



# A Learning Dialogue & Opportunity to Exceed Past Standards and Practices

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**Opening Statement for the Consumer Association of Canada (Manitoba Branch)  
Presented by Joëlle Pastora Sala, Attorney, Public Interest Law Centre**

# CAC Manitoba

- ▣ Non-Profit, volunteer organization
- ▣ Empowers and represents consumers
- ▣ Provides evidence based advocacy
- ▣ Accurate verifiable information
- ▣ Skills and knowledge
- ▣ Promotes sustainable consumer choices



# CAC Manitoba involvement in EA

- Eight core consumer rights and principles:
  1. goods and services to meet our basic needs, including food, clothing and shelter.
  2. protection against goods or services that are harmful to ourselves and our families.
  3. **facts and information** to help choose the best products.
  4. **opportunities to get the knowledge and skills we need to be informed consumers.**
  5. a good variety of quality products and services.
  6. **a role in making government policies for the marketplace.**
  7. a fair settlement when you receive unsatisfactory goods and services.
  8. **a healthy environment now and in the future.**

## Background on EA

- Proactive planning process
- Best practice EA is guided by:
  - Transparency
  - Inclusivity
  - Informed deliberations
  - Meaningful consumer participation
  
- EA is not a stagnant process
- Public trust and legitimacy are necessary

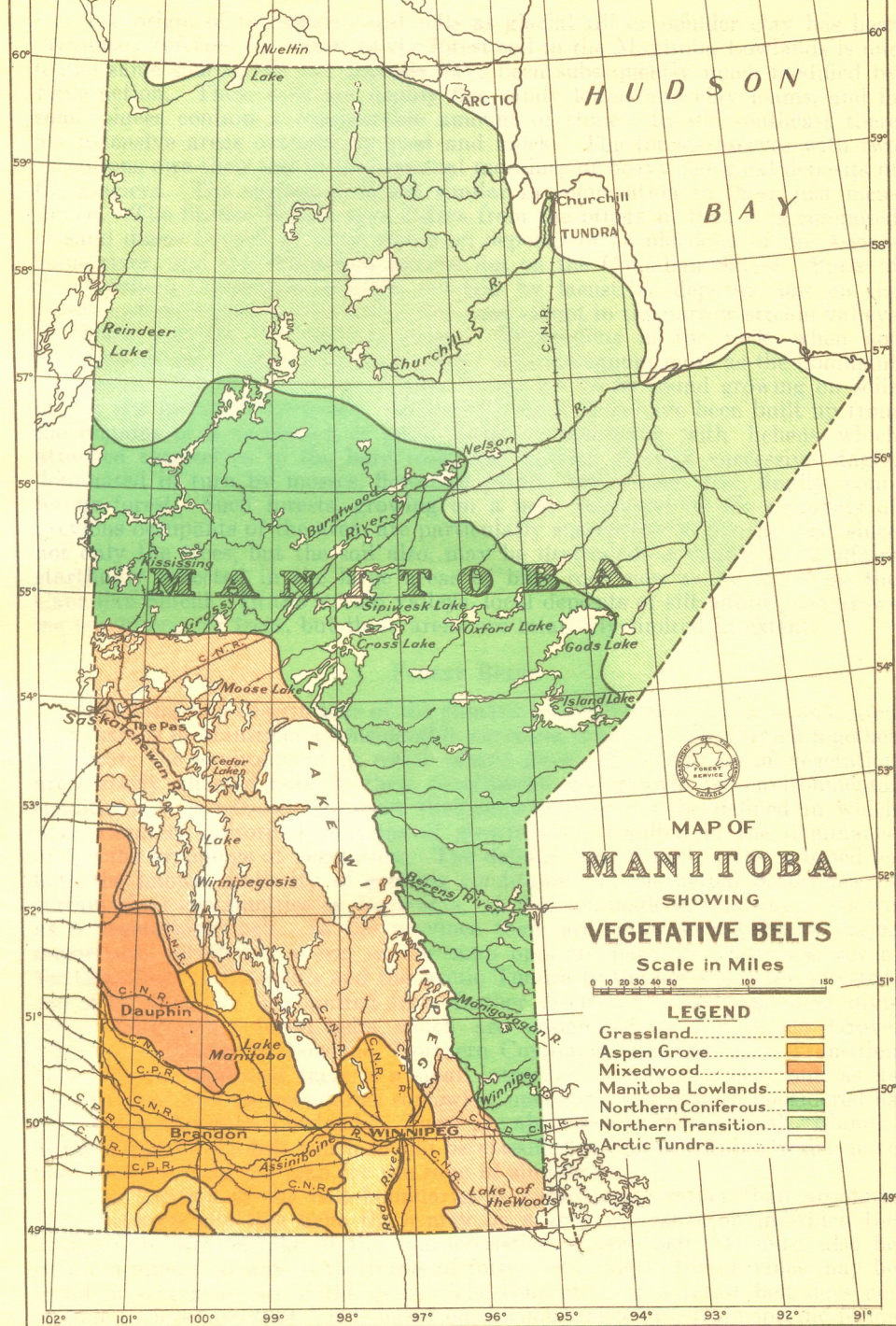




# EA in Manitoba

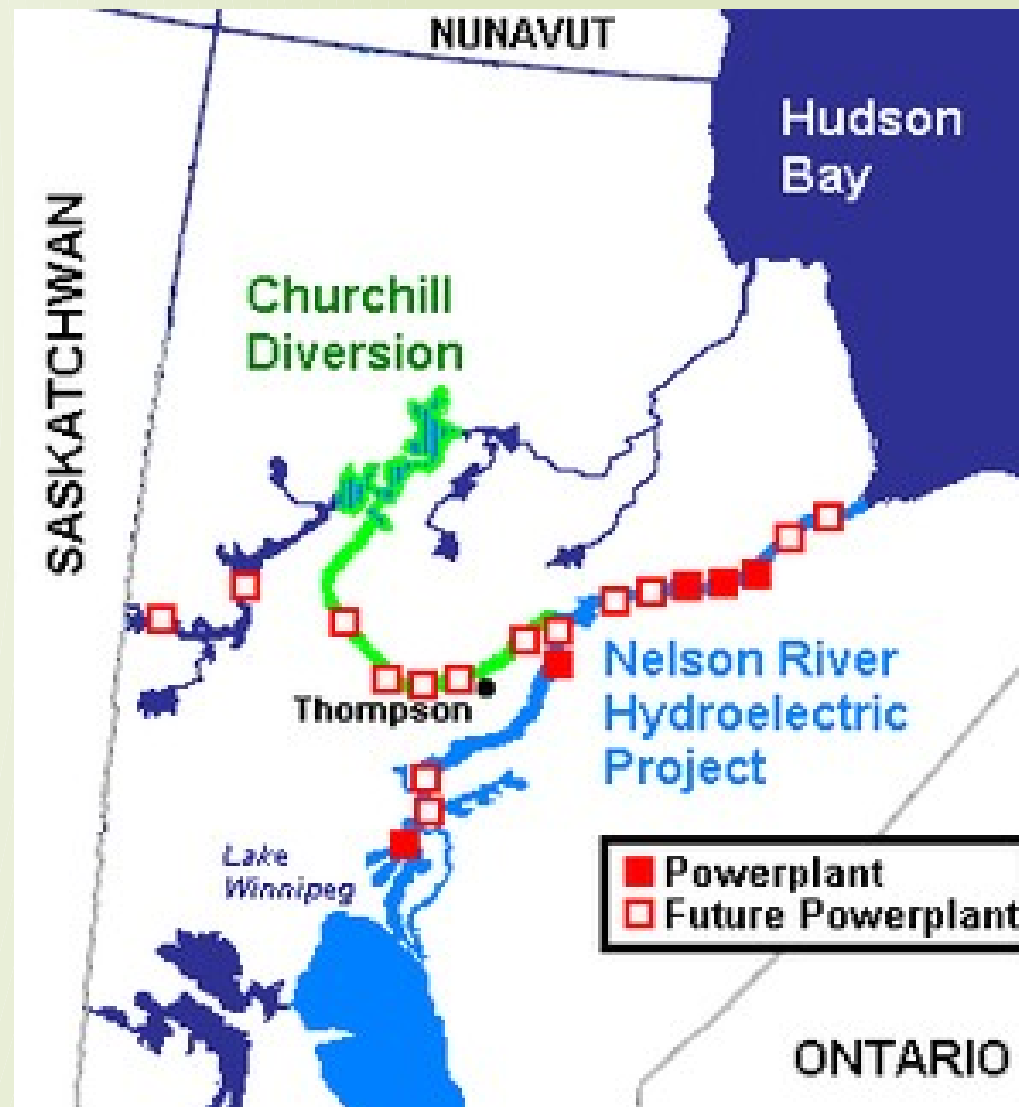
## Environment Act

- “ensur[ing] that the environment is protected and maintained in such a manner as to sustain a high quality of life, including social and economic development, recreation and leisure for this and future generations.” (s. 1)
- “provid[ing] the opportunity for all citizens to exercise influence over the quality of their living environment.” (s 2(1))



## Learning from Past EAs and Reviews

- ▮ the Wuskwatim Power Generation Transmission Project (2004);
- ▮ the Bipole III Transmission Line (2012);
- ▮ Keeyask Generation Project (2013);
- ▮ Needs for and Alternatives To (2014); and
- ▮ Lake Winnipeg Regulation (2015).





# Closing a Loop

- ▢ Impacts of development projects on:
  - ▢ Human and community health
  - ▢ Air quality
  - ▢ Species
  - ▢ Economy
  - ▢ Social and recreational aspects
  - ▢ Traditional land users, Elders and Knowledge Holders
- ▢ Monitoring and Follow-up
- ▢ Cumulative effects assessment
- ▢ Socio-economic assessment
- ▢ Sustainability Assessment



# Challenges of Manitoba Hydro relating to EA

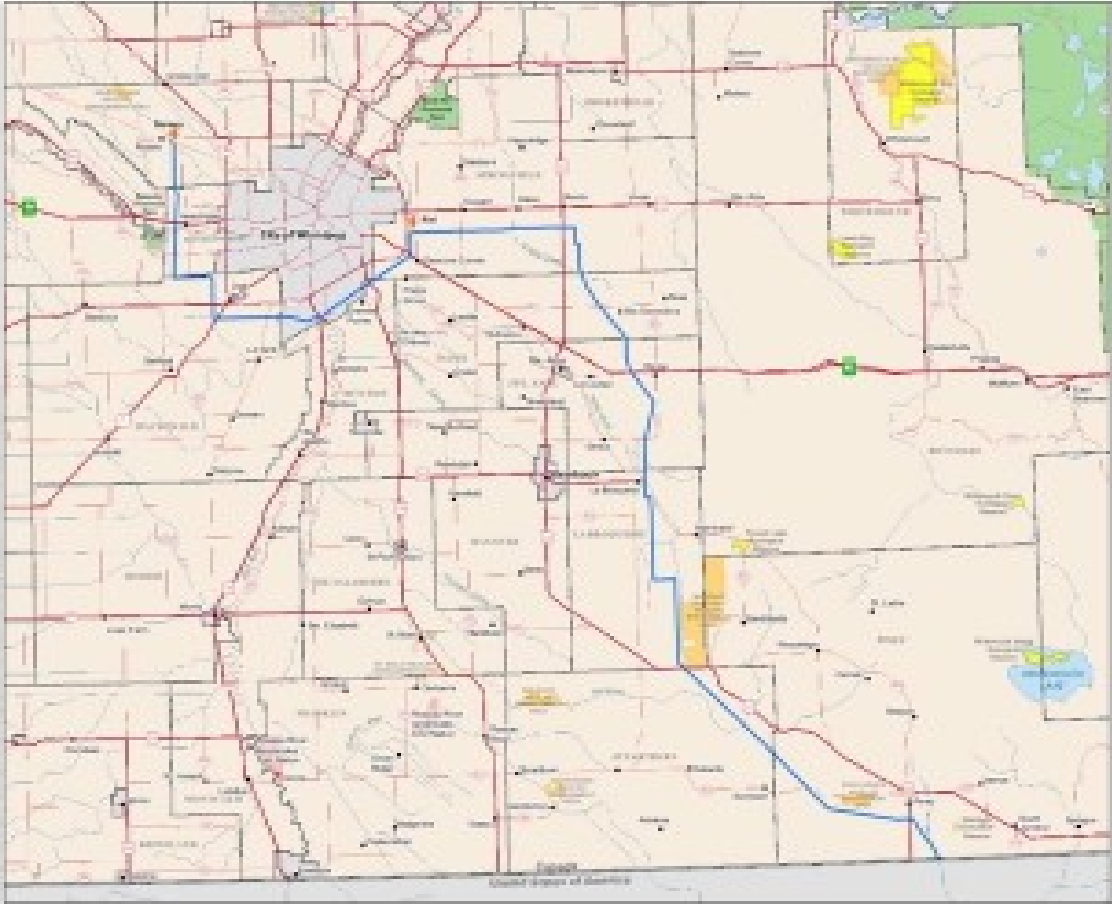
- ▢ Transparency and inclusiveness of consumers in decision-making, monitoring and follow -up;
- ▢ Recognition of and planning for incertitude;
- ▢ Silos within Manitoba Hydro and the Manitoba regulatory process itself;
- ▢ Cooperation and coordination among provincial, federal and indigenous jurisdictions;
- ▢ Acknowledgement that best practice environmental assessment is always evolving and that regulatory compliance is not sufficient;
- ▢ Involvement of the Province in environmental assessment hearings;
- ▢ Strategic and regional planning for the future;
- ▢ Relationship with Indigenous nations and people;
- ▢ Respect for Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge and Indigenous legal orders.

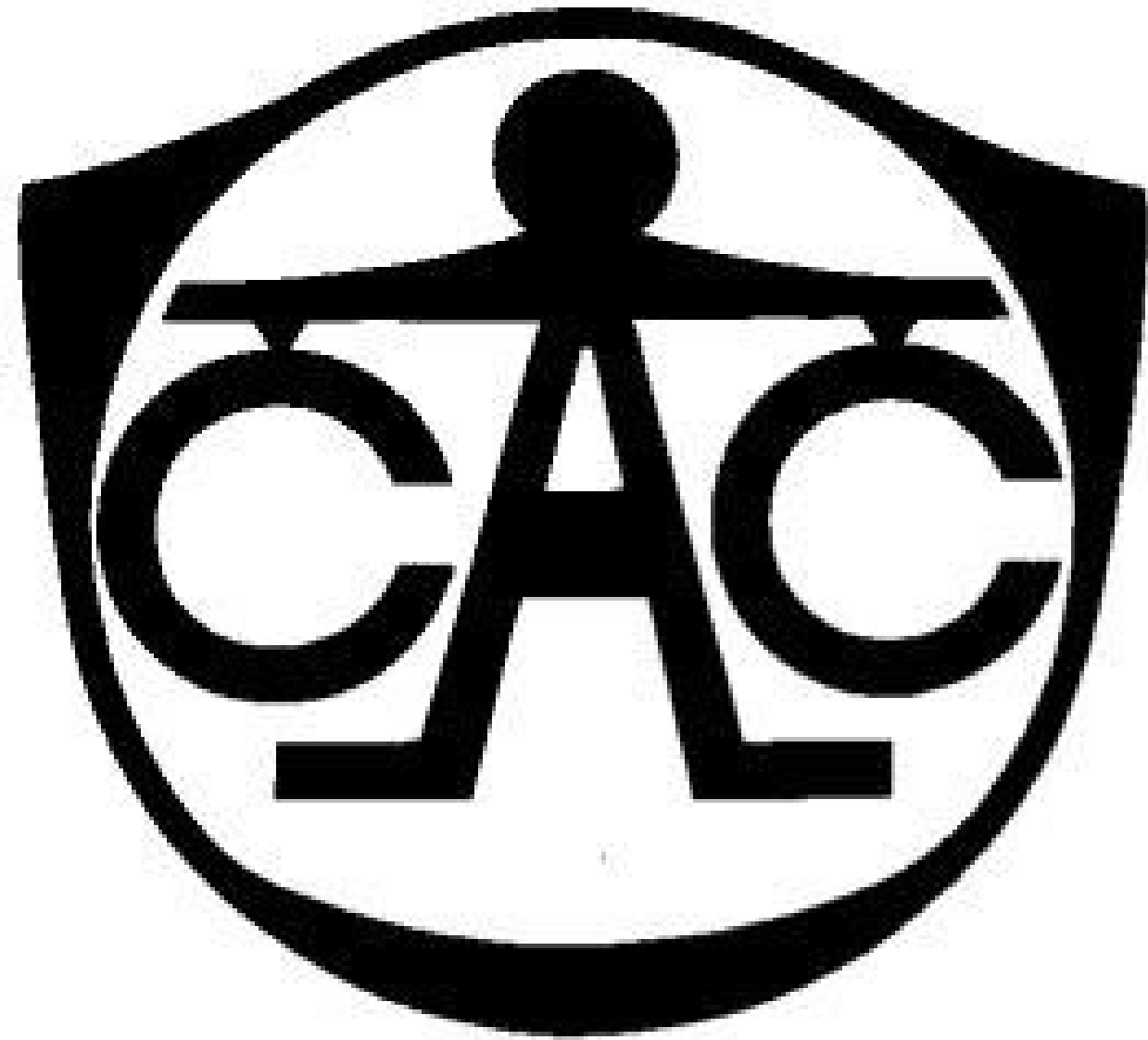


# Focus of CAC Manitoba for MMTP

1. Monitoring and Follow-up plans;
2. International Organization for Standardization (ISO) compliance; and
3. Adaptive management.

# CAC Manitoba`s Expectations of Hydro for MMTP





**Manitoba**

***Thank you***

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