

Undertaking 128: Ms. Orenstein will undertake to report back to the Board on whether the words 'altering the landscape forever' contained on slide 21, Exhibit 73 are her words, her interpretation, or she's quoting directly from a source on the record.

Response: The words 'altering the landscape forever' was an interpretation and not a direct quote; however, we think the sentiment is expressed strongly. Provided below are some of the sources that formed the basis for this interpretation. Of particular importance is the following quote from the *Fox Lake Cree Nations Environmental Evaluation Report*:

“FLCN recognizes that the Keeyask project will forever change the landscape even further and will have further impacts on our people.”¹

Note: Sections of the quotations have been underlined to highlight their connection.

Cree Nation Partners – Keeyask Environmental Evaluation²

- Our emotional well-being will be harmed, since it will be disrespectful to the land and will indicate a failure to properly care for the land and for fellow beings of Mother Earth, by allowing the Keeyask Project to be built and flooding to take place. It could also disrupt the harmony and balance amongst all Mother Earth's beings – human and non-human. The Project will also damage our spiritual connection to the land. (pg. 37)
- Relationships with other First Nations will be affected, as will our inherent right to self-government, as the Keeyask Project has caused Hydro and Manitoba to become involved in relations between and among TCN, WLFN and other First Nations and has had an effect on our traditional decision-making. (pg. 37)

Fox Lake Cree Nations Environmental Evaluation Report³

- The decision to become a partner in the Keeyask Project was a difficult decision and for many members it will be difficult to reconcile being a partner in a process that will forever alter Aski. The challenge for the partnership is to ensure that it realizes on the opportunities that are presented while simultaneously making every effort to ensure that Aski is protected. (pg. i).
- The impact of hydro development on our people must not be forgotten. The current disconnection between our people and our land and waters has had tremendous effects. The ramifications of identity loss include emotional scarring, social and cultural breakdown, increased violence, alcohol and substance addictions and unacceptable

¹ P. 87

² <http://keeyask.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/CNP-Keeyask-Environmental-Evaluation-Web-Jan2012.pdf>

³ http://keeyask.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/FLCN-Environment-Evaluation-Report_Sept_2012.pdf

standards of living. The health, social and cultural values are diminished, making it a struggle to regain our identity as Inninuwak. (pg. vii)

- Collective trauma has been relived with each successive project, and will be relived again with the proposed Keeyask project (pg. vii).
- FLCN will continue to struggle with utilizing hydro development to assist in the goal of again living mino pimatisiwin. FLCN recognizes that the Keeyask project will forever change the landscape even further and will have further impacts on our people. (pg. 87).
- The anticipation of hydro development alone raises fear in the hearts and minds of those that have experience hydro development. However, it is this same fear that drives FLCN and our people into working to ensure there is no repeat of the past and that there is maximum opportunity for our people to become proud and healthy people. (pg. 87)

York Factory First Nation – Kipekiskwaywinan – Our voices (Environmental Evaluation Report)⁴

- many voices express anger, hurt, sadness, uncertainty and distrust with Manitoba Hydro and hydro-electric development, and demonstrate the difficulties we faced in deciding to become a partner of the Keeyask Project (cover letter).
- While there are YFFN members who believe becoming a partner in the Keeyask project means we have become active participants in the inevitable damage to Askiy, we feel it is very important that our First nation has influence in the Keeyask Project and for future generations to benefit from the training, employment, and revenues generated from the Keeyask project. (cover letter)
- As we have mentioned, our community's collective decision to sign the JKDA and become a partner in Keeyask was very difficult given the situation at the time, the conditions of the vote, and the different options in front of us. While some of our members voted with certainty, other voted with mixed feelings. It has always been very important to our community to acknowledge the deep moral dilemma that many of our members faced when voting on the JKDA and AEA. Would we be able to come to terms with our role in the environmental impacts? Could we trust Manitoba Hydro and become their partner? What did the JKDA mean in terms of how the Partnership would actually be conducted? We didn't know what the Partnership would hold in store for our community. (pg. 101)
- Our experiences negotiating the Keeyask Adverse Effects Agreement (AEA) are worthy of sharing since they illustrate why we remain conflicted and worried about our partnership in hydro-electric development and why many of our members do not trust our major partner, Manitoba Hydro (pg. 102).
- We still have misgivings about identifying ourselves as partners with Manitoba Hydro and we are conflicted about supporting a project that will cause more damage to our lands. (pg. 106)
- By positioning ourselves as proponents of a development project, we run the risk of compromising our fundamental values, of corrupting our relationships with the land, and becoming destroyers, rather than keepers of the environment. (pg. 111)

⁴ Available from: <http://keeyask.com/wp/the-project/environmental-assessment-process/eis/keeyask-cree-nations-enviro-evaluation-reports>