivated lands -- unfortunately, there's
no definition as to what each of these various vegetation types actually mean, but the cultivated lands I am presuming are lands that are probably cereal crop, so wheat, oats, whatever, canola, that type of thing.

And according to Hydro's map, all this light green stuff all through here, that's what they call herbs. Now, my definition of probably what herbs are, are some kind of combination of grasses and flowering plants and that type of thing.

Unfortunately, these are really cultivated lands, all these lands all through here. Those are cereal crops that are in there. So, obviously an error here. It's a pretty -- you would think it would be pretty easy to tell between something called herbs and cultivated lands, but certainly in this area it was not possible for Hydro to do so. Again, this speaks to failure to actually get on the ground and look what is there. As best as I could understand from looking through the report, the so-called truthing of the vegetation types is done by an airplane going somewhere around a hundred, 120 kilometres per hour at a kilometre above the ground. So this

|  | is the type of errors you see when you follow | Page 6555 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | these types of assessment practices. |  |
| 3 | So, you know, given something as |  |
| 4 | obvious as this in terms of obvious error, you |  |
| 5 | know, one has to question the accuracy of the |  |
| 6 | entire vegetation base map. |  |
| 7 | Now, at the time that Manitoba Hydro |  |
| 8 | began its assessment, the Federal Government, if |  |
| 9 | it had been involved, would have expected |  |
| 10 | something to the effect that the impact statement |  |
| 11 | would include a scope of assessment on the |  |
| 12 | potential direct and cumulative effects that can |  |
| 13 | be reasonably traced to some aspects of the |  |
| 14 | project and its impacts. The key words here are |  |
| 15 | "can be reasonably traced to some aspect of the |  |
| 16 | project and its impacts." |  |
| 17 | In the context of the proposed line, |  |
| 18 | the focus should have been on right-of-way, as |  |
| 19 | that is where the impacts would primarily occur. |  |
| 20 | Sampling should have occurred primarily in and |  |
| 21 | near the proposed right-of-way, with some sampling |  |
| 22 | within the local study area as a function of the |  |
| 23 | resource being examined. For example, for plants |  |
|  | the great majority of samples should have been |  |
| 25 | from the proposed right-of-way or in close |  |


| 1 | proximity, because that is where the direct |
| :--- | :--- |
| 2 | effects will primarily occur. However, if one |
| 3 | examines where plants were sampled, for example, |
| 4 | for the Interlake plain ecoregion -- this pinky |
| 5 | area is what's called the Interlake plain |
| 6 | ecoregion. So one observes that few of the |
| 7 | samples actually came from the right-of-way. If |
| 8 | you were to look at this thing closely, what you |
| 9 | would find would be that most of those samples are |
| 10 | well off the right-of-way, as best as we can tell |
| 11 | from this. |
| 12 | plants would occur. Let us be clear, this is not |
| 24 | vegetation sampling, the number of samples given |
| 23 | from the assessment, but virtually nothing about |
| 14 | the amount of line proposed for the ecoregion, and |
| 15 | we're probably talking somewhere around 200 |

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assessment Manitoba style.
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    It is clear this was a rushed job,
    with the approach of primarily desktop review --
while the approach of primarily desktop review
might at this point have been warranted for
examination of three line options and segment
options, it is not appropriate for assessment of
the final preferred line. It very much looks like
Manitoba Hydro simply ran out of time in relation
to some kind of imposed deadline. Because the
next step should have been to take a close look at
the preferred option. Instead what we observed
here is, for example, within the terrestrial
ecosystem and plant technical reports, statements
or excuses like not all communities are
represented as a result of time allowed for
sampling. There is a right way to do things.
I want to focus now on the cultural
resources of Wuskwi Sipihk First Nation.
Unfortunately, the heritage resources technical
report is not clear. And as best as we can
understand it, Manitoba Hydro conducted little
ground evaluation for evidence of cultural
resources on the proposed right-of-way. Rather,
as we understand it, the evaluation primarily took
a modeling approach. The failure to find so few new sites is almost certainly a reflection of the inadequate methodology employed by Manitoba Hydro. That is, when one does not employ proper methodology to look for these resources, one can be assured that one will not find anything, or find little, with the resulting conclusion of few or no impacts. As stewards of the nation's cultural resources, such methodology is inadequate and not acceptable.

Of relevance to the nation's concerns, please see Appendix $A$, some notes and concerns regarding the heritage resources technical report, special emphasis on the Swan River Valley, produced by Mr. Gary Wowchuk on our behalf.

Among the obvious concerns include the following: Incomplete review of the literature and archives; lack of area specific predictive models and lack of information respecting modeling limitations and testing, failure to adequately use local people who have knowledge of resources; failure to allocate an appropriate level of time and money given the potential to impact the resources; use of the methodology as described that would be hard to replicate, standards of

|  |  | Page 6559 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | methodology are fundamental to archeological |  |
| 2 | endeavour; recognition or lack thereof of the |  |
| 3 | value of the Lake Agassiz beach ridges. And just |  |
| 4 | to speak to that, as best as I understand it, |  |
| 5 | these beach ridges would have been used |  |
| 6 | extensively for trout as the water receded. |  |
| 7 | And I don't know if you want to speak |  |
| 8 | to this, Craig? |  |
| 9 | MR. STEVENS: Okay. The one thing |  |
| 10 | that maybe I can make clear with these Lake |  |
| 11 | Agassiz beaches is that there is a lot of |  |
| 12 | artifacts found in these locations, as they were |  |
| 13 | kind of -- they were open in the past, and so it's |  |
| 14 | made it easier to hunt game there. If you see a |  |
| 15 | deer, you're going to be able to shoot him with a |  |
| 16 | bullet, and if he's in the middle of the bush you |  |
| 17 | can't see him. |  |
| 18 | The berries grow on these sandy ridges |  |
| 19 | because it's the right kind of environment for |  |
| 20 | them. |  |
| 21 | You know, like our arrows, or our |  |
| 22 | weapons or tools are made from rocks, they are |  |
| 23 | found along these areas, along these hills where |  |
|  | the sandy ridges are. So there is a lot of value |  |
| 25 | to these Lake Agassiz beaches that's not even |  |


alignment here, where it crosses the Bell River fairly close to Highway 10.

While several references were cited, the significant ones were not. The two most notable missing references were, "Matthew H. Hill 1965, An Archeological Survey in the Glacial Lake Agassiz Basin in Manitoba," and C. Thomas Shay and L. Cole Wilson 2004, The Bell Site: A Late Woodland Site in Northwestern Manitoba."

Area 6, and these areas are specific to the appendix that you have, so I guess you could refer to them, if not now, at a later time. And I believe you should have those appendices, or the appendix.

Area 6, the Old Fort area was never mentioned as such in the Heritage Resources Technical Report. It was mentioned as a place of interest or potential where all river crossings were. The Old Fort area is one of the most significant fur trade related areas in Manitoba and it is cited in Hudson Bay archives.

Inappropriate reliance on mitigation versus being proactive. That is redesign. Use of weak methodological standards. That is per Mr. Wowchuk, Manitoba Provincial regulations are

| 1 | being followed which are widely recognized as |
| :--- | :--- |
| 2 | being well below all of our neighbouring |
| 3 | provinces. Manitoba lacks explicit standards, |
| 4 | unlike, for example, Ontario's 2011 Standards and |
| 5 | Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists. And I |
| 6 | provided the reference there for you so can look |
| 7 | directly to that document. |
| 8 | Mr. Wowchuk, let us compare Manitoba Hydro's |
| 10 | assessment to the BC assessment that I was |
| 11 | recently involved with, and I've got a link there |
| 12 | for you. |
| 13 | developments would not require a systematic foot |
| 24 | and observations made during field work, it was |
| 14 | area that included steep mountainous terrain and |
| 15 | various proposed linear developments, for example, |
| 16 | transmission lines, penstocks, there were two |
| 17 | primary aspects to the archeological inventory and |


|  | traverse due to an assignment of low archeological | Page 6563 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | site protection. An assignment of a low |  |
| 3 | archeological site potential was based upon a |  |
| 4 | specific infrastructure development being located |  |
| 5 | within an area considered to be inconclusive to |  |
| 6 | human occupation or use. |  |
| 7 | These criteria include the presence of |  |
| 8 | excessive slope, greater than 20 percent, poor |  |
| 9 | access, an impassible terrain, disturbance from |  |
| 10 | previous development activities, that is timber |  |
| 11 | harvesting, road construction, Hydro transmission |  |
| 12 | line construction, that remove potentially |  |
| 13 | cultural bearing matrix, or lastly that the area |  |
| 14 | in question had already been subject to |  |
| 15 | archeological assessment during previous |  |
| 16 | archeological studies that have produced negative |  |
| 17 | results. |  |
| 18 | With that said, even where areas were |  |
| 19 | steep, assessment did occur via helicopter. For |  |
| 20 | example, a large extent of the CC Creek component |  |
| 21 | area was assessed by helicopter during the 2009 |  |
| 22 | assessment, as this area was judged to have low |  |
| 23 | potential to contain archeological sites due to |  |
| 24 | steep and rough terrain based on the field |  |
| 25 | workers' review. Systematic foot transverses were |  |

conducted along the shore line and outlet CC Lake, including the proposed flood surcharge area.

So here is an example of -- this particular development was a small Hydro run of the river lake storage hydro development, 50 megawatts, and they were doing this kind of assessment on the ground.

Secondly, phase 2 of the assessment consisted of archeological field work. All infrastructure developments assigned a medium or greater archeological site potential rated during the office review phase, phase 1, were subject to a preliminary field reconnaissance. Land forms identified within a development zone that were considered conducive to human occupation or use, that is flat terraces or knolls adjacent to rivers, lakes and/or other sources of potable water and rock shelters were subject to systematic pedestrian survey. Where considered necessary, landscapes were subjected to subsurface shovel
testing. Systematic foot transverses were selected. Infrastructure development zones were completed by a crew of two who were spaced approximately 10 to 30 metres apart.

Locations slated for infrastructure


| 1 | The number of these subsurface tests | Page 6566 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | were selected in the field after visual inspection |  |
| 3 | of potential use areas. A total of 31 tests was |  |
| 4 | completed at two locations. Shovel testing was |  |
| 5 | not conducted at the remaining locations due to |  |
| 6 | lack of testable deposits and/or the assignment of |  |
| 7 | low archeological site potential. |  |
| 8 | Survey locations were plotted on |  |
| 9 | development maps, georeferenced using the |  |
| 10 | hand-held GPS and photographed. |  |
| 11 | So let's put that in the context of |  |
| 12 | Wuskwi Sipihk First Nation. Despite the fact that |  |
| 13 | many areas that would be crossed by the proposed |  |
| 14 | Bipole right-of-way would have been extensively |  |
| 15 | used by First Nations peoples, Hydro conducted as |  |
| 16 | best as one can tell, very little on the ground |  |
| 17 | survey. This is a substantive deficiency of |  |
| 18 | Hydro's assessment and the Nation must act in |  |
| 19 | accordance with its obligation to protect these |  |
| 20 | components of its culture, which are both |  |
| 21 | important and relevant to the present members of |  |
| 22 | the Nation. |  |
| 23 | With respect to the archeological |  |
| 24 | inventory and impact assessment conducted by the |  |
| 25 | Shishalh Nation, the following is also noteworthy: |  |

Investigations evaluated the heritage resource significance as outlined in the BC Archeological Impact Assessment Guidelines.

So, again, while BC, like Ontario, has assessment guidelines, Manitoba has no such guidelines. Consequently, in the absence of standards from the regulator, development proponents cannot be held to account, and work is inconsistent from project to project.

Secondly, where recommendations for the management of archeological resources that could potentially be impacted by the proposed development are required, a specific list of redesigned options has been proposed. Important here is the reference to redesign to eliminate -and eliminate is the word -- or mitigate impacts.

Thirdly, an Archeological Resources and Cultural Use Sites Monitoring and Management Plan will be in place during project construction operations. Important here is the existence of the stand-alone plan to manage for and mitigate for resources and cultural use sites that might be discovered during construction and the activities associated with other phases. As a simple matter of respect, the Shishalh Nation was involved in
the development of the plan.
Wuskwi Sipihk First Nation views it to be critical to examine the proposed right-of-way and other infrastructure on the ground, and we'll be submitting a funding proposal to Manitoba Hydro to allow the Nation to conduct such an investigation.
I'd like to speak briefly to the survey method for marten, just as an example. I say this as an example of what I call snake oil environmental assessment.
Most of us are likely aware of the expression snake oil. Wikipedia defined, snake oil is an expression that originally referred to fraudulent health products or unproven medicine, but has come to refer to any product with questionable or unverifiable quality or benefit.
For its assessment of the impact on the Bipole development on American marten, Hydro's approach was to identify areas of potential importance to mammals, a winter aerial mammal transect survey was undertaken along the entire lake of the FPR to determine the distribution and relative abundance of VEC mammal species, including moose, elk, wolverine and marten.

All surveys were conducted using fixed wing Super-Cub Aircraft with highly experienced observers.

Now, trappers with many decades of experience cannot always tell the difference between marten and fisher tracks on the ground, for example, between a large male marten and a small female fisher. And in fact my understanding, and I'm going to ask Elwood to maybe speak to this, my understanding in my work with trappers, and I have been on the ground with trappers with many decades experience, but often you actually even look at how far the track sinks into the ground in terms of determining which species it is. The reason for that is that the actual foot size of marten and fisher are similar in size, but the marten is a much smaller animal.

Do you want to speak to that, Elwood?

MR. ZASTRE: Like Dan was saying
there, the marten and the fisher, that is very identical when it comes to a large male marten and a small female fisher. When you're going through your trapline and hanging the -- I think the big spruce where they eat the squirrels all the time, and it's very hard to tell the difference between
them sometimes, unless you see them is the only way that you can tell the difference. And I don't know how anyone could see a marten track from a pit's wing when you have a hard time going through your trapline on a skidoo, and you look on the side when you are travelling and you see tracks, you actually have to stop and look at these animal tracks to see what kind they are, take a very close look at them. That's just like even a weasel and a squirrel, it's hard to tell the difference between them. So a ground walk on this Bipole III would be what you need to survey all these animal tracks and that, see what kind of animals that are in there.

MR. SOPROVICH: Thank you, Elwood.

So again, this is why during the open house with Hydro, Mr. Craig Stevens indicated something to the effect that our elders do not believe that it is possible to tell the difference between marten and fisher tracks from the airplane.

Hydro's method of determining the distribution and relative abundance of marten from an airplane is the equivalent of snake oil environmental assessment.

| 1 | Noteworthy from Hydro's Mammals | Page 6571 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | Technical Report is the ommission of any reference |  |
| 3 | to scientific literature in support of a method |  |
| 4 | that was used for marten. |  |
| 5 | If one digs this a little bit, one |  |
| 6 | comes to understand that it is likey so, because |  |
| 7 | the methodology is not recognized by scientists. |  |
| 8 | For example, Zielinski and Kucera, in their |  |
| 9 | "American Marten, Fisher, Lynx and Wolverine: |  |
| 10 | Survey Methods for Their Detection," (1995) do not |  |
| 11 | mention survey from aircraft as a valid method for |  |
| 12 | those species. Similarly, British Columbia's RIC |  |
| 13 | Standards for the survey of marten do not mention |  |
| 14 | aircraft as a valid method. And this comes from |  |
| 15 | the inventroy methods for marten and weasel, |  |
| 16 | Standards for Components of British Columbia's |  |
| 17 | Biodiversity, No. 24, 1998. |  |
| 18 | Finally, I conducted a search of the |  |
| 19 | scientific literature using the database |  |
| 20 | Zoological Record, and that did not reveal one |  |
| 21 | publication for the period 1980 to 2013, using |  |
| 22 | search terms marten survey airplane, marten survey |  |
| 23 | aircraft, marten aircraft, or marten Super-Cub. |  |
| 24 | So as best as I can see, there's |  |
| 25 | absolutely no scientific literature to support the |  |


|  |  | Page 6572 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | use of this method. |  |
| 2 | So for scientists, methodological |  |
| 3 | standards are critical because results and |  |
| 4 | conclusions will be a function of the choice of |  |
| 5 | methodology. Some decades ago, the Province of BC |  |
| 6 | developed standard methods to be used during |  |
| 7 | surveys and assessments, so as to ensure that data |  |
| 8 | could be collected according to acceptable valid |  |
| 9 | practices. Unless a credible scientific argument |  |
| 10 | can be made, adherence to these standards is a |  |
| 11 | requirement for doing assessment in BC. |  |
| 12 | Unfortunately, in Manitoba, |  |
| 13 | Conservation and Water Stewardship have no such |  |
| 14 | standards, for example, respecting the survey of |  |
| 15 | American Marten. Consequently, in the absence of |  |
| 16 | standards, it appears that virtually any kind of |  |
| 17 | method is acceptable to the government regulator, |  |
| 18 | irrespective of whether scientifically valid or |  |
| 19 | not. |  |
| 20 | Given that Conservation and Water |  |
| 21 | Stewardship generally lacks standards respecting |  |
| 22 | the collection of data on on biota and other |  |
| 23 | resources, the Commission should recommend that |  |
| 24 | the Manitoba Government develop standards. And |  |
| 25 | that should Manitoba not have the resources or |  |

technical expertise to develop such standards, that Manitoba review and adopt standards that have already been developed in other provinces and jurisdictions at significant cost. So, for example, BC's RIC standards.

I want to speak briefly to Moose
Meadows. As earlier noted, we do not come prepared to speak fully to the new proposed alignments, including that which would bypass the core of the Moose Meadows area. This is because there remains the need to complete the consultation process with the community. However, at this juncture, there is good reason to be skeptical of Hydro's conclusions relative to moose in its supplemental report. In particular, and without evaluating the information in detail, one must be skeptical of Hydro's conclusion that in terms of access effects on moose, it would be better to locate the line in the middle of a relatively inaccessible wintering area versus in relatively close proximity to existing access infrastructure.

It appears that Hydro fails to
understand the critical importance of effective moose refugia in a landscape that is under

|  | considerable pressure from forestry and other | Page 6574 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | activities. |  |
| 3 | Respecting the conclusions on the |  |
| 4 | relative value -- I'm just going to stop for a |  |
| 5 | second. I will ask Craig also to speak to this |  |
| 6 | issue of the location of the alternative route |  |
| 7 | versus putting the route through the core of Moose |  |
| 8 | Meadows. |  |
| 9 | MR. STEVENS: Okay. Moose Meadows is, |  |
| 10 | it's a critical habitat for moose, there is no |  |
| 11 | doubt about that. It's a feeding plain, it's a |  |
| 12 | breeding plain, it's a large area that's largely |  |
| 13 | untouched by all the local population, whether |  |
| 14 | they are First Nations, Metis, or non Aboriginals. |  |
| 15 | But in the area, we all respect this area as a |  |
| 16 | unique place where the moose can come and |  |
| 17 | propagate and eat and be safe. There's no |  |
| 18 | development there of any sort. |  |
| 19 | So with the new line getting put into |  |
| 20 | place, basically, you know, they are kind of, like |  |
| 21 | you are weighing two things, but it's going to be |  |
| 22 | just as much of an impact to the moose as much as |  |
| 23 | the Moose Meadows line was, due to the fact that |  |
| 24 | in the winter, the moose come out of the hills due |  |
| 25 | to the high snowfalls out there, and they come |  |


|  | down to the broad plains and the valley where it | Page 6575 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | is much more room to turn around, much easier |  |
| 3 | grazing for them. They get away from wolves and |  |
| 4 | stuff easier than if they are trapped in five foot |  |
| 5 | deep snow in the hills. |  |
| 6 | So with this being opened, it's going |  |
| 7 | to put access to these back country areas, where |  |
| 8 | the moose usually are untouched and safe. And |  |
| 9 | lately with the moose collapse in our area and the |  |
| 10 | stoppage of moose hunting, you know, this is like |  |
| 11 | the primary concern to us, you know. Like our |  |
| 12 | First Nation, we lead the way on the moose closure |  |
| 13 | thing. We banished moose hunting on our own lands |  |
| 14 | so we could encourage Manitoba Government to |  |
| 15 | follow suit to do the same thing. So a lot of |  |
| 16 | times the Province, like the government, they are |  |
| 17 | aware of the issues but they don't have the |  |
| 18 | gumption to stand up and fight for their own |  |
| 19 | people when it comes to dealing with companies |  |
| 20 | like Hydro, or any big companies for that matter. |  |
| 21 | Because like I said earlier, it's who's got the |  |
| 22 | money, who's got the power, and that's what makes |  |
| 23 | the decisions. And unfortunately, First Nations |  |
| 24 | don't got the money and the power, because we got |  |
| 25 | our land taken from us a long time ago and we are |  |

still fighting to this day to protect these areas.
So like there's a lot more things I
can speak to on the issue, but I'm going to kind of stay focused on the moose thing for now.

MR. SOPROVICH: Thank you, Craig.
Secondly, respecting the conclusions on the relative value of habitats within the local study areas of the two options. We have not yet reviewed the habitat models used by Manitoba. However, we do note the following: Such models have been shown to typically fail, at least per a literature review to approximately 2004 in relation to Hydro's Wuskwatim development. And you can see my March 16, 2004, presentation of the CEC titled, The Valuation of Wildlife Habitat in Manitoba Hydro's Assessment of the Wuskwatim Development." So I cite that presentation.

And secondly, one has to wonder about the quality and accuracy of the base data used to drive the habitat models, given that as indicated earlier, Manitoba Hydro has been unable to distinguish between cultivated fields and herbs in large areas south and north of Charlie Audy's Corner. If the base data are inaccurate, the models are likely to be flawed.

I want to speak very briefly to
cumulative effects. Within the Nation's
traditional territory, and again you have already heard some discussion about from Mr. Stevens, in particular relative to how the Nation's traditional territory has been impacted by agriculture and other development over time. Within the Nation's traditional territory, the proposed Bipole line will pass through forest management units 10 and 11. There is good reason to believe that there has been an unsustainable allocation of fibre from the deciduous dominated ecosystems of the two FMUs. That is cutting forests at too fast a rate. With the arrival of Louisiana Pacific Canada in the mid '90s, the hardwood annual allocation -- by hardwood, forestry terms that means Balsam, Poplar, Trembling Aspen and White Birch. The hardwood allocation cuts, annual allowable cuts for the nearby FMUs 13 and 14, that is for the Duck and Porcupine, were fully allocated -- that's with LP arriving on the scene -- despite First Nations, scientists, members of the environmental community and others concluding and stating that the allocation was not sustainable.

And I can tell you right here that Chief Charlie Audy spoke up strongly about this. And Elder Buddy Brass has spoken to this many times. Elder Buddy Brass, at the time LP showed up, said these cuts are not sustainable, you cannot cut the forests at this rate.

So some nine years later, the so-called sustainable annual allowable cut was reduced by 36.1 percent for FMU 13, and that is the Ducks, and 30.4 percent for FMU 14 , that's the Porcupine Mountains. And this happened when the province, when timber supply analysis was completed by the province.

Now respecting FMUs 10 and 11, in the nation's territory where this line will pass, respecting these two forest management units, the Province has not conducted the timber supply analysis since the fibre was fully allocated in about 1995.

If history repeats itself, the so-called sustainable Annual Allowable Cut of the two FMUs will be reduced by a similar proportion, if not by greater.

The bottom line is that for the areas that the Bipole line will pass through, there's a
high probability the forestry industry has been allocated amounts that are not close to being sustainable. This has very serious implications to the environments of the area, from ovenbirds, to moose, to water yield and so on and so on. The Bipole line would exacerbate the problem.

That's the end my presentation. I also refer you to, you know, when you get the chance, taking a look at Appendix A, which is the report by Gary Wowchuk. Thank you very much. That said, I think Mr. Stevens may have some further closing remarks. MR. STEVENS: I'd like to thank you guys again for this opportunity to lay my Nation's concerns in front of you guys for everybody in this Province to understand what we're facing as a community, as a First Nation. But again, I'm going to kind of go back to the study that was done by the First Nation for Manitoba Hydro. And I'll try to pull up here the target area, if he can find it. He'll just pull up an overall general view.

Okay. This was the study that was funded by Hydro. It was funded in 2011. And at the time, at the proposal development, we felt we

$\square$
had to submit this in a matter of weeks or we're going to miss out our opportunity to do this land use study, to have our concerns at least documented to some degree.

I know like we selected 10 percent of our animal population, which is a very small number. If you want to get a full understanding and knowledge of how we use the land, it would be scientifically feasible, I think, to incorporate a higher number than 10 percent. It shows -- like the thing, it doesn't show the full extent of our traditional territory with this map, because basically what we tried to do is focus around the community, is kind of direction we were given. You know, this is where it's going to affect you the most, this is where you should talk about it. Like our traditional land comes basically from the overflowing river in the north, this is in the bog area. It is off the map. It's about another 50 kilometres north I'll say, 40 kilometres north, and it extends all the way down to the Valley River in the south. It goes from Lake Winnipeg in the east to the Saskatchewan border in the west. That's the extent of what we claim as traditional territory and where we use

|  | the land as traditional territory. | Page 6581 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | So the project right from the |  |
| 3 | beginning, it was rushed. There was not enough |  |
| 4 | time given to properly document all this |  |
| 5 | knowledge. Like for example, a lot of our elders, |  |
| 6 | they wanted to take this to sites on the land but |  |
| 7 | had to limit them to one site. We can only show |  |
| 8 | you one because we've got to get this done today. |  |
| 9 | Like we've got four weeks to finalize this report |  |
| 10 | or to get this project done. So a lot of the |  |
| 11 | people, they felt like they could have shared a |  |
| 12 | lot more knowledge but there wasn't enough time, |  |
| 13 | not enough on the ground. You know, like it's |  |
| 14 | mostly out of an office doing this stuff. If you |  |
| 15 | want to get proper information you've got to be |  |
| 16 | out there to see what's there. You can't just |  |
| 17 | guess. Otherwise you're doing what Hydro is doing |  |
| 18 | with their EIS, you're guessing and you're getting |  |
| 19 | a lot of mistakes, delays and whatnot. |  |
| 20 | That's one thing that I really wanted |  |
| 21 | to bring to attention. There's only 10 percent of |  |
| 22 | my people's knowledge that's on this map. |  |
| 23 | Since then, we have lost some of those |  |
|  | people. You know, they are elders, they passed |  |
| 25 | away in the past two years and that knowledge is |  |

1 going to be sorely missed because they would have
loved an opportunity like this to pass on this
knowledge to the youth in such a manner that we
can share it with other people, you know. Because
First Nations people are kind of the people, we
learn by seeing. That's our education process.
We see, we learn. And this is the way we pass on
our knowledge to our youth. We teach them. We
take them out on the land. We show them. For
example, if we're going to show them how to fish,
we'll show them how to fish, not just tell them.
We don't look at a book and say this book will
teach you how to fish, we go out there and show
them how to fish so they know how to fish. If
they are going to hunt, we teach them how to hunt
so they know how to hunt.
Now it's in the same regard when it
comes to medicinal plants. It's not something you
know today or something that you can know over 10
years, it's something that takes generations to
acquire this knowledge. Like a lot of these
medicinal plants, the knowledge is thousands of
years in the making for us to realize the full
extent of how this healing herb can heal us
properly. It's not something that we just figured
out overnight or looking in a book. It's something that we practice and practice until we perfected it.

So a lot of these areas that we're going to lose. Like, for example, like I know a few scientists that $I$ work with, I asked them do you know what a bottle berry is? It's something that my people have picked in the past. I'm not sure if any of you are familiar with this. These scientists, I asked, they didn't know what it was. First time they heard of it. But over the last, well in the course of my lifetime, I see the areas where these berries grow, can be wiped out and now I only know of one location of where they can be found which is unfortunately very close to the Bipole line located in the Red Deer River area. So you know, like there are so much lost traditional knowledge for a lot of these, you know, specialized plants, they are rare plants. A lot of them, like First Nations people have knowledge of this. If you guys want to understand how this stuff works and how they interact with our people, you guys have got to be willing to give us that opportunity to put it down for you guys to understand. If you want to learn
something, if you go see doctor, you don't see a doctor who passed with 10 percent, you see the guy who passed with 100 percent who knows what he's talking about otherwise you can end up dead. It's the same thing with Indian knowledge. You want to get the most knowledge you can to make the most informed decision you can. You don't take pieces of knowledge and then assume you know everything. Which in this case is what I think Hydro must have done because they no problems, moose no problems, and right now we're going through a moose closure because of them almost getting wiped out. And I don't know if Hydro was unaware of this? It was on the news, it was in the papers, but they said no moose problems.

So you know, when Hydro pays for something, it's basically they get what they want. It's not what needs to be done. We were rushed all the way through the project. There was not enough money to do the project to the full extent, there was not enough time to do the project to the full extent. And all the time, we felt the rush from Hydro that this needs to be done now, not take your time and do a good job. But no, get it done and get it over to us right now.

I just want to make that aware to the province and to the people in this room that, you know, as the money provider, they have a lot of power to push and pull these to suit their nature so that, you know, they have a lot less information than they could possibly have. So it makes it easier for them to prove that what they are saying is accurate and easier for them to prove my words as inaccurate because I don't have 100 percent of my people's words there to prove what they are saying is true. I've got 10 percent. They've got their scientists. Scientists will say whatever the guy who pays them to say. That's just the bottom line. If you work for somebody, you do what they tell you and that's the way it is. No matter where you are, whether you're in China or Canada or America, you work for your boss and that's who pays your bills.

So just want to make you guys aware of these issues that we have to face as a community doing this project. You know, like we did a couple number, like four other traditional knowledge studies in the past which weren't quite as indepth. We target that 10 percent of our people because they are small projects. You know,

the knowledge with it, it's just words.

So that being said, I'd like to thank you for the time for myself and for my partners here to come and speak and to lay these issues out before you guys and I hope you guys make some good decisions on this. And other than that, thanks.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Stevens. Mr. Williams, what did you have in mind?

MR. WILLIAMS: I don't have any
questions to the presenters, I know that's not intended. But just in terms of the powerpoint presentation, I'm not sure my client has received it. If we have and $I$ have missed it, I apologize, but there's some information on there that we would be interested in. And also Appendix A, I am not sure we have received that either. So on behalf of our client, we'd certainly appreciate if the First Nation could make that available with the Commission's guidance.

THE CHAIRMAN: We don't have Appendix

A either. So would you be able to make the powerpoint presentation and Appendix A available?

MR. SOPROVICH: It was the powerpoint presentation. Was there a second thing?

THE CHAIRMAN: Appendix A.

MR. SOPROVICH: Okay, yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, Manitoba Hydro, do you have any questions?

MR. BEDFORD: No.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any members of the panel have questions? Mr. Gibbons.

MR. GIBBONS: Yes, I want to thank the panel sitting before us for coming here today and bringing us this information. I found it very interesting. And what I have by way of questions might be more of a clarification of some of the things that you talked about so that $I$ can better understand the situation.

One of the things that's notable and it actually was even more noticeable, I should say noticeable rather than notable, in that last map was that your First Nation's land currently is quite fragmented. And I'm wondering in terms of the whole TLE that your First Nation is discussing with the government, can we judge from that that your access to certain of the hunting, gathering, trapping, fishing areas, and so forth, is affected by the current economic and geographic situation there? On the other hand, you have this fragmentation that's occurring but you also, I

|  | think in addition to that, I'm guessing are | Page 6589 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | encountering access issues. There are lands that |  |
| 3 | you can't get to or that you don't have access to. |  |
| 4 | There's more to it than what we're seeing here I |  |
| 5 | think? |  |
| 6 | MR. STEVENS: Like the main reason our |  |
| 7 | land are so fragmented and diversified across this |  |
| 8 | valley is due to the amount of private ownership |  |
| 9 | of land. As development has increased since the |  |
| 10 | 70's to now, a lot of our traditional land is |  |
| 11 | swallowed up by farmers, by the RMs, by these |  |
| 12 | ecological protected areas, by Louisiana Pacific |  |
| 13 | logging company, there's all these different |  |
| 14 | organizations that swallow up parts and parcels of |  |
| 15 | our traditional land. And never with any |  |
| 16 | consultation, never with any heads-up except for a |  |
| 17 | letter after the fact saying this land has been |  |
| 18 | allocated to this, whatever, you know. |  |
| 19 | Like in the course of my eight years |  |
| 20 | dealing with a lot of these issues, I seen this |  |
| 21 | time and time again where like no one ever came to |  |
|  | us to say we're going to take this land from you |  |
| 23 | guys, we're going to use it for some purpose. It |  |
|  | just happened. And that's the reason we're so |  |
| 25 | spread out, is because we took land where it was |  |

available and where we have a strong traditional connection to it. There is more lands we would like to select, but unfortunately, you know, like the whole TLE process is not, like it's not a perfect process. The government likes to drag its butt a lot of times. Like we select, how do you say, there is interest there, we pick it because we have a traditional value there. Usually it takes, you know, 15 years after the fact we still haven't completed our TLE. And we selected most of these lands in the first five years. So for the past 10 years, we have been waiting for the government at the provincial and at the federal level to catch up, to move these lands forward to reserve so we can look at economic prosperity. There is a lot of economic opportunities where we are.

We're in a unique region in all of the world. We've got a little bit of mountains, a little bit of the forest, Canadian Shield, a little bit of the prairie lands to the south, a little bit of the lake country, the cottage country. It's a very diverse where we live. And this park land region is very unique around the world. You know, it's made by the glacial Lake

|  | Agassiz and by the glaciers themselves, so that's | Page 6591 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | where the uniqueness comes from. Like no where |  |
| 3 | else will you find this type of land anywhere in |  |
| 4 | this world, no where else. And to destroy it |  |
| 5 | without doing a proper assessment what you're |  |
| 6 | going to destroy just seems wrong. Like you don't |  |
| 7 | have to be a First Nation person to see it as |  |
| 8 | wrong, it can't be right. |  |
| 9 | If they are going to do something, |  |
| 10 | they are going to do it right. There's a right |  |
| 11 | way, there's a wrong way. Just like my partner |  |
| 12 | said, there's a right way and a wrong way to do |  |
| 13 | things. |  |
| 14 | Unfortunately Hydro's wrong way has |  |
| 15 | lead to this delay where we're sitting here today |  |
| 16 | still dealing with this. Hydro's lack of |  |
| 17 | commitment to do on the ground EIS surveys is |  |
| 18 | another reason we're sitting here today. To save |  |
| 19 | money probably. But in the long run, I don't |  |
| 20 | think they're saving too much because they are |  |
| 21 | delaying everything. They should have just did a |  |
| 22 | good job to begin with and things would have been |  |
| 23 | more smoother. |  |
| 24 | I hope that answers your question. I |  |
| 25 | didn't mean to be too long-winded but I was trying |  |

to give you the understanding of what we face as a TLE nation, trying to purchase land and trying to select the land within our territory that's not available to us even though there are strong cultural ties to it.

MR. SOPROVICH: Could I speak briefly to that as well? Just to give you a real world example with respect to access, there may be traditional trails used for a long time. And all of a sudden something happens and maybe the loggers aren't aware of it or whatever. But all of a sudden, that area where that trail went through gets cut and all the trash, I'll use that word that's more of a forestry term, all of the large branches and everything gets scattered over that cut-over and there's the trail gone. Because you can't really access through that thing once you've got all that stuff on there in a lot of cases because there is a lot of material. So that's just a real world example of how access can be lost.

And secondly, speaking to the TLE issue, there's lands in this nation purchased back in 1999 still not able to get into reserve status. We're dealing with these issues right now.

| 1 | MR. GIBBONS: Two more questions. |
| :--- | :--- |
| 2 | One's fairly specific and it does ask you to sort |
| 3 | of visualize a scenario. I have no idea if this |
| 4 | is technically possible. But when I saw the photo |
| 5 | of the road leading towards Duck Mountain, a |
| 6 | thought that crossed my mind is if it were |
| 7 | possible to put, and I'm speaking of a possibility |
| 8 | here both technically and I suppose to some |
| 9 | extent, economically, to put a line under ground, |
| 10 | how much of it would have to be under ground to |
| 11 | take away what I think, and I may be putting words |
| 12 | in people's mouths when I say this, but to take |
| 24 | history and heritage in the ground. And who's |
| 13 | away that visual scar that would affect the view |
| 14 | of the Duck Mountains? Would five kilometres be |
| 15 | enough, lo kilometres or is it for the full length |
| 16 | of that 200 kilometre cut-through? |
| 19 | it's the Porcupine Mountains that we were looking |

discovered and being pulled up? Because like where I come from, everywhere you'll find artifacts. Every farmland you're going to find arrow head or a spear or something that was created by my ancestors. Not one spot do we walk a mile without finding nothing. Like this area was so widely used that anywhere you do development, guaranteed you're going to find a cultural artifact. There are so many farmers in our area that have a stash of these cultural artifacts. I know they are not supposed to do stuff like that but they do it. They have two, three, 4,000 arrow heads hidden in their basements and they show their buddies. It's all over. If you're going to be, like it's a tough thing, you know, you're going to trade one evil for another evil. Should we disturb our ancestors' spirits? I don't think so. But should we suffer ourselves needlessly, I don't think so either. That's a tough question to answer.

Just to let you know how I think and how I feel about it.

MR. GIBBONS: Thank you. And then the last question, and it's hard sometimes to be brief about this kind of thing. But if you had
mentioned earlier, and I think all of you had said more or less the same thing, that if Hydro had come to you before they had decided on a final route, in other words, the idea that in the view of the community, they came too late, what might have the community have said? I don't know if any of you feel comfortable speaking for the community. Or at least what would you have said to them if they came to you before that decision was made and maybe a couple of key ideas that you think they might have missed because they came to you so late?

MR. STEVENS: I think that they would have, that we would have requested Hydro to work closely with us in our area so that they were properly educated on what they were going to be disturbing, that they were properly educated on the way my people live, the way our culture is. Because we are First Nations, First Nations in BC and First Nation in Manitoba and First Nations even in Northern Manitoba are not all the same just because we are all First Nations. Our culture is different from nation to nation. And small aspects that maybe you guys can't see but we see them as First Nations people. It's like, I
don't know how to put this in a more clear example, but maybe it's like a French man and an English man, how they see differences in themselves. That's how we would see differences in ourselves too.

And to us, you guys are all
non-Aboriginal but you guys would be French and you'd be English and you'd be whatnot. So you know, there is that way of looking at things. And I think if they would have been more educated, they would have been more aware of what they were going to disturb, they would have probably been more likely to make the lesser evil of the choices in where to put this line and put it in a place that would have at least impacted our community rather than right smack down in the middle of our two traditional communities. No where do I see it running through anybody's main communities as it does through ours. It kind of skirts around the edges of everybody else. It goes right through the middle.

And that's why I'm here today because
I don't want my children growing up seeing
something like that that has no benefit to us,
that's going to destroy our land. What's my
children supposed to get out of that? More loss of land? More loss of use traditional territory. More loss of food, who we are as people of the First Nations, more loss of our culture just so we can meet the needs of people in America, to turn on lights and heat up their homes? It makes no sense to me.

MR. GIBBONS: Thank you very much.
MS. MacKAY: I'm not sure that you can answer this for me, but it's clear that you feel there were some serious problems with process here. But I'm also wondering if, and I'm not asking you to tell me where it should go, but do you believe that if you had worked earlier with Hydro, you could have found a route for this through that area that would have satisfied you?

MR. STEVENS: I think that if they would have worked with all the three local First Nations within our traditional area here, because there's one to the north, Sapotaweyak Cree Nation, there's Pine Creek Nation to the south and our nation, if they would have met with us and say you know what, we want you guys to work with us so we can develop a route through your territory here, I don't see why that would have not worked. It's
just lack of planning and lack of foresight on Hydro's part. We're always willing to work with people, you know, to build our country up. We're part of Canada, too. We want to be accepted as part of Canada. A lot of times we always get relegated to the backburner as First Nations. We can't bring them up because it will burn your fingers if you do. So you deal with these things within the national spotlight.

If people were more willing to work with First Nations, First Nations wouldn't be where they are today in a big hole in the country, in one of the richest countries in this world.

I don't know if that answers your question. But from where I stand, I think that's the way I see it.

MS. MacKAY: So I'd be correct then in interpreting your attitude to be that you don't object to the concept of a Bipole III, you just object to where it is right now and how it got there?

MR. STEVENS: That's kind of a mixed
feeling for me because I'm a little
progressive-minded, like myself, I know that there's progress, you know. Unfortunately we've
got to suffer, cultural peoples, like minorities, we've got to suffer the environment, the animals, the plants in order to make progress. I
understand that. I understand all that. And in order for First Nations to get out of, like out of the poor house, so to speak, we have to understand to move with the times. We can't live in the past. We've got to understand our past because we've got to move forward.

But there is no understanding of the past there. You know, like what Hydro is doing, is just doing more of the same thing they did 130 years ago when they pushed us off our land and stuck us in the swamp and say that's your reserve. We'll take all of the good land and give you the swamp. They are doing all the same thing.

Nowadays, Manitoba Hydro is the Indian agent. They are coming there disbursing people out of the way so they can put their line through there. They don't care who gets hurt as long as their profit is made.

They knew they were going to build this line before they even come out to the public, they knew it because you plan ahead. When you run a business, you plan ahead. Probably they knew
this in the '80s or the '90s they are going to do a Bipole III. Why didn't they start doing like preparation work at that time, dealing with First Nations saying, you know, we are going to be expanding our operations because the demand for energy is going to keep climbing. And we've got good energy rates so we're going to expand. I think a lot of our First Nation would have been on board if they were included in this whole planning process instead of getting left out to the last all the time. It's always we don't get looked at until something bad is happening.

You know, maybe it's time this country as a whole, not just Manitoba but everybody sort of look at First Nations in a more progressive way. If you work with us, we'll work with you and we can do something great there.

MS. MacKAY: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: I'm going to ask a question you may not be able to answer. You have indicated earlier more than once that you haven't completed your review or haven't had an opportunity to complete your review of the re-routing of the Bipole through your area. Are you able to say at this time whether you prefer

|  | one over the other? | Page 6601 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | MR. SOPROVICH: No. |  |
| 3 | THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you. That |  |
| 4 | was the only question I had. |  |
| 5 | So I thank you for coming here today |  |
| 6 | and for your presentation. I believe from your |  |
| 7 | earlier comment, Mr. Soprovich, that Elder Brass |  |
| 8 | would like to say a closing prayer; is that |  |
| 9 | correct? |  |
| 10 | MR. SOPROVICH: That's correct. |  |
| 11 | THE CHAIRMAN: We'll wait for a moment |  |
| 12 | or two. I want to deal with some procedural |  |
| 13 | issues before we break for lunch. And then once |  |
| 14 | I've dealt with that, we'll ask Elder Brass to say |  |
| 15 | the closing prayer. |  |
| 16 | We'll break for lunch now. We have |  |
| 17 | the afternoon scheduled for Manitoba Metis |  |
| 18 | Federation. Mr. Madden has indicated to us that |  |
| 19 | because of some media commitments, he may not be |  |
| 20 | able to get here until 1:30. He had indicated |  |
| 21 | 1:30 to 2:00 and we told him 1:30, no later. So |  |
| 22 | perhaps we'll be a little lucky and start earlier |  |
| 23 | or he'll show up a little earlier, so I'd ask you |  |
| 24 | to show up about 1:15 and hopefully we can get |  |
| 25 | going at that time. |  |

So as soon as we have had the closing prayer, we'll break until 1:15.
Elder Brass?
MR. BRASS: Thank you. First of all, I'd like to thank Manitoba Clean Environment Commission for having us here and everybody that's here, I thank them here too. So I'll go ahead and say my prayer in my own language. Thank you. 453Closing Prayer)
Amen.

> Proceedings recessed at 12:02 p.m.and
> reconvened at 1:30 p.m.)
> THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We will reconvene. We have an MMF afternoon, evidence being submitted by the MMF and then their final argument.
I would be remiss if I didn't start off the afternoon by not offering the congratulations of the Clean Environment Commission to President Chartrand and to Mr. Madden for their accomplishments last week.
So Mr. Madden, over to you.
MR. MADDEN: We are going to start off this afternoon by President Chartrand making a few initial comments, and then $I$ may have questions

letter indicating my issues of concern again, what I believe to be a lack of follow through and commitment made at this particular table here the last time $I$ was here.
So I thought it would be fitting for me to be here so that the Commissioners themselves can ask me questions if they wanted to get more clarity on it from me, not hearing from second-hand of documentation or information, and at the same time to share some more clarity with the litigation team that represents Manitoba Hydro, on the reference to our discussion and somewhat jousting back and forth statements last time.
As you are aware, the last time I was here, I echoed very strongly again the lack of consultations that took place with the Metis people of Manitoba, the lack of consideration that Hydro gives to the Manitoba Metis Federation as a representative body of Metis people, and try to circumvent us through mayors and councils or institutions and separate bodies, just to say that there happens to be a Metis person there, at least we spoke to the Metis. And I wanted to share that with you again, because I indicated and I asked
the Commissioners, and I hope you had the time and opportunity to be briefed on the Northern Affairs Act, as I referenced to you regarding community consults and what their jurisdiction and mandate is.

I am, in no way, opposed in any
fashion Hydro not to consult with mayors and council, because they have a jurisdiction when it comes to their community versus the administration and operation of a town or village, whether it is the usage of extra passageways in the roads or infrastructure of their operation, of course, they need to be consulted. But when it comes to the matter of the facts of my people, they have no jurisdiction, which is pointed out black and white in the Northern Affairs Act, the arrangement, the agreement that they are under.

It is however somewhat disturbing for me, the last time I was here -- and again, I thank Mr. Bedford for his kind words regarding my doctorate that $I$ received the last time I was here, and I do really sincerely thank him for that. But $I$ was also very happy when I left here in the sense that maybe, finally, before a body, Hydro has decided to sit down and consult with the
Metis through the MMF, who is a legal
representative body of the Metis people. The Supreme Court of Canada recognizes us for sure, a Crown corporation should do the same. In fact, lower courts have recognized it too. But it is quite disturbing when that doesn't happen.
I know letters are written back and forth by the legal teams to each other. We have -- also one of the things I'm quite pleased about, I trained my officials in my office to follow up on every conference call, every phone call, every email, that we keep documentation of that, so in the future it is important for evidentiary material if it is ever needed.
So when I left here last time,
Mr. Chair and Commissioners, I had the goodwill
feeling inside me that, okay, finally something is going to happen. There is going to be consultations, there is going to be clear issues. There is some serious matters at stake for my people. And we use these particular areas quite openly, quite strongly, and it has gone on for generation upon generation. I myself as a child used them, and I still use them today, getting to be a senior citizen pretty soon, I hope, another

12 years.
When I look at the state of when I
left, and I think you were probably under the same impression, that we would resolve some of these outstanding matters. It did not happen,

Mr. Commissioner. In fact, we found ourself in a bureaucratic boondoggle, $I$ will call it, in the sense of back and forth emails and phone calls. You know, it was in my view the best case scenario of why things don't work. But what really didn't impress me, I have had a chance to meet with the president of Hydro, I met the Minister of Hydro since the last time we met here with the Commission, since $I$ have been here last time as a witness at the Commission, and I'm meeting with the Minister of Hydro again tomorrow. I spoke to the Premier this morning regarding some of these issues, also my concern. But it was clear to me, and I echoed this sentiment loud and clear, I think -- and no disrespect to the Crown, we are talking Hydro, has found itself in a very -- in a placement where $I$ think they believe they don't have to do it. It is just a matter of -- and I'm not trying to be disrespectful, I'm telling you it from my eyes as a political leader who has been an
activist for 30 years. I see Hydro looks at the Metis as something, a casualty of war if you want to call it that phrase, or just a casualty of process. Because at the end of the day, I think the complacency that Hydro finds itself is, we are going to get the environmental licence anyway. I am not saying that to be disrespectful, I am just telling you what I see. I could be absolutely wrong but I don't think I am.

I said to you here as Commissioners, and in front of Hydro, that I do support Hydro. I do. I believe in Hydro, in its future for this province. I do believe it is a necessity of how it needs to undertake the economic opportunities that do exist and how, in the long run, it would help all Canadians, Manitobans, and its end also, our business partners in the United States or whatever, that at the end of the day it is good for Manitoba. But I will not, and I made it very clear to Hydro and I made it clear to this Commission, do it at the sacrifice of my people.

And what we are here about today is, I want to talk about a little bit if $I$ can, Mr. Commissioner, it is not about the money, it is not about any source of revenue that should come
out of this, it is the impact of the environment and what will it do to our people? We saw what happened to us in 1960. I made reference to that in an interview yesterday. In 1960, they plowed down our Metis community and just got rid of it, in the dams that took place in Grand Rapids. And people are suffering from that. Nobody has ever dealt with that yet to this day. It is unfortunate that it did happen.

And Hydro basically felt they didn't have to consult with us, they didn't have to talk to us, and they still believe they don't have to talk to us.

I was also under the impression, and this is my own personal impression, that again, as I said, the Commissioners are appointed by the Province and you have a tough job in front of you, a very important job in front of you as Manitobans, to make a call, to make a judgment call on what your recommendations will be.

But one of the founding, I hope, principles of it will be is Hydro doing just for all Manitobans, not just the majority, inclusive of the minority? The minority's rights are no lesser than the majority. And I think it is
essential that we look at what Hydro has done. And I told this directly to the president; how can a commitment be made at this level in front of Commissioners, and that Hydro did not fulfill its commitment that they would do the consultations with us? We can blame back and forth, emails and people making meetings. I told this directly to the president, I said, Scott, you could have picked up the phone, if there was an issue $I$ would have fixed it immediately, if you want to blame my office, it would have been done instantly. And no one picked up the phone. And I told the vice president, neither did you.

So we echoed to you, and I can show you email after email after email if you want evidence here of the constant discussion that took place.

One of the challenges that we face, Commissioners, is this: Hydro has operated in this tunnel in the sense of village, reserve by reserve, that's their mentality. And I echoed that with the president, that in the federation we operate in a completely different structure. And we have about 80 communities that we base our citizens living in. And those citizens are
effectively, and will be affected by Hydro development in the mass majority, because that's where we live in those particular areas.

And when I spoke to Hydro, I made it very clear to them that in the discussions that we have and the formula that we use is probably the most productive and cost effective action that Hydro could ever create a partner with. And I will give you a scenario, if $I$ can, Mr. Commissioners. I will use where I come from, Duck Bay, Manitoba.

One of the things that took place right after this is we asked to put together proper consultations on the effects in the Kettle Hill area. It is a traditional area that's been used for generation after generation after generation, and will be used hopefully for generations to come. And we utilize it for all sorts of purposes. One is cultural. Second is berries, medicinal, wood. We use it for hunting. It is something very, very important to us and it really pales to the importance of it in the bigger scale. But when we looked at how the Hydro looks at it, and this is a good example for you to grasp what I'm trying to get at, my point in the village
by village, in this tunnel they operate in, and they don't want to get out of it for some reason. They said they want to consult. We put together a proposal quickly, after some jousting, we put in a proposal, said it is going to cost $\$ 153,000$ to do this and we can hopefully have it for the Commissioners by January 28 was the deadline. That didn't pan out, they come back with the response and said, we will give you $\$ 10,000$, and we will even set up the meetings for you if you want, and we will talk to the two or three communities.

What they weren't grasping, and that's the tunnel vision again, is that there is about 20 of my communities that use this place without question every year. I know them, I go there, I see them. They stay out there for two months, many of them. They use it throughout the full year, but in the summer they are there for about two months. I know who they are and I know what communities they come from.

We do not have a reserve. We don't operate in that little corner, little circle, that is not the way we live.

They can talk to Pine Creek reserve,
they can talk to Indian Birch, which I hope they did, and Pelican Rapids and their reserve, which uses that particular area. But I have over 20 communities in that circle that my Metis people live in that actually use it full time, all of the time. They have done it for generations. But talking to Duck Bay and Camperville alone would not sustain the importance of democracy to make sure that all of my people knew what was happening, the effects to the future, I had to talk to all the other 18 of them.

Hydro looks at it, I talked to two communities that should be satisfactory. Nowhere can I ever support that, ever can that ever take place. That's not consultations, that's just a fast, quick going, instead of cooking a meal you go through McDonald's to grab a quick meal.

So it is just unbelievable that here is something that's worth billions of dollars, and Hydro is caught up on a little tunnel that they don't have to do it.

My message inside there is that I think, and this is what $I$ said politically in my office -- is it because Hydro feels that the Commissioners will still approve it anyway,
because this is too big a project and we are a small piece of it; or $B$-- the Crown is asking the Province to give them a licence and the Crown -and I said this to our lawyer -- aren't they in conflict? The province owns this, in some ways Manitobans, I am supposed to own it myself, but they are the ones asking the province to give them approval for an environmental licence, but yet they believe that they don't have to fulfill their constitutional legal obligation.

And the environmental impact will have great effect on us, Mr. Commissioner. I swear, and I will swear again, it will have immense damage to us.

I have got a resolution 8 here. I had a meeting, we fortunately had our own meeting with the Federal Government in partnership with the Province on a different issue called resolution 8. Resolution 8 is something that $I$ spoke to you about regarding the way our community governments operate. We have 80 community governments called locals, then we have seven regions in our Province, and then we have the Provincial head office in Winnipeg. Out of that structure comes our democracy of governance.

| 1 | It was clear from all of the 80 | Page 6615 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | communities and 3,000 citizens that are |  |
| 3 | representative people that came in to our assembly |  |
| 4 | unanimously approved Resolution 8, that no one |  |
| 5 | local can tie into another community that would be |  |
| 6 | impacted. It was very important to them. Duck |  |
| 7 | Bay couldn't tie in Camperville, Camperville |  |
| 8 | couldn't tie in Spur or Swan River, where people |  |
| 9 | live, or surrounding, et cetera, et cetera, or |  |
| 10 | Mafeking or Birch River. Those are all Metis |  |
| 11 | communities our people live in. They are not |  |
| 12 | dominated 100 per cent by Metis, but we have a |  |
| 13 | good chunk of Metis people living there. And that |  |
| 14 | one community could not tie them in, for example, |  |
| 15 | to Kettle Hills, which is one of the Bipole III |  |
| 16 | diversions. It would act -- it would take the |  |
| 17 | consultations of ensuring that they all had to |  |
| 18 | understand what was happening. That's what |  |
| 19 | Resolution 8 meant. |  |
| 20 | So we had a gathering on February 24, |  |
| 21 | Mr. Commissioner, and at that time we had |  |
| 22 | communities from, I think it was about 50 |  |
| 23 | communities that came in, or 40 communities, and |  |
| 24 | some of them impacted in the particular areas. |  |
| 25 | And they all again ratified that, given that |  |

Hydro's lack of sitting down and consulting with them and advising them what the damages and effects could be, that they are giving me direction to litigate, and to move forward and immediately press upon litigation to put a stop to what is happening here -- not this Commission itself, but the advancement of Hydro and Bipole III.

So I got my marching orders also from my governance system to advance that. I'm trying desperately, and I told the Premier today point blank, I said I don't want to fight with Hydro, but I said, you can not keep on pushing me back and pushing me back and expect me, as a leader, to fail my citizens and fail my people. I said, we can't be the one, the sacrificial group that has to pay the price, ignoring our needs and our pressing issues because Hydro has to fulfill a big multi-billion dollar arrangement here that's going to hopefully save our province and our financial economic engines. But at the end of the day, we are not going to be that sacrificial lamb.

I also wrote to Valcourt, which I will share, I will leave here and I hope the Commissioners have a chance to read it. Because
it talks about I think where this all stems from, Mr. Commissioners. And I know if you look at the Northern Flood Agreement, we were told point blank we weren't a part of it, because back in that time, if you look at December 16, 1977, the governments were taking the position, both Federal and Provincial, that Metis weren't rights bearing people, because they made Constitution changes in 1982, but we were rights bearing people at that time.

So the Northern Flood Agreement stemmed that the Hydro and the Province would sit down with bands and negotiate impact of those bands and settle with those bands, and the Metis would just watch. And that was the position of the NFA, and it carries and haunts the system. I raised that with the president and I raised that with the Minister, and I will be raising it again with him tomorrow, that NFA itself may be the force of the tunneling system that operates at Hydro, that forces them not to look at the Metis community or MMF.

Last night we were here too, we talked about showcasing evidence of, is there really a fair and equitable process happening when it comes
to financial contributions by Hydro to ensure that they do their due diligence? And I think Mr. Bedford and $I$ had a jousting match regarding how much money was paid to First Nations, and I said 2 million, he said, no, 1 million, we went back and forth. But $I$ had the privilege of going to -- getting a document just to see numbers, that was Freedom of Information, and actually it was 2.3 million that was paid in total to the five -one, two, three, four, five -- six entities in total for Bipole III consultations. Subtract the 441 for the Metis from 2010, these are 2011/12, which I will leave for the Commissioners to look at, the total amount will be about 1.9 million spent on First Nations on consultations of Bipole III. But when you look at it -- and this is the point, Mr. Chair, if I can, I tried, and I hope I did, and if I didn't, I failed if I didn't properly express to you my sentiments about how Hydro looks at it in a singular vision. When you look at Fox Lake Cree Band, for example, and $I$ use this number here, they were paid total $\$ 798,596.95$ for consultations on Bipole III. And Hydro said, well, we gave the Metis the same thing, we give you $\$ 441,250$ is what the
number is. But what they are not showing the Commissioners is that Fox Lake is one band. I'm serving maybe $30,40,50$ communities that are going to be affected in that Bipole III diversion. So, in fact, maybe up to 80 communities, but I'm only get 441.

I'm not here to argue about the money, but I want to show you that there is not a balance here at all. Far from the truth of a balance. Because if $I$ did the same thing that they want to go in by a tunneling system of one community, I would have to have probably 798,000 to every community, and bring in my 60 communities and times that by 798,000 per community. It would be a nightmare for Hydro, it would be nightmare for our economy, it would be crazy, it would be ludicrous.

So in my view I offered them probably the most equitable way of how we do business. And instead, we seem to have hit a brick wall.

I don't blame Mr. Bedford sitting here or his legal team, nor do $I$ blame the president of Hydro. I indicated to Mr. Scott, I think the challenge lies is your policies are having a hinderance to this process. But your policies are
going to cost everybody a lot of time, a lot of money and a lot of litigation.

There is no doubt in my mind, at this point in time, my people have told me point blank, litigation must happen -- if this thing continues, and they did not consult with us, they did not tell us the effects of the damage that's going to happen to our generation to come and the generation after, if this damage is so great and you sit by and watch it happen, then we want you to stop it.

Now, what they are asking me to do is stop a $\$ 3$ billion initiative, 3 billion. It goes against the principles of my belief in the economy sense of supporting Hydro because of the magnitude of its size, because it is good for Manitoba. But it doesn't go against my principles of protecting my people, which comes first at all times.

I say to myself, and I told Mr. Scott, we could have maybe resolved this. Maybe we could have came before this Commission and we could have done consultations. But instead when you asked us to put a budget together, which we did, because it is not money wasted on us, it is those experts that cost money. You know what experts cost, they
cost a lot of money. To get those people in to do a proper job and to consult with all of those communities that are going to be affected, it costs 153. I said, you threw back a $\$ 10,000$-this is what you are willing to pay to talk to 22 communities, whatever you can afford out of 10,000. I was thinking to myself, you are talking about 3 billion. You are playing nickels and dimes or pennies with our province? Tell me where that makes sense?

So there is so much effects that are going to occur here, Mr. Commissioners. My people are going to be affected, there is no question about it. The Hydro dams are scaring -- the transmission lines are scaring my people already. They are saying that it is going to affect the wildlife. We have already made -- I'm trying to think the proper language -- concessions on stop moose hunting in those particular areas. We have done that. Nobody else would, we were first at the bat, and we came to show that conservation is number one to us. Now we see that this is going to affect our moose habitat, without question, our deer, our wildlife. And it is going to definitely affect our berries, our opportunities to

|  | continue -- people are already fearful right now | Page 6622 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | because there are complaints that our blueberries |  |
| 3 | are a lot smaller. They don't know if it is the |  |
| 4 | environment that has changed on us or what is |  |
| 5 | happening. |  |
| 6 | Now, with the transmission line |  |
| 7 | coming, we are hoping that Hydro can give us |  |
| 8 | assurances with any study or possible idea that |  |
| 9 | the damages won't be there, and here is why, so we |  |
| 10 | can tell the people, you know, this is something |  |
| 11 | that we can trust because here is evidence. But |  |
| 12 | we have nothing to go back to, I have nothing to |  |
| 13 | go back to my people, Mr. Chair. I have nothing |  |
| 14 | to show them that can guarantee me, I can show |  |
| 15 | them to trust me as their leader, to trust me in |  |
| 16 | confidence to support this development. I have |  |
| 17 | nothing. And for what? |  |
| 18 | You gave us an opportunity, |  |
| 19 | Mr. Commissioner, all four of you gave us a |  |
| 20 | chance, go back and fix this problem. We can |  |
| 21 | point fingers back and forth all we want. At the |  |
|  | end of the day, it wasn't done. But I came here |  |
|  | personally as the president to tell you one phone |  |
|  | call could have solved this by Hydro phoning me. |  |
| 25 | It would have been done. If they want to blame |  |

us, they can blame us all they want, but $I$ have got evidence to defend myself too. But at the end of the day, it did not happen.

Now they are going to come before you and say support us to move ahead through the clean Environment Commission, forget the Metis, they will be the consequence of our actions, they are a small minority, the effects won't be that great, ignore them.

I asked my lawyer today, has there ever been a Clean Environment Commission body that has ever ruled against Hydro? I don't know. And he said I don't think so. I said, I would love to know, I wish we knew that answer, because I would love to tell the Commissioners, maybe you will be the first body to tell these guys you can't just do what you want anymore. It is not right, it is not fair, you are a multi-billion dollar company, and if you can't figure out to deal with people in my province, including yours, in the Province of Manitoba, then you have a problem.

You guys have been at this game a long, long time. Hydro is not a beginner, it is not brand new, they have been at this game a long, long time.

When you ask them, did they consult with First Nations, they will give you numbers and they will give you a process. They can snap their fingers and it will be done. When it comes to us, ask them that same question. I guarantee they can't. I get less than 1 per cent of the total budget they have spent on First Nations, and that's secondary, but it just shows you where the mindset is for Hydro when it comes to the Metis people. We are just the casualties of war, and I use that as an example. Because it is just unbelievable that this can happen in this beautiful province that $I$ love and believe in so much.

I think that Hydro had the chance to fix -- you gave us that chance and they have not fulfilled that. I'm asking this Commission, this is going to affect my people greatly, and I'm asking you to say no to the environmental -- give us a chance again, tell them to go back to the drawing board. This is worth $\$ 3$ billion. If they can't fix a small problem, I don't know how they can move forward with the process. Because without question, if this thing moves ahead, you will see me in a courtroom. And I do not want to
go to a courtroom, I have been in a courtroom long enough, too dam long to be honest with you. And I'm tired of fighting in the courts all of the time when common sense prevails.

I think the opportunity is there, I told that to the Premier this morning, I said I think you have a chance, Mr. Premier, you and I can fix this problem. Let's find a solution, the solutions are there. But if Hydro continues to just ignore my people and disrespect them, we will fight to the end. We will protect our people.

And we know without question in this room, and they admit it themselves in their evidentiary documents, some of the stuff they put forward, that there is going to be effect, guaranteed, without question. Guess whose people is going to be affected -- right here, our people. Why should our people keep on paying the consequence for this? It can not happen, Mr. Commissioners, I plead with you, I ask you to bring forth the position to say no. You will go back, you are a multi-billion company that has been around for a long time. You should have the solutions, you have the ability, you should definitely have the tools to do consultation. If
you don't, then you guys are in trouble. Then our economy is in trouble and our business is in trouble.

I close my comments with that. And I
state again for evidence, they spent 223 million on First Nations people since 1999, and they spent Metis, 2 million, 3 million. That shows you numbers, shows you where we sit on the Totem pole. And from our perspective, Hydro needs to be told, you could be the big guy but the small guy has rights too.

Thank you, Mr. Commissioner.
MR. MADDEN: And I just have a few questions. There is an additional letter. Can you maybe just explain the two letters, the one from February 29th, which I don't actually think was the 29th, I think it was February 28th, unless it was a leap year -- incompetent legal counsel -and the one from March 6th, can you just explain those two letters for the Commissioners?

MR. CHARTRAND: February 29th, which is supposed to be February 28th, and March 6th is --

MR. MADDEN: March 6th is the letter to Minister Macintosh and Chomiak.

MR. CHARTRAND: I may not have it in front of me. I left it in my office. Do you have a copy that $I$ can look at to verify that's the document?

Yes. Well, there is two letters, one the February 29th, which, correct, should be February 28th -- it wasn't a leap year -- is an actual response to Mr. Bedford. Mr. Bedford wrote to our lawyer, who in return wrote back and expressed point blank addressing the points that were raised by Mr. Bedford in his letter. Mr. Bedford made certain statements, certain issues, and our lawyer responded back trying to address the segments of our issues and concerns, and trying to showcase that consultations could have happened but here is why it didn't happen. So it gives you that perspective on it.

The other one, of course, I wrote is March 6th to both Macintosh and Chomiak, Macintosh is to issue the licence and Chomiak is in response for Hydro. I have indicated to them again there is a serious issue at stake here, there is a serious matter between us and Hydro, and of course which will result in the Province having a role to play, and at both times we believe we need to deal

|  | with this as quickly as possibl | Page 6628 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | I have been trying, Mr. Commissioners, |  |
| 3 | as I said, to find a way, our solution to move |  |
| 4 | ahead and support the end project as it may be. |  |
| 5 | But in the meantime, I'm hoping, I'm giving enough |  |
| 6 | reference to a legal precedence, examples of what |  |
| 7 | is out there and what is happening, that the |  |
| 8 | Provincial Government themselves, both would come |  |
| 9 | to the conclusion that there is a problem here and |  |
| 10 | we need to fix it. That's the two letters for you |  |
| 11 | to look at. |  |
| 12 | I also wrote one to Valcourt, which is |  |
| 13 | dated February 27th, 2013. Valcourt is the new |  |
| 14 | Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs in |  |
| 15 | Canada that would deal with the Northern Flood |  |
| 16 | Agreement and the situation that's taking place |  |
| 17 | right now in Manitoba. |  |
| 18 | You know what, if I can, |  |
| 19 | Mr. Commissioner, I do apologize, I was going to |  |
| 20 | say my last comment, but I -- we are supposed to |  |
| 21 | be the kings when it comes to Hydro in this |  |
| 22 | country. We dominate that issue of being |  |
| 23 | innovative and creative and being a force to |  |
|  | reckon with when it comes to hydro sales and hydro |  |
| 25 | development. I got a copy of the Ontario long |  |


|  | term energy plan. | Page 6629 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | MR. MADDEN: I think that there may |  |
| 3 | have been a mistake, I don't think that we |  |
| 4 | distributed the Valcourt meeting, the Valcourt |  |
| 5 | letter, so we will get that out to people. |  |
| 6 | THE CHAIRMAN: I have it. |  |
| 7 | MR. MADDEN: Okay. Perfect. I think |  |
| 8 | those -- |  |
| 9 | MR. CHARTRAND: We will make sure I |  |
| 10 | get you a copy. If you want it translated, I can |  |
| 11 | get it translated for you also. Thank you for |  |
| 12 | clarifying that. |  |
| 13 | But if I can, Mr. Chair, I brought |  |
| 14 | Ontario's long term energy plan, I thought I would |  |
| 15 | bring that along just for the Commissioners to |  |
| 16 | look at. I leave this behind, it is a quick |  |
| 17 | document. I will turn to Aboriginal communities. |  |
| 18 | It says here that, in fact, The province of |  |
| 19 | Ontario, regarding new transmission lines, they |  |
| 20 | are committed to meeting the duty to consult with |  |
| 21 | First Nations and Metis communities, in fact they |  |
| 22 | are signing an agreement with the Metis Nation of |  |
| 23 | Ontario, which is my counterpart in Ontario. It |  |
| 24 | goes: |  |
| 25 | "Ontario will encourage transmission |  |


|  |  | Page 6630 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | companies to enter into partnerships |  |
| 2 | with Aboriginal communities where |  |
| 3 | commercially feasible and where these |  |
| 4 | communities have expressed interest. |  |
| 5 | The government will also work with the |  |
| 6 | OPA to adjust the aboriginal energy |  |
| 7 | partnership program currently focused |  |
| 8 | on renewal energy projects to provide |  |
| 9 | capacity funding for Aboriginal |  |
| 10 | communities that are discussing |  |
| 11 | partnerships on future transmission |  |
| 12 | projects." |  |
| 13 | MR. MADDEN: What page is that on? |  |
| 14 | MR. CHARTRAND: That will be page 49 |  |
| 15 | under section 5, Aboriginal communities. |  |
| 16 | So it just tells you a small -- maybe |  |
| 17 | I'm wrong when it comes to my understanding of how |  |
| 18 | Hydro projects are in its mass, but I do brag |  |
| 19 | somewhat about ours in this country, that we are |  |
| 20 | not a fly-by-night little organization, we are |  |
| 21 | quite a big organization. But if Ontario can come |  |
| 22 | up with a policy and a recommendation from their |  |
| 23 | energy plan, I'm sure that Manitoba Hydro can come |  |
|  | up with one too. |  |
| 25 | So, as I said, at least in Ontario |  |

they are recognizing the Metis. And Ontario does not have a historic community like we do in Manitoba with the Red River Settlement and the Metis people founding this province. Yet we don't have one for Metis in this province, which we don't. Hydro can't produce one either. They do not have -- their idea of sitting down with the Metis is to get around to mayors and council because there has to be a Metis elected somewhere. And that's why I keep on encouraging you to read the Northern Affairs Act. And they know full well that at the end of the day -- as I said, they have been playing that checker game for a long time, and the chess game is coming to an end I hope, where they can't keep on trying to showcase that they actually talked to somebody that happened to be Metis, so they actually did their proper due diligence and consultations. Because at the end of the day, I think they have a responsibility. And let's understand this, I close off again with this, this is a multi-multi-billion dollar company. And if it can't figure out a problem of a small nature of this nature, then there is something wrong with that company, or else it has too much -- they are

| 1 | giving me words today, I was trying to think of a Page 6632 |
| :--- | :--- |
| 2 | word, trying to be considerate at the same time |
| 3 | and respectful to Hydro. But I don't think they |
| 4 | are too -- I hope they are not too complacent |
| 5 | already -- but just to believe that they do not |
| 6 | have to do it anyway because they will still get |
| 7 | their licence anyway. Like are they that -- how |
| 8 | do I say it, what is the word that I'm looking |
| 9 | for -- I will let the Commissioners figure out |
| 10 | that word -- but are they that bold to believe |
| 11 | that they don't have to worry, even though they |
| 12 | know they are not consulting, they will admit to |
| 24 | questions, President Chartrand. |
| 13 | you they didn't consult with us, they can not say |
| 14 | they did, but they still think you will give them |
| 15 | the licence anyway. And that is what I am saying, |
| 16 | I hope you are the first Commission body that will |
| 17 | say, no, we are not going to let that happen in |

said no to Manitoba Hydro. The answer to that is no, in large part because this is only the second Manitoba Hydro proposal that has ever come before the Clean Environment Commission, Wuskwatim being the first. And that was because of changes to the Environment Act in the late '80s that required this type of a hearing for Hydro projects.

I would just like to take you back to the Wuskwatim experience, and you may have to help me with my memory. You said earlier that you are still 12 years away from being a senior citizen. Unfortunately, I have already passed that, so my memory might not be quite as good as yours. But I seem to recall that you made a presentation before the Clean Environment Commission at the Wuskwatim hearings on behalf of Metis, did you not?

MR. CHARTRAND: I think I'm getting deaf, I didn't hear your question. I didn't hear myself -- I have a hard time hearing you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Did you -- during the Wuskwatim hearings, in fact I believe it was in one of the northern communities, you made a presentation on behalf of the MMF, did you not? MR. CHARTRAND: I'm not sure to be honest with you. My memory is hopefully not going
away. If somebody can tell me where, tell me a community and I might get --

THE CHAIRMAN: I'm not certain. I
think it was either Thompson or The Pas.

MR. CHARTRAND: It could have been one of my vice presidents also representing the MMF, I am not sure.

THE CHAIRMAN: It doesn't really matter, but what $I$ do recall is that someone, I believe it was you, made a presentation on behalf of the MMF during the Wuskwatim hearings, much the same as you have done this afternoon, just saying that in the opinion of the MMF, Manitoba Hydro had not fully consulted.

Now, I don't have the Wuskwatim report in front of me, but $I$ seem to recall that one of our recommendations was that Manitoba Hydro go out and conduct those consultations with the MMF prior to getting into full tilt construction of the Wuskwatim. Do you know if that ever happened?

MR. CHARTRAND: I'm trying to reflect
back now. No disrespect, I'm trying to reflect back. We met on so many occasions on this matter, Brennan and myself. At the end I'm sure it was clearly -- I think after the effects is when we
continued to move on the consultations. And there was discussions, there was meetings, but it was lead more or less by the president himself. So there was definitely dialogue that took place. And we came to an arrangement and agreement how we could move ahead supporting each other, but at the same time learning from this lesson. That I remember clearly. And Mr. Brennan can verify that if you call him in as a witness.

We did indicate that this will be a lesson learnt.

Because if you will recall my comments last time, in this hearing, I expressed, I did speak a little bit about Wuskwatim. And I did talk about the arrangement made with Hydro is that they consulted already with the First Nations. And the deal of partnership, and $I$ use this Ontario as an example of creating one, that deal was already -- everything was given away, there was nothing left there to sit down and say, talk about partnership after, how do we work together, is there ways that we can support each other respecting economy effects that we can probably assist on, given the fact that we are affecting your territory or affecting your usage of the
area, we can compensate it different ways of jobs and opportunities.

And so that discussion, I know clearly with the president, is that we would learn from that. That would not happen the next go around. And the next go around is here and it did happen again. We are not consulted again. And that's why I get so, I would say lost in such a -- we are talking about a multi-billion dollar agreement here, multi-billion dollar expense, and yet we seem to be caught in a little cycle of, we don't have to consult with the Metis people. I don't understand that for the life of me. And if somebody can explain to me why they don't have to consult with me, and it makes sense, then $I$ will concede and walk away. But there is nothing that I see or can come to grips with where my people are not as important as anybody else in this province. I just can't understand it.

THE CHAIRMAN: By any chance did you and Mr. Brennan put these lessons that you are going to learn down on paper? Are they in an exchange of letters or --

MR. CHARTRAND: What we did is that one of the things that we talked about, that was
the beauty of it, some of the changes in the agreements afterwards at the bureaucratic level, but I expressed to Scott himself, and Scott liked what I just expressed. I said we hired a liaison officer, so if there are issues that pertain to how do we move ahead, one of the things that we are supposed to do is that a liaison officer would work with us, and work with the communities to try to coordinate a process. But that's not happening. In fact, Hydro's position now is that the coordinator position may be something else. And we are saying no, no, that was the entire discussion that Bob and I had, was that the coordinator would be used to assist us in ensuring that the communities that could be affected could be easily more collectively put together so we can address it in a more effective and financial expedient matter. So that was the issue.

In fact, $I$ just spoke with Hydro on this issue on our liaison officer. We haven't got no funding for it yet. This is now March, my funding is supposed to be April. As I said, we are talking a multi-billion dollar company and they haven't given my $\$ 100,000$ for the full position yet for this year, I am paying for it.

|  | So that's okay, I told them if you don't want to | Page 6638 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | give me it, then so be it. But the point at the |  |
| 3 | end of the day is that we are supposed to start |  |
| 4 | creating a new model. |  |
| 5 | I was invited, if I can, Mr. Chair, I |  |
| 6 | was invited by Brennan to participate in the |  |
| 7 | writing of procurement strategy. And that didn't |  |
| 8 | happen. I understand Hydro is rewriting some of |  |
| 9 | their Aboriginal portfolio inside there, and I |  |
| 10 | was -- Bob advised me very clearly that I would be |  |
| 11 | part of that process, to help with my insight, and |  |
| 12 | what could be a better opportunity for ourselves |  |
| 13 | and Hydro. |  |
| 14 | So we seem to have been pushed out. |  |
| 15 | And I think it is because there is -- either they |  |
| 16 | don't want to understand, or get out of the system |  |
| 17 | that they are in, or the process that they are |  |
| 18 | accustomed to, or they just don't want to -- they |  |
| 19 | can't get out of this mentality that Metis are |  |
| 20 | rights bearing people and are also as important as |  |
| 21 | First Nations. I don't know what it is. Only |  |
| 22 | Hydro can answer that question why it is. In |  |
| 23 | fact, I was told by the president that he has to |  |
|  | get direction from the province. |  |
| 25 | So I told that to the Premier today. |  |


|  | I said my understanding from my last meeting I | Page 6639 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | said with Mr. Thompson is that they are waiting |  |
| 3 | for your direction. He said, I didn't know that, |  |
| 4 | let me find out, and he is going to get back to me |  |
| 5 | on that. |  |
| 6 | So why the two are talking and waiting |  |
| 7 | for each other to tell who to do what when it |  |
| 8 | comes to us, I don't understand that. I'm sure |  |
| 9 | they are not waiting to ask what they do with |  |
| 10 | First Nations. |  |
| 11 | So does that tell you they have a |  |
| 12 | process? Obviously they don't if they are still |  |
| 13 | both waiting for each other to tell each other how |  |
| 14 | they deal with the Metis people. Because they |  |
| 15 | don't know how to deal with us, they have not |  |
| 16 | figured out -- in my view they don't want to |  |
| 17 | figure out how to deal with us. |  |
| 18 | THE CHAIRMAN: You've asked us today |  |
| 19 | to say no to Manitoba Hydro. I'm obviously not |  |
| 20 | going to make a decision on that here, now, but is |  |
| 21 | there a middle ground anywhere, do you see a |  |
| 22 | middle ground? |  |
| 23 | MR. CHARTRAND: Well, I always |  |
| 24 | believe, and my record shows that for the last 17 |  |
| 25 | years that I have been president, my record shows |  |

that $I$ believe there is always a way to seek an answer. And I have always believed that there is a positive instead of a negative. And there probably is a way. I just can't say off the top of my head how, because $I$ don't know if they -- I think one way maybe is for the Clean Environment Commission to say, okay, we are going to give you another chance Hydro, go back and do it. Don't come here and think you are going to just ignore the Metis people, and you are going to put us in a position where we have to choose your multi-billion company over a small little bunch of Metis half breed communities out there. It is not going to happen. That is the issue.

I think there is a solution, but I think the solution will be -- I don't have the power myself personally at this point in time, unless the courts help me, to stop Hydro and to ask them to do the right thing. But $I$ think the Clean Environment Commission has that power right now to say, no, you did not do your job, you had so much opportunity, so much time, and yet you didn't do it. So if you think you are going to come by us and get a licence, you are not getting it. Go do it and come back and we will probably

| 1 | give you it. | Page 6641 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | I told this to the president, and I |  |
| 3 | echo it here loudly and clearly for everybody to |  |
| 4 | hear me, I said I will be your biggest ally, |  |
| 5 | because I believe in it. But I said if you keep |  |
| 6 | on ignoring my people's rights and concerns, you |  |
| 7 | are going to see me as your enemy, not your |  |
| 8 | friend. I would rather be a partner than an enemy |  |
| 9 | to be honest with you. |  |
| 10 | THE CHAIRMAN: If we were to make some |  |
| 11 | recommendations about Metis consultation, what |  |
| 12 | boundaries would there be? I mean, |  |
| 13 | consultation -- I mean, just engaging in |  |
| 14 | consultation doesn't necessarily sort of define a |  |
| 15 | beginning and an end, or the "what" that should be |  |
| 16 | consulted about. How would we set some limits on |  |
| 17 | it? I'm not saying only with the Metis, but with |  |
| 18 | any group of people, consultation can go on |  |
| 19 | forever. How would we define it or put some |  |
| 20 | limits to it? |  |
| 21 | MR. CHARTRAND: But consultation |  |
| 22 | shouldn't go on forever. |  |
| 23 | THE CHAIRMAN: Of course not. |  |
| 24 | MR. CHARTRAND: I think in my view |  |
| 25 | there is processes and mechanisms that are already |  |

in place that set the principles of how accommodations and consultations work. And definitely there has got to be not just consulting with them, $I$ think the people have a right to know before they move ahead. And if you do consultations, and I think I spoke last time -- am I correct, unless somebody stop me -- I spoke on Victory Nickel. And they did consultations and they went to the communities, they listened to people's concerns. I have never got a response back as to how they addressed those concerns. People had concerns about how does it affect them, how does it affect this, how does it affect that? There has never been a written response back, this is the solution, this is the answer, hopefully this will comfort you. And I think that's going to be the essential piece that has to happen. For example, I'm not going to go into detail, Hydro will say you are wrong, we are not going to spray. But spraying has been talked about, what if they start spraying and affect our berries? I can't tell them they are not going to spray. Hydro can say, well, we are not going to spray right now, but what is stopping them that they won't? You know, and how it affects the

|  | animals at the same time? But that is not the | Page 6643 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | issue, I am just giving it as an example. |  |
| 3 | So I think what is paramount here, if |  |
| 4 | Hydro were to be told, you know, this is a |  |
| 5 | constitutionally protected people, and there is a |  |
| 6 | system and there is a government body that sits |  |
| 7 | there, and they sign self-government agreements |  |
| 8 | with the Province of Manitoba which the Crown |  |
| 9 | reports to, they sign self-governments agreements |  |
| 10 | with the country of Canada, which at the end of |  |
| 11 | the day we are all Canadian citizens. There is a |  |
| 12 | Supreme Court ruling that recognizes them, there |  |
| 13 | is court rulings like the Goodon says the MMF -- |  |
| 14 | in fact, I gave you guys this evidence last time, |  |
| 15 | the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry, and that's strong |  |
| 16 | evidence that you guys have got there, the |  |
| 17 | Aboriginal Justice Inquiry point was very clear, |  |
| 18 | Hydro must consult with the Manitoba Metis |  |
| 19 | Federation. It says that in black and white. And |  |
| 20 | if I recall 100 per cent right now, I can back it |  |
| 21 | up too and get the documentation if you want. It |  |
| 22 | was very clear, and I can remember Mr. Justice |  |
| 23 | Gord Mackintosh, who is now the Minister that is |  |
| 24 | going to be responsible for this, when he pulled |  |
| 25 | it out of the library shelf and said, it is still |  |


|  | in plastic, we are going to -- we tore off the | Page 6644 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | plastic, every recommendation in the Aboriginal |  |
| 3 | Justice Inquiry will be supported by my |  |
| 4 | government, and it was ratified by his government. |  |
| 5 | It was also further echoed by Minister Robinson |  |
| 6 | and the Premier himself. |  |
| 7 | So if you look at that very point |  |
| 8 | blank, it says to consult the Manitoba Metis |  |
| 9 | Federation. Why is Hydro still delaying or |  |
| 10 | denying that they have to do that? |  |
| 11 | I said is that because they believe |  |
| 12 | they don't have to, because they will still get |  |
| 13 | their licence anyway? I don't know. |  |
| 14 | From my view, I think the simple way, |  |
| 15 | Mr. Commissioners, is to make them do it. And |  |
| 16 | there is processes that can easily be drafted, and |  |
| 17 | there is a solution here, and it is not going to |  |
| 18 | be endless, it is not going to be forever, and it |  |
| 19 | is not going to be costly. I am telling you that. |  |
| 20 | Like, for example, I said what, about 20 |  |
| 21 | communities for 153,000. I could have had that |  |
| 22 | done for blueberry patch already, I could have had |  |
| 23 | it done. I could have brought here a document for |  |
| 24 | this Commission, for this body to look at. |  |
| 25 | But instead they try to nickel and |  |

dime and say, we will give you 10,000 to talk to your communities. How can $I$ now as a leader, and if you were in my shoes, how can you, one of your Commissioners if you were sitting in my place, go tell the 1800 communities that use this place, well, we couldn't consult with you, we talked with Duck Bay and Camperville and apparently they are okay with it, so you guys better be okay with it.

It may not be, they may have different issues. One may be medicinal, one may be berry, one may be hunting, one may be forest. So I have got to have a balance of making sure the people have a right to know. They pay taxes, they are hard working people, they have that right.

And if Hydro can't, for the life of me, figure it out, as I said, a multi-billion dollar company can't figure it out, then that company has got a problem. If I was in their shoes, I would have fixed this problem before I came in here, I guarantee that, without question.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you have any
questions? Thank you.

MR. CHARTRAND: It rests on your shoulders, Mr. Chair and Commissioners. I do plead on behalf of my people, I hope that this

1 environmental body will -- not to try to hurt Hydro in any disrespectful way -- will say no. Because based on the very fabric of what we stand for as Manitobans and Canadians, there is a law, there is processes, there is a constitution, there is guidances that have taken place, and Hydro is not exempt from it no matter how big they are, and they should not get away with this. And if they don't believe that they have to consult with the Metis people, and they believe they can just walk around us just because we are part of the casualties of war, because we are a small minority, then it will be a crying shame in this Province of Manitoba. Because I fight too hard and I believe too hard. My people went to war by the thousands sacrificing themselves to protect Canada even though we got mistreated. In 1960, you buried my town, Grand Rapids. And yet you look at the veterans from Grand Rapids that went there. They weren't hesitating to protect this country and protect this province. But if they don't get that same respect here and now in the new millennium, then we have a problem.

I think Hydro has evaded its responsibility and it should be held accountable

|  | for that. As I said, if a multi-billion dollar |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | company can't solve this, then I don't know how |  |
| 3 | they can get the licence to move forward. They |  |
|  | have a serious personal problem inside. I rest my |  |
| 5 | case. |  |
| 6 | Again, I thank you. Thank you for |  |
| 7 | your time. I do appreciate the leniency to allow |  |
| 8 | me to speak as long as I have. |  |
| 9 | Again, thank you for your kind words. |  |
| 10 | And it is a great day for Metis people and our |  |
| 11 | time has come. |  |
| 12 | THE CHAIRMAN: We will probably give |  |
| 13 | you a chance to speak a little bit more, because |  |
| 14 | this is part of a presentation, Manitoba Hydro |  |
| 15 | does get an opportunity to ask a question or two |  |
| 16 | of you. |  |
| 17 | Mr. Bedford? |  |
| 18 | MR. BEDFORD: Good afternoon, |  |
| 19 | Mr. Chartrand. |  |
| 20 | MR. CHARTRAND: Good afternoon. |  |
| 21 | MR. BEDFORD: We, of course, first met |  |
| 22 | on November 14th. |  |
| 23 | Mr. Sargeant started us off this |  |
| 24 | afternoon by acknowledging a very important |  |
|  | decision that was issued by the Supreme Court of |  |

Canada on Friday, and the acknowledgment of course included recognition of a lot of hard work and persistence on the part of you and the Manitoba Metis Federation and Mr. Madden. So I would like to expand on the acknowledgment that Mr. Sargeant gave on behalf of the Clean Environment Commission, and I speak I think safely not just on behalf of my colleagues from Manitoba Hydro, but on behalf of everyone in the room here today when I observe that I think it a good thing if the Supreme Court of Canada has now helped us all to see through the glass more clearly than in earlier times.

A very successful American once said, and I quote:
"If there is any one secret of success, it lies in the ability to get the other person's point of view and see things from that person's angle as well as from your own."

Let's see, Mr. Chartrand, if I understand things from your angle or from your eyes.

First, I understand that you and the Manitoba Metis Federation would like to be

|  | recognized as the government of the Metis citizens | Page 6649 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | of Manitoba, be so recognized by my client, |  |
| 3 | Manitoba Hydro, and by the Province of Manitoba; |  |
| 4 | is that correct? |  |
| 5 | MR. CHARTRAND: Say it again one more |  |
| 6 | time? |  |
| 7 | MR. BEDFORD: You and the Manitoba |  |
| 8 | Metis Federation would like to be recognized as |  |
| 9 | the government of the Metis citizens of Manitoba, |  |
| 10 | by my client, and by the Province of Manitoba? |  |
| 11 | MR. CHARTRAND: We are the government |  |
| 12 | of the Metis people of Manitoba, whether you |  |
| 13 | recognize it or not, we are. |  |
| 14 | MR. BEDFORD: And a concern you have |  |
| 15 | is a belief that to this date you and the Manitoba |  |
| 16 | Metis Federation, and the people that you |  |
| 17 | represent, have largely been ignored. Have I got |  |
| 18 | that correct? |  |
| 19 | MR. CHARTRAND: Say again? |  |
| 20 | MR. BEDFORD: That you believe that to |  |
| 21 | date the people that you represent, you yourself |  |
| 22 | as president of the Manitoba Metis Federation, |  |
| 23 | have largely been ignored, particularly by my |  |
| 24 | client? |  |
| 25 | MR. CHARTRAND: Yes. |  |


that they are the key objectives?

MR. CHARTRAND: Um-hum, part of the key objectives. Remember that Hydro is not only one aspect, Bipole III is just one of many that's coming, and many have passed.

MR. BEDFORD: Now, let's look at the other person's angle for a moment, the Manitoba Hydro point of view. And $I$ will remind you that when you were here on November 14, 2012, you asked us all, I know rhetorically and I quote from the transcript:
"Why does Hydro have a difficult time coming to a conclusion to recognize our government?"

And also on November 14, you told us that you would love to know the strategy of Hydro but did not know it.

So I'm going to suggest to you that this is your lucky day and your ship has indeed arrived. And with your assistance, we will try and make some progress in understanding the Manitoba Hydro angle, the other person's point of view.

Firstly, the obvious, you know of course that my client, Manitoba Hydro, is a Crown

| 1 | corporation, correct? | Page 6652 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | MR. CHARTRAND: Yep. |  |
| 3 | MR. BEDFORD: And you, like most |  |
| 4 | Manitobans, know that every year the business and |  |
| 5 | the expenses and the ledgers of Manitoba Hydro are |  |
| 6 | subject to a review by a committee of the |  |
| 7 | Legislature of the Province; correct? |  |
| 8 | MR. CHARTRAND: Yep. |  |
| 9 | MR. BEDFORD: And also you and many |  |
| 10 | Manitobans know that every several years, again |  |
| 11 | the business and the expenses of Manitoba Hydro |  |
| 12 | are minutely scrutinized by the Public Utilities |  |
| 13 | Board; correct? |  |
| 14 | MR. CHARTRAND: Yep. |  |
| 15 | MR. BEDFORD: And you know that my |  |
| 16 | client is the subject of frequent media attention? |  |
| 17 | MR. CHARTRAND: Yeah, lately I have |  |
| 18 | seen a lot of it. |  |
| 19 | MR. BEDFORD: And do you know also |  |
| 20 | that my client is the subject of interest from |  |
| 21 | independent organizations like the Canadian |  |
| 22 | Taxpayers Association? |  |
| 23 | MR. CHARTRAND: Say that again, are |  |
| 24 | subject to what? |  |
| 25 | MR. BEDFORD: Subject to the scrutiny |  |

and attention of independent organizations like the Canadian Taxpayers Association?
MR. CHARTRAND: I think they are subject to all -- I myself am a taxpayer, so I think I have the right.
MR. BEDFORD: And of course, Manitoba Hydro, being a Crown corporation, is subject to Freedom of Information legislation?
MR. CHARTRAND: Yep.
MR. BEDFORD: So would you agree with me that what you and I have just worked through is a description of a corporation that has a culture geared to accounting to the public, because it's every day in the public eye and it is subject to all of those processes that I described?
MR. CHARTRAND: No different than mine.
MR. BEDFORD: So whatever agreements you and your colleagues at the Manitoba Metis Federation might seek to enter into with Manitoba Hydro, it will be well advised in approaching the negotiation to be sensitive to Hydro's sensitivity about public scrutiny? Correct?
MR. CHARTRAND: I guess it would be a mutual respect.

MR. BEDFORD: We can safely and logically conclude that part of Manitoba Hydro's strategy in dealing with the Manitoba Metis Federation, or probably with anyone else, will in part be based upon the facts of its public life that we just worked through, the facts being all of the public attention that it is subject to; correct?

MR. CHARTRAND: Well, it depends on how you are going to use that question. Because in my view, I think, Mr. Bedford, it should resonate its historical coordination of how it actually has evolved and worked with others. And I think it would quite easily be able to come to a conclusion as to how it has not worked with the Metis people. Continue.

MR. BEDFORD: Now you have alluded to them, but we should pause for a moment and recognize, of course, that Manitoba Hydro has existing relationships that include contractual relationships with a number of First Nations; correct?

MR. CHARTRAND: Well, I know only
whatever I can -- obviously I have not gotten every agreement from Hydro on the First Nation



Nation, Fox Lake Cree Nation?
MR. CHARTRAND: Well, I think then you
have a major problem, because what you have then just described is that, given the fact that you've done all of your negotiations with the First Nations peoples and recognized the governance of the First Nations people and signed with them directly, then they have taken, of course, positions of their traditional lands, which could be all by now the entire Province of Manitoba, which then would leave me to state that any effect in signing with me would have a contradictory effect with the First Nations. So really, at the end of the day, you are saying, sorry, we already signed with all of the bands, they already took all of the land, you have got no place to go. That's really what the bottom line would end up with your question.

MR. BEDFORD: Well, to continue in the spirit of trying to understand the other person's point of view, Manitoba Hydro point of view, I will remind you that an affidavit that you swore was filed in this hearing on November 14, and there is a paragraph in that affidavit where you tell us all that the Manitoba Metis Federation

|  | currently has a membership of "approximately | Page 6658 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | 40,000". Do you recall that being in the |  |
| 3 | affidavit? |  |
| 4 | MR. CHARTRAND: You are talking about |  |
| 5 | the affidavit in the Goodon case? |  |
| 6 | MR. BEDFORD: No, it is an affidavit |  |
| 7 | that you swore that's been filed in this |  |
| 8 | proceeding. |  |
| 9 | MR. CHARTRAND: Yes, 55,000 now |  |
| 10 | registered adults, registered at the Metis |  |
| 11 | Federation. |  |
| 12 | MR. BEDFORD: There hasn't been an |  |
| 13 | increase in your membership since November 14, |  |
| 14 | 2012, of 15,000? |  |
| 15 | MR. CHARTRAND: Well, let me correct |  |
| 16 | for the record, if somebody put 40,000, I let that |  |
| 17 | slip. I do apologize. There was 55,000 |  |
| 18 | registered voters that are 18 or over at the |  |
| 19 | Federation. In fact, I just echoed that to your |  |
| 20 | president several weeks ago. |  |
| 21 | MR. BEDFORD: I would like to be fair |  |
| 22 | with the witness. Would you like to look at the |  |
| 23 | affidavit? |  |
| 24 | MR. CHARTRAND: I will look at the |  |
| 25 | affidavit. If it says 40,000, it is obviously a |  |

mistake. But hypothetically, 40, 50, so work those numbers. If my lawyer put 40,000 , he was supposed to put 55, then I will talk to him later. He had problems with numbers, he put February $29 t h$ as a date and it is not a leap year. Okay, continue.

MR. BEDFORD: I had occasion on the weekend to read your affidavit, and I note that also on the record you repeated the 40,000 number. So it appears twice in the evidence on November the 14th, 2012.

I also had occasion recently to look at some Statistics Canada information, and I will summarize for you what $I$ learned from looking at it. And that is that in 2006, according to Statistics Canada, 72,000 Manitobans indicated that their heritage was Metis. There is additional information that's been published by Statistics Canada that indicates that the Metis population of Manitoba is expected to grow after 2006 at the rate of 3 per cent per year. So I calculate that as of this year, 2013, there are about 90,000 Manitobans of Metis heritage who declare themselves to be Metis. And having understood that the membership currently of the

Manitoba Metis Federation was 40,000, I could see that your current membership is something less than 50 per cent of the Metis citizens in Manitoba.

So returning to trying to understand the other person's angle or point of view, when it comes to dealing with Manitoba Hydro, if you are at the Manitoba Metis Federation, you, maybe me as well, are going to have to find a way to convince Manitoba Hydro that the Manitoba Metis Federation is more than a representative body, but a government of the Metis people, notwithstanding that there does appear to be a significant number of Metis citizens in Manitoba who are not members of the Manitoba Metis Federation, and accordingly I conclude and suggest to you, do not vote in elections of Manitoba Metis Federation and presumably do not directly benefit from the work and agreements negotiated by the Manitoba Metis Federation.

MR. CHARTRAND: Let me share with you something. And this is where I think Hydro has now demonstrated their true lack of not
understanding the Metis government. Firstly,
statistically, let's use 40,000, I can use 55, and

I can prove that, but let's use 40,000. My lawyer made a mistake, let's use that number.

Statistically, if you knew the Federation you would know that's all adults, all 40,000 are adults. Statistically, the 72,000 that you are using, that's children and adults. So if you want to use statistical numbers, you should, I encourage you to, maybe that's why you guys are in trouble financially, but if you look at this for a second, statistically, if you look at the amount of children and you use the formula, especially when it comes to Metis and Aboriginal peoples, we have a large population of children, large. So you statistically start looking at numbers, you will give one adult to one child process. And so you will go close to 80 already, or go close to a high of 75,000 , but you start looking at, you can not use that -- and I hope the Commissioners are picking this up very quickly -- you can't use Stats Canada numbers of 72,000 and say MMF, you only got 40,000. I'm talking voters, 18 and up. We don't keep statistical of our membership of children. We have a different methodology for that. So Stats Canada can quickly help you with that, Mr. Bedford, that those numbers will be much

|  | more | Page 6662 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | The second part, if you go on the |  |
| 3 | voting, I think 50 per cent of our country |  |
| 4 | sometimes doesn't vote. So I don't know if the 50 |  |
| 5 | per cent or not is representative of the amount of |  |
| 6 | government in this country neither. Just the |  |
| 7 | Province of Manitoba statistically, we are lucky |  |
| 8 | if we are past 60 per cent, I don't know what |  |
| 9 | happens to the other 40 per cent then, if they are |  |
| 10 | not represented bodies, if the government doesn't |  |
| 11 | represent them. I don't think so. I think |  |
| 12 | democracy is very clear in this country. And if |  |
| 13 | you have the right to vote, we make sure we have |  |
| 14 | 80 ballots, we are the only ones in Canada, let me |  |
| 15 | say, and I was proud to tell the Commissioners |  |
| 16 | last time I was here, we are the only people in |  |
| 17 | Canada that have a ballot box, a democratic system |  |
| 18 | where I as the president, I have to champion |  |
| 19 | myself right across from here to Churchill. I |  |
| 20 | don't have a riding to run in, I run the entire |  |
| 21 | province. |  |
| 22 | So statistically if you look at |  |
| 23 | numbers, that is the worst scenario capability |  |
|  | that you can ever use when it comes to whether a |  |
| 25 | government is representative of a body based on |  |

the democracy of the total amount of votes.

Because then sometimes I think Canada would not have democracy, because less than 50 per cent, or close to less than 50 per cent would not vote.

So let's not use those. Statistically you need to get your numbers straight, because the Stats numbers you are using, 72,000 are inclusive of children. And $I$ bet out of the 72 , half of children or more.

MR. BEDFORD: Well, thankfully Stats

Canada was of help to me on this issue. The number, I will remind you, that I'm using is about 90,000 because $I$ accept Stats Canada's 3 per cent growth rate. The rate is high, according to stats Canada, because more and more Manitobans are feeling comfortable in self-declaring their Metis heritage.

What I also learned from looking at the Stats Canada material is that in Manitoba the ratio of children to adults is one child to every three adults. So when $I$ took the difference between about 90 --

MR. CHARTRAND: Metis children, or Canadian children? Canadian adults or Metis children?

MR. BEDFORD: Fair comment. I did not break down and I didn't see the breakdown for number of children in Metis families as opposed to other families, but $I$ worked with what was available.

MR. CHARTRAND: I will take you somewhere else, there is five or six kids in the house, but we will go visit that another day. Go ahead.

MR. BEDFORD: Well, you will
understand that $I$ continue to have a concern about the numbers. But the reason that $I$ raise the numbers with you, Mr. Chartrand, was not to prove whose statistics are correct. The challenge that I think both my client has and the Manitoba Metis Federation has is the challenge of understanding the other side's point of view. And I will suggest to you, see if you agree with me, that one giant step to successful negotiation, and indeed reconciliation, is to understand the other party; correct?

MR. CHARTRAND: Well, in fact I agree in a sense that we need to understand each other. But, obviously, you already have a position that you have taken, given your synopsis of what you

| 1 | have just categorized your view, that Hydro takes | Page 6665 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | the position that we are not the representative |  |
| 3 | body for all of the Metis people because all the |  |
| 4 | Metis people don't vote for us. |  |
| 5 | Secondly, you are saying by numbers |  |
| 6 | alone, and you are talking about potential |  |
| 7 | statistical numbers, and I just gave an example |  |
| 8 | where -- thank God I asked the question, is it |  |
| 9 | Metis people that you are talking about |  |
| 10 | statistically? And you said no, because it is not |  |
| 11 | Metis people, three to one ratio, it is non |  |
| 12 | Aboriginal society that, no disrespect, have a |  |
| 13 | lower threshold when it comes to the amount of |  |
| 14 | children versus the Metis. We have large amount |  |
| 15 | of families with large amount of children. But |  |
| 16 | goes back to the reference I think, Mr. Bedford, |  |
| 17 | it is very clear that the Metis understanding by |  |
| 18 | yourselves already has been positioned by |  |
| 19 | yourselves, that we are not the government body, |  |
| 20 | we are not the representative body that you should |  |
| 21 | be speaking to. You already have made that |  |
| 22 | conclusion by just your questions. |  |
| 23 | So that I think maybe stems where the |  |
|  | problems lies, that you do not believe that we are |  |
|  | a representative body of the Metis people. And I |  |



Provincial Government of Manitoba, which you are part of a Crown corporation, is clear, that 40,000, I know where the lawyers get it from now. If you look at the Goodon case that took place in Brandon, that was how many years ago, that's where the 40,000 comes from. They must have just pasted that in there. As I said, I'm very good at numbers. That 40,000 was a number that was questioned over and over by the litigation team representing the province in the Goodon hunting case.

If you look at the decision made by
the judge at the end of the day, it said clearly, without question, the Metis Federation is the representative body of the Metis people in Manitoba. This is a judge. If the law of the land is recognizing us as the official body, and Hydro as the Crown is saying, you don't meet my quantified positions of what represents a representative body, I think that's where the problem then lies, Mr. Bedford.

MR. BEDFORD: Let's go back to the question $I$ posed to you when we began talking about the Metis population of Manitoba. I will suggest to you, Mr. Chartrand, that one of the

|  | very, very few things that Doug Bedford does | Page 6668 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | reasonably well in life is that he chooses his |  |
| 3 | words very carefully, particularly when I'm |  |
| 4 | working in trials and hearings. So the way I put |  |
| 5 | the matter to you was that we are going to have to |  |
| 6 | find a way to convince, I didn't say to you the |  |
| 7 | conclusion has been formed, that my client is |  |
| 8 | stubborn and not open to dealing with the issue. |  |
| 9 | What I was endeavoring to do was to say that if we |  |
| 10 | want to understand my client's point of view that |  |
| 11 | this is an issue, and we, I said we, not just you, |  |
| 12 | we are going to have to find a way. So part of |  |
| 13 | the message that I would like us all to think |  |
| 14 | about is the importance of listening to one |  |
| 15 | another. And if we are going to be successful in |  |
| 16 | the future, we really do need to work to |  |
| 17 | understand each other's point of view. |  |
| 18 | And when I say understand, can you |  |
| 19 | agree with me that understanding does not |  |
| 20 | necessarily mean that we will agree with one |  |
| 21 | another on all points, but we can try hard and we |  |
| 22 | can succeed in understanding one another's points |  |
| 23 | of view, even though we ultimately may on some |  |
| 24 | issues find, for various reasons, we have to agree |  |
| 25 | to disagree. |  |

MR. CHARTRAND: If $I$ can say,
Mr. Bedford, I think you have done a great service this afternoon, in the sense of clarifying to me why you have not consulted with me, why you have not consulted with my government on behalf of my people. Which then tells me at the end of the day, I no longer have to prove my argument to this Commission, this body. Obviously by the facts you distinguished just recently in your references to each segment and each category of the election, total amount of votes, et cetera, et cetera, all the way down, that is probably why no consultations took place with us.

So when I begged and I pleaded with the Environmental Commission body to say no, or to tell us to take a break and go back and talk again, maybe that leads me to finally understand that there was no consultations, Mr. Chairman. And this goes to show why, because Hydro is still trying to figure out whether we are the true body to speak to. And I think it needs to either go back to the Provincial Government, and maybe that's why Mr. President, Mr. Thompson told me point blank, I need direction from the province.

So we are in a very difficult
position, obviously. If my government -- let me read something if $I$ can, just for the record, because the question was posed by my friend. And this is the Supreme Court of Canada. "As discussed below, the action advanced is not a series of claims for individual relief, and that's an issue we fight with Hydro, but individuals. It is rather a collective claim for declaratory relief for the purposes of reconciliation between the descendents of the Metis people in the Red River Valley and Canada. The Manitoba Act provided for individual entitlements to be sure. That does not negate the fact that the appellants advance a collective claim of the Metis people based on a promise made to them in return for their agreement to recognize Canada's sovereignty over them. This collective claim merits the allowing the body representing the collective Metis interest to come before the court. We grant the MMF standing."
So if the Supreme Court of Canada can recognize that we are the collective body, the true body to represent the Metis people of Manitoba, and a Crown corporation that has a problem based on some statistical formulas that


|  | going to reach prompt agreements on matters | Page 6672 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | critical to each of them any time soon? |  |
| 3 | MR. CHARTRAND: I don't agree. It |  |
| 4 | depends on leadership. My door is open. I'm |  |
| 5 | willing to sit down with Mr. Thompson and I'm |  |
| 6 | willing to sit down Mr. Chomiak. Mr. Chomiak can |  |
| 7 | come to a discussion, how do we solve this |  |
| 8 | problem, how do we go over the hill? |  |
| 9 | The challenge I face is that I'm |  |
| 10 | fighting this alone, and I'm hoping that |  |
| 11 | eventually places like this will understand where |  |
| 12 | we are finally coming from, and loud and clear |  |
| 13 | support that it is coming to an end. |  |
| 14 | MR. BEDFORD: And of course, in the |  |
| 15 | last ten years, Manitoba Hydro has not refused to |  |
| 16 | sit down, not refused to meet. There have been |  |
| 17 | countless meetings, correct? |  |
| 18 | MR. CHARTRAND: There has been |  |
| 19 | meetings for sure. |  |
| 20 | MR. BEDFORD: The challenge has been |  |
| 21 | that the meetings have not resolved or met the |  |
| 22 | objectives of either side, have they? |  |
| 23 | MR. CHARTRAND: Say that again, Doug? |  |
| 24 | MR. BEDFORD: The meetings that have |  |
| 25 | taken place have not resulted in agreements that |  |

meet the objectives of either the Manitoba Metis Federation, that we went through earlier, nor resolved the concerns of my client, have they? MR. CHARTRAND: No and yes. Because firstly, $I$ think it is unfair to say that Hydro has not been able to sit down and come to terms when they want to. A good example is Summerberry, I raised this last time $I$ was here, Summerberry negotiations that took place. And that was a positive resulted arrangement for Duck Bay and Camperville, who were being told point blank by Hydro that they were not going to be considered as part of the claimant package, and at the end of the day, they did. And it shows if you sit at a table -- and Mr. Brennan and I sat at a table, and we came to a conclusion. His last task, I don't know if you remember correctly, maybe you don't, Mr. Bedford, but his last task he actually -- it was 5:30 at night on his last day of office, he and I finalized the Summerberry, it was a go ahead. So it can be done. Is the willing there? Is the willing there? And that's the real question. And obviously right now, I guess now I understand that the willing is not there, because I'm not seen as the body that should be the true

|  | spokesman on behalf of the Metis people | Page 6674 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | MR. BEDFORD: Turning to the route |  |
| 3 | revisions that have been the subject of last |  |
| 4 | week's testimony and some of this morning's |  |
| 5 | evidence, I understand that your members are |  |
| 6 | fearful because they, in the particular areas |  |
| 7 | where the route revisions are to take place, they |  |
| 8 | have seen a serious decline in moose; correct? |  |
| 9 | MR. CHARTRAND: Say the last part, I |  |
| 10 | missed the last part? |  |
| 11 | MR. BEDFORD: That your members are |  |
| 12 | fearful -- |  |
| 13 | MR. CHARTRAND: I heard that, yes. |  |
| 14 | MR. BEDFORD: -- generally about the |  |
| 15 | project, and particularly the route revisions in |  |
| 16 | the areas north of Dauphin, south of the Pas, |  |
| 17 | where the revisions have been assessed, because |  |
| 18 | they have experienced a serious decline in the |  |
| 19 | moose population? |  |
| 20 | MR. CHARTRAND: No, that's just part |  |
| 21 | of -- part and parcel there is -- as I said, you |  |
| 22 | can not look at just one segment of something, you |  |
| 23 | have to look at the holistic component when you |  |
| 24 | are dealing with these kinds of issues. |  |
| 25 | As I said, there are some -- I have to |  |

be very cognizant myself, even as the Metis leader, that some people don't hunt, but some people pick berries, some people use it for medicinal, they are all very sectorial needs of my people, and $I$ have to be cognizant of that, it's not just moose. It definitely has an effect, there is a population that's going to be affected in a certain way. But each one uses these particular areas in a different way.

There is also cultural and spiritual components built in there. They are talking about where there has been whole graveyards that still exist there. So there is different segments of people's needs and views. That's why I said, consultations are important to get them, to understanding full well so everybody knows how they could potentially be affected, and how they could find a way to mitigate that concern by solving the problem. I would never just say it is just about the moose.

MR. BEDFORD: So if there is persuasive evidence that the construction of a high voltage transmission line is going to cause further significant loss in the numbers of moose in these areas, then this project should not be

|  | approved, right? | Page 6676 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | MR. MADDEN: Mr. Chairman, I don't |  |
| 3 | understand where these questions are going. |  |
| 4 | Mr. Chartrand wasn't answering questions in |  |
| 5 | relation specific to moose or the thresholds of |  |
| 6 | those issues. I think that the cross-examination |  |
| 7 | should be based upon what he has actually |  |
| 8 | testified about today. |  |
| 9 | THE CHAIRMAN: Fair enough. I think |  |
| 10 | that's a good observation. |  |
| 11 | Mr. Bedford, I was having a bit of |  |
| 12 | trouble with direction as well, so perhaps we |  |
| 13 | might focus on what President Chartrand said |  |
| 14 | before us earlier this afternoon. |  |
| 15 | MR. BEDFORD: Well, I rather thought I |  |
| 16 | was doing that, Mr. Sargeant, given that he said |  |
| 17 | his people, meaning the members of his |  |
| 18 | organization, were fearful about the project, and |  |
| 19 | he explained that the origin of their fear -- |  |
| 20 | MR. MADDEN: But I think the issue is, |  |
| 21 | you are asking technical questions. And with |  |
| 22 | respect, Doctor Chartrand knows a lot, but those |  |
| 23 | are issues that we have put forward experts on to |  |
| 24 | talk about those issues. So the idea that you are |  |
| 25 | asking Mr. Chartrand to answer those questions, I |  |

just don't see the relevance of it. And he didn't speak to those issues in his direct.

MR. BEDFORD: Well, we won't belabour the point. My recollection is, of course, that he did. And my understanding is this is an environmental hearing. We are dealing with route revisions regarding a transmission line corridor. And we have all been told that one of the key VECs in the areas in question is moose. However, as I said, I won't belabour the point beyond that.

President Chartrand, at the end of the day our collective motto should be "conservation first, rights second." Do you agree?

MR. CHARTRAND: Conservation first, rights second, yes. And I will only agree for this purpose, and I want this for the record. Our rights are as paramount as anybody else, but the issue for us -- and it pertains to a certain segment, Mr. Chair. I have to agree on the segment when we talked about harvesting for our people, our elders told us that conservation must be number one. And the purpose behind that is that if we win a right, for example, hunting at the time we are talking about, and I spoke on the previous engagement on this, that if there is

|  | nothing left to hunt, then what did we win? | Page 6678 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | That's why conservation is very fundamental to our |  |
| 3 | people, because we need to preserve for the next |  |
| 4 | generation. But I think each have their own equal |  |
| 5 | value and it always depends on the circumstances. |  |
| 6 | MR. BEDFORD: Thank you. No further |  |
| 7 | questions. |  |
| 8 | THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Bedford. |  |
| 9 | Mr. Madden, any re-direct? |  |
| 10 | MR. MADDEN: I just have two quick |  |
| 11 | questions. |  |
| 12 | Mr. Chartrand, or President Chartrand, |  |
| 13 | people who are identified in the census, how did |  |
| 14 | they get identified? |  |
| 15 | MR. CHARTRAND: Say again? |  |
| 16 | MR. MADDEN: How does somebody get |  |
| 17 | identified as Metis in the census? |  |
| 18 | MR. CHARTRAND: Of Canada? |  |
| 19 | MR. MADDEN: Yes? |  |
| 20 | MR. CHARTRAND: In fact, it is |  |
| 21 | self-declared identification. People have to -- |  |
| 22 | and let me share, if I can, Mr. Madden, with this |  |
| 23 | issue, because we are the ones nationally, the |  |
| 24 | Metis, that fought vigorously with Stats Canada, |  |
| 25 | because if you look at -- and I can bring |  |


|  | statistical documents to share with Hydro very | Page 6679 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | quickly -- the previous numbers as they came to |  |
| 3 | describing the amount of Metis population was so |  |
| 4 | small. And the reason is there has never been a |  |
| 5 | specific attempt by Census Canada to push for a |  |
| 6 | Metis census to see how many Metis people we have. |  |
| 7 | The reason you see that big spurt of |  |
| 8 | Metis population that occurred is because we |  |
| 9 | pushed it and we got Canada to specifically hire |  |
| 10 | Metis -- what do you call those people that walk |  |
| 11 | to your houses -- |  |
| 12 | MR. MADDEN: Enumerators. |  |
| 13 | MR. CHARTRAND: They are called |  |
| 14 | something, whatever you call them, they go to your |  |
| 15 | house and have a paper and they ask you -- what do |  |
| 16 | they call those people? |  |
| 17 | MR. MADDEN: Census takers. |  |
| 18 | MR. CHARTRAND: Yes. And they went |  |
| 19 | and they actually hired Metis people to |  |
| 20 | specifically do that. And that's why you see that |  |
| 21 | spike, because we had a bunch of children all of a |  |
| 22 | sudden that we get that number. But, yes, they do |  |
| 23 | it by self-declaration. We were fortunate to use |  |
| 24 | our numbers. |  |
| 25 | MR. MADDEN: Has the Supreme Court of |  |


|  | Canada set out a test for how you actually | Page 6680 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | identify who is Metis? |  |
| 3 | MR. CHARTRAND: Yes. In fact, in |  |
| 4 | Powley the test is very clear. You have to |  |
| 5 | self-declare, have genealogy, you have to prove |  |
| 6 | your strong connection to the homeland. |  |
| 7 | MR. MADDEN: It is more than just |  |
| 8 | self-declaration then? |  |
| 9 | MR. CHARTRAND: Yes, definitely. |  |
| 10 | Stats Canada numbers can definitely be -- because |  |
| 11 | if people don't know what they are, sometimes they |  |
| 12 | will say they are Metis. So it depends on the |  |
| 13 | question, but in Powley it is very specific. |  |
| 14 | MR. MADDEN: So people that are |  |
| 15 | identifying in the Canadian census as Metis, they |  |
| 16 | don't have to provide a genealogy to the census |  |
| 17 | takers? |  |
| 18 | MR. CHARTRAND: No, they don't have to |  |
| 19 | provide any genealogy whatsoever. |  |
| 20 | MR. MADDEN: So, Mr. Sargeant could |  |
| 21 | identify as Metis for the purpose of the census, |  |
| 22 | and we wouldn't know whether -- we would have no |  |
| 23 | idea of whether those individuals really are Metis |  |
| 24 | pursuant to the test set out by the courts, or |  |
| 25 | not? |  |


| 1 | MR. CHARTRAND: No, you would not | Page 6681 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | know, not based the way Census Canada connects it. |  |
| 3 | MR. MADDEN: I have nothing further. |  |
| 4 | MR. CHARTRAND: Okay. Any more |  |
| 5 | questions? |  |
| 6 | THE CHAIRMAN: I was just going to let |  |
| 7 | Mr. Madden know that I do have Franco Manitoban |  |
| 8 | ancestors. I have never checked to see if there |  |
| 9 | was any Metis. |  |
| 10 | MR. CHARTRAND: You better start |  |
| 11 | checking it. |  |
| 12 | THE CHAIRMAN: After Friday maybe I |  |
| 13 | will. |  |
| 14 | You had some closing comments, |  |
| 15 | President Chartrand? |  |
| 16 | MR. CHARTRAND: Yeah. I'm just trying |  |
| 17 | to remember the exact quote from Mr. Bedford and |  |
| 18 | for Hydro, before I leave here. I will probably |  |
| 19 | botch it, I wish I had my -- I should have told |  |
| 20 | somebody to bring it here. |  |
| 21 | I want to close off with a quote, as |  |
| 22 | close as I can to what Riel said. |  |
| 23 | "In its smallness, it had its rights, |  |
| 24 | and the greater had its rights, but |  |
| 25 | because they are greater, its |  |


|  |  | Page 6682 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | rightness were no greater than the |  |
| 2 | small." |  |
| 3 | So that's a very important sentiment |  |
| 4 | that I'm sending to Hydro and to the Province. My |  |
| 5 | discussion with Mr. Chomiak will be a lot more |  |
| 6 | clearer tomorrow. Obviously that where the |  |
| 7 | problem lies, why consultation does not take place |  |
| 8 | with my people is because Hydro has still yet to |  |
| 9 | determine they are going to agree or recognize -- |  |
| 10 | and that will be the first for me in this country, |  |
| 11 | the Crown is going to come tell me that they are |  |
| 12 | going to decide whether they are going to -- Crown |  |
| 13 | corporation that is to come and tell me that they |  |
| 14 | are going to recognize that I'm the body that |  |
| 15 | should be officially spoken to. |  |
| 16 | I have signed many self-government, |  |
| 17 | tripartite self-government agreements with Canada. |  |
| 18 | I took over Child \& Family Service mandate |  |
| 19 | province wide. I have a hunting regime of laws |  |
| 20 | that are passed in this province by recognized -- |  |
|  | my laws are used by conservation officers as |  |
| 22 | official laws of my people. I don't know what |  |
|  | more I can do -- go to the Supreme Court of Canada |  |
|  | to be recognized as the official MMF governing |  |
| 25 | body of my people, Mr. Chair. But if a Crown |  |


|  | corporation such as Hydro says we don't know | Page 6683 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | whether you are the right person to speak to right |  |
| 3 | now, you have got your own answer yourself. |  |
| 4 | So I do plead with this body. I think |  |
| 5 | there is a solution, Mr. Chair, I am sincere about |  |
| 6 | that. I always believe there is an answer, and |  |
| 7 | there is always one if you look for it. And I |  |
| 8 | think the time it will only be sought for is the |  |
| 9 | time that they realize that they just can't get |  |
| 10 | what they want at all times unless they do the |  |
| 11 | right thing. I think that's the message that |  |
| 12 | needs to be coming out of this hearing. We need |  |
| 13 | to hear it loud and clear from -- and I plead with |  |
| 14 | my colleagues, the Commissioners sitting here, the |  |
| 15 | Metis people are asking for your support. They |  |
| 16 | are asking you to do the solid thing of indicating |  |
| 17 | very loud and clear to Hydro, you are a |  |
| 18 | multi-billion dollar company, if you can't solve |  |
| 19 | this problem, you have got a big, big problem |  |
| 20 | ahead of you. And it is going to be bigger than |  |
| 21 | this Commission hearing. |  |
| 22 | As I said, I don't want to end up |  |
| 23 | being in the courts, but if that's where I have to |  |
| 24 | go, I will go to put a stop to this and to get |  |
| 25 | justice for my people. |  |

At the end of the day, $I$ just think it would be such a failure for us as Manitobans. I'm a proud Manitoban and to be a failure -- my people also would be strong supporters of growth in our province. But to see that this body believes they don't have to consult with my people, just because they don't want to recognize us, tells you that the Clean Environment Commission would be doing injustice by giving them a licence to go ahead, knowing full well that they -- just as they told us right now -- they are not recognizing us because of who we are right now. They haven't come to terms with that yet.

So hopefully one day they will, and maybe this is the body that gets them to go on the right path.

Thank you, Mr. Commissioner, I thank you for your patience, I thank you for your kind words. I thank Hydro also for their kind words of commending us on the recent win and victory in the Supreme Court of Canada. I look forward to, as I said, a very good future for the Metis people in this province. And I also look forward to one day getting the respect we deserve as people. So thank you very much.


THE CHAIRMAN: What is your concern, Mr. Keating?

MR. KEATING: Because -- well, because the panel had previously ruled that it wasn't admissible, and I don't understand what is different about the situation now.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Mr. Madden.
MR. MADDEN: I think it is admissible now because Mr. Bedford has made it relevant. Mr. Bedford, in his correspondence that is in the record in response to the $M M F$, uses terms such as the MMF's request is unreasonable. In fact, he goes as far to ask the CEC to opine on what has been -- what they consider a fair and reasonable offer. And Manitoba Hydro has made it relevant. Manitoba Hydro -- we stayed away from that, we respected the CEC's decision, but you don't get to cherry pick, and you don't get to throw out accusations that are scurrilous, unfair and not completely transparent. And so that issue, Hydro has made it relevant. So, it is a completely different ball game from our perspective, and it is unfair that the MMF doesn't get to respond in kind when Hydro makes the financial requests that the MMF has made deemed to be unreasonable. So if

Hydro wants to remove that documentation from its supplemental filings, MMF would have no objections to that, and have them removed from the record and their websites, et cetera, et cetera. But if not, it is fair game. And in fact, it would be unfair to the MMF for Hydro to put up such insinuations and not have -- and the MMF not be allowed -- and I just want to make this clear; this is a public document that the MMF pulled off of a website. It had media coverage on it, it is not -- there is nothing confidential in this information. A Crown corporation responded to a piece of legislation under the Freedom of Information Act, and that document is simply being put in the record, and why it is relevant is it dispels the comments that Hydro has made that the MMF's financial requests are unreasonable, unreasonable in comparison to other funding provided in Bipole, but also unreasonable in comparison to what Hydro has spent on engaging the First Nations that it deems to be actually governments or representatives of people versus how it has engaged the Manitoba Metis Federation. And in fact Mr. Bedford has stepped into it even further today by directly asking President Chartrand questions in relation to those
issues. And that is what makes it different, and that is why we would ask the CEC to reconsider its previous decision on this issue, and allow the document to be entered as an exhibit.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bedford.
MR. BEDFORD: Firstly, Mr. Keating's memory is of course correct, we had this debate in October, you made a ruling regarding this letter. Secondly, the letter which I wrote to Mr. Madden on January 18th makes no reference whatsoever to this correspondence from my colleague, Mr. Bettner, to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation. So it is very much a tenuous leap of logic to suggest that somehow I, in that letter, have made this other letter suddenly relevant to the proceedings. And nowhere have I suggested, nor has anyone else suggested, that a proposal to be paid some money to do some assessing for route revisions is somehow comparable to the payment of any of the monies that are in that chart that $I$ know accompanies the letter to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation. If one is going to convince a trier of fact that this Canadian Taxpayer's letter is relevant, one really has to do a much better job of connecting the dots, with respect.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Keating, do you have any other comments?

MR. KEATING: Well, just one comment. Just because that document is in the public domain doesn't mean that it is relevant to the purpose at hand. There are lots of public documents out there, but they are not necessarily relevant. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bedford, just the amounts of money on this piece of paper, what do they relate to?

MR. BEDFORD: My understanding is they relate to payments to various recipients, obviously First Nations, that include payments to fund negotiations, payments pursuant to adverse effects agreements that have been entered into, payments made pursuant to other commitments that Manitoba Hydro has to the various groups. One of the challenges that my client has with the particular information is that it is, to use a colloquial phrase, very much apples and oranges. It is not a list of amounts of money paid to engage with Manitoba Hydro strictly on Bipole III. It is not a list of monies paid to various recipients to do simply ATK studies, some of that
is included in some of those payments, and it certainly, to repeat, is not payments made strictly related to Bipole III. Those amounts of money paid over a number of years, frankly with respect to Tataskweyak Cree Nation whom Mr. Keating represents, and Fox Lake Cree Nation, have more to do, as I understand, with the Keeyask project than they do with the Bipole III project. distributed by Manitoba Hydro for consultation on Bipole III, would they be included in that top box or would some or all of them be somewhere else? MR. BEDFORD: I understand, Mr. Sargeant, that the numbers in the top box are not all inclusive of all monies paid by my client for Bipole III to the communities in question. Part of the challenge is sometimes monies are paid pursuant to process agreement, and sometimes the monies are paid in order to fund preparation of an ATK study. You commissioners have seen the product of the monies paid for ATK studies to a number of communities. The subject of paying process monies to facilitate the hiring of lawyers and consultants to conduct meetings are somewhat different, and to repeat, I'm informed that the

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THE CHAIRMAN: Would monies spent or
                                    THE CHAIRMAN: Would monies spent or
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distributed by Manitoba Hydro for consultation on
Bipole III, would they be included in that top box
numbers in the box are not all inclusive. So to try and draw conclusions or make comparisons with those numbers is not a good exercise in which to engage.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Bedford. Okay. We will take this under advisement. We are not going to rule on it today, we would like to have a look at the transcript from October 29, was it, Mr. Keating? And then we will consider this afternoon's comments and we will come back in the next day or two with a decision. Obviously we won't register these documents as exhibits today. Okay.

MR. MADDEN: Ms. Johnson, did we want to proceed with registering the other documents now or at the end?

MS. JOHNSON: At the end. THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mills seems to have something.

MR. MILLS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Two points, we have just heard that the document in question includes funds provided for ATK use. It is on the record that Pine Creek asked Ms. Zebrowski if funds were ATK, for additional ATK was available to them and she said no. So I think

|  | the matter speaks to her earlier testimony | Page 6692 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | As well, Mr. Bedford said earlier |  |
| 3 | today that he agreed with Mr. Chartrand, that |  |
| 4 | consistent agreements need to be had by all, and I |  |
| 5 | think that a significant part of any agreement are |  |
| 6 | funds involved. And if Mr. Bedford is going to go |  |
| 7 | on the record and assure us that it is a concern |  |
| 8 | of Hydro that agreements be consistent, I think it |  |
| 9 | is important that we understand the financial |  |
| 10 | numbers that Hydro deals with. So Pine Creek |  |
| 11 | believes that the document is germane in that |  |
| 12 | Hydro has made two, albeit, indirect references to |  |
| 13 | it in their evidence, and we ask you to consider |  |
| 14 | that, thank you. |  |
| 15 | THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Mills. |  |
| 16 | Mr. Madden. |  |
| 17 | MR. MADDEN: I have handed out an |  |
| 18 | overview of a closing argument that I'm going to |  |
| 19 | give today on behalf of MMF. Our final written |  |
| 20 | submission will come either tomorrow or first |  |
| 21 | thing on Wednesday. My written closing argument |  |
| 22 | is much shorter, and hones in on really what we |  |
| 23 | would like, or we would hope that the CEC leaves |  |
| 24 | with understanding the MMF's concerns, and the |  |
| 25 | written submissions will far more in detail |  |

document the technical issues, as well as build out some of these concepts in today's submission further.

I want to start by saying that the MMF has participated in the hearing in its entirety as a funded participant, and we thank the Commission for the opportunity. And to be clear, the MMF's recommendation for the Commission is that it not recommend to the Minister that a licence be issued at this time. We think that the CEC should ask Hydro, or should tell the Minister that there is information still required, details still required, prior to being in a position where it can recommend that a licence be issued. And I'm going to detail that much further. That's on $I$ think the technical side of the EIS, and we will go through what was in the scoping document, what information was provided, how that in some cases wasn't assessed properly, as well as some of the challenges we see in how Hydro undertook the EIS assessment in relation to the significance in the eye of the beholder methodology, as well as others.

That's the first point and I think that's the pure, I guess, a straightforward on the

EIS and the scoping document.
The second point that we want to raise
is this, I call it the consultation shell game that's ongoing, and that the CEC is an unfortunate bystander to. And I think seeking some direction on this and asking the Minister and the Manitoba government for some direction on this would be helpful, because I think that we've all been kind of messy in how we understand consultation, and I'm talking big C consultation with Aboriginal people, should be undertaken, and I want to talk a bit about that, how we understand it, because we think that this project has a problem. In fact, we think this project has a big problem. And in fact, I've drawn the analogy to, and I -- Bipole III right now, as far as we can see it is the Titanic. We can all see the iceberg up ahead, and the CEC, luckily for it, is not on the boat. The CEC is one of the ports that the Titanic stops by before it hits the iceberg. And we hope that the CEC recognizes that this is the Titanic coming through, and I think that one of the things that President Chartrand has conveyed is that what the MMF can see is a big problem for the community it represents, and it won't be as President Chartrand
said today, collateral damage to the iceberg. So what we hope is that when it stops in this port, and we recognize you don't issue the licence, all you can do is make recommendations to the Minister. That you say before you -- don't issue a licence right now, and here is some corrections we think you need to do before it can come back to us or before you can issue a licence.

And I want to also make this point, and I think that President Chartrand has documented it in the past, but I think what we've all learned on Friday, and what I think what we have all learned as children is that promises are important. And in the MMF case, it was a promise made back in 1870 to the Manitoba Metis. But I also want to take it to the promise that was made following the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry Commission, by the government. And the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry Commission, and I think that is extremely important, because Manitoba -- this province has a history, we talk about the NFA but we sometimes forget where the NFA comes from.

The Northern Flood Agreement comes from a very difficult, unhappy, devastating and shameful history of Hydro development in this
province. It is an attempt, and I think that some of the signatories to it will say it has helped in putting the ship back on a better course, but there is a history there. And when the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry undertook its assessment of what are the challenges we see in the history between Aboriginal peoples and other Manitobans and the Manitoba government, they identified that one of the biggest challenges was how resource development is undertaken in this province. And I have got to say that the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry's recommendation was quite ahead of its time. In fact the NFA was quite ahead of its time. The courts have now caught up to that. The legal basis that my clients now rely on in the courts are exactly what is embedded in this inquiry recommendation, and I think it is helpful to read it. Any future major natural resource developments not proceed unless and until agreements or treaties are reached with Aboriginal peoples and communities in the region, including the Manitoba Metis Federation and its locals and regions, who might be negatively affected by such project in order to respect their Aboriginal treaty or other rights in the territory concerned.

| 1 | And that's the AJIC's recommendation |
| :--- | :--- |
| 2 | which was then subsequently adopted by the NDP |
| 3 | government. And that, interestingly enough, the |
| 4 | current Minister of Manitoba Conservation and |
| 5 | Water Stewardship is the Minister who agreed to |
| 6 | that, and agreed to it on behalf of the province. |
| 7 | So I don't think it should be lost on anyone for |
| 8 | the CEC to remind Manitoba of its promises to |
| 9 | Aboriginal people. And this is one of them, and I |
| 10 | think that this is one of them that comes from a |
| 11 | recognition that if those agreements aren't in |
| 12 | place, problems arise. The devastation and the |
| 24 | happening in the bread basket for the Manitoba |
| 13 | damages that flowed from previous flooding and |
| 14 | from previous Hydro development, they can happen |
| 15 | again. And, in fact, we think that -- Mr. Bedford |
| 16 | may disagree with me -- but I don't think that |

than the pre-NFA days? And I believe that what is embedded in that promise and what is embedded in that recommendation that's been adopted by the government should mean something.

And we would ask that the CEC remind the province of its commitments to Aboriginal peoples who are impacted by natural resource developments, and ensure that those agreements are in place prior to any licence. And we think that that combines to one of the reasons why the project shouldn't be recommended at this time.

So we don't make these recommendations lightly. But the concerns about this project are significant. Yes, it is \$3.2 billion estimate. Yes, it is about keeping the lights on in Winnipeg. But I think President Chartrand's point of the rights of the small shouldn't be sacrificed of the large, that's the point. And while it may not be significant to Manitobans generally, what Bipole III brings for the Metis in particular, is significant. It is extremely significant. And I think that the evidence before this panel shows that.

So we also say that there is substantial uncertainty about the project's

that President Chartrand was stating it this morning, what is the problem with Hydro's approach is that Hydro fails to see that the Metis are a collective. And I think that this is something that the Metis have struggled with since Canada became Canada, is that's what the MMF case was about, we will deal with First Nations, with Treaties and we will deal with them collectively, and we will deal with you through the land grants or scrip. We will deal with you as individuals. And this is the struggle. You see it playing out here today. By virtue of looking at a people that way, you miss the people. And that is the challenge with this project and with how Manitoba Hydro has conducted itself, and this is why we say this project is on the same route as the Titanic. And the cite from the transcripts is at footnote one from the letter of March 6 to Minister Chomiak and Macintosh. So we say that there is uncertainty with respect to the route routings. And in fairness, Hydro comes and says, look it, we actually think there is significant heritage and cultural issues at stake here from the affected Aboriginal peoples. But don't you think that the Aboriginal peoples should have
probably had the opportunity to comment on it, not saying that we have got 15 days to do it, and this may have substantial consequences to an area that you have used for before this province was a province?

We also think that we do not have an understanding of the full scope and locations of the project's components, access roads, marshaling yards, burrow pits, et cetera, and we say that's important. We say that's important in particular when the routing is going through bottleneck areas, where we know there is congestion, we know there are already environmental stresses. And so having an understanding of what those additional access roads are is fundamental to the project.

You will see that we've provided, as well, the guidelines for Ontario's Environmental Assessment. Mr. Chair had asked for some guidance on this previously. We would point out that Mr. Osler, Manitoba Hydro's expert on some of these issues, said yes, the Yukon regulators are very interested in that because they understand that access roads are important, in particular when you are talking about pristine areas or in particular when you are talking about areas that are already
under stress. And what Hydro says is trust us, we will figure it out, because this is the way we've always done it in Manitoba. Just because it is the way you have always done it doesn't mean it is right and doesn't mean it is a good way to do it. So we point to other jurisdictions saying in order to assess the project impacts, you need to understand that.

And related to that, I want to take you to the March 6 letter from our expert responding to the enhanced -- the moose enhancement assessment from MSCS. And it is on the first page, and $I$ think this is important as we get into understanding the components. So Manitoba Hydro I think heard what our experts said about how there need to be some target thresholds for linear disturbances. And what Manitoba Hydro then says is, okay, let's look at what those disturbances are in these different areas and we will pick a number and we will say that's the threshold. So they pick . 04 , and I'm talking about for GHA 19A, they say . 04 is the threshold for linear disturbances that we have set with respect to moose. Fine. Whether we agree on that threshold or not, what is very clear from this
entire process is that Hydro sets the thresholds, it has not engaged other stakeholders or constitutional rights holders in understanding significance in setting those thresholds, and that's its choice. I think the reality is that where environmental assessment is today in a lot of other jurisdictions and what you heard from Dr. Cormers, as well as Ms. Stewart, is that in particular other stakeholders should be engaged in setting those targets in setting that level of significance.

But what $I$ just want to point out on going back to why it is important on where the access roads are, or if Hydro is using existing access roads, . 4 is set in GHA19, their own report says we are already at 0.366 kilometres squared for the final preferred route. For the adjusted preferred route we are at. 367. But we don't know where the access routes are, we don't know if they are using existing railroad roads, we don't know if they are using existing access, so how in these areas where there is constraints, in these areas where we have problems, where they are saying we have now set a threshold, but they are saying give us a licence and we will figure it out afterwards.

It is a little bit too late for the Metis to assess, once they say, well, we are here, we have to get access to the line. That's the whole point of the environmental assessment. Environmental assessment is to have knowledge beforehand to predict what is going to happen. If you don't have the knowledge, you can't predict.

And that's what Hydro is saying, Hydro is saying trust us, and what the Manitoba Metis Federation is saying, we don't, and we say that the CEC shouldn't either. Because how this should be done is those are relevant project components and should be assessed as a part of the environmental assessment. And we say that there is other jurisdictions that asked for it, and we would say that's consistent with common practice in relation to how transmission is done. Granted, it may not be how Manitoba Hydro has historically done it, but not every other jurisdiction has a monopoly like still exists within the Province of Manitoba, because they have learned that sometimes those monopolies don't allow for true testing and effective environmental assessment of the projects that those monopolies are pursuing. And I think that's why we do now have the CEC as well as some
of the other mechanisms that have been put in place more recently in Manitoba.
But as the Chair said in the summer, this is an iterative process and we are learning as we go. And this is one of the things that we want this Commission to know, is that when other transmitters go for applications before other regulatory bodies, they provide a full project description and that includes where those access roads are.
I think it will be helpful -- I will go now just to actually the -- I may not have it. The Ontario EA document, in our written submissions we identify where specifically in that document it outlines what is required for a project description.
And I think it is on page -- it is on page 29. And it says -- and it is under conducting a screening, and this is essentially how an initial screen is done in order to determine how an environmental assessment will take place. And it says, the proponent begins the screening stage by preparing a description of the project for the purposes of the screening process. In describing the project the proponent must
include all phases and components of the project, including construction, operation and retirement of the project. It is inappropriate for proponents to break off or piecemeal a larger project in separate components or phases, each part addressed as a separate project, therefore the construction and operation of related facilities, such as an access road or fuel handling facilities and associated activities such as construction, traffic, discharge of cooling water or waste disposal are to be included as a part of the project description. Furthermore, plans for future expansions of the project that are known at the time of the environmental screening process is to be applied shall be considered as a part of the project.

And this is the guide to environmental assessment requirements for electricity projects from the Province of Ontario, and the policy is from 2001.

So, we say that these uncertainties do not allow this Commission to have enough information to understand what the effects of the projects are going to be. These issues lend themselves to the need for additional information

|  |  | Page 6707 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | and assessment to take place before |  |
| 2 | authorization can be recommended. |  |
| 3 | More importantly, though, from the |  |
| 4 | MMF's perspective, what we have here and you have |  |
| 5 | heard us from the start of the hearing, and I |  |
| 6 | think we have been consistent throughout, is it is |  |
| 7 | not just about moose, it is about we want to |  |
| 8 | understand what is going to happen to the Metis |  |
| 9 | bread basket. And this is an area that is |  |
| 10 | extensively relied upon by the Metis, that know it |  |
| 11 | is under pressure, know so much so that they are |  |
| 12 | willingly allowing infringements to their |  |
| 13 | constitutionally protected rights because they |  |
| 14 | know, as President Chartrand said, if we don't |  |
| 15 | work together we are going to have nothing left. |  |
| 16 | But the point is that Manitoba Hydro shouldn't |  |
| 17 | then be allowed to take advantage of that. And |  |
| 18 | what we see is them saying, well, don't worry, it |  |
| 19 | is not really going to affect moose. But they |  |
| 20 | missed the point, they miss the point that this is |  |
| 21 | an area of important concern to an Aboriginal |  |
| 22 | people that's under stress, and that we need to |  |
| 23 | understand what is going on. And the idea of |  |
| 24 | saying, well, it is just all based on hunting. We |  |
| 25 | don't think that the expert evidence lends itself |  |

to that, and in fact our expert evidence contradicts that specifically.

In particular in these areas, some of them are extremely important to the Metis, the areas such as up in Gillam and region, in the bread basket, in the area in which is now the postage stamp province, which was subject to the Manitoba Metis Federation land claim, none of the MMF's concerns in those areas have been addressed meaningfully. And the EIS and Manitoba Hydro's own experts acknowledge there will be impacts on Aboriginal resource and domestic use and culture that can't be mitigated. We aren't arguing about that. They have at least said, yeah, there is going to be problems, but what they then say is we don't think it is going to be significant, because Mr. Osler has diced and sliced the material in such a way that nothing is significant. But the reality for the Metis is, and you need to understand this, that perspective of the Aboriginal people, the small in the large, it is significant. And we are going to talk a bit about some of the direct evidence that you have heard about the significant effects that Bipole III is going to have.

We also say that the project is going to impact Metis rights, interests and claims, yet those haven't been addressed by the Crown or Manitoba Hydro, and it is presently what we are calling the consultation shell game, because Manitoba Hydro dances on the pin head and says, we don't talk about rights, we can't talk to you about that, so we can't develop mitigation measures with you that deal with rights because that's the Crown's jurisdiction. The problem is that the Crown is not assessing the impacts either. So what you have is, you have by virtue of the shell game, the Metis are vulnerable. And no one is actually looking at what the impacts are. Because Manitoba Hydro says, yes, there is residual effects. We can't mitigate them. But we aren't compensating for them, or we aren't doing anything with them, we have just identified them. Now, we have said that in our broader analysis they aren't significant, but we haven't looked at that from the Aboriginal perspective.

You have heard extensive information about how the project is going to actually affect Aboriginal rights, interests and claims of the MMF as well as other Aboriginal communities, but we

| 1 | have this information gap where no one said, you Page 6710 |
| :--- | :--- |
| 2 | know -- Chief Justice Binnie in the Mikisew Cree |
| 3 | case said consultation isn't just about blowing |
| 4 | off some steam -- we had a meeting, they got to |
| 5 | air it all out, now we are done. What |
| 6 | consultation is about, and what the Supreme Court |
| 7 | of Canada has recognized in the Haida and Taku |
| 8 | cases and has elaborated on since 2004 when those |
| 9 | cases were released, it is not just called |
| 10 | consultation, it is called consultation and |
| 11 | accommodation. And it is when you identify that |
| 12 | there is going to be impacts, you have to |
| 13 | accommodate, it is not just about blowing off some |
| 24 | do it. But we can tell you clearly that the |
| 14 | steam, checking off a bunch of boxes and having |
| 15 | meetings, but then never actually addressing those |
| 16 | interests. |
| 17 | the consultation. Manitoba Hydro don't do it, we |
| 19 | manitoba government I would say rolls out how it |

the information provided through Manitoba Hydro, which is supposed to then feed into the Crown consultation process, doesn't give the Crown the information it needs in order to do an impact assessment on rights. And so what we continue to do, and as you can see by the exchanges between Mr. Bedford and myself, is that the Aboriginal people keep on butting their heads against the Hydro wall, frustrated of saying here is the problems, but Hydro says -- and it is just, I use the example of, I don't know if anyone is Star Trek fans -- is the Borg, right? It is just the Borg, it keeps going forward. It will assimilate, but it doesn't know how to actually deal with the issues that it keeps on getting hit by. Now, we wouldn't say that it is not that Hydro is unsophisticated and it doesn't know how to do it, in fact it does know how to do it and it does know how to do it quite well, when it wants to. And you can see that on the chart that was provided on Keeyask and Wuskwatim, as well as what has happened in other projects. Adverse effects agreements are entered, in some cases partnerships. But that doesn't happen here, because as President Chartrand said, Manitoba

Hydro is waiting for some direction on it.

The problem is that, and I will accept
the idea that the CEC doesn't have the duty to consult, that that hasn't been delegated to them.

But the point that $I$ make is you are an
administrative tribunal that operates within
constitutional norms, including the charter,
including Section 35, and what you are -- and what you have heard through this, you are the only ones that are getting this evidence before you, the Aboriginal people are putting it forward, it is being tested. And you can see the problems. I'm going to talk a bit about that.

You can see, okay, we see these gaps.

And you are asking us to recommend a project in good conscience when we know that Aboriginal
people are going to be negatively impacted, and the proponent has offered no suggestions on how to mitigate those impacts, because they say we don't deal with rights, that's not our jurisdiction, whereas the Crown isn't doing its job either.

And so you have the Titanic. And it
is not as if this hasn't happened on a multitude of other projects, but we are raising it here, we want it on the record, we want it very clear, and
we want the CEC to at least say there is a problem. We see the problem because we have seen the evidence, and we aren't going to recommend that this project be given a licence because this issue needs to be addressed.

Now, the CEC should also say, we are not the ones to address it, but we know as an administrative tribunal that recommending a project that has the potential to significantly impact Aboriginal rights is not consistent with constitutional norms. We know that Section 35 exists, we know that there is rights there, we know that there is going to be impacts on those rights, the EIS and the Aboriginal peoples have told us that. But -- so we can't recommend a project until those issues are resolved. They are not our issues to resolve, but the Crown better deal with them before we are being asked to give a recommendation because we are not going to be culpable in it.

Now, we say these rights and interests can't be ignored in a project that's going to be one of the largest infrastructure projects built in the province in the generation, and it is also going to be potentially a gateway for Bipole IV,

| 1 | as well as other disturbances in areas that are Page 6714 |
| :--- | :--- |
| 2 | important to Aboriginal people. |
| 3 | So on page 3 of my argument, I just |
| 4 | want to put some of these components together |
| 5 | because we recognize that the CEC doesn't have the |
| 6 | duty. But Section 35 recognizes that there is |
| 7 | Aboriginal rights, the constitution is the supreme |
| 8 | law of Canada, and those rights are recognized and |
| 9 | affirmed. The honour of the Crown, and this is |
| 10 | from the Haida case, the honour of the Crown |
| 11 | requires that these rights be determined, |
| 12 | recognized and respected. |
| 24 | is that is an impossible task for the Aboriginal |
| 13 | communities. Some of these cases take 30 years to |
| 14 | courts have said that. And what the Supreme Court |
| 15 | of Canada has developed is saying look it, we have |
| 16 | developed a framework that in order to not allow |
| 17 | what we see happening in this case, where we know |

get to the Supreme Court of Canada. And in that interim period, the losses are substantial and irreparable. And the idea that we can allow that to happen? We can't. So they have created the duty to consult and accommodate, and we set out the test at paragraphs 20 and 25 from Haida.

But I think there is a basic point here, is that the Court says, put simply, Canada's Aboriginal peoples were here when Europeans came and they were never conquered, many bands reconciled their claims with the sovereignty of the Crown through negotiated treaties, others notably in British Columbia have yet to do so.

The potential rights embedded in these claims are protected by Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. The honour of the Crown requires that these rights be determined, recognized and respected. This in turn requires the Crown acting honourably to participate in processes of negotiation. While the process continues, the honour of the Crown may require it to consult and where indicated, accommodate Aboriginal interests.

That's what the court has crafted. And in the most recent Manitoba Metis Federation
case, they have hooked the Metis into that. They have always said Aboriginal, and what they have made abundantly clear is that this obligation is owed equally to the Metis, and in particular from the MMF case, owed to the Manitoba Metis.

So the point here is that that
consultation and accommodation has to happen before projects are approved. It doesn't -- in the example of the Haida, everyone is well aware if you ever been to the Vancouver airport, those giant totem poles that you see, those are from Haida Gwaii, and the Haida rely on those, those are the giant red cedars. And the Haida have been in litigation, not as long as MMF, but they are going on 16 years, about title litigation on Haida Gwaii, which essentially are the Queen Charlotte islands. And what essentially the underlying principle of saying, look it, if we have to wait until their title litigation happens, and Weyerhauser continues to get to clear cut, what do they win at the end if those trees that are so instrumental or valuable to their culture are gone? And we have the exact same things here with respect to the blueberry patch, with respect to how the Aboriginal people, in particular the Metis
community, use their resources or the bread basket in the west side corridor.

I will just say, this wouldn't be an issue if it went underneath the lakes, went on the east side of Manitoba, but the point is someone made a strategic decision, and you are going down the west side, and this is where the Metis bread basket is. So you don't just get to drive by it and say, well, you are the unfortunate Aboriginal people that get to be the collateral damage. The point is those impacts need to be understood, assessed, avoided, mitigated or accommodated, and that hasn't been done with respect to Bipole III. So we find ourselves in the same position with respect to the blueberry patch, the Berlin Wall-like mitigation measures that will be increasingly limited Metis access and harvesting opportunities in the bread basket, and also going to be traversing Crown lands where the Metis are already subject to land claims and future negotiations.

So the point that we are saying is these are the issues that arise, and we have just taken three, and our arguments detail them more, but we just want to illustrate what those problems
are. And why we say until they are resolved, this project shouldn't be recommended.

So I want to not delve too much into
who are the Aboriginal people that the Manitoba Metis Federation represents. I have included some quotes from the Supreme Court of Canada in the argument, and I think this is important about who this people are, and I think the quote from Goodon is helpful. The Metis community of Western Canada has its own -- and I'm on page 5 of my argument -the Metis community of Western Canada has its own distinct identity as the Metis of this region were the creature of the fur trade, and as they were compelled to be mobile in order to maintain their collective livelihood. The Metis community was more extensive, for instance, than the Metis community described in Sault Ste. Marie. The Metis created a large inter-related community that included numerous settlements located in present day southwestern Manitoba, into Saskatchewan, including the northern Midwest United States. This area was one community, as the same people and the families used the entire territory as their homes, living off the land and only periodically settling at a distinct location when
it met their purposes.
And I want to make this point, and this is why President Chartrand goes on and on about Hydro's model of looking at us as discrete little settlements or little villages is wrong. It misses the point. This is why we took the Goodon case in Manitoba, because after Goodon -after the Supreme Court of Canada case in Powley, what the province wanted the Manitoba Metis Federation to do is, hey, can we just apply a cookie cutter and draw some circles around dots in the Province of Manitoba, and we will call those communities? And the Metis, rightfully so, because they have been vindicated in every litigation that they have taken forth in Manitoba today, you are missing our perspective, that's not our community, those dots, the community is larger. And the courts have repetitively agreed with the Manitoba Metis Federation on that point. So this idea of how then Hydro says, well, that's not how we would like you to be consulted, can't we just buy some coffee and some doughnuts for a few people in a Town Hall here, talk to a few Metis individuals, and hey, that's how we will look at the community.
We say that is fundamentally wrong, and it underlies the conflict you see between the MMF's proposal and Hydro's response. Because Hydro's response is well, this is how we do it with farmers, and this is how we do it with land owners, and why can't it work with how we do it with you guys? You live in northern administrative councils, you are in these villages and towns, and we will just go talk to you that way. It misses the point.
I can agreed that we are supposed to understand each other's perspective, but I want to make this point; Manitoba Hydro's perspective is wrong. The courts have made it clear, the Supreme Court of Canada has made it clear, and I find it arrogant that a Crown corporation says, no, we know better and we are going to still do it this way. Fortunately the Manitoba government has at least paid attention to these court cases and said, yeah, let's go sit down and negotiate a harvesting agreement. And no, we are not asking you to carve up dots, we are actually looking at your entire community. But Manitoba Hydro somehow still thinks, well, no, we will set the rules, and if you don't fit in the slots too bad, so sad.

|  | That is unacceptable to the Manitoba Metis | Page 6721 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | Federation. |  |
| 3 | I have also included some quotes in |  |
| 4 | the case from the most recent MMF case that I |  |
| 5 | think are helpful, and I'm not going to read them, |  |
| 6 | but I think what is embedded in what I think is |  |
| 7 | one of the most colourful paragraphs in that |  |
| 8 | entire decision is paragraph 140 which is on page |  |
| 9 | 6 at the bottom. This is what the court |  |
| 10 | summarizes, and I definitely think we are not |  |
| 11 | talking about Section 31 today, and a |  |
| 12 | constitutional provision made in the process of |  |
| 13 | nation building, but it is the same issue that's |  |
| 14 | playing out again. Sure, there is a promise there |  |
| 15 | about your rights, but we aren't going to |  |
| 16 | implement it in a meaningful way. They say: |  |
| 17 | "What is at issue is a constitutional |  |
| 18 | grievance going back almost a century |  |
| 19 | and a half. So long as the issue |  |
| 20 | remains outstanding, the goal of |  |
| 21 | reconciliation and constitutional |  |
| 22 | harmony, recognized in Section 35 of |  |
| 23 | the Charter and underlying Section 31 |  |
| 24 | of the Manitoba Act, remains |  |
| 25 | unachieved. The ongoing rift in the |  |


| 1 | national fabric that Section 31 was | Page 6722 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | adopted to cure remains unremedied. |  |
| 3 | The unfinished business of |  |
| 4 | reconciliation of the Metis people |  |
| 5 | with Canadian sovereignty is a matter |  |
| 6 | of national and constitutional import. |  |
| 7 | The courts are guardians of the |  |
| 8 | constitution and as in Ravndahl |  |
| 9 | Kingstreet cannot be barred by mere |  |
| 10 | statutes from issuing a declaration on |  |
| 11 | a fundamental constitutional matter. |  |
| 12 | The principles of legality, |  |
| 13 | constitutionality and the rule of law |  |
| 14 | demand no less." |  |
| 15 | The point here is you have the same |  |
| 16 | thing playing out. And while it is not going to |  |
| 17 | be a constitutional rift, an unfinished business, |  |
| 18 | it is going -- it is a legal problem. And I think |  |
| 19 | that what we are asking the CEC to do is to be |  |
| 20 | cognizant of this legal problem and to flag it for |  |
| 21 | the province and say it is not our legal problem, |  |
| 22 | and we are not going to solve it, but we are not |  |
| 23 | going to be complicit or willfully blind to this |  |
| 24 | issue either, because these peoples, this process |  |
| 25 | matters. We are here. This is a public process. |  |

We believe in the integrity of it. The MMF has dedicated a lot of time and its own resources, in addition to funding that's been provided, to be here and to make these voices heard, because we believed in the CEC. It is only the second time that this process has been used. But if it is not going to be an effective public process, if the people who are, who use it, feel that it is nothing more than an ability for Hydro to get exactly what it wants without having to deal with the significant issues that are being raised by the participants --

On page 7, and I added this in because I think that it is helpful to include this to I think counteract some of Mr. Bedford and his client's misunderstandings about the Manitoba Metis Federation. And I will acknowledge that that 40,000 number is actually from an exact quote in the Goodon case. And $I$ don't know if I actually -- if it is actually included in President Chartrand's affidavit in a paragraph, I will have to take a look at it, or whether I have actually clipped the Goodon case. But at the third bullet on page 7 , this is where that number comes from. And it does come from 2007, when we

|  | were in trial at Goodon. And this is what the | Page 6724 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | court said. |  |
| 3 | "The Metis community today in Manitoba |  |
| 4 | is a well organized and vibrant |  |
| 5 | community. Evidence was presented |  |
| 6 | that the governing body of the Metis |  |
| 7 | people in Manitoba, the Manitoba Metis |  |
| 8 | Federation, has a membership of |  |
| 9 | approximately 40,000, most of which |  |
| 10 | reside in Southwestern Manitoba." |  |
| 11 | So this is the court saying this is |  |
| 12 | the governing body. And then flowing from that |  |
| 13 | the government signs a harvesting agreement with |  |
| 14 | that governing body. |  |
| 15 | President Chartrand brought you to the |  |
| 16 | Supreme Court of Canada's decision that says: |  |
| 17 | "The collective claim merits allowing |  |
| 18 | the body representing the collective |  |
| 19 | Metis interests to come before the |  |
| 20 | court. We would grant the MMF |  |
| 21 | standing." |  |
| 22 | Put all of that together, but Manitoba |  |
| 23 | Hydro goes, I ain't so sure. I'm sorry, but it is |  |
| 24 | unacceptable that a Crown corporation thinks it |  |
| 25 | knows better than the courts, than the government, |  |


|  |  | Page 6725 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | effectively consult with the people that are |  |
| 3 | impacted by this project. |  |
| 4 | So I want to move on to the Metis |  |
| 5 | community's concerns. And on page 8, I |  |
| 6 | outlined -- and this is how our final written |  |
| 7 | submissions are structured, it is going to be very |  |
| 8 | much a line with what the scoping document says |  |
| 9 | and on issues of site selection, and socioeconomic |  |
| 10 | impacts, traditional use, heritage resources, |  |
| 11 | rights and land claims, assessing significance, |  |
| 12 | mitigation measures, monitoring and follow-up of |  |
| 13 | program. But I want to focus today to give you |  |
| 14 | two practical examples about how this is the |  |
| 15 | Titanic, and how the evidence actually illustrates |  |
| 16 | the problems. |  |
| 17 | So the shell game is important to |  |
| 18 | understand, because what the MMF is attempting to |  |
| 19 | do is, we will raise this wherever, whenever, and |  |
| 20 | however we can. And while Mr. Bedford may not |  |
| 21 | like my exuberance on it, and may think that my |  |
| 22 | language is challenging on it, the problem is that |  |
|  | if your client has been raising this for a year, |  |
|  | in multiple process, in letters to the Minister |  |
| 25 | which the CEC has before it, and no one is |  |


|  | responding, Manitoba Hydro isn't responding, | Page 6726 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | acknowledge the CEC can't deal with the issue, and |  |
| 3 | the Manitoba Government isn't even responding to |  |
| 4 | the letters, what would you do? And this is the |  |
| 5 | shell game that the honour of the Crown we say is |  |
| 6 | entirely missing from the process. Because |  |
| 7 | Manitoba Hydro, as the agent of the Crown, is |  |
| 8 | saying we don't have the duty. The Crown is |  |
| 9 | saying we don't have that information in order to |  |
| 10 | assess impacts. And what happens is no one is |  |
| 11 | doing anything. |  |
| 12 | So as the Crown's agent, Manitoba |  |
| 13 | Hydro claims it hasn't been delegated any |  |
| 14 | procedural aspects of the duty. So as a result of |  |
| 15 | that, so it hasn't collected information assessing |  |
| 16 | impacts on distinct Aboriginal communities. You |  |
| 17 | have seen the stuff, it winds it all together. |  |
| 18 | So, for example, one community may use something |  |
| 19 | this way, another community may use it this way, |  |
| 20 | they may have different socioeconomic impacts, but |  |
| 21 | that stuff is discombobulated. It is essentially |  |
| 22 | all put into an ATK study that Manitoba Hydro's |  |
|  | own expert says, oh no, no, no, in my professional |  |
| 24 | judgment, I wouldn't call that an ATK study. |  |
| 25 | Because she knows it is not. Because it is a mess |  |

of all of these different individuals, and having no concept or correlation back to who are the rights bearing communities. Now this document is produced for the Crown corporation process. How on earth are you ever going to assess, or get it straight? It is like you have thrown a bunch of, you know, yarn in a basket and, okay, now figure it out. And maybe I will accept that that may be naivety, or not completely understanding, or just an attempt to try. But the confusion that ensues, and the inability to then assess impacts based on the communities is problematic. And we are raising it here, and we think that the evidence shows that that's a problem.

The EIS doesn't consider Aboriginal rights or assess impacts on those rights. So that's fine if saying, look it, the EIS isn't supposed to do that. But then where is it being done? And because -- I can just tell you this, the Manitoba Conservation has not put a significant amount of money in producing all of this documentation. They are going to be relying on the EIS. They rely -- they said, we are going to rely on this documentation. While you are nudging the Titanic out of port and saying, well,
we don't have the information either. Because you haven't asked the proponent to gather it or collect it in an intelligent way. So we don't know how you are going to assess impacts in the future when the information we have before you doesn't give you that. And unless you are producing it in a separate process, you've got a problem. And that's what President Chartrand in his letters and my letter to Mr. Bedford illustrate. There is this information gap, and we are flagging it, and no one is paying attention to it.

The projects proposed mitigation measures do not address impacts on rights, or even deal with the actual rights bearing Aboriginal communities that will suffer impacts. Because Manitoba Hydro does it, we aren't the Crown, we aren't dealing with Section 35 rights, so it won't engage in a discussion on mitigation measures around how do you protect those rights?

So the Aboriginal communities are stuck in this catch 22. Because the Crown doesn't have the information, and Manitoba Hydro says we don't have to deal with it. So no one is dealing with it. And this is another one of the fatal

|  | flaws in the project. | Page 6729 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | And the residual effects that have |  |
| 3 | been identified have not been addressed or |  |
| 4 | compensated. Manitoba Hydro acknowledges there |  |
| 5 | are mitigation measures that will not completely |  |
| 6 | deal with the negative impacts. And they just |  |
| 7 | leave it at that. |  |
| 8 | So Mr. Osler, their expert, had gone |  |
| 9 | through extensively, this is how we get to it, and |  |
| 10 | so we get to the end and there is going to be |  |
| 11 | residual impacts with the landowners, so we |  |
| 12 | compensate. Right. They say the same thing with |  |
| 13 | trappers, okay, we get to the end so we |  |
| 14 | compensate. But Manitoba Hydro has identified |  |
| 15 | there is going to be these residual impacts to the |  |
| 16 | Aboriginal communities, and that's where it sits. |  |
| 17 | And the Crown is not accommodating. And the Crown |  |
| 18 | says, well, we can't deal with those issues, those |  |
| 19 | are mitigation measures that Manitoba Hydro should |  |
| 20 | be dealing with. |  |
| 21 | So the Metis are caught in a catch 22. |  |
| 22 | And our point here is just to lay out the record |  |
| 23 | and make sure that everyone is well aware of the |  |
| 24 | shell game that's being played. And as President |  |
| 25 | Chartrand said, but it won't be on the back of the |  |


|  | Metis this time. | Page 6730 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | So I just want to draw your attention |  |
| 3 | to the -- Manitoba Hydro's own experts have said, |  |
| 4 | so did you ever undertake an assessment on rights? |  |
| 5 | And this is my questioning to Mr. Osler. He says, |  |
| 6 | no, the environmental assessment doesn't undertake |  |
| 7 | assessment of rights, the Crown has to recognize |  |
| 8 | those, the Crown has to do that, yes. |  |
| 9 | Well, we are here to tell you the |  |
| 10 | Crown hasn't done it. In fact, the Crown doesn't |  |
| 11 | have the information to do it, and the Crown has |  |
| 12 | some sort of inertia, because it can't even |  |
| 13 | respond to letters about what it is going to do |  |
| 14 | with the information. |  |
| 15 | Ms. Petch does the same, makes the |  |
| 16 | same statement, we told people that we weren't |  |
| 17 | talking to them about rights because it is outside |  |
| 18 | of our expertise. But it is a bit of dancing on a |  |
| 19 | pinhead, don't you think? Well, we could not, we |  |
| 20 | had to be instructed by Manitoba -- we had been |  |
| 21 | instructed by Manitoba that we were not to address |  |
| 22 | Aboriginal rights in Section 35, that we were to |  |
| 23 | stay within the bounds of traditional knowledge. |  |
| 24 | So that's fine, but if the Manitoba |  |
| 25 | Government is telling you not to deal with those |  |


|  | issues, and not giving clear instructions to the | Page 6731 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | proponent about how to collect information it can |  |
| 3 | then use in the Crown consultation process, or is |  |
| 4 | producing that information in the Crown |  |
| 5 | consultation process itself, how on earth is the |  |
| 6 | assessment ever going to be done? And the reality |  |
| 7 | is, it is not. And that's where we get to the |  |
| 8 | Titanic. |  |
| 9 | So you have also heard about the |  |
| 10 | impacts to the bread basket, the blueberry patch, |  |
| 11 | and that the EIS doesn't deal with the Metis |  |
| 12 | community as a distinct group or assess impacts on |  |
| 13 | the collective. It knows, based on the EIS, there |  |
| 14 | will be significant residual impacts to Aboriginal |  |
| 15 | communities that can't be impacted, and that the |  |
| 16 | EIS's determination of significance doesn't |  |
| 17 | incorporate the perspective of Aboriginal |  |
| 18 | communities and discrete impacts on them. |  |
| 19 | The CEC knows all of this. So the |  |
| 20 | question is, what are you going to do with it? |  |
| 21 | Now, we are not saying that you have the duty to |  |
| 22 | consult or that you have to fix it, but we are |  |
| 23 | saying that in good faith and in good conscience, |  |
|  | as an administrative tribunal, you can't just be |  |
| 25 | willfully blind to the problem that you see before |  |

1 you. And it is why we say you have to get to the conclusion of saying, based upon us not having this information, we can't recommend it to the Minister at this time. And also giving instruction of saying, we need this information from the Crown before we, as a public institution, can say -- because the idea that a public institution, when it knows that Section 35 is there, when it knows that the honour of the Crown is at stake and these interests are there, and when the institution itself knows that these impacts are there, and it looks at the EIS and says, yes, they are residual and no one has dealt with them, how on earth can you just nudge the boat further and say, not our wicket, the next wicket? We say you can't. We say you don't have to fix it, but we say you have to comment on it and you have to flag it.
And we say you have to do this based upon a court case from the Supreme Court of Canada called the Conway decision, and we have provided copies. The Conway decision is about whether administrative tribunals can grant Section 24 remedies, or charter rights, Section 24 remedies. And the jurisprudence says that -- what
essentially the court comes to the conclusion of is, yes, administrative tribunals can grant those remedies.
I am not asking for a Section 24
remedy, my client is not asking for a Section 24 remedy. But what we are saying is, you have to look at -- you can't nudge the ship further when you know there is a problem with the constitutional issues here. That would be a dereliction of duty, and that would be inconsistent with the obligations of an administrative tribunal that operates under the Constitution of Canada.
And I just want to draw the CEC's attention to paragraph 78 of the Conway decision which says, the jurisprudence evolution leads to the following two observations. First, that administrative tribunals with the power to decide questions of law, and from who constitutional jurisdiction has not clearly been withdrawn, have the authority to resolve constitutional questions that are linked to matters properly before them.
Now, we are not asking you to. We are not asking to you make a determination about whether the duty has been filled, or on a
constitutional issue, but the second part is what is important. And secondly, they must act consistently with the charter and its value when exercising their statutory functions. It strikes me as somewhat unhelpful, therefore, to subject every such tribunal from which a charter remedy is sought to an inquiry about asking whether it is competent to grant a particular remedy within the meaning of Section 24.1.

But I want to go back to that sentence of this: They must act consistently with the charter and its values when exercising its statutory functions. And we put this in the context of, you know what the law is, you know that there is Aboriginal rights impacted, you have evidence before you. And we say that you can't be blind to that and say "next wicket", when you have evidence also before you that the next wicket isn't dealing with the issue. Now, if the next wicket does deal with the issue, that's fine. But we would say that the CEC has to put that within its decision, it has to talk about the problem that you see with this project as it currently stands in relation to Aboriginal rights. Now -and we say that you have actual knowledge based on
the evidence that there will be impacts to rights.

Now, I want to move into the bread basket and talk a bit about why the MMF has been so on about this. And I guess what the MMF's traditional land use and knowledge study shows is you have a significant Metis population within Manitoba, rightfully so, based on the history of this province. And they use a specific geographic area as their pantry, and they have historically and they continue to. And this pantry or the bread basket is what many in urban Winnipeg use in order to continue to be connected to the land, to continue to be connected to their culture, and in order to feed their families. And the idea, the fact that Bipole III goes down that west side versus the east side, or versus some other location, causes great concern to the MMF.

And President Chartrand, I'm not going to read his quote, says this is the main bread basket left for us. This is -- I want to bring the Commission's attention to the Mikisew Cree case, in our elaboration of our submissions will highlight that, but location is important. And also in the West Moberly case in British Columbia about caribou, it is the issue of saying, they

1 don't -- Hydro stood up and said, well, we don't have a plan B. Well, neither do the Metis and neither do other Aboriginal peoples that rely on this area.

So the idea that we don't have to extensively consult and accommodate when you are making use of these areas, we say can't be sustained.

Now, Manitoba Hydro may refer to it as bottleneck, we refer to it as the Metis community's pantry, gathering place and home. And this perspective in the EIS is completely missing. From large animal harvesting to berry picking in this region, it sustains the Metis community culturally, spiritually, and for harvesting purposes we think that the evidence shows that. And the TLUKs also just confirms that.

And I want to emphasize, if Manitoba Hydro essentially came to the MMF and said, look, we want to understand how Bipole III is going impact you. What the MMF says, we can't just go to one little village and say, we talked to a few people here to understand the impacts. And this is what the MMF always understood, and quite honestly, this is how I believe the consultation
process, the wheels began to fall off, is the MMF did that TLUKs, it says, look it, we have got to look at a much larger community, and so what we are going to do is we are going to do a statistically valid sampling of that community to get an idea of how they use the land. And so we had to essentially send out forms to everyone, we got responses back, then took a sampling based upon that in order to get a representation. And it is not a perfect representation, but it at least shows you patterns. And what the patterns show is the significance of the bread basket to the Metis community.

Now, Hydro walks away and says, hey, there is the assessment, all we have to do is -it is kind of like Lite-Brite, we just put up what the maps show against what our rates show and say, hey, you didn't kill a moose there, we are clear. They miss the point.

The issue that the MMF has been on
about since that initial study came back in saying, okay, now we show what the usage patterns is, now we have to undertake an impact assessment of where that usage is. And it is not as simple as just holding up the map and holding up the
route and saying, I think we are okay. That is where the disconnect comes from, and that is what illustrates that the EIS doesn't undertake an assessment. Those putting up a TK study, and Ms. Larcombe's testimony talks about this, putting up a TK study towards where a project is and saying, $I$ don't see any X's here, is not an assessment.

Manitoba Hydro doesn't seem to grasp that what is needed is to understand then how the collective uses those bottlenecks or those areas of concerns, what the relationships are. And you don't get it by having a community meeting where four people show up. And that's what is missing, it is missing in the Crown process. The MMF has continued to raise it with the Crown saying, this is what needs to happen now. Consultation just doesn't end when you get a traditional land use study. But no one is listening. And we say that that's problematic and will likely lead to future delays of the project.

So the bread basket is a part of the

Metis way of life, and it is a fundamental concern. And we have evidence from the witnesses talking about how they continue to use the lands,
how important hunting and gathering is for them, and also we have illustrated of that mobile lifestyle of what the court in Goodon is talking about, of how the Metis see this as one community, that that continues to exist today.

You had the panel from Duck Bay talk about how, you know, she is essentially a hotel, because all of the family from Winnipeg come back up to Duck Bay for their hunting. And that's how the Metis continue to use this territory. And it is not trivial for them. This is a people, an Aboriginal people, one of the founding Aboriginal peoples of this province, and this is how they use the land. And the same respect that's being shown up in -- with First Nation partners in relation to Keeyask, or other projects like that, just because they are in the south doesn't mean that that understanding of how they use the land should be ignored.

So I want to talk a bit about the berry patch. And just using the berry patch is one example about how there is going to be irreparable harm to the Metis community, and how that is not addressed adequately in the EIS, it is not addressed in Hydro's mitigation measures, and
it also isn't being addressed by the Crown.

So we have included some quotes about how, some testimony from how the communities have used that territory. And on page 13, Ms. Campbell talks about how it is an important place, and she talks about how it was an important place historically, but how it continues to be, because now we live here and I teach my grandchildren, I have nine grandchildren of my own, so occasionally we go picking to still -- just for our use. But some people still sell the berries, because people like blueberries, they are nutritious. Like fresh blueberries, you can't ask for anything better, or moose meat, and all of the things that come from the land.

What she is talking about is how this territory is important, and how also the relationships aren't just about blueberries, but it is about their stories, about how they grew up, and about where they got married. And similar to those Red Cedars, you destroy that, there is not another berry patch somewhere else.

And from the Metis perspective -- in addition, Mr. McGarry last week, where the Chair asked a question about the blueberry patch, he was
still unsure exactly what the scope of the blueberry patch was. And in our written submissions we will highlight that. He said, well, we think it is here. Well, you know there is going to be these impacts to Aboriginal people, don't you think you probably want to have that scoped out, or ask the Aboriginal people to scope it out? Because Hydro's impression of where that blueberry patch exists to what the evidence that you have before you is, is not the same. Manitoba Hydro is saying, well, we are just clipping through the western corner of it. Well, when you actually see the descriptions from how the Metis community describes what the berry patch is -- and it may not be where exactly the berry patch is, it is how they see their relationship to the land, how they understand that area. And from the Metis perspective, it is not just going through a little part of that area, it is going through the core or the heart of that area. And I think whether you want to debate on exactly how it is cut, or exactly where it goes through, the concept of that perspective is entirely lost and is not included in the EIS.

And so I want to go on and talk
about -- this is what you see the Aboriginal community facing, or the Metis community facing on page 14, they are saying, well, Richard Genaille is talking about, do you think there is anxiety about Bipole III? There is, yeah, because what I'm talking about, they don't know, the big thing they don't know. Like they don't know where it is coming through, and he continues on and he says because -- like you try to explain it to them and they don't know, it is going to affect them, because like Gloria was saying, like where we used to go, like all of the line is going through. It has a bearing on them because that's the actual places where they grew up, the different families from the communities of Duck Bay, Pine Creek and Camperville. And I go, well, do you think a giant transmission line going through it is a nice addition to those areas? And he of course says no.

The point being that this is those Red Cedars for these people. And Hydro's consultation program clearly hasn't been effective when the people themselves don't exactly know where it is going through. And to a certain extent, Hydro's own witnesses don't have a complete concept about
where it is going through either. We think that's a problem. And I want to go on and say that -let's just start with that point, that there is a problem on that and the evidence clearly shows it. But then let's go further and see what else the evidence shows.

So let's say that Hydro is right, and it is only going through -- final preferred route is only going through a western corner of the berry patch. But the evidence from Hydro's own witnesses, Ms. Petch says -- and so Hydro is saying, look it, we are just cutting a corner, and the blueberries may come back. And one, they have no -- there is no solid commitments that spraying won't be done throughout this entire region. But also the evidence shows that even if Hydro says we aren't spraying, people won't go there. And Ms. Petch is the one that actually provides that evidence. It is in volume 17. And I ask:
"Did you hear in the ATK that even if there is no spraying there is still a reluctance of people to go picking there because --

Yes, many times it was mentioned that people felt or perceived that there


|  | avoidable, and chapter 8 confirms that there is | Page 6745 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | going to be residual impacts from domestic use. |  |
| 3 | Yet these impacts are not addressed or compensated |  |
| 4 | in any way the same way that other residual |  |
| 5 | impacts are compensated. |  |
| 6 | So Mr. Osler says, this is the process |  |
| 7 | that we follow, he says, on page 15 of my brief. |  |
| 8 | "The mitigation measures that we are |  |
| 9 | talking about through the SSEA process |  |
| 10 | include effect avoidance, which is |  |
| 11 | usually driven by route selection |  |
| 12 | process, effect minimization through |  |
| 13 | the mitigation, or other measures we |  |
| 14 | can take when we are actually in a |  |
| 15 | particular location, final design, |  |
| 16 | final features. And finally effect |  |
| 17 | compensation will apply to remedy |  |
| 18 | unavoidable residual adverse effects |  |
| 19 | such as occurs in trappers' |  |
| 20 | compensation policy or landowners' |  |
| 21 | compensation policy." |  |
| 22 | So others are compensated. And here |  |
| 23 | is for the Metis -- I think the discussion is even |  |
| 24 | had of, can we avoid it in its entirety? But we |  |
| 25 | know based upon the EIS there is going to be |  |


|  | residual effects, but they don't go to that next | Page 6746 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | step with the aboriginal communities that are |  |
| 3 | impacted. They just say, well, too bad, so sad, |  |
| 4 | and that's where it is left. And this is the |  |
| 5 | problem that we want to bring to the Commission's |  |
| 6 | attention. And it is significant because this is |  |
| 7 | just one example of when Hydro then steps back and |  |
| 8 | says, well, we don't think it is significant. But |  |
| 9 | the EIS doesn't contemplate at all how the actual |  |
| 10 | people use it on the ground. |  |
| 11 | And I think this indifference is |  |
| 12 | adequately captured in the questioning that I had |  |
| 13 | with their vegetation expert. And that's at the |  |
| 14 | bottom of page 15. And I ask him: |  |
| 15 | "Right. So in relation to vegetation, |  |
| 16 | though, there are some non mitigable |  |
| 17 | effects? |  |
| 18 | That's correct |  |
| 19 | And how do you compensate for those |  |
| 20 | non-mitigable effects for Aboriginal |  |
| 21 | people who rely on that plant life? |  |
| 22 | Well, what was non-mitigatable was a |  |
| 23 | residual effect, that's what we |  |
| 24 | identified was residual." |  |
| 25 | And so I go: |  |


| 1 |  |  | Page 6747 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | "So when I'm reading the EIS that |  |
| 2 |  | there are residual effects, that is |  |
| 3 |  | where there is an assessment. So I |  |
| 4 |  | guess I'm going to go back to Mr. |  |
| 5 |  | Osler's point, removing a certain |  |
| 6 |  | berry patch from an area of use, from |  |
| 7 |  | the large banana area, wouldn't be of |  |
| 8 |  | concern, removing that from Metis and |  |
| 9 |  | First Nations communities who may |  |
| 10 |  | extensively rely on them in a specific |  |
| 11 |  | quadrant of the line could be |  |
| 12 |  | significant. |  |
| 13 |  | We didn't identify that as |  |
| 14 |  | significant, sir." |  |
| 15 | And then he | goes on and says, and I ask again: |  |
| 16 |  | "Sure. Would you agree with me that |  |
| 17 |  | in areas where there is vegetation, |  |
| 18 |  | blueberries, plant life that are |  |
| 19 |  | extensively relied on by the |  |
| 20 |  | Aboriginal peoples, that removal and |  |
| 21 |  | loss of that could be significant on |  |
| 22 |  | them? " |  |
| 23 And he says: |  |  |  |
| 24 |  | "No, we don't think that's a |  |
| 25 |  | significant effect. |  |


|  |  | Page 6748 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | u don |  |
| 2 | significant effect for the purposes of |  |
| 3 | the EIS? |  |
| 4 | That's correct and that's what we have |  |
| 5 | identified." |  |
| 6 | How can you miss that point when your |  |
| 7 | own -- how can you put that together with the |  |
| 8 | evidence of Virginia Petch? We may have problems |  |
| 9 | with the ATK, but we think that she probably did |  |
| 10 | interview some First Nations and Metis people in |  |
| 11 | the area, and she grasped that. Our ATK studies |  |
| 12 | grasped that as well. Yet Manitoba Hydro doesn't |  |
| 13 | consider it significant. And this is the problem |  |
| 14 | with the EIS. |  |
| 15 | So we go further and we think that |  |
| 16 | this is what illustrates -- and I think that |  |
| 17 | others will do a far better job than us on |  |
| 18 | attacking the cumulative effects analysis and the |  |
| 19 | actual effects analysis done by Mr. Osler, but |  |
| 20 | here is what we think is just a giant red flag |  |
| 21 | about why we think this Commission should have |  |
| 22 | problems with the affects assessment. |  |
| 23 | So we then -- so I then ask, or maybe |  |
| 24 | beforehand I asked Ms. Petch, what does she think |  |
| 25 | the effects are? And I asked: |  |




| 1 | That's the question I asked. |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | "Some of them you can't put a value |
| 3 | on." |
| 4 | So this really goes to the problem of |
| 5 | how can you rely on the effects assessment that is |
| 6 | in the EIS, when clearly Ms. Petch, who is their |
| 7 | expert on this issue, doesn't agree with it? She |
| 8 | wouldn't come to that conclusion. What she |
| 9 | essentially says is, well, I have handed it over |
| 10 | and someone else comes up with the designation. |
| 11 | But what the evidence shows is that there will be |
| 12 | significant impacts, and the EIS doesn't |
| 13 | acknowledge that. |
| 14 | So I just want to point out that this |
| 15 | contradicts how Mr. Osler explains the process |
| 16 | that they have gone through. So page 17, this is |
| 17 | a quote from Mr. Osler that he is saying: |
| 18 | "The magnitude question comes down to, |
| 19 | I mean, in my experience magnitude in |
| 20 | many ways is the core of what you are |
| 21 | talking about. It is the intensity |
| 22 | variable that makes the big |
| 23 | difference. How you measure it in |
| 24 | each case for each VEC, though, is a |
| 25 | professional expert's job, is to tell |

That's the question I asked.
"Some of them you can't put a value on."

So this really goes to the problem of how can you rely on the effects assessment that is in the EIS, when clearly Ms. Petch, who is their expert on this issue, doesn't agree with it? She wouldn't come to that conclusion. What she essentially says is, well, I have handed it over and someone else comes up with the designation. But what the evidence shows is that there will be significant impacts, and the EIS doesn't acknowledge that.

So I just want to point out that this contradicts how Mr. Osler explains the process that they have gone through. So page 17, this is a quote from Mr. Osler that he is saying:
"The magnitude question comes down to,
I mean, in my experience magnitude in many ways is the core of what you are talking about. It is the intensity variable that makes the big difference. How you measure it in each case for each VEC, though, is a professional expert's job, is to tell
me, or you know, $I$ do it for this one versus that one."

What he essentially is saying, the experts are supposed to tell me. Well, this is what the expert tells you, but yet you still get to a conclusion that it is not significant. And we just say this is just one of the many examples of how the EIS and its assessment is problematic, and that it doesn't address how -- it doesn't
incorporate the Aboriginal perspective, and it doesn't address what the impacts on Aboriginal communities are. So it can't be relied upon as that.

Our point is that this just further illustrates of how -- well, it may be a nice binder and look like it is professionally done -when you start to dig underneath, it really illustrates that it is a house of cards of how it has been sliced and diced together on some of these issues.

And I'm only dealing with it from my client's perspective on how a few different issues that are of importance to the Metis are lost in the EIS assessment.

I want to go on to moose hunting and

|  | talk a bit about how that essentially plays out as | Page 6753 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | well. I'm not going to go -- you have the |  |
| 3 | evidence that we have put in here, and we will put |  |
| 4 | it in our final written argument as well, the |  |
| 5 | evidence that shows how important the area is to |  |
| 6 | the Metis, the testimony that you have from the |  |
| 7 | Metis community members, as well as the testimony |  |
| 8 | that you have from Pat Larcombe who undertook the |  |
| 9 | TLUKs study on behalf of the Metis, on behalf of |  |
| 10 | the MMF. But I just want to unpack again what |  |
| 11 | Hydro is essentially saying is extremely |  |
| 12 | problematic. And it is almost perverse, it is |  |
| 13 | almost -- Mr. Osler says: |  |
| 14 | "Well, I'm not trying to be cute on it |  |
| 15 | but this is essentially how an EIS is |  |
| 16 | undertaken. And yeah, we get some |  |
| 17 | benefit by the fact that no one is |  |
| 18 | hunting in the area. We don't have to |  |
| 19 | be concerned about it." |  |
| 20 | And he says: |  |
| 21 | Well, I can see why you get upset by |  |
| 22 | that, but this is how we see the |  |
| 23 | process." |  |
| 24 | But I want to build this out even further about |  |
| 25 | what is even more troubling about what Manitoba |  |

Hydro and Manitoba Conservation, how they are essentially planning to respond, or potentially planning to respond to the fact that this issue is playing out. So we know that there is trouble, or there are problems with the moose populations in these GHAs. They are closed.
And let's just be clear here, Metis rights and First Nation rights are being infringed right now, they are being infringed because no rights are absolute, and the Sparrow test sets out that rights can be justifiably infringed. And one of the ways that those rights can be justifiably infringed is in the name of conservation. In this case, in addition to just that being in the name of conservation, the Aboriginal people themselves have been the ones in this area asking for some of these things because they have seen the populations go down.
So what we have is a willing infringement. But let's just be very clear here, and we want the panel to understand this, constitutional rights are being infringed right now in this area. They are being infringed justifiably because of conservation, but they are being infringed nonetheless.

| 1 | So the idea that a Crown agent such as | Page 6755 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | Manitoba Hydro, or the Crown itself can then take |  |
| 3 | advantage of that in order to say, get a project |  |
| 4 | through like Bipole III, is extremely problematic. |  |
| 5 | And this plays out in how Mr. Osler, as well as |  |
| 6 | Manitoba Hydro, explains it saying, well, we |  |
| 7 | acknowledge that there is going to be impacts |  |
| 8 | during construction. And I'm now going to go up |  |
| 9 | to page 22, and it is the quote at the bottom, and |  |
| 10 | this is from Mr. Osler. He is saying: |  |
| 11 | "The analysis has to consider that the |  |
| 12 | changes that will occur due to the |  |
| 13 | project, and that those changes, the |  |
| 14 | point of the analysis is those changes |  |
| 15 | in an area where we have closure and |  |
| 16 | people are not allowed to hunt, the |  |
| 17 | population is already being protected |  |
| 18 | by a set of measures to stop people |  |
| 19 | from hunting them. So the fundamental |  |
| 20 | point of the analysis that the experts |  |
| 21 | are after is not whether the |  |
| 22 | population is going to suffer any type |  |
| 23 | of short term effect, it is discussed |  |
| 24 | that during construction there will be |  |
| 25 | disturbance." |  |


|  | So they have acknowledged here that even during | Page 6756 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | construction there is going to be additional |  |
| 3 | disturbances and challenges. But the question, |  |
| 4 | and again I'm at the bottom of page 22 in my |  |
| 5 | submissions, but the question they are |  |
| 6 | fundamentally focused on is: |  |
| 7 | "Is the population going to be |  |
| 8 | affected in the longer run, its |  |
| 9 | sustainability, et cetera, because of |  |
| 10 | the project? If the projects stays in |  |
| 11 | place, for example, and the people are |  |
| 12 | not allowed to hunt, then all of the |  |
| 13 | access related issues that one |  |
| 14 | normally worries about are not |  |
| 15 | material to in the area." |  |
| 16 | So what you really see here though is, well, we |  |
| 17 | don't have to worry about it, we've already got |  |
| 18 | closures. So we are going to rely on that willing |  |
| 19 | infringement of the right in order to benefit, and |  |
| 20 | we are going to exclude that from the VEC |  |
| 21 | analysis. |  |
| 22 | We say that that's wrong. And our |  |
| 23 | expert outlines how, in the determination of |  |
|  | significance and also in the determination of |  |
| 25 | magnitude, you have to understand the |  |

stakeholders' perspective.
Now, to add insult to injury, what
Manitoba Hydro and Manitoba Conservation are now proposing is saying, okay, well, we have heard you so, one, we think it is all about hunting. And in these areas you are already suspending, or allowing the infringement of your harvesting rights of moose. So what we are going to add is Berlin wall-like mitigation measures. We are going to put in gates, we are going to put in cameras, we are going to ratchet up access. So to do our project, we are essentially going to make it harder for you to have access, and also likely decrease other harvesting opportunities that you may use in order to allow for our project.
And we just say that that's wrong. We say that it is the idea that those increased mitigation measures, what is not being -- it may be mitigating one thing, but the negative effect of it is you are actually infringing the Metis right even further. And we say that can't be sustained and that that shouldn't be allowed by virtue of the fact that the Metis have actually been willingly not exercising their constitutionally protected rights in these areas.

| 1 |
| ---: |$\quad$ THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Madden, I would Page 6758



|  | day we said we can't, because Ms. Stewart said we | Page 6760 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | need to dig into this information. So what we |  |
| 3 | want to just point out is that clearly Manitoba |  |
| 4 | Hydro has acknowledged that there was deficiencies |  |
| 5 | in how they did it. That's why they went ahead |  |
| 6 | and got the additional information. Now we should |  |
| 7 | at least have the opportunity to test that |  |
| 8 | additional information. And we can't do that |  |
| 9 | within seven days. |  |
| 10 | On significance, I just want to refer |  |
| 11 | to the real point, and I think -- and this is at |  |
| 12 | the top of the page 20. Ms. Stewart raises this |  |
| 13 | point in many cases, continuously. She goes: |  |
| 14 | "Manitoba Hydro has concluded that the |  |
| 15 | effects are what they perceive as |  |
| 16 | acceptable, but I would ask what about |  |
| 17 | the other parties? It doesn't appear |  |
| 18 | that Manitoba Hydro has worked |  |
| 19 | collaboratively on approach to |  |
| 20 | significance determination, and other |  |
| 21 | parties or stakeholders or groups that |  |
| 22 | might be affected by the project, and |  |
| 23 | this would be of general good |  |
| 24 | practice. Manitoba Hydro hasn't |  |
| 25 | considered what the Metis might |  |


|  |  | Page 6761 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | consider as an acceptable level of |  |
| 2 | change that can be seen." |  |
| 3 | And if you go down three paragraphs she says: |  |
| 4 | "I think Manitoba Hydro needs to use |  |
| 5 | an alternative definition of |  |
| 6 | magnitude, one that can be supported |  |
| 7 | by the data. And I think they should |  |
| 8 | collaborate with other groups on |  |
| 9 | determining significance and really |  |
| 10 | come up with relevant magnitude |  |
| 11 | criteria with respect to moose, and |  |
| 12 | probably with respect to other VECs as |  |
| 13 | well." |  |
| 14 | And I just want to raise this point |  |
| 15 | that this is not that we are from Saturn making |  |
| 16 | this recommendation. This happens all over other |  |
| 17 | jurisdictions. In President Chartrand's |  |
| 18 | materials, we have included agreements that are in |  |
| 19 | place in northern -- in the northern territories |  |
| 20 | that allow for multi-parties to be a part of these |  |
| 21 | monitoring, but also on the part of determining |  |
| 22 | thresholds. Because I think that the language |  |
| 23 | that Mr. Osler adopted, or one of the experts |  |
| 24 | adopted is that this is all in the eyes of the |  |
| 25 | beholder. Well, it is very nice to be -- if you |  |


|  | were Manitoba Hydro -- in their eyes. But the | Page 6762 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | reality is that these are important areas to other |  |
| 3 | user groups, some of them having constitutional |  |
| 4 | rights. And the idea that they are completely |  |
| 5 | excluded from the significance, we say can't be |  |
| 6 | supported. And we just want to say this: We |  |
| 7 | don't think it can't be supported when you read |  |
| 8 | the terms of reference for the scoping document. |  |
| 9 | Our evidence will -- our written submissions will |  |
| 10 | focus on that. But this is, the societal |  |
| 11 | acceptance, all of those principles, why were they |  |
| 12 | collecting Aboriginal traditional knowledge? If |  |
| 13 | they weren't worried, or if the province wasn't |  |
| 14 | worried or concerned about how it is going to |  |
| 15 | affect Aboriginal people, why collect it? |  |
| 16 | So the point is that I simply do not |  |
| 17 | agree that a meaningful assessment of impacts on |  |
| 18 | Aboriginal people is simply attaching a TK study |  |
| 19 | to the back of the EIS. And to be quite frank, |  |
| 20 | that is all Manitoba Hydro has done with this |  |
| 21 | project. |  |
| 22 | We also think that the evidence |  |
| 23 | doesn't support that there aren't other multiple |  |
|  | factors that are playing into the moose situation |  |
| 25 | in the west side corridor. And we've provided |  |

Ms. Stewart's evidence on that. And we believe that -- looking at some of the mistakes that I have highlighted, or the misinformation that were in some of the Joro's consultant reports that were brought out in cross-examination, as well as the credibility of Ms. Stewart, we think that some of -- that that evidence should be preferred. And that Ms. Stewart isn't criticizing, what she is saying is, this is what others do, and this is what you need to do. And Manitoba Hydro is doing this in isolation. And we think the evidence shows that and we think it is problematic. I want to quickly just move on to socioeconomic effects. And I'm not going to go into this. Just simply that we put together on page 24 where one of the requirements are that you are supposed to look at the communities impacted, and they do no assessment on socioeconomic impacts on the Metis community. In fact, when I asked Ms. Hicks directly, it is quite stark, her responses.

> Moving on to page 25, and this is
about identifying impacted communities, and this is really the discussion or the interchange that you saw between President Chartrand and

Mr. Bedford today about Manitoba Hydro saying, well, we will pick and choose who to consult with, we will pick and choose whether we think you are government, or whether we think you are worthy enough for us to have a relationship with. And we get our guidance from -- I don't know what the assessment is, but we will make those determinations. We asked the one recommendation that we think is imperative for the CEC to make in addition is, proponents should not be making these decisions by themselves. The Crown has the duty. The Crown needs to identify who the potentially impacted communities are. Because if not, you have exactly what you saw with Mr. Bedford, I have looked at the census data and I don't think you are legitimate. The Supreme Court of Canada may think so, the government may think so, but $I$ don't think that you are the one we should be talking to.

The duty to consult has a two part
test. The first part is, is there a duty? And in order to identify whether there is a duty, you need to know who the rights holder is. And the second part is whether the duty has been fulfilled, and that's an assessment based on

|  | reasonableness. | Page 6765 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | The first part of the test is based on |  |
| 3 | correctness. They have to have the community |  |
| 4 | correct and the proponent shouldn't be feeling |  |
| 5 | around in the dark to try to figure it out. And |  |
| 6 | whether the Crown wants to maintain it, wants to |  |
| 7 | maintain jurisdiction for the consultation, they |  |
| 8 | need to tell the proponent who you should be |  |
| 9 | talking to, and it can't be discombobulated from |  |
| 10 | each other. And that is -- you will see, |  |
| 11 | Mr. Chair, you asked why am I on about this? I'm |  |
| 12 | on about this because a court won't like it. A |  |
| 13 | court won't like that it is essentially willful |  |
| 14 | blindness of the Crown saying, go ahead and talk |  |
| 15 | to whoever you want, we don't care. We are going |  |
| 16 | to use that information that you produce in order |  |
| 17 | to assess impacts, but once we get the |  |
| 18 | information, we can't make hide nor hair of it in |  |
| 19 | understanding what the communities are, we get |  |
| 20 | things like Manitoba Hydro's TK study. |  |
| 21 | So we outline this point and we go |  |
| 22 | into it in great detail, but we think that it is a |  |
| 23 | fundamental flaw with how Manitoba operates, and |  |
| 24 | we think that Manitoba Hydro shouldn't be the one |  |
| 25 | making determinations about who it thinks it |  |



| 1 | assessment of the project based on the scoping |
| ---: | :--- |
| 2 | document has not happened, including ensuring |
| 3 | significance determinations reflect societal |
| 4 | values and incorporate the Aboriginal perspective. |
| 5 | There is not clarity on the mitigation measures. |
| 6 | How are you going to be able to recommend a |
| 7 | project when you don't entirely know what the |
| 8 | mitigation measures are? Those discussions are |
| 9 | still ongoing between Manitoba Conservation and |
| 10 | Manitoba Hydro, or at least we understand they |
| 11 | are. |
| 12 | constitutional norms. |
| 24 | perspective, the CEC knows this project will cause |
| 23 | administrative tribunal that is guided by |
| 14 | significant adverse effects to Metis rights, but |
| 15 | those collective impacts have not been meaningful |
| 16 | assessed or addressed, not by the Crown, not by |
| 17 | conscience, recommend the project where these |

recommendations from our experts on what should be put in place, but we want to make this point, we don't even think we are there yet. So often, and in our final written submissions, we will have all of those included as an appendix, those are the recommendations from Ms. Supernaut, Larcombe, and Ms. Stewart. The MMF adopts all of them, but we don't believe we are at a stage where a licence should be granted.

And Manitoba Hydro must go back and do what it said it would do, what it was required to do under the scoping document. And it needs to meaningfully assess the entire project. And it needs to meaningfully engage the impacted Metis community to understand, assess, avoid and mitigate those effects.

The CEC has a choice to make, if it lets the ship that's destined for the iceberg continue, or does it make recommendations that will allow for reassessment and a course correction that will benefit all involved?

MMF urges that the CEC not recommend the project. The stakes are simply too high for all of the parties involved, and being willfully blind to the course of Bipole III is unacceptable

|  |  | Page 6769 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | So with that, the MMF thanks the |  |
| 3 | Commission again for the opportunity to |  |
| 4 | participate in the hearings. And we will, as we |  |
| 5 | said, be filing our far more extensive written |  |
| 6 | submissions on Wednesday, but we hope that our |  |
| 7 | presentation today illustrates these problems. |  |
| 8 | Because these problems aren't just specific to |  |
| 9 | these issues, they transcend of what the overall |  |
| 10 | problems are with the EIS, from the MMF's |  |
| 11 | perspective. |  |
| 12 | THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Madden. |  |
| 13 | I hope your final documents aren't too far more |  |
| 14 | extensive, because I think that members of the |  |
| 15 | panel might be getting close to reading fatigue. |  |
| 16 | I understand that this will be your |  |
| 17 | last appearance before this hearing, so I want to |  |
| 18 | thank you for your participation over the last |  |
| 19 | number of months. It has been of the highest |  |
| 20 | standards. So I suspect we will see you again |  |
| 21 | next go round. |  |
| 22 | MR. MADDEN: Most likely. |  |
| 23 | THE CHAIRMAN: Madam secretary? |  |
| 24 | MS. JOHNSON: We have a number of |  |
| 25 | documents collected up today. The letter to |  |

Mr. McGarry from the Outfitters is WPG 17. The response to Mr. Grant is WPG 18. The response to Adrenalin Outfitters is WPG 19. Mr. Soprovich's presentation is WPG 20. The Wuskwi Sipihk First Nation Traditional Land Use and Occupancy Report is MH 119. The response to undertaking to Mr. Mills is MH 120. The response to undertaking to Mr. Gibbons is MH 121. A letter dated March 2nd from MMF regarding the moose report is MMF 21. The report from Ms. Stewart is MMF 22. The letter dated February 29th to Mr. Bedford from MMF is number 23. The resolution of the MMF is number 24. The letter dated March 6th to the two ministers is MMF 25. The letter of February 27th to the Federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development is MMF 26. The Conway case is number 27. The Manitoba Metis Federation versus Canada is number 28. The Guide to Environmental Assessment Requirements for Electricity Projects from Ontario is MMF 29. And Mr. Madden's overview of his closing arguments is MMF 30.

MR. MADDEN: And the long term energy plan, is that -- Ontario's long term energy plan? MS. JOHNSON: Okay. That would be 31.

| 1 | MR. MADDEN: And just so I understand, | Page 6771 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | Ms. Stewart's initial response, or response |  |
| 3 | without the assessment is 22 , and the letter |  |
| 4 | from -- sorry, is -- |  |
| 5 | MS. JOHNSON: Information gaps is |  |
| 6 | number 22. |  |
| 7 | MR. MADDEN: Okay. And the letter of |  |
| 8 | March 6th is? |  |
| 9 | MS. JOHNSON: I have March 2nd. |  |
| 10 | MR. MADDEN: Maybe it is March 2nd. |  |
| 11 | MS. JOHNSON: March 2nd is 21. And |  |
| 12 | then we will deal with the taxpayers' letter |  |
| 13 | before the week is over. |  |
| 14 | (EXHIBIT WPG 17: Letter to |  |
| 15 | Mr. McGarry from Outfitters) |  |
| 16 | (EXHIBIT WPG 18: Response to |  |
| 17 | Mr. Grant) |  |
| 18 | (EXHIBIT WPG 19: Response to |  |
| 19 | Adrenalin Outfitters) |  |
| 20 | (EXHIBIT WPG 20: Mr. Soprovich's |  |
| 21 | presentation) |  |
| 22 | (EXHIBIT MH 119: The Wuskwi Sipihk |  |
| 23 | First Nation Traditional Land Use and |  |
| 24 | Occupancy Report) |  |
| 25 | (EXHIBIT MH 120: Response to |  |


|  |  | Page 6772 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | undertaking to Mr. Mills) |  |
| 2 | (EXHIBIT MH 121: Response to |  |
| 3 | undertaking to Mr. Gibbons) |  |
| 4 | (EXHIBIT MMF 21: Letter dated |  |
| 5 | March 2nd from MMF reg moose report) |  |
| 6 | (EXHIBIT MMF 22: Report from |  |
| 7 | Ms. Stewart) |  |
| 8 | (EXHIBIT MMF 23: Letter dated |  |
| 9 | February 29th to Mr. Bedford) |  |
| 10 | (EXHIBIT MMF 24: Resolution of MMF) |  |
| 11 |  |  |
| 12 | (EXHIBIT MMF 25: Letter dated |  |
| 13 | March 6th to two ministers) |  |
| 14 | (EXHIBIT MMF 26: Letter of |  |
| 15 | February 27 th to the Federal Minister |  |
| 16 | of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern |  |
| 17 | Development) |  |
| 18 | (EXHIBIT MMF 27: Conway case) |  |
| 19 | (EXHIBIT MMF 28: Manitoba Metis |  |
| 20 | Federation versus Canada) |  |
| 21 | (EXHIBIT MMF 29: The guide to |  |
| 22 | Environmental Assessment Requirements |  |
| 23 | for Electricity Projects from Ontario) |  |
| 24 | (EXHIBIT MMF 30: Mr. Madden's |  |
| 25 | overview of closing arguments) |  |


|  |  | Page 6773 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | (EXHIBIT MMF 31: The long term energy |  |
| 2 | plan) |  |
| 3 | MR. MADDEN: Just one other question, |  |
| 4 | with our written submissions I refer to other case |  |
| 5 | law. Copies to be provided as well -- or I can |  |
| 6 | refer to cases without them being entered as |  |
| 7 | exhibits; correct? |  |
| 8 | THE CHAIRMAN: I think so, as long as |  |
| 9 | they are clearly cited. If you rely significantly |  |
| 10 | on those cases, perhaps provide most, if not all, |  |
| 11 | of the case, but I don't think that we need bags |  |
| 12 | and bags of cases that -- |  |
| 13 | MR. MADDEN: All right. |  |
| 14 | THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We are getting |  |
| 15 | close to finish for the day. Tomorrow we have, |  |
| 16 | first thing in the morning we have what we are |  |
| 17 | calling leftovers, which are panel, final panel |  |
| 18 | questions for Manitoba Hydro officials. I'm not |  |
| 19 | sure how many there will be, I don't think it will |  |
| 20 | take us terribly long. |  |
| 21 | Following the morning break -- |  |
|  | presumably we will fill up the time until the |  |
| 23 | morning break. Following that, Manitoba Hydro |  |
|  | will present its rebuttal. And then in the |  |
| 25 | afternoon we should get into some of the closing |  |



|  |  | Page 6775 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | OFFICIAL EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE |  |
| 2 |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |
| 5 | I, CECELIA J. REID, a duly appointed Official |  |
| 6 | Examiner in the Province of Manitoba, do hereby |  |
| 7 | certify the foregoing pages are a true and correct |  |
| 8 | transcript of my Stenotype notes as taken by me at |  |
| 9 | the time and place hereinbefore stated. |  |
| 10 |  |  |
| 11 |  |  |
| 12 |  |  |
| 13 | ------ |  |
| 14 | Cecelia J. Reid |  |
| 15 | Official Examiner, Q.B. |  |
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