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MANITOBA PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

Re: Manitoba Hydro's Application to the  
Public Utilities Board for Approval of  
New Electricity Rates in Communities  
Served by Diesel Generation

Before Board Panel:

Graham Lane - Board Chairman  
Robert Mayer, Q.C. (telephone) - Board Member  
Kathi Avery Kinev - Board Member

HELD AT:

Public Utilities Board  
400, 330 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
December 3, 2010  
Pages 1266 to 1396

APPEARANCES

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Michael Anderson )MKO

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1 --- Upon commencing at 2:00 p.m.

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Good afternoon,  
4 ladies and gentlemen. Do we have Mr. Mayer on the phone?  
5 We do, okay.

6 Welcome back to those of you that were in  
7 attendance on November the 24th when we last adjourned.  
8 Since then, Mr. Anderson, on behalf of MKO, has made a  
9 request to bring forward presenters from the communities  
10 that receive diesel electric service from Manitoba Hydro.  
11 The presenters are to provide their context of the  
12 communities in the diesel zone and share their views as  
13 to the diesel electric service. Mr. Anderson has also  
14 indicated that the presenters would be available to  
15 answer questions from the Board members.

16 Recognizing that the evidentiary portion  
17 of the Hearing is closed and that final submissions have  
18 been made on the evidence, and also recognizing various  
19 parties were apparently occupied with the finalization of  
20 what we think used to be the tentative settlement  
21 agreement into a settlement agreement, the Board has  
22 extended the opportunity for presentations to be made  
23 this afternoon. Board member, Dr. Kinew, and I are  
24 sitting here today while the Vice Chair is joining us  
25 electronically, we hope, via teleconference from

1 Thompson.

2 MR. ROBERT MAYER: I'm here.

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Not in normal voice,  
4 but we do hear you. Before calling on Mr. Anderson to  
5 introduce the presenters perhaps Mr. Anderson, or Ms.  
6 Fernandes, or Ms. Hart could first provide the Board with  
7 confirmation as to whether the settlement agreement has  
8 in fact been fully executed to the mutual satisfactions  
9 of the parties.

10 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Mr. Chair, Mr.  
11 Vice-Chair, and Dr. Kinew, I'm -- I'm very pleased to  
12 advise the Board that the counterpart -- counterpart  
13 execution of the diesel settlement agreement by the four  
14 diesel First Nations has been accomplished. Last week,  
15 as you noted, we were preoccupied with the  
16 authorizations, and each of the chiefs of the four First  
17 Nations has signed the diesel settlement agreement and  
18 the requisite supporting documents, including the  
19 certificate of independent legal advice and so on, have  
20 all been provided to INAC.

21 The process that's underway at the present  
22 time is to make sure that we have dotted all the Is and  
23 crossed all the Ts in the preparation of a certified copy  
24 of the agreement considering that the counterpart  
25 executions were done at some distance; one (1) set from

1 Churchill, one from Thompson and Tadoule Lake, another  
2 set in Winnipeg, and one (1) from Shamattawa.

3           So we've gathered together. When I was  
4 explaining we were preoccupied with not only execution  
5 approvals, briefings, authorizations, executions, but  
6 also ensuring that we've collected all of the counterpart  
7 authorizations in the field, the original signatures, as  
8 well as all the faxes provided to us.

9           I'm happy to report that we've  
10 accomplished that task and we're now in the process of --  
11 of reviewing it amongst the parties to prepare a  
12 certified copy of the concluded and executed settlement  
13 agreement that would be able for public distribution, Mr.  
14 Chair.

15           THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr.  
16 Anderson, then the Board will await Manitoba Hydro filing  
17 a non-confidential copy with the Board and the parties in  
18 the proceeding when the final steps have been taken. Mr.  
19 Anderson, please introduce to us and the transcript  
20 reporter the presenters that are in attendance today, and  
21 welcome.

22           MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.  
23 Chair. Beginning on my left, the presenters today will  
24 be Ila Bussidor, representing the Sayisi Dene First  
25 Nation, you -- the Chair may recall that Ms. Bussidor

1 appeared as chief of the Sayisi Dene First Nation to  
2 provide comments in a previous diesel rate application.

3                   We also -- and excuse me, Tony --  
4 Counsellor Tony Powderhorn is also present with us from  
5 the Sayisi Dene First Nation. I apologize. Tony had  
6 advised me earlier that he would not be a presenter but  
7 was here certainly to listen with great interest to the  
8 comments made by the other parties, as well as the  
9 questions of the Board, and I apologize for not  
10 introducing you first, Tony.

11                   I also have next to Ms. Bussidor, Chief  
12 Roy Bighetty of the Barren Lands First Nation. Next to  
13 Chief Bighetty I have Councillor Adam Nalge from the  
14 Northlands Denesuline First Nations. Next to Councillor  
15 Nalge I have Chief Jimmy Thorassie of the Sayisi Dene  
16 Nation. Next to Chief Thorassie I have Chief Joe  
17 Dantouze of the Northlands Denesuline First Nation. And  
18 next to Chief Dantouze I have Councillor Stewart Yassie  
19 of the Sayisi Dene Nation.

20                   THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

21                   MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: And -- and of  
22 course for the record, I am Michael Anderson and I'm with  
23 the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak. Oh, and I should  
24 add, Mr. Chair, that there is some material that I'd like  
25 to review and I've been asked by Chief Napoakesik of the

1 Shamattawa First Nation to make just a few comments on  
2 some attachments that he had wanted to provide to the  
3 Board, to the Board's attention today.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Well that's fine, thank  
5 you very much. Well, Mr. Anderson, the presenters can  
6 present in the order that they would prefer.

7 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.  
8 Chair. As a housekeeping matter before we proceed, if I  
9 might, I just wanted to review the -- the binder that we  
10 prepared for the leadership and for Board and Mr. Peters.  
11 I apologize to the parties attending for not having  
12 sufficient copies for them.

13 Part of the purpose of making some  
14 notations on the contents will be to note that most of  
15 the material has been filed in the rate proceeding and  
16 that copies of all the materials that are not filed, Ms.  
17 -- Mr. Singh has been making copies of for us so we can  
18 distribute them to the parties attending, Mr. Chair.

19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

20 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: If I might then,  
21 first the -- first Tab 1 is an outline of oral  
22 presentations to the Public Utilities Board. It says,  
23 "Electricity" on the copy, I believe, that got copied,  
24 but it means it's to the Board, from the Northlands  
25 Denesuline First Nation, Barren Lands First Nation,



1 Sayisi Dene First Nation and the Shamattawa First Nation.  
2 The -- I should say, Mr. Chair, that the notes were  
3 developed collectively by the First Nations during  
4 discussions with us about what they would like to say to  
5 you. So they were assembled in -- in this fashion.  
6 Chief Dantouze was going to review them first and then  
7 each party would -- followed by the Barren Lands First  
8 Nation, and then followed by Chief Yassie and the other  
9 commentators.

10 Tab 2 of the binder, of course, is the  
11 Board's kind invitation to accommodate Northlands and  
12 MKO's request to appear today before you, for which we  
13 are grateful and thank the Board.

14 Tab 3 is monthly electricity rates, the --  
15 the existing rates that are being charged, which are of  
16 great interest to the First Nation.

17 Tab 4 is the application in -- the main  
18 portion of the application.

19 Tab 5 is the principal findings of the  
20 report recommendations for reducing or eliminating the  
21 use of diesel fuel to supply power in off-grid  
22 communities, and the Tab 5 that I provided to the Board,  
23 you'll -- you'll note has my markups in it, because it's  
24 the only copy I had, so -- I don't think that -- you'll  
25 note that all of that was discussed in my examination, so

1 I don't think it reveals anything other than what you've  
2 already heard from me.

3 Tab 6 was MKO's Part 1 of the summary of  
4 comments, divided by a -- a coloured sheet that includes  
5 the Part 2 of MKO's comments that were the response to  
6 your questions, Mr. Chair.

7 Tab 7 is -- will be circulated to everyone  
8 and it's a letter from the president of Manitoba Hydro to  
9 the Minister of -- of then Science Technology Energy and  
10 Mines dated September 16th, 2007 that Chief Dantouze  
11 wishes to speak to.

12 Tab 8 is an accord -- a public document  
13 dated June 3rd, 2009 between Her Majesty the Queen in --  
14 in right of the Province of Manitoba represented by the  
15 Minister of Science, Technology, Energy, Mines and the  
16 Northlands Denesuline First Nation. And while it deals  
17 primarily with mineral exploration in the region, there  
18 is a clause Chief Dantouze wishes to discuss that deals  
19 expl -- expressly with energy services to the Northlands  
20 First Nation.

21 Tab 9 for the version that are -- is  
22 presently before the Chiefs and panellists, of course, is  
23 their copy of the executed settlement agreement. I would  
24 -- I would say subject to any comments that Ms. Hart or  
25 Ms. Fernandes might make that your blue sheet version is

1 substantially identical in all respects except really one  
2 (1) revision that we had worked on which is now  
3 incorporated here.

4                   So were the Board to have an interest in  
5 matters the panellists have a copy of a document  
6 substantially identical to that that the Board has in its  
7 possession.

8                   Tab 10 is the letters from Manitoba Hydro  
9 to each of the Chiefs and councils in respect of forecast  
10 capital projects. There is a green divider in tab 10 for  
11 a letter from Chief Napoakesik to Mr. Gaudreau signed on  
12 Chief Napoakesik's behalf by Louis Harper who is senior  
13 advisor and corporate council to MKO.

14                   And then hopefully in your -- in your  
15 binders are -- is a series of statistical information  
16 that I had briefly mentioned during the proceeding; that  
17 is a -- an -- a reassembly of the 2006 federal census  
18 material by the Province of Manitoba. They've produced  
19 it in a more snapshot view than that available on  
20 Statistics Canada's website.

21                   And the communities wanted to present that  
22 to your attention because I had advised them of your  
23 interest in demographics and some of the features of the  
24 communities. So that -- with that, Mr Chair, that's the  
25 outline of the materials and if -- if I might take a -- a

1 moment now to distribute the copies that I have to the  
2 attending parties behind me, if that would be acceptable?

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, of course.

4 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Thank you.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: And I was looking,  
9 we have one (1) more document I think that Mr. Singh was  
10 copying, and that was the letter from -- oh, yes, the  
11 letter from Minister Rondeau to Mr. Brennan. It's a one  
12 (1) page document.

13

14 (BRIEF PAUSE)

15

16 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: And it's at Tab 7  
17 of the binder that I've circulated to the Board.

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Peters, is it your  
22 advice that any of this should be put into the record,  
23 the written material, or should we wait for the  
24 presentations first and then decide if we've missed  
25 something?

1                   MR. BOB PETERS:    I believe we should wait  
2 for the presentations.

3

4                                   (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6                   MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON:   And, yes, Mr.  
7 Chair, thank you for the -- the comment about the  
8 documents. We would like, if possible, to have them  
9 incorporated in as part of the record, but we can, as you  
10 say, address that as we proceed.

11                                But I had wanted to indicate that those  
12 materials are supporting documents for the presentations  
13 made by the Diesel First Nation parties present here  
14 today, and I'd like the record to be complete in respect  
15 of their comments.

16                                THE CHAIRPERSON:    We can do that.

17                   MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON:   Thank you. Chief  
18 Dantouze, if you would please go through the points of  
19 interest that you had felt that you would like to bring  
20 to the interest of the Board regarding Manitoba Hydro's  
21 diesel service to your community.

22                                And I should add, by the way, that there's  
23 a button on each of your microphones. Yes, there you go.  
24 Thank you.

25

1 PRESENTATION BY CHIEF JOE DANTOUZE:

2 CHIEF JOE DANTOUZE: Good afternoon. I'm  
3 honoured to be here this afternoon to raise points  
4 regarding the -- what we see in our community, what we  
5 have in our community that we -- that we work with on  
6 Manitoba Hydro and what has been going on that we  
7 experience on a day to day basis in our communities and  
8 for Northlands First Nation. And I would like to give to  
9 you my presentation here this afternoon.

10 And I -- I start as an -- an objective of  
11 the diesel First Nations is to be charged the -- the same  
12 rates as residential -- residential customer's homes and  
13 general service customer, stores, businesses, and First  
14 Nations offices in Winnipeg to help reduce the high costs  
15 of living and to do this the diesel First Nations are  
16 requesting that Manitoba Hydro use the export revenues  
17 and other revenues to pay some of those costs for the  
18 diesel service.

19 And the diesel First Nations are different  
20 than other Manitoba customers on -- on the grid. The --  
21 the diesel First Nations are requesting a special Power  
22 Smart program for the diesel communities that will  
23 immediately do retrofits and insulation upgrades for all  
24 of our homes and buildings. We make sure our lights and  
25 our appliances are efficient. And we'll make sure that

1 our oil fired furnaces are working efficiently.

2 Another objective of the diesel First  
3 Nations, to improve the -- the health of First Nations  
4 citizens by eliminating the burning -- the burning of  
5 diesel fuel, to -- to generate electricity through the --  
6 the earliest possible construction of transmission lines  
7 to be connected to the communities to the Manitoba Hydro  
8 grid, and the earliest possible con -- construction of a  
9 small hydro and wind power and other green renewable  
10 energy projects.

11 The diesel First Nations are requesting a  
12 special project by Manitoba Hydro in the part -- in  
13 partnership with the -- the diesel First Nations and MKO  
14 to work -- to make sure that no residential accounts uses  
15 more than two thousand (2,000) per kilowatt hours -- per  
16 kilowatt hour and -- a month. And -- and to understand  
17 why that some accounts use more than two thousand (2,000)  
18 per kilowatt hour, such as multi-family -- multi-family  
19 homes.

20 And the diesel First Nations are  
21 requesting that Manitoba Hydro in partnership with the  
22 diesel First Nations and -- to regularly look at any high  
23 -- any high -- high bills -- high bills of First Nations  
24 citizens or -- or the First Nations facilities like the  
25 Band offices and arena right away to help find out and

1 fix what is going on.

2                   The diesel First Nations wants streets  
3 lights installed and replaced on a -- a timely basis.  
4 The -- the diesel First Nations -- the -- the first --  
5 diesel First Nations want Manitoba Hydro to consult with  
6 the First Nations before spending capital monies on new  
7 gen -- generators and equipment because the First Nations  
8 or INAC have to pay for those costs from -- from dollars  
9 that could be used for other -- other purposes.

10                   The diesel First Nations want the Manitoba  
11 Hydro to invest in -- in a diesel smart program and  
12 renewable energy projects and -- and transmission lines  
13 before spending any -- any money -- any more capital --  
14 capital monies on the diesel gen -- generating sys --  
15 system.

16                   The diesel First Nations -- the diesel  
17 First Nations want Manitoba Hydro to read all -- all  
18 meters once a month instead of estimating power  
19 consumptions. The diesel First Nations want Manitoba  
20 Hydro to -- to train and use local people for running the  
21 diesel generators and making any repairs on those  
22 upgrades. The diesel First Nations want Manitoba Hydro  
23 to buy -- to buy the diesel fuel and supply and service  
24 loc -- local -- local for -- for the first -- for the  
25 diesel First Nations when other -- whenever the First



1 Nations can provide the fuel and supply the service.

2                   The diesel -- the -- the Northlands  
3 Denesuline First Nation want Manitoba Hydro to work with  
4 Northlands and the -- the Department of Innovation and  
5 Mine -- and Energy and Mines to implement Article 11.6 of  
6 the Northlands -- Northlands Manitoba Accord to reduce  
7 and eliminate the -- the use of diesel fuel and to -- to  
8 move forward with the Minister's September 2007  
9 commitment to make Cochrane River micro-hydro rely --  
10 real -- a reality.

11                   And that's -- that's what I wanted to  
12 present today. And -- and we've -- we know -- we've been  
13 waiting now for -- for a long time, and -- and waiting  
14 for Manitoba Hydro to see what they would -- would like  
15 to -- to work with us on on these matters. And then now  
16 we're -- we're in 2011 now, going -- going to -- towards  
17 2011, we're in '10 now, and it's -- today we're still the  
18 first of the -- the communities. The four (4)  
19 communities are still on generating stations within their  
20 communities to -- to have -- for power for those  
21 communities to use. And that needs to be looked at.

22                   And I'm -- I'm sure that we can work  
23 together on these things, that we can start working  
24 towards -- talk about the transmission line for the first  
25 -- for the four (4) communities in the North. And -- and

1 we would like to see something happen with that because  
2 it's -- we've been waiting, and -- and all these things  
3 we've done to -- to address the issue for our communities  
4 in the North. And today we would like to find out about  
5 what is the plan for -- for our communities up north to  
6 address -- to work on the transmission line for our  
7 communities up north, and other issues as well that need  
8 to address with Manitoba Hydro at this time.

9           So I want to thank you this afternoon for  
10 -- for inviting us to our -- to this meeting. And very  
11 important meeting for our communities in the North. And  
12 like we -- we talk about high cost of living, all that,  
13 that we live with every day, and sometimes we don't have  
14 enough funding even to pay for our hydro bills in our  
15 community -- in our communities, and then -- and then  
16 there's a problem there.

17           So -- so all these things to do are taking  
18 place -- are taking place right now as I speak. So, for  
19 that, I would like to thank you for -- for this meeting  
20 and I -- I thank you for everything that you are already  
21 working with us on. So we need to work together to  
22 address these issues. And I thank you for that this  
23 afternoon. And thank you for listening to my  
24 presentation. Thank you so much.

25           THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Chief.

1 Mr. Anderson...?

2 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Mr. Chair, and  
3 with the -- the permission of the chiefs, I'd like to  
4 just read that provision in the Accord into the record  
5 that Chief Dantouze had referred to. It's in Tab 8 of  
6 your book, Mr. Chair, and it's Article 11.6, page 4, of  
7 the Northlands Accord.

8 The provision refers to the efforts of a  
9 mineral exploration and economic development task group  
10 created at Article 11.1 of the Accord. And one (1) of  
11 the efforts of the task group relates to the following:

12 "The task group will also consider  
13 options for reducing or eliminating the  
14 use of petroleum based diesel fuel to  
15 supply power to Lac Brochet, is  
16 contemplated by the Climate Change and  
17 Emissions Reduction Act, and reducing  
18 or eliminating the use of petroleum  
19 based fuel oil to provide heat at Lac  
20 Brochet, including considering options  
21 for conservation and demand-side  
22 management, development or application  
23 of renewable energy sources, and  
24 connection to the central Manitoba  
25 Hydro power grid."

1                   And, for the record, that's the provision  
2 the Chief is referring to. I would, of course, make the  
3 -- the comment that the minister entering into this  
4 agreement is the minister responsible for green  
5 energy policy for the province of Manitoba, the Minister  
6 of now Innovation, Energy and Mines. Thank you.

7                   If I might now call on Chief Roy Bighetty  
8 to add any comments that he might about any of the  
9 matters that Chief Dantouze has already spoken to, or  
10 others, regarding diesel electric service in the Barren  
11 Lands First Nation.

12

13 PRESENTATION BY CHIEF ROY BIGHETTY:

14                   CHIEF ROY BIGHETTY: Good afternoon.  
15 It's Chief Bighetty here from Barren Lands First Nation.  
16 We have a similar -- similar issue that we've been dealing  
17 with -- with Hydro. All the contents that -- that --  
18 that's written down here, one (1) through twelve (12),  
19 that's same problem that we deal with as Barren Lands  
20 First Nation. Now I'd like to work with Hydro to -- to  
21 work with us, to see our problems that we're dealing with  
22 in our communities, our suffering there, like with the  
23 high cost of living, and like we're paying triple things  
24 that -- that -- that are not sufficient that we're  
25 dealing with.

1                   So, like I said, we have a similar issues  
2 that we have to -- to understand. The Hydro should be  
3 coming to our communities and deal with us and this is  
4 the problem. And we would like to hear Hydro come into  
5 our communities and say this to us. And -- and I have no  
6 further to say because everything is repeat here by Joe  
7 Dantouze. Like I said, we have similar issues that we'll  
8 have to deal with Hydro.

9                   We need that transmission line or  
10 development projects on -- under our issue in a local  
11 level. And, you know, those are the things that we want  
12 to see in our community, and I thank you for listening to  
13 us.

14                   THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Sir.  
15                   Mr. Anderson...?

16                   MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: If -- if I might  
17 now turn to Chief Jimmy Thorassie from the Sayisi Dene  
18 First Nation to add comments of your own perspectives of  
19 the community, as well as to add any -- anything to the  
20 notes that were referred to by Chief Dantouze and Chief  
21 Bighetty. Thank you, Chief.

22

23 PRESENTATION BY CHIEF JIMMY THORASSIE:

24                   CHIEF JIMMY THORASSIE: I'd like to say  
25 thank you for -- everyone for being here this afternoon

1 and to listen to us. And one (1) of the things I'd like  
2 to point out to our -- our -- is about the housing issue  
3 -- issue. The housing conditions up north are -- need to  
4 be upgraded. If there's anyway that Hydro can help  
5 maintain some of these buildings by upgrade or make it  
6 energy efficient for the community.

7                   Also, the other thing too is the health  
8 issue for the community members. With all these  
9 communities that are growing up there, the population  
10 growth as well, so the health is also one (1) of the  
11 concerns for the communities up north. If there's anyway  
12 that Hydro and First Nations can work together to create  
13 a better working relations, and also providing service to  
14 the community, there's ways that we can tackle these high  
15 costs of living up north.

16                   Some of these are conditions that  
17 contribute to these high costs of hydro rates goes with  
18 the -- say for an example, that if furnaces break down or  
19 something like that, sometimes -- sometimes we have no  
20 other choice but to plug in the electric heater to warm  
21 up the house, to -- while that furnace is being repaired  
22 or anything like that. So those are the type of things  
23 that we need to see and help in any way.

24                   Also the -- the housing, like I said  
25 before, we do need some kind of an input into -- into the

1 community by helping out probably retrofits or -- in any  
2 way to make -- make it better living conditions for the  
3 communities. So housing would be one (1) area, hea --  
4 health would be another.

5           So there was also last year -- I believe a  
6 couple years back there was a wind -- wind turbine survey  
7 that was done up in our community and something like that  
8 would probably -- beneficial for -- for some -- somehow  
9 being integrated into the community. Some ways they're  
10 relying on oil generated power. So if we can work  
11 together some ways, I think it would benefit us all.

12           And also, I'd like to mention too that in  
13 support of Northlands we wouldn't mind seeing some kind  
14 of work being done to help these communities on article  
15 number 12 where you mentioned about helping together to  
16 get some kind of a power connected to the main line.

17           If something like that could be done  
18 instead of, you know -- if that's -- even that -- even  
19 that -- now in the community there we don't -- we don't  
20 find anybody working for -- for the Hydro other than  
21 maybe somebody that's on -- on call to go into the -- the  
22 rear and push a few buttons, and, you know.

23           There -- there should be somebody in the  
24 community that can -- that -- that can be trained so  
25 there's no need for Hydro to find somebody and do all the

1 reading. Anybody can do -- read numbers, you know. It's  
2 just a matter of working together and creating some kind  
3 of an employment locally for people that are up there  
4 that need jobs up there.

5                   So employment of some kind, training of  
6 some kind to create a -- a working relations with a  
7 community member. Something of that should be developed.  
8 Thank you.

9                   THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.  
10                   Mr. Anderson...?

11                   MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Yes. There -- I'd  
12 now ask Councillor Nalge if he has any comments that he  
13 would like to add to those that have been made.

14                   Councillor...?

15

16 PRESENTATION BY MR. ADAM NALGE:

17                   MR. ADAM NALGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 My portfolio on the Band council is housing, I have the  
19 housing portfolio, and it's my second term on this  
20 portfolio for the Band. I've been with the Band for a  
21 number of years, but I resigned years ago and I got  
22 elected back on last term, so I'm working with the Band  
23 again.

24                   But my issue that -- my concern that I  
25 have regarding the issues that we're here with today is



1 on the -- the power -- the special Power Smart program  
2 that was introduced back in 1994, this program has not  
3 been started in my community till this year where we did  
4 ten retrofits plus insulation on some of the houses.

5 And this -- like I said, this program was  
6 introduced 1994 and why we wait sixteen (16) years before  
7 something to start happ -- to do -- to start this  
8 program? And a lot of our furnaces are not updated. We  
9 don't have the proper people trained to -- to keep the  
10 furnaces clean and properly maintained.

11 And the other issue that we have with that  
12 too is we don't have parts. Like, when we problems like  
13 this time of the year right now when -- when the fuel --  
14 like, you know, the -- they use -- they use up a lot of  
15 fuel for furnaces during the winter months.

16 And -- and the other thing I notice too,  
17 like especially on my house, is that the furnace is  
18 constantly going all night when -- when it gets cold at  
19 night when it's minus thirty (30) to forty (40) at  
20 nights.

21 So just that's the issue that I -- I was  
22 concerned about and if there was any way that, you know,  
23 we can upgrade or to do more of the housing that needs to  
24 be retrofitted plus insulated.

25 And we had last -- just last week I had a

1 lady that came in to inspect some of the buildings that  
2 we did this summer. And she -- she was pleased with what  
3 was done, the way it was handled, the way it was done.

4           According to her inspection, the -- it was  
5 done the way it should have been done and she was pleased  
6 with that. So I guess my question to you is that, you  
7 know, we would like to see more of this -- of this  
8 upgrades on -- on a lot of the houses.

9           And all -- and also some of the -- the  
10 houses are still wood burning houses, but because of  
11 health reasons for some people, like you know it's hard  
12 for them to haul wood for them every day, so we would  
13 prefer that they -- they also get furnaces like other  
14 people that -- that use there.

15           So this is what I -- I wanted to bring up  
16 to you to -- to your attention. And thank you for  
17 allowing me to present this.

18           THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Councillor.  
19           Mr. Anderson...?

20           MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Councillor Yassie,  
21 if you have any comments that you'd like to make in  
22 addition to those that were made or are of your own  
23 personal view. Thank you.

24

25 PRESENTATION BY MR. STEWART YASSIE:

1                   MR. STEWARD YASSIE:    I'd like to say I'm  
2 glad that I'm here attending the meeting with you  
3 regarding hydro.  Last year when I was home, I live in a  
4 trailer and it's only a 2 -- 2 inches wall outside and  
5 inside and I've been paying over three (3) or four  
6 hundred dollars (\$400) for my - for my fuel, you know.  
7 And - and that's a lot of money out of -- that's almost  
8 all of my cheque of what I live on and support my family.  
9 I would like to see the hydro bills being, you know,  
10 being lowered down and what it -- what it --what the rate  
11 is now.

12                   And I'd also like to say that I support  
13 the Chief and the other councils here of what they stated  
14 here regarding this hydro issue.  And I'm fairly new here  
15 regarding this hydro issue, so I haven't got very much  
16 information on it yet, but you know, I'm -- I'm working  
17 with the -- with the Chief and the councils there back  
18 home to see, you know -- I'd like to -- I like putting my  
19 input in -- in issues like this that matters to our  
20 community and our people which they need, you know, to  
21 stabilize something that would -- that would be a real  
22 benefit to the -- to the community.

23                   To -- to this day I -- I just come here to  
24 listen and to hear and observe of what's going on and,  
25 you know, meet with the people back home and address it

1 to our people of what's -- what's happening with hydro.  
2 And thank you for listening.

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.  
4 Mr. Anderson...?

5 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.  
6 Chair. I'm advised that Councillor Powderhorn would like  
7 to also add some comments at this time. Thank you.

8

9 PRESENTATION BY MR. TONY POWDERHORN:

10 MR. TONY POWDERHORN: Good afternoon. My  
11 name is Councillor Tony Powderhorn from Sayisi Dene First  
12 Nation. I understand -- I'm starting to understand a  
13 little bit of -- like, what this is all about -- like --  
14 like, I don't know how -- like, I know Manitoba Hydro  
15 sending a study and see if it was feasible enough to do  
16 the grid line between these communities. And it seems  
17 like the -- the federal government rejected that or  
18 didn't have the money to put it forward.

19 And I was wondering, anyway, now we have  
20 to look beyond that, I guess, because it was rejected and  
21 now Manitoba Hydro has a plan to put in bigger tanks into  
22 the communities or build them, so does that mean that the  
23 band have to look forward for many more years to come  
24 down the road to -- to rely on this, or is there any way,  
25 let's say, Manitoba Hydro, Manitoba government, and

1 somebody from the Utility Board could get -- meet -- have  
2 us set up a meeting with the federal government to try to  
3 give these grid line to these four (4) communities that  
4 are left?

5                   So -- because these days I always hear on  
6 the news that they're always looking for cleaner  
7 environment and stuff like that, and how to be power --  
8 power smart to -- to look after stuff like that. And so  
9 my suggestion is like -- I -- I'm -- I got a good idea  
10 what this is -- like, coming about, but that's -- that's  
11 my message to -- like, I -- I don't really know what  
12 anybody's role is sitting in here right now. And -- and  
13 -- but I pretty well have a good idea of where hopefully  
14 a message can be passed on.

15                   So that's -- that would be my message to  
16 the people that are in this room that are responsible for  
17 certain things. And so hopefully somebody from the  
18 Utility Board can probably set up maybe a meeting with  
19 somebody with the Premier and -- and somebody other from  
20 hydro and to go after this grid line for the communities.

21                   So anyways, that's just one of my points  
22 that I -- I was thinking of about when it comes to power.  
23 Thank you very much for hearing me out.

24                   THE CHAIRPERSON:       Thank you, sir.

25                   Mr. Anderson...?

1                   MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON:    Thank you,  
2   Councillor.  I'd now like to turn to Ila Bussidor to add  
3   comments on behalf of the Sayisi Dene Nation.

4                   And also, if I might say as a long term  
5   observer of the Board's proceedings in this matter, I  
6   look forward to hearing your comments.  Thank you.

7

8   PRESENTATION BY MS. ILA BUSSIDOR:

9                   MS. ILA BUSSIDOR:    Okay, good afternoon.  
10   My name is Ila Bussidor.  I'm from Sayisi Dene First  
11   Nation.  I don't know; I just want to say hello to  
12   everybody and thank you for inviting me here, the  
13   leadership from Sayisi Dene First Nation and Northlands  
14   and Brochet.

15                   I just want to -- well, I've been out of  
16   the loop for awhile, but I was here in about 2003, 2002,  
17   somewhere around there.  And we came as a community to  
18   make a presentation on this, so that's like about, I  
19   don't know, seven (7), eight (8) years ago now.  And it  
20   looks like there hasn't really been, you know, that much  
21   change, you know, regarding any, I don't know, new, I  
22   don't know, measures being taken, you know, regarding  
23   this.

24                   I guess what I would like to -- to ask is,  
25   you know, it's 2010, like the leader said, going into

1 2011 next month. How many communities in Manitoba are  
2 under this diesel, you know? I think it's only the First  
3 Nation community in Manitoba; that's it in northern  
4 Manitoba.

5                   And it's -- I guess it's a big worry when  
6 you really take a look at the -- the health issues of the  
7 people that live in these homes. And we have community  
8 members that -- that -- I don't know, there's people that  
9 are sick because of -- it's -- it's not, you know, good  
10 for babies or elders that have health problems to be  
11 living in homes that are heated by diesel.

12                   And we all know that, you know, like  
13 somewhere it's -- it's a danger to your health in the  
14 long-run. And why is nobody, you know, taking notice of  
15 that and providing, you know, something that can, I don't  
16 know, maybe improve the health of the community members?

17                   When you -- when you live in a small  
18 remote community like Tadoule Lake and the other  
19 communities that we're talking about, everything impacts,  
20 you know, the -- the home that the people are living in,  
21 environmental, you know. We have concerns by other  
22 community members that, you know, their family member  
23 might have, you know, passed away because they were, you  
24 know, like pouring diesel for like say the nursing  
25 station, year after year after year, you know, to keep

1 the -- the building, you know, heated and operating.

2                   So, you know, what about those things, you  
3 know? How come we haven't really taken a look at that?  
4 If it happened anywhere else, you know, to non, you know,  
5 First Nation people, then there would be a study  
6 undertaken and everything like that, money poured into it  
7 to, you know, find out, you know, why, you know, this is  
8 happening. But why not for the First Nation communities  
9 in northern Manitoba?

10                   A lot of times, you know, when there's no  
11 economy in the community, you know, of course, you know,  
12 you are stuck with, you know, paying your hydro bills,  
13 which is, you know, like unbelievable. So I think it's  
14 important, you know, that to -- to understand that, you  
15 know, the -- the health risk to the First Nation members  
16 that live in this community is -- you know, it's very  
17 high.

18                   So, like I said, I've been -- you know,  
19 like haven't been around for awhile, but I'm still here  
20 and I'll do what I can to provide support for the leaders  
21 and the community members. So, with that, mahsi.

22                   THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.  
23                   Mr. Anderson...?

24                   MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.  
25 Chair. If I might, at this point, I'll add the -- some



1 of the material into the record that Chief Napoakesik had  
2 wished to raise on behalf of the Shamattawa First Nation.  
3 And this material, I believe, Mr. Chair, appears as the  
4 second half of Tab 10, seven (7) -- divided by a green  
5 sheet in yours.

6                   This is, on behalf of the Shamattawa First  
7 Nation, the -- the covering letter as signed by Louie  
8 Harper, had suggested that I bring to the Board's  
9 attention on his behalf these -- a series of letters  
10 regarding the Shamattawa transmission line from September  
11 and October of this year.

12                   And you'll find -- I'll just go through  
13 them briefly. They mirror the discussion, of course,  
14 that took place on the record through my cross-  
15 examination and some of the evidence in the proceeding.  
16 The first letter that Chief Napoakesik had wanted to  
17 bring to your attention was from the Minister responsible  
18 for Hydro and Deputy Premier Roseann Wowchuk.

19                   And I will just read into the record the  
20 second paragraph of that letter:

21                   "I regret to confirm that he [meaning  
22 the Minister of Indian and Northern  
23 Affairs, Chuck Strahl] indicated that  
24 it had been decided that the project  
25 would not be supported under this

1 fund."

2 Perhaps I should go back and just begin at  
3 the beginning of the letter so it's all in context. I  
4 apologize. The Mi -- the Minister responsible says:

5 "I'm writing to follow up on our  
6 telephone conversation of last  
7 Thursday. As indicated on the  
8 telephone, I recently spoke with the  
9 Federal Minister for Transport  
10 Infrastructure and Communities, the  
11 Honourable Chuck Strahl [who was  
12 formerly Minister of Indian Affairs]  
13 and requested once again that our  
14 Shamattawa grid connection project be  
15 considered for funding under the green  
16 infrastructure fund. I regret to  
17 confirm that he indicated that it had  
18 been decided that the project would not  
19 be supported under this fund. We  
20 continue to believe that connecting  
21 Shamattawa to the provincial grid is a  
22 worthwhile project with a strong  
23 economic and environmental basis, and  
24 we will continue to seek other sources  
25 of federal funding in order to achieve

1           it. To this end, Minister Strahl  
2           agreed to assist with investigating  
3           other sources of federal funding."

4           Following this letter, which was discussed  
5           just in terms of its outcome, on the record in this  
6           proceeding, and after being briefed and reviewing the --  
7           the options report that is included in the -- the binder  
8           at Tab 5, Chief Napoakesik wrote the Minister:

9                        "To highlight the evidence in the  
10                       Option's Report that..."

11           And this was referred to in MKO's cross-  
12           examination at page 5 of Hydro's June 9th report:

13                       "...a more recent review of the  
14                       transmission line option carried out by  
15                       Manitoba Hydro staff indicated that the  
16                       communities could be served from a 66  
17                       kV supply. This would result in  
18                       shorter construction and regulatory  
19                       time frame and a potentially lower  
20                       capital costs."

21           The -- Chief Napoakesik expressed an  
22           interest in wanting to proceed. And at the top of page 2  
23           of this letter -- his letter dated October 4th, 2010:

24                       "In order for Canada to..."

25           He says:

1 "In order for Canada to justify a  
2 financial contribution to a further  
3 proposal by Manitoba for a 66 kV  
4 interconnection to Shamattawa, funded  
5 under the green infrastructure fund or  
6 otherwise, it will be important that  
7 Canada is confident that Manitoba's  
8 proposal reflects the most cost  
9 effective option. Canada may accept as  
10 persuasive evidence of such cost  
11 effectiveness, a proposal that is  
12 developed in accordance with a  
13 competitive market-based approach."

14 In my discussions with -- with the Chief  
15 he'd indicated that he wanted to move forward with the  
16 project and believes that putting it out essentially to  
17 tender, to get a -- an accurate market-driven approach,  
18 might be a way to -- to move forward concretely with this  
19 project. And so he wanted to bring that to your  
20 attention, in respect of my discussions with Chief  
21 Napoakesik about the Board's interests and options.

22 The next letter, October 15th, 2010, is a  
23 similar letter, and it is also sent to the Minister  
24 responsible for Hydro. And it re -- it discusses much of  
25 the material in the two previous letters, the December --

1 sorry, the September 30th letter and the October 4th  
2 letter. And then in the first paragraph of the letter  
3 the Chief -- the Chief writes:

4 "I understand that the provincial  
5 application to Canada for Gillam to  
6 transmission landline funding has not  
7 been successful. I regret this outcome  
8 and suggest that we initiate a process  
9 where Shamattawa First Nation  
10 participate with Manitoba and Manitoba  
11 Hydro to prepare a more effective  
12 proposal for submission to Minister Don  
13 -- John Duncan of INAC."

14 The second paragraph reads:

15 "Shamattawa did appreciate the accessed  
16 information that was the basis for the  
17 unsuccessful proposal provided to our  
18 technical advisor. I'm convinced,  
19 however, that a stronger case can be  
20 prepared with review and contribution  
21 from my First Nation.  
22 I'm particularly interested in  
23 discussing with your technical advisors  
24 questions associated with the discount  
25 rate used by Manitoba Hydro, the

1 inclusion of environmental cleanup  
2 costs associated with the diesel  
3 electricity generation, the mechanisms  
4 associated with repayment of capital  
5 investment -- invested, and the costs  
6 and consequences associated with winter  
7 roads impacted by our warming climate."

8 His next paragraph reads:

9 "I believe strongly that there is a  
10 considerable advantage in preparing  
11 early on a full proposal requesting  
12 federal funding. I believe that there  
13 is a strong economic and business case  
14 to be made related to this important  
15 infrastructure project."

16 And, Mr. Chair, if I might -- might add,  
17 the proposal that the Chief is focussed on at this point  
18 is Hydro's comment that a 66 kV option is technically  
19 viable and he wants -- if I may speak for that, he may --  
20 wants to proceed with it.

21 I -- the Chief had deci -- has provided  
22 for the Board's interest a draft resolution which is the  
23 following page that the Chief has submitted to the  
24 Assembly of First Nations for their consideration by all  
25 of the Chiefs of Canada during the special assembly on

1 December 14th, 15, and 16th. The intent of the Chief and  
2 -- as I understand, in sharing this with you is to say  
3 that all -- every stone is being overturned by Shamattawa  
4 to find support and to seek options.

5                   And you'll see that this -- the resolution  
6 also mirrors the correspondence that preceded in terms of  
7 the infrastructure fund, and again speaks to a 66 kV  
8 option. And I'll just -- in the end of the resolution  
9 he's seeking:

10                   "Therefore be it resolved that the  
11                   Chiefs in Assembly support the earliest  
12                   construction of a transmission line to  
13                   connect the Shamattawa First Nation to  
14                   the Manitoba Hydro electricity grid."

15                   And 2.:

16                   "Call upon the assembly of First  
17                   Nations and the national Chief to  
18                   advocate and support of a call for  
19                   private sector proposals on the part of  
20                   the Province of Manitoba to construct a  
21                   60 kV -- 66 kV transmission line to the  
22                   Shamattawa First Nation, in partnership  
23                   with the Shamattawa First Nation, with  
24                   funding from Canada's Green  
25                   Infrastructure fund."

1                   So the message that has been received, as  
2 I understand, by Chief Napoakesik from the Federal  
3 Government is that an effective business case needs to be  
4 made prior to the allocation of funds that have been  
5 announced as part of the green energy initiatives through  
6 the -- Canada's economic action plan.

7                   So I would say that one (1) of the  
8 features of this is to say -- to focus on a different  
9 option for the line, but also to proceed with the  
10 business case through private sector tendering process.  
11 And then the Chief -- attached to his letter:

12                                 "Similar to the material provided to  
13                                 you is the information from the  
14                                 Manitoba Bureau of Statistics for the  
15                                 Shamattawa First Nation that allows the  
16                                 Board to have a bit of snapshot of the  
17                                 community in terms of housing  
18                                 conditions, employment, education, and  
19                                 so forth."

20                   So those were the principal things that  
21 Chief Napoakesik had wanted to ensure were brought to the  
22 Board's attention, and I'm sure were he here he'd have  
23 many things to say similar to those that were mentioned  
24 by the -- the other representatives.

25                   I realize that this is not a -- a witness



1 panel in the -- the ordinary sense, but there were a  
2 couple of items that if I might have the Board's leave to  
3 pursue with the panel, just some matters that they raised  
4 in the preparation of the opening comments that if I  
5 could ask them to just briefly highlight one (1) or two  
6 (2).

7                   And then I would very much happy to turn  
8 it to the Board 'cause I'm sure that you have many  
9 questions. One (1) of the first questions or matters  
10 that I just had wanted Chief Dantouze, please, to speak  
11 to is in tab 7 of your binder, and that's the letter from  
12 Minister Rondeau to the president and CEO of Manitoba  
13 Hydro, Bob Brennan, dated September 26th, 2007.

14                   And I'm wondering, Chi -- Chief Dantouze,  
15 if you could please share with the Board how this letter  
16 came about and your understanding of the status and  
17 meaning of it, please?

18                   CHIEF JOE DANTOUZE: Thank you. We -- we  
19 experienced a high cost of hydro electricity for our  
20 community at the time, and now we -- we -- we're -- I  
21 wanted to pursue -- to look at options here with -- for  
22 my community of Northlands. And I started working with  
23 Energy, Mines, and Innovation Minister, Jim Rondeau at  
24 the time that we were talking about explorations within  
25 our traditional areas in our -- in our community, around

1 our community.

2                   And -- and then we -- we were at the time  
3 -- we wanted to look at different options for hydro power  
4 to service our community. And we -- we then talked about  
5 a micro-hydro station that we wanted to do a study on,  
6 and, also, a transmission line as well. At the time, it  
7 would be a -- where it would be option -- where it would  
8 best to look at from -- from our area.

9                   And we looked at Saskatchewan at the time.  
10 And to bring in a line right from Wollaston Lake,  
11 Saskatchewan, where they have -- they're connected to --  
12 to the grid, and it was closer to our community and -- by  
13 a kilometre -- by kilometres of the -- the location of  
14 where we're at in the community of this Saskatchewan,  
15 Wollaston Lake. And we -- we wanted to look at a  
16 transmission line right from Lynn Lake, and going up to  
17 our community as well at the same time.

18                   As we were -- as we were looking at -- we  
19 were looking at all these options. And -- and then we  
20 were working with the Minister, and they supported us and  
21 wrote a letter to Manitoba Hydro president, Bob Brennan,  
22 and -- to work with us and -- on this.

23                   And -- and then we -- we continued working  
24 on doing -- we were looking at -- or we were doing a  
25 study on this mini -- mini micro-hydro, run-off-the-river

1 hydro -- hydro station. And we have done that. And --  
2 and then we -- we're still looking at doing -- completing  
3 that -- that proposal and -- and for -- for the -- for  
4 that study.

5                   And now, like I -- I always think that a  
6 transmission line would be an option. I still -- I  
7 believe that that would work and -- because -- and  
8 connect -- being connected to the grid would benefit our  
9 communities in the North because we're -- we're pretty  
10 far and an isolated community -- communities with the --  
11 with the four (4) communities. And the three (3) on the  
12 west side is what we should be looking at on a  
13 transmission line.

14                   So, with that, I guess we're -- we're in  
15 different areas on the west side, the three (3)  
16 communities. And my community's right next to  
17 Saskatchewan, Wollaston Lake; that's the closest to the  
18 grid. And if you are going from Lynn Lake up to Lac  
19 Brochet, the road that we have -- we have a winter road  
20 that we use and it's over 300 kilometres at least, three  
21 seventy-eight (378) from -- from Lynn Lake right to my  
22 community by -- by kilometre using the winter road.

23                   So we -- we thought it would be -- these  
24 options should be looked at, hey. And -- and if -- if  
25 possible, at the same time, we talk about an all-weather

1 road for our communities; at the same time, we talk about  
2 transmission line. And these are the work that we've  
3 been working on with the Province of Manitoba. The  
4 Government of Manitoba is onsite to -- to work with us on  
5 these matters.

6 And so, with that, I wanted to bring to  
7 you this presentation, I guess, to Utilities Board this  
8 afternoon to hear us out about our needs for -- for our  
9 community for a transmission, for alternatives -- options  
10 and -- today. And so I just wanted to bring this  
11 forward.

12 And this is the work that we've done.  
13 We've been doing our work, sending a message out for our  
14 communities. And we need to have partners on board with  
15 us, like Manitoba Hydro and -- to start working with us  
16 on -- and to address -- to address what we -- what we  
17 think it would work, for all of us, for -- for Manitoba.

18 And like we -- we support Manitoba Hydro  
19 with -- with paying bill -- down bills for our -- for our  
20 electricity for -- with -- for our communities. And, at  
21 the same time, we're Manitoba citizens at this time, that  
22 we -- we'd like to be connected to -- to the grid as  
23 well. And we always think it would -- it's a need --  
24 it's a needed thing that needs to happen as soon as  
25 possible.

1                   So that's why we're here this afternoon to  
2 address with you -- to you what we need for hydro in our  
3 community, what we can do together. You're learning from  
4 us and today and we need to learn from you too as well,  
5 working together.

6                   So we need to -- we -- we would like to  
7 hear a plan: what's -- what's -- what's the plan from  
8 Hydro for transmission line, or any other options that --  
9 that we -- we would like to hear something when we leave  
10 today, and -- from -- from the Utilities Board and  
11 Manitoba Hydro today, to see how we could work together.  
12 We want to work together. So thank you so much for --  
13 for listening to me again.

14                   THE CHAIRPERSON:     Thank you again too,  
15 sir.

16                   Mr. Anderson...?

17                   MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON:    Thank you, Mr.  
18 Chair. The -- the other matter that had been raised  
19 during the -- by each of you during the discussions on  
20 what you would like to present to the Board dealt -- also  
21 dealt with Point 5 of your outline, page 2, Item 5. And  
22 that was -- the question that I just wanted to direct to  
23 each of you is: Do the -- or just to -- to highlight the  
24 comments that you had made about being visited by members  
25 of your First Nation coming into the band office to talk

1 with you about high bills. I'm wondering if I might ask  
2 each of you to comment on those experience and the -- the  
3 types of bills that you're seeing, and the people that  
4 are bringing them to your attention looking for  
5 assistance.

6 Chief Thorassie...?

7 CHIEF JIMMY THORASSIE: I guess when --  
8 in a small community like Tadoule, where there's very  
9 little employment up there and it makes it difficult for  
10 people to pay -- pay their hydro, and what usually  
11 happens too, is that when Hydro comes in they pull out  
12 the metres, the ones that -- that can't pay for the --  
13 the hydro bills are always high, and in most cases it's  
14 the welfare people -- people that are on welfare that  
15 been -- the power's been shut off or being pulled or --  
16 or in cases like that the band, at times, have to step in  
17 to cover for those costs, or sometimes the band can't  
18 really do anything to -- to pay for those bills, so -- so  
19 residential rates are kind of -- the bills are outrageous  
20 to some people that are not employed.

21 And for the band office, the -- the bills  
22 that need to be paid up there too -- like, it's the  
23 school, the hydro rates are too high. I don't think  
24 we've been given enough -- INAC isn't giving enough -- us  
25 enough to pay for those bills, so it creates a lot of

1 problems financially for a small bands like ours.

2 I guess I can say that for -- for ways to  
3 fix that or -- there must be some ways that the rates can  
4 be discount, or I don't know how it can be re -- adjusted  
5 to charging the band according to the Northern Store.  
6 There must a certain rate that the Northern Store is  
7 getting that's different from the band. So there must be  
8 two separate rates that are going from Manitoba Hydro to  
9 these different communities.

10 So whatever -- whatever the Northern Store  
11 is paying for their bill it would be -- it would have  
12 been acceptable to us to get -- to get that kind of a  
13 rate. It's probably a corporate rate, maybe. Whatever  
14 rate they're following to charge some of these businesses  
15 on reserve also is another thing we need to find out more  
16 about. It would be nice to have some sort of a --  
17 something done about that, I guess.

18 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Thank you, Chief  
19 Thorassie.

20 Chief Bighetty, do you have comments to  
21 make about your members coming into the office? Thank  
22 you.

23 CHIEF ROY BIGHETTY: Good afternoon  
24 again, Chair. Chief Bighetty of Barren Lands.

25 I have -- I stated that -- that I -- three

1 (3) -- three (3) northern communities, isolated  
2 communities that deficit -- definitely that we have a  
3 problem with electrician. With the high cost of  
4 electrician, my band members come to the band office and  
5 say they are like overpaying the bills and they want to  
6 find out what's wrong.

7 Like, one (1) month they -- they bring  
8 their bill -- like four thousand dollar (\$4,000) bill.  
9 And -- and for myself as a leader I can't define that --  
10 I just talked to Hydro to see the solution to fix that --  
11 what's going on with their -- their hydro bill.

12 So I went to -- to Hydro and tell them  
13 that and say, after you fix this, come back to me and  
14 find solution, and I'll express that to my band members,  
15 but I've been waiting and waiting and waiting.

16 This is a waiting time that -- that I  
17 guess First Nation, us leaders, we're frustrating that  
18 we're waiting too long for things to happen in our  
19 communities. So we want to put forward to be done as  
20 soon as possible to work with us. Like, Joe Dantouze  
21 said, we need to work, we need to communicate each other  
22 so we could stand in the right -- in the right path. So  
23 that's what I would like to see.

24 And the other thing is I'll bring the  
25 street light up. The street lights are not working in



1 our communities and we're paying the same bill, so  
2 something is going wrong here, so we need to identify  
3 those issues.

4 So again, we have to work with Hydro, but  
5 we wait, wait, wait. We need the answer as soon as  
6 possible. That's where I'm express my -- my thoughts  
7 this afternoon to -- to the Public Utility Board. Thank  
8 you, Chair.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

10 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr.  
11 Chair. Chief Dantouze, do you have any comments you'd  
12 like to add, please?

13 CHIEF JOE DANTOUZE: Many -- many of our  
14 community members, they do come to the office with the  
15 hydro bill sometimes it's two thousand dollars (\$2,000)  
16 or twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2,500), and they're  
17 coming -- they come to us that we have to pay this bill  
18 somehow or else we're going to get disconnected.

19 But the -- the main thing is I wou -- the  
20 transmission line is -- is a way to go and as we speak  
21 here, to be connected to the grid, if we're connected to  
22 the grid a lot of these problems that we're having in  
23 these four (4) communities -- the four (4) -- the four  
24 (4) only communities in the North that still has  
25 generating -- generators to service our community for

1 power.

2                   If we're connected to the grid I'm sure  
3 the -- we -- we would like to see -- we would like to --  
4 I'm sure that all these problems that we have on -- on  
5 paying down hydro bills, high costs, and all that would  
6 be eliminated. It wouldn't be there no more.

7                   And there -- all these problems that we're  
8 -- we're bringing to you, it's -- it's today that we're  
9 talking about these problems, it's there. It's there  
10 that we see today, it's there that -- that we deal with  
11 every day. So we're -- we -- we need a -- we need -- we  
12 need to be connected to the grid.

13                   And that's why we're here today, we're --  
14 we're talking about this. We here today asking that we  
15 need to do something for these communities up north. You  
16 need to do something with us. You need to do something  
17 for us. We need to work together on these things.

18                   So that's why we're here today asking,  
19 what is it that we can do together. What is it that we  
20 can start working on right away? Because like it's --  
21 like a member of Tadoule Lake, the former Chief had  
22 mentioned about the -- the health -- the health problem,  
23 the health -- it is a health problem the -- that we have,  
24 this diesel furnaces that we use for our homes, to heat  
25 our home.

1                   It is a health problem, we know that, but  
2 we have -- we don't have any other choice but to -- to  
3 heat our homes at this time. And -- so -- so what do we  
4 do. If we don't have diesel our -- our homes won't have  
5 heat, so these are things that we see and we -- something  
6 has to be done, something really has to be done right  
7 now.

8                   And like I said, let's work together and -  
9 - and we're addressing these issues together now here.  
10 And let's do something about it now. Let's -- let's do  
11 something about it. That's what we're asking here. So  
12 thank you and -- for -- for my -- for -- for this  
13 presentation and our concerns bringing to you. Thank  
14 you, Chair.

15

16   (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18                   MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON:   Mr. Chair, unless  
19 there's any other comments that the panellists -- the  
20 presenters would like to provide to you, I'd be happy to  
21 open the discussion up for questions from the Chair --  
22 from the -- the Board.

23

24 QUESTION PERIOD:

25                   THE CHAIRPERSON:   Well, Mahsi, Mr.

1 Anderson and other presenters. We greatly appreciate you  
2 coming down and taking the time to fill us in with your  
3 experiences in your communities. And if the presenters  
4 don't mind, we would like to ask some questions.

5 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: That would be  
6 fine, Mr. Chair. Thank you. I -- I've canvassed all of  
7 the presenters and they had indicated a -- an eagerness,  
8 in fact, to receive your questions, so thank you.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: And I must apologize to  
10 be -- to begin with with the lack of historical knowledge  
11 that resides within me. Some other members of the panel  
12 undoubtedly know more about the history than I do, so I  
13 will apologize if I ask some questions that is commonly  
14 known to -- to others.

15 But I'm wondering if -- if, Mr. Anderson,  
16 or you or any of the presenters could give us a little  
17 bit of history about the communities and how they came  
18 about to be located where they are?

19 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: That's quit a --  
20 there are st -- there are journeys in the location of  
21 each one of the First Nations, and I would leave it to  
22 them to explain each of their stories and the history of  
23 how they came to be located where they are. If I might  
24 follow the same order of the original presentations in  
25 answering those questions.

1                   If I could begin with Chief Dantouze to  
2 explain how Lac Brochet came to be where it's located  
3 today.

4                   CHIEF JOE DANTOUZE:   North -- Northlands  
5 First Nation people, the -- we -- we know what we had to  
6 do. Our people wanted to live where we're at -- where we  
7 -- where we're at right now, where we're resided right  
8 now, within the traditional territory of Northlands  
9 Denesuline First Nation, Treaty 10, the territory.

10                  The reason why we live where we're living  
11 right now is -- is -- is because of our trad --  
12 traditional ways of life. Our people, we hunt, we fish,  
13 and all of these traditional livelihood that we have is  
14 unique for -- to our people.

15                  And the reason why we're there is we have  
16 caribou in our area, and we -- we live off -- we live off  
17 the land. And we -- we live close to our traditional  
18 lands that we harvest and -- which I talk about medicines  
19 and everything that we have in those areas that -- that  
20 we live by every day, this generation and generations to  
21 come.

22                  So that is the reason why we're -- we live  
23 there. And we follow our -- our -- our elders who -- who  
24 has gone before us now, and who are still living with us  
25 today. And they talk about the land, they talk about

1 what we have and what we need to do there. So that is  
2 the reason why we live in the -- in -- in our -- in our  
3 community, which we call Lac Brochet, Manitoba.

4 We used to live in Barren -- Barren Lands,  
5 which is Reindeer Lake, and we moved from -- from that  
6 community because we need to -- we needed to some  
7 traditional events like have -- having to do with  
8 trapping, fishing, and all these things in those areas.  
9 And so that's -- just like we -- we've gone back to -- to  
10 -- to our land.

11 So that's where -- that's where we live  
12 now and we're not going to be moving anywhere from there.  
13 We're going to live there for hundreds and hundreds of  
14 years like we did in our traditional lands, and our  
15 people have done that.

16 So with that, I -- that's -- that's how we  
17 -- we -- we are living where we're -- where we're at  
18 today. Thanks.

19 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Mr. Chair, and  
20 just as a -- a footnote, the Othel-Nadi, the Northlands  
21 Denesuline people have been living within their  
22 traditional territory in their current location for over  
23 six millennia, and they are of the Denesuline people, the  
24 least disturbed. And the -- part of the story that will  
25 -- the information that'll be shared with you by Chief

1 Thorassie will talk to you about the journey of Sayisi  
2 Dene.

3                   But Northlands has remained in the centre  
4 of its heartland for at least six thousand (6,000) years,  
5 probably longer. The traditional territory of Denesuline  
6 extended if you include the family. The Denesuline  
7 families in the Northwest Territories, the Tlicho and the  
8 others, extended west into Northwest Territories to the  
9 Coppermine River and east to the Seal River and to -- to  
10 part of the coastal regions and south to the north shore  
11 of the Churchill River. It was an immense territory.

12                   And so Northlands is occupying lands and  
13 continuing to use territory within Manitoba,  
14 Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.  
15 And the Board may be aware that the Northlands Denesuline  
16 First Nation and the Sayisi Dene First Nation have been  
17 engaged in discussions with the Inuit of Nunavut  
18 regarding their territorial interests north of 60.

19                   And I can't speak to that beyond to say  
20 that it's proceeding. It's another negotiation that the  
21 Denesuline are engaged in, but their interest in  
22 preserving their linkage to their traditional territory  
23 has extended to litigation and negotiation. But they  
24 have been the only persons really using that territory  
25 since humans have been -- since recent times in the

1 history of North America.

2                   So I had wanted just to add that because  
3 the -- the location of the community is centred in their  
4 traditional territory, their ancient traditional  
5 territory. And then Denesuline would be describe as  
6 Denesuline Nene, the land of the people.

7                   So, with that, if I might ask Chief Roy  
8 Bighetty to describe a bit of the history of the Barren  
9 Lands First Nation and why -- how it has come to  
10 establish its community of Brochet.

11                   CHIEF ROY BIGHETTY: Good afternoon  
12 again. We'll go back to the history. I'm a little bit  
13 too young for that. I never do research. But the elders  
14 speak. They've been telling us stories. They were --  
15 it's not a -- it wasn't a residence in -- when -- when  
16 they come to Reindeer Lake, Brochet.

17                   People come to that community and go.  
18 They just stay there like a month or two (2) weeks until  
19 that's -- that's Hudson's Bay. Po -- they'll put a post  
20 in there and -- and relocated Dene, a little bit Cree.  
21 My grandfather used to tell me this, so take my story.

22                   In 1907 the treaty was signed, I.R. 197  
23 reserve by Dene -- Dene peop -- Dene chief. It was  
24 signed. That -- that's where the location that began on  
25 Brochet reserve. And they started moving. People



1 started moving, like my -- our family. Cree and Dene  
2 started living together.

3 So a little bit of history that -- that I  
4 was told, so that's what I'm sharing today and that's --  
5 and like Joe say, it's our traditional areas. Like, we  
6 trap, hunt, fishing. We live in the land. We live out -  
7 - out of land, so -- in our days. So those are the --  
8 the history that I know about Barren Lands. Thank you.

9 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: You're welcome.  
10 Mr. Chair, I might add that the present day Northlands  
11 Denesuline First Nation and the Barren Lands First Nation  
12 together as the Barren Land band entered into Treaty  
13 number 10 at Brochet.

14 It's interesting that much of the  
15 territory of the treaty addresses lands in Saskatchewan,  
16 but they entered into it outside the defined meets and  
17 bounds of treaty in recognition of the use of the  
18 territory outside of the meets and bounds.

19 What is of interest in provisions of  
20 Treaty 10 in terms of the traditional land use mentioned  
21 by both Chiefs Bighetty and Chief Dantouze is Treaty 10  
22 contains a provision for lands in severalty. So it was  
23 contemplated and recognized that the individual families  
24 of Denesuline and the Cree entering into the treaty at  
25 Brochet preferred to be present in their camps and homes

1 on the land, such that the treaty itself recognized the  
2 ability of a fam -- individual family to select lands  
3 instead of being assembled into a single reserve.

4 And so that -- that's a feature of the  
5 continuing use of both communities there. It's extensive  
6 and each of the communities has very extensive homes and  
7 camps out on their traditional territories, so I would  
8 add that.

9 And then if I might now turn to Chief  
10 Thorassie to describe the history of the Sayisi Dene  
11 First Nation in terms of how it came to be located at  
12 Tadoule Lake.

13 CHIEF JIMMY THORASSIE: I'd like to begin  
14 by saying that the Sayisi Dene are -- have always been  
15 nomadic people that have always travelled the North all  
16 over. And history tells us that our people were part of  
17 the -- the fur industry when -- when the -- it was opened  
18 up by a lady by the name of Shaking Martin, this is back  
19 in the 17th century or so. And we have been wandering  
20 around up in the territories where we are now within that  
21 area. And this lady had opened up a peace treaty between  
22 the Cree and the Dene. There was a conflict between the  
23 two (2) people, she made the peace treaty and therefore  
24 opened the fur industry.

25 And in the '20's -- 1920s, before 1929 or

1 so there was a opening of the -- the store -- a store up  
2 there and I don't know, until probably in the '40s or so,  
3 that that store had eventually closed off caribou post  
4 and the people were located at a place called Duck Lake.  
5 And Duck Lake was the hub of the North. It was the place  
6 where the Dene people met, gathered, and did their fur  
7 trading at the caribou post area. So there was a lot of  
8 historical things with -- about our people in relating to  
9 the fur industry.

10           And in the '50s the natural resources had  
11 made assumptions that our people had been killing off the  
12 caribou and they were in decline. And -- and that caused  
13 our people to be moved out of Duck Lake and dumped on the  
14 shorelines of Churchill. And we had -- probably, I don't  
15 know, maybe a number of years, twenty (20) years or so,  
16 in the comm -- in Churchill -- Churchill years that we  
17 spent there and then the people eventually moved back out  
18 into North Knife, South Knife, and then Tadoule Lake.

19           They -- it was done by the people  
20 themselves, they wanted to move back. So Tadoule Lake  
21 has -- 1973 was the first time the people actually moved  
22 there. And in the mid '70s or so these houses were  
23 built, stores, band office, and stuff in the '80s and  
24 that. So Tadoule Lake is thirty-eight (38) years or so.  
25 And some of these buildings are still -- people are still

1 living in the same houses that were built there back  
2 then. There's people who are still living in the same  
3 house.

4                   So the Sayisi Dene have always been pushed  
5 around, I guess you can say, put -- put here and there  
6 right across the province. So like I said, we've always  
7 been nomadic. I think we're still being -- being pushed  
8 around everywhere, I think in -- in ways of displacing  
9 the people. So Tadoule Lake is -- it's kind of a young  
10 place, thirty-seven (37), thirty-eight (38) years old.  
11 But, growth has been slow, the community has very slow  
12 growth.

13                   And I don't know what else to say besides  
14 that, but it would be something in the making if there  
15 was some kind of progress made for the community in terms  
16 of making it a better place to live by providing better  
17 services, by the people that are have -- bringing in the  
18 services into the community and profiting from our  
19 people. If something we can get back in return and  
20 betterment of our health from the people, it would be  
21 worthwhile thing happening for the people. I guess  
22 that's about all I can say for that.

23                   THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

24                   MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: And, Mr. Chair, in  
25 terms of the -- the information, I would add that the

1 Barren Land band entered into treaty on August 19th, 1907  
2 and that the Sayisi Dene First Nation entered into Treaty  
3 Number 5 on August 1st, 1910 in Churchill. So there have  
4 been a spade of centennials, treaty celebrations for both  
5 communities.

6                   And if I might add, in terms of Chief  
7 Dantouze's comment about the connections to Wollaston  
8 Lake, the treaty cent -- centennial celebrations between  
9 the three (3) communities moved from Hatchet Lake to Lac  
10 Brochet to Brochet. And so all three (3) communities  
11 that were a party to Treaty 10 and signed close together  
12 were visiting each other and participating in each  
13 other's celebrations.

14                   So really, where the Saskatchewan border  
15 is, it -- it artificially divides our -- how we see that  
16 area, that Wollaston Lake and Hatchet Lake, Lac Brochet  
17 and Brochet are all centred around that area between  
18 themselves and travel extensively in between each other  
19 and visit and celebrate.

20                   And the Sayisi Dene First Nation  
21 celebrated along with their Denesuline and Cree  
22 neighbours to the west as did Barren Lands and Northlands  
23 celebrate the centennial of Sayisi Dene. So there are  
24 close ties between these -- these three (3) communities  
25 in this area of the province, Mr. Chair.

1                   THE CHAIRPERSON:   Thank you.  If I could  
2 ask a different question.  Some of you have touched on  
3 this and it's of considerable interest to the Board and  
4 others.  Could you -- you've touched on it again, as I  
5 said, could you give us some examples of -- you talked  
6 about the high price of goods, grocery prices, milk,  
7 bread, fresh fruit, vegetables, fresh meat, things of  
8 that particular nature.

9                   What's -- when you say "high cost", can  
10 you give us some examples?  For example, what would 2  
11 litres of milk cost in -- in your communities?

12                   MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON:   Mr. Chair, I'm  
13 advised that Ila Bussidor would like to speak to that  
14 question.  Thank you.

15                   MS. ILA BUSSIDOR:   Mahsi.  Say you buy a  
16 jug of 2 percent milk from the Northern Store in Tadoule  
17 Lake, it costs like about sixteen (16) to seventeen  
18 dollars (\$17).  So if you -- if you -- because there's no  
19 economy in the community, so the majority of the people  
20 live on welfare.  So a family gets about five hundred  
21 (500) bucks a month to live on.

22                   So by the time you walk out of that  
23 Northern Store with your three (3) little bags of  
24 groceries, your five hundred dollars (\$500) is gone for  
25 your food for that month.  So that's how people live.

1                   But I want to make a comment -- just take  
2 this opportunity to just kind of, I don't know, provide  
3 like what I'm thinking about, you know, this, you know,  
4 what you said, like where -- how did you come to be  
5 there, you know, in Tadoule Lake.

6                   It's funny how, you know, that question  
7 should be asked, because we are indigenous people of this  
8 land, and we have been here like forever, and it's funny  
9 how, you know, we should be asked, you know, like how did  
10 you come to be there, like it's our traditional  
11 territory. It's our homeland. It's our ancestral lands.  
12 A hundred (100) years ago the treaty was signed and we  
13 celebrated that -- or not celebrated, but acknowledged  
14 that there was a -- a promise made, a document, a very  
15 important document, a hundred years ago signed on behalf  
16 of the people that are -- for the people that are living  
17 today.

18                   And have those -- any of those promises in  
19 that treaty ever been, you know, like granted. Not  
20 today. You know, we're still the poorest people in this  
21 country, in the richest country in Can -- like Canada is  
22 the richest country in the world. And the officials,  
23 like the government officials of this country, they, you  
24 know, they -- they brag about how, you know, good this  
25 country is.

1                   And if another, you know, like a nation of  
2 people, you know, fell into some disaster, Canada --  
3 Canada would be one (1) of the first to go there and  
4 provide what they can. But do they look in their own  
5 backyard and look at the First Nation, the people of this  
6 land? No, they don't.

7                   I just want to say that Sayisi Dene people  
8 are like the -- the Chief Thorassie said, we're nomadic.  
9 Our people have fol -- followed the caribou to -- to  
10 survive our ancestors and today we still, you know, use  
11 the -- the caribou, but not as much as, you know, our --  
12 our great grandfathers did.

13                   Today, like, we're modern Indians. But  
14 the poverty on our community level is unbelievable. And  
15 Manitoba Hydro has, I don't know, taken so much of the  
16 natural resources of this land to be where it's at today,  
17 and yet to this day, you know, us First Nation are  
18 sitting here and saying, you know, like give us something  
19 back.

20                   I just find that -- that it's  
21 unbelievable, you know, that you don't know the history  
22 of us and that, you know, you look at the land and, you  
23 know, there's the water -- water is going to be the main,  
24 I don't know, commodity in the world pretty soon, and on  
25 our traditional territory there's fresh water unpolluted.



1

2                   And, you know, I know that Manitoba Hydro  
3 has always been after the Seal River, like South Seal,  
4 North Seal to put a dam on there, you know. So maybe, I  
5 don't know, it means more damage to the land and more  
6 hardship for the First Nation people that live, you know,  
7 in these areas.

8                   Compensations have been made, I know, you  
9 know, like for flooding the land, but, you know, like the  
10 -- the damage to the land is -- is forever. But the  
11 compensation that you give to the First Nation people  
12 for, you know, what you've done to the land does not even  
13 pay for -- for what's -- you know, what's happened.

14                   And it's, you know, something that's going  
15 to be there, environmental damage forever. And it's time  
16 for, you know, us to move ahead and like the leadership  
17 are saying we need to work together. So I just want to  
18 mention that, you know, the natural resources is part of  
19 our traditional territory, it's who we are as a people.

20                   So you have to be able to ask and how can  
21 we work with you. We're going to take this from your  
22 land, you know. Like, can we give you anything back.  
23 Not just a little bit of money. You look at all the  
24 First Nations, you know, in -- in Manitoba, people are  
25 poor, really, really poor. So I -- I just wanted to

1 mention that.

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Could you tell us a  
3 little bit and please understand a little bit of the  
4 purpose of this -- I'm just putting it on the transcript  
5 -- can you tell us a little bit about the healthcare in  
6 your community? The level of healthcare and the problems  
7 that you experienced.

8 You'd indicated that there was problems  
9 with the health situation as -- partially as a result of  
10 the fuel source and things of that nature, so could you  
11 tell us a little bit about what's the nature of the  
12 healthcare in the communities? The -- the -- just the  
13 general group.

14 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: The Chair is  
15 asking the panel and any of you that have a response are,  
16 of course, welcome to provide one.

17 Chief Thorassie...?

18 CHIEF JIMMY THORASSIE: In terms of  
19 health for the community, the healthcare that we get, I  
20 think more of services should -- should be provided to  
21 the northern communities. The doctors fly in. It would  
22 be -- it would be interesting to see a variety of stuff  
23 being -- being implemented up north.

24 When people have a toothache or something  
25 they have to get it pulled or something like that, we

1 have to wait for a dentist to come in. You have to wait  
2 for -- for going -- going to see a dentist or something  
3 like. Usually an outside source or help that's always  
4 needed for the northern people up there. If it's in --  
5 in cases of emergency, if somebody is flown in. I mean,  
6 if somebody -- if somebody comes in and gets medivaced  
7 out, in most cases, it's always medivaced out. People  
8 are being shipped out. And you need a full-time --  
9 somebody that can be onsite even though there are nurses  
10 onsite, but I'm talking about more of services provided  
11 to the people. Monthly visits by doctors should be  
12 increased.

13                   The high rate of cancer is outrageous in  
14 your communities too, and we don't know what causes that,  
15 whether it's the hydro lines or PCB, or whatever you call  
16 it, those containers that sit up on top of power lines.  
17 I mean, they've been present in our community since  
18 hydro's been pulled in there. And, for all we know,  
19 that's where it could be -- the sources could be coming  
20 from.

21                   So cancer's a very high -- high rate of  
22 disease among our -- the people up North. I think that's  
23 more of a comment I wanted to make in regards to -- to  
24 health. Thank you.

25                   MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Mr. Chair, also,

1 in terms of that, I might ask Chief Dantouze to comment  
2 on the respiratory diseases in his community. There's an  
3 unusual situation in your community, Chief. If you'd  
4 speak to that.

5 CHIEF JOE DANTOUZE: Regarding health for  
6 my community, yes, it's true that we are -- we are pretty  
7 lack -- or lacking of health service that's being  
8 provided to our people in our community. We have -- we  
9 had an outbreak of TB a few years ago, the highest rate  
10 of TB in -- in my community, Northlands First Nation.  
11 And that's health -- that's a very serious health matter  
12 that we had.

13 And as well as like we have a high -- high  
14 rate of cancer that's still ongoing to this day. And we  
15 have a facility in our community that we have that we use  
16 to service the -- the needs of health for -- for our  
17 people. That we have the doctors maybe every three (3)  
18 months, or even -- or even longer, that come to our  
19 community, therefore, a couple of days to -- to see the -  
20 - the people who -- who needs the -- the health -- the  
21 health service.

22 And then every -- every three (3) months  
23 the doctor is there for two (2) days. And then he's  
24 gone. And then we don't see him again for another three  
25 (3) or four (3) months. And, also, these are the things

1 that we're -- that we experience in our community. And  
2 that there -- there's -- there's the -- the medicines  
3 that we have in our community -- community for people  
4 that -- that do need the -- the medicines that they --  
5 they rely on.

6                   And that even that, it's -- it's very  
7 little and it's -- it's there's a problem there too as  
8 well. And the nursing station that we have in our  
9 community has been there since -- since we moved into Lac  
10 Brochet, and we still have this little -- little place  
11 that -- that we use for our health -- health service, for  
12 a health station to -- to work for -- with -- with and  
13 for our people.

14                   And we have nurses that do come to the  
15 community, and they're there just -- just for two (2)  
16 weeks, or -- or even a month, and then -- and then  
17 they're gone. And then another nurse comes in. And then  
18 he's all -- and she's all new there again to our people.  
19 And then these things are -- they do happen. It -- it's  
20 an ongoing thing. It's ongoing problem that we -- we see  
21 under our health -- for our health for our community. So  
22 it's got to stop somewhere. Something has to be done  
23 there somewhere as well.

24                   And as well as we have suicides, high rate  
25 suicides in our community for -- within our young people

1 in our community. And the services that we have to  
2 address the issues is very little and there's really  
3 nothing there to -- to work with for -- with our -- for  
4 our young people on the suicide. And -- and these are  
5 things that we -- we see every day. It's happening every  
6 day in our -- in my community, in -- in the Northlands.

7                   And, like I said, something has to change  
8 here. We -- we got to do something. Somebody has to do  
9 something. And we're willing to work. We're willing to  
10 work with -- with the Health Canada or any -- we need to  
11 -- to work together. That's what I -- like I say that  
12 because the only to -- for this to be -- to be done is we  
13 need -- we need -- we have to be at a table together to  
14 address these issues. We have to look at these problems  
15 in our community.

16                   Like we're saying a high cost of living.  
17 We talk about that too as well. You buy a 1 litre of --  
18 of gasoline like here you're going to be spending about a  
19 dollar thirty-five (\$1.35) -- a dollar thirty-five  
20 (\$1.35) per litre.

21                   But that's -- that's why they were  
22 bringing in the gasoline on the winter road. If we ran  
23 out of fuel during the winter road, before the winter  
24 road season is open, we're going to be paying about two  
25 (2) -- two dollars and fifty cents (2.50) per litre.

1                   So that's -- that's what we -- that --  
2 that's the cost of gasoline. And the gasoline that we  
3 use to bring in our supplies, like to do our hunting, our  
4 fishing, all of these things that we do that we rely on.  
5 And that's -- that's high cost, two dollars and fifty  
6 cents (\$2.50) per litre to buy. That's a lot of money.

7                   That's -- that's high cost of living that  
8 we're talking about here today. And -- and I thank you  
9 for listening again.

10                  THE CHAIRPERSON:    Yes, Mr. Mayer?

11                  MR. ROBERT MAYER:   I have another  
12 commitment at four o'clock and I have a couple of  
13 questions -- well, comment and a question for the Sayisi  
14 Dene representatives there. If I could ask that now?

15                  THE CHAIRPERSON:    Yes, of course, please.

16                  MR. ROBERT MAYER:    I -- I'm a lawyer as  
17 some of you may know. I practice law in Thompson, but I  
18 spent a great deal of time in the '70s doing legal work  
19 up in Churchill, and I am aware that the tragedy that  
20 befell the Sayisi Dene people in Churchill at the place  
21 we used to call Dene Village.

22                  And I've been aware of that. I dealt with  
23 a number of people in front of the criminal courts as a  
24 result of the tragedy that happened out there. What I --  
25 my -- my question is, however and I'm now referring, Mr.

1 Chair, to -- let me see -- MKO's Exhibit 10 which is the  
2 geography and the other statistics respecting Sayisi Dene  
3 First Nation.

4                   And in Exhibit 10 on the first page it  
5 says: "The centre, most populated site by the Sayisi  
6 Dene people..." And they're still showing that as  
7 Churchill. Who we still have -- or do you still have a  
8 significant number of your First Nation residing in  
9 Churchill or am I correct in believing that most of your  
10 people have now migrated back to Tadoule Lake?

11                   MS. ILA BUSSIDOR: Hello. My name is  
12 Ila. I'll answer that. What the -- you know, I don't  
13 know, Chief Thorassie authorized me to answer your  
14 question. I like to know what your name is.

15                   MR. ROBERT MAYER: My name is Bob Mayer.  
16 We have met, Mr. Bussidor.

17                   MS. ILA BUSSIDOR: Really?

18                   MR. ROBERT MAYER: When you were -- when  
19 you were last before the Board I was -- I was actually  
20 there in person.

21                   MS. ILA BUSSIDOR: Okay. Thank you. I  
22 just want to say that, I don't know, it's kind of  
23 interesting how, you know, this history is -- is  
24 beginning to be known, I guess, about Sayisi Dene and the  
25 relocation and all this, you know, things that happened



1 to our people within the last, I don't know, not even  
2 fifty (50) years ago, I guess, I don't know, close to  
3 fifty (50) years now.

4 I just want to say that, I don't know,  
5 Tadoule Lake has been, you know, gone through so much in  
6 the last -- I don't know like the Chief said in the last  
7 thirty-eight (38) years -- thirty-eight (38) years is not  
8 a long time for a community to -- to be there.

9 The people moved back from Churchill, they  
10 went to, you know, establish a community in Tadoule Lake  
11 in the early 1970s, and -- and people have built -- they  
12 rebuilt their lives, they rebuilt their community from  
13 nothing. And that's where Tadoule Lake is today. I'm  
14 sorry, but what was your question again?

15 MR. ROBERT MAYER: My concern was is the  
16 statistics that are still being generated off what  
17 appears to be Indian and Northern Affairs website and was  
18 filed with this Board by Mr. Anderson, where they're  
19 still showing the centre of your most populated site for  
20 your people at Churchill, Manitoba. I believe that that  
21 is wrong.

22 MS. ILA BUSSIDOR: That's --

23 MR. ROBERT MAYER: I just need somebody  
24 to tell me I'm right.

25 MS. ILA BUSSIDOR: Well, I have to say

1 that that -- the most populated Sayisi Dene location  
2 right now is Tadoule Lake, it's not Churchill. We have  
3 probably a few, a handful, of band members that -- that  
4 still live there that never moved after the people moved  
5 back to our traditional territory in the '70s. So that's  
6 -- you know, that's incorrect information there.

7 MR. ROBERT MAYER: That's what I thought.  
8 And I thank you very much for confirming it.

9 MS. ILA BUSSIDOR: Thank you.

10 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Mr. Mayer, I might  
11 add that today the community panelled the Manitoba Bureau  
12 of Statistics analysis of the 2006 census which correctly  
13 reflects the location of the population at the reserve in  
14 Tadoule Lake and that was -- because of the differences  
15 between the Indian Affairs statistics and the Bureau  
16 statistics use of the 2006 Federal Census, that was why  
17 all four (4) communities provided the Manitoba Bureau  
18 statistics information to make those very corrections,  
19 and I thank you, Mr. Mayer, for bringing them up.

20 MR. ROBERT MAYER: That's all I have, Mr.  
21 Chair.

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr. Mayer.  
23 We were talking a bit about the health care. I -- I  
24 wonder if the -- the panel or one of -- or, one of the  
25 Chiefs or Councillors, or -- could give us some comment

1 on the -- the quality or situation with respect to  
2 education in the communities for the young.

3 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: I'm advised that  
4 Councillor Powderhorn would like to make an additional  
5 comment on health, and then we'll turn to the education  
6 question. Thank you.

7 MR. TONY POWDERHORN: I guess -- like,  
8 over -- like, I moved back to Tadoule back in 1983 and I  
9 watched a lot of turnovers, I guess, in nurses that come  
10 and go. And when the doctor comes in he only comes in  
11 overnight and then he's probably gone again for probably  
12 three (3) weeks -- up to three (3) weeks to a week. So a  
13 lot of people -- a lot of things can happen to a person  
14 in between that time -- like, if they're on medication or  
15 they need to see a doctor and they're not there.

16 And then half of the time, I think, by  
17 just looking at the picture that they're sent home,  
18 they're taken -- given a Tylenol and sent home and then  
19 their conditions worsen while they're at home or  
20 something happens and then by the time they get back to  
21 the nursing station or get ready to be medivac and then  
22 they decease. And I've seen that probably a couple of  
23 times since -- like, in my time anyways, from what I've  
24 seen so far. And -- and I don't think that should be the  
25 case.

1                   I -- I've talked to somebody from the  
2 health in Man -- in Winnipeg here and tried to see if  
3 there was a way a doctor can be there -- like, two (2) --  
4 two (2) days and if one (1) day is too much -- like, it  
5 seems like one (1) day is too much for the doctor to be  
6 there sometimes. So -- well, I said, that can't be  
7 right. I says, you gotta have them there because every  
8 time some -- a patient wants to see a doctor -- that he's  
9 booked up already, so by the time he wants to see a  
10 doctor he's got to wait until another two (2) weeks until  
11 that condition, or whatever he has is, you know,  
12 deteriorating or something happens to him. And that --  
13 that's gotta change for sure from -- from what I've seen  
14 so far.

15                   And -- but -- and it -- there seems to be  
16 always so much cutbacks from -- from Health Canada on the  
17 amount of what kind of medications should be allowed in  
18 the community and -- and stuff like that. It -- is that  
19 because -- like, they do have cutbacks and they have to  
20 try to, you know, cut back as much as possible. And  
21 that's what I'm seeing -- like, in the -- the health --  
22 like, itself. So I guess other than that, like for sure  
23 we do need some changes there when -- when I look at it.  
24 And I've -- I've brought up that concern to them and they  
25 -- they'll say they'll report back next time, but that --

1 again -- like, well, we decided we'll do this, but it  
2 takes a long time to put something in place, I guess, for  
3 them.

4                   And it's just like -- like, there's --  
5 there's -- so much things have changed over the years and  
6 from the health program, and where -- how like medication  
7 is given to patients and stuff like that. And if the  
8 nurse figures, you know, you don't need -- you can wait  
9 three (3) weeks to see a dentist if you got a sore --  
10 sore teeth or whatever, and you'll just have to wait  
11 until the dentist comes in and -- and will give you some,  
12 you know, not pain killers, but maybe a Tylenol, you  
13 know, and -- and, you know.

14                   And all these little things, you know,  
15 they all add up. And I'm pretty sure you know where I'm  
16 coming from when -- when I'm saying these things because  
17 it's -- it's a fact; I see it. And -- and that's got to  
18 change for sure, you know. Like I don't know who has,  
19 you know, the -- like the -- I've talked to a couple of  
20 people from Winnipeg here already in the Health  
21 Department, and they're just going to say, Well, you  
22 know, we'll get back to you on that, those kind of  
23 issues.

24                   So it's -- there's a lot of things that we  
25 always try to get answer from, but it seems like it's a

1 very -- like, you know, it's always -- it's never  
2 positive sometimes and -- and it's -- like we're dealing  
3 with a lot of things right now in the community our self.

4           Like we're talking about, you know, like  
5 everything, all the -- the -- Ila has brought up, and  
6 Jimmy, and like about where we're relocated from and  
7 stuff like that, the questions that you ask. And -- and  
8 it's -- there's -- there's a lot of things that are  
9 happening.

10           And -- and the -- the one that -- that I  
11 go back the most to is thinking about our elders, where  
12 like they lived a hard life. They travelled, and a lot  
13 of them, over the land over the years when they were  
14 young to survive. But, nowadays, like a lot of these  
15 elders are gone, are -- are going too, and we don't have  
16 much left in the community.

17           And -- and like I wish, to me, from -- I  
18 wish they would -- like there -- some of them were still  
19 allowed to see like the happening at the north of 60  
20 settlement or whatever's going to happen there, or the  
21 relocation files, something that happened to the people  
22 in the community.

23           I wish they could have seen a road maybe  
24 come through there. And they're always talking about the  
25 west side. But it's always the -- the community on

1 Tadoule, Brochet, and Lac Brochet are forgotten about.  
2 And -- and I think that's where they should be  
3 concentrating everything on.

4                   And, you know, like there's a lot of  
5 things like I wish that the elders could have seen. Like  
6 now they're gone, and we can't, you know. And -- and  
7 they're slowly passing on. And are we going to be, you  
8 know, still doing this twenty-five (25), thirty (30)  
9 years from now. And like are we ever going to see a road  
10 in our time? Are we ever going to see a grid line going  
11 through our communities?

12                   And, I don't now, just -- just a lot of  
13 things that -- like -- you know, like, that could be  
14 answered. And -- and I know it takes a lot of work and  
15 time and that to try to get something resolved like that.  
16 So that's just what I wanted to say about starting back  
17 from the health. Thank you.

18                   THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you for speaking  
19 up and adding to that.

20                   MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Ms. -- Mr. Chair -  
21 - well, Ms. --

22                   THE CHAIRPERSON: Is that you, Mr. Mayer?

23                   MR. ROBERT MAYER: It is. I have a four  
24 o'clock commitment, so I'm going to have to leave the  
25 meeting. My apologies to the delegation and to yourself

1 and Dr. Kinew. I wish I could stay for the rest of this,  
2 but I expect that I will get the material that Mr.  
3 Anderson filed with you today, and I wish you all the  
4 best of the weekend.

5 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Mr. Mayer, if I  
6 might, I just have one (1) followup to your question  
7 about the population statistics. I -- I just wanted to  
8 note in -- in reading them that the Sayisi Dene First  
9 Nation signed Treaty 10 as the Fort Churchill Band. The  
10 name of their reserve at Tadoule Lake is Churchill IR  
11 number 1. And so the statistics that you read refer to  
12 the community location at Tadoule Lake, Manitoba,  
13 officially known as Churchill Indian Reserve number 1.

14 And so the statistics provided by the  
15 First Nation today now complete -- refer to the 1996 and  
16 2001 statistics which appear in the INAC materials files  
17 as MKO-10. And now the community has filed an updated  
18 version with 2006 statistics from the Manitoba Bureau of  
19 Statistics.

20 But I -- I just wanted to say, even though  
21 those numbers do show transition and population location,  
22 that the reference to Churchill IR 1 is at Tadoule Lake.  
23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24 MR. ROBERT MAYER: It cert -- certainly  
25 confuses issues when you're reading them.



1                   MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: I agree, and  
2 that's why I thank you for raising it, and in -- in case  
3 anyone else had that point of view, just to mention that  
4 the transition and the name of the First Nation, from the  
5 Fort Churchill band has carried through partly to the  
6 naming of its reserve at Tadoule Lake.

7                   And of course, the First Nation is now  
8 known as the Sayisi Dene First Nation. Thank you.

9                   THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr. Mayer.  
10 Thank you for joining us as long as you could, and you'll  
11 get the material along, of course, with the transcript.  
12 Thank you. If --

13                   MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: You had questions  
14 on education?

15                   THE CHAIRPERSON: If the panel is  
16 complete with respect to comments on the health care, but  
17 the question on education was just to -- basically a  
18 survey question as to what the panel felt the level of  
19 service with respect to education in the communities was.  
20 Was it in the same sort of category as your comments on  
21 health, or was it better than that?

22                   MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Ila Bussidor would  
23 like to answer on behalf of Chief Thorassie. Thank you.

24                   MS. ILA BUSSIDOR: I just want to make a  
25 small comment on the health, you know, before -- I want

1 to make a comment on, you know, like a -- education. I  
2 guess healthcare is -- the lack of adequate healthcare to  
3 the community I think is a -- is a big, big issue. And  
4 you heard that, you know, from the leadership already.

5 In the last, I'll say maybe five (5) years  
6 there's been, I don't know, how many community members  
7 have died in the nursing station. My mother-in-law is  
8 one (1) of them. She died there February 4th of last  
9 year. They didn't even know she passed away. She's an  
10 elder in the room by herself, and people were saying that  
11 the head nurse, you know, they phoned for a medivac and  
12 they thought she was medivac out of the community.

13 Meanwhile, she was laying in another room,  
14 you know, passed on, you know, an elder that worked so  
15 hard to raise her family and be part of the community, to  
16 be left in a room like that as if she was just an animal.  
17 But nursing stations across Northern Manitoba are  
18 basically the same, you know, the nurses -- the nurses in  
19 charge that come there, I think they are provided with  
20 really tight security by Health Canada.

21 Well, you know, if you have to go to the  
22 nursing station -- like most people, I think, have to be  
23 escorted or band constables have to be there to be able  
24 to see the nursing -- nurse after hours. And I remember  
25 there was some issues that were raised, I don't know,

1 maybe about five (5) years ago regarding the -- the head  
2 nurses in the community who have the ultimate authority  
3 over who steps into the nursing station.

4           Even if you are dying they won't let you  
5 in. There was an article written in the Winnipeg Free  
6 Press on -- and you can look at this, it's -- it's on the  
7 record. A head nurse that is a non-Native that was  
8 serving Tadoule Lake did an interview with Winnipeg Free  
9 Press and called Tadoule Lake a toxic, toxic community.

10           And I thought that was amazing how, you  
11 know, somebody can, you know, like just provide a comment  
12 like that, and the whole -- the whole of Tadoule Lake is  
13 -- is like, you know, the most terrible awful place to  
14 live. And maybe it is, you know, but we can't forget the  
15 fact that somebody mentioned, you know, like boundaries  
16 and how, you know, the Dene people came to be in Manitoba  
17 when there's a Dene Nation, you know, there's a Nation of  
18 people that we belong to.

19           But according to the government, no, we  
20 belong to Manitoba because we're in Northern Manitoba.  
21 You know, that kind of stuff. But anyway, education-  
22 wise, in -- in the community, it's not -- it's not good.  
23 Our chicks -- our children are not getting the adequate  
24 education that every child, maybe in the Southern  
25 Manitoba receives. So when our children go out to school

1 in -- in Winnipeg for high school, you know, if they're  
2 at a grade 11 level in Tadoule Lake when they come here  
3 they find they're not, they're at grade 8. So the -- the  
4 graduation -- the students that graduate from grade 12,  
5 not very many; the university graduates, not very many.

6 Overall, everything has impacted the First  
7 Nations in Northern Manitoba. If we're talking about  
8 Tadoule Lake, everything that has happened to us in the  
9 last hundred years is evident today because we're not  
10 moving ahead. People are poor, they're not -- you know,  
11 they're not getting the adequate services that we're  
12 entitled to.

13 And they say, you know, we are treaty  
14 Indian, you know, like you wait in the back of the line,  
15 you know, somebody that can pay for their medical will  
16 get the best service, not us.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

18 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Chief Bighetty,  
19 please.

20 CHIEF ROY BIGHETTY: Good afternoon,  
21 Chair. It's Chief Bighetty. I'll speak on behalf of our  
22 education for Barren Lands First Nation in Brochet. We  
23 deal with Frontier school, 1950, the high grade level was  
24 grade 7. And increase -- the Frontier increase our --  
25 our level grade work, K to -- to nine (9), in some where

1 1960s.

2                   But like Bussidor said, there's a lack of  
3 education system that -- that brought to us to our  
4 community. We fight for it -- for our ministers.  
5 According to that investigation that -- that to be done  
6 to Frontier to get our right -- proper education for our  
7 children.

8                   Like he said, when they go to school, when  
9 they finish high school, when they go grade 10 somewhere  
10 else, they fail, 'cause the -- when they do the grade 9  
11 work they do grade 3 -- grade 3 work. That's the level  
12 of community that -- that education that we have in --  
13 back home, but we're -- as leaders we fight for that to  
14 get our top educate (sic).

15                   Our students are graduating back home  
16 quite a bit, quite a bit, going to universities; some of  
17 them, they're completing their universities, college.  
18 I'm happy for them -- according to that services that  
19 we've been having in -- in our community for the longest  
20 time.

21                   'Cause our -- our community that -- like I  
22 said, 1907 was signed treaty, but from there there's no  
23 education was established until 1947. The home -- home  
24 daycare school that they were providing them for that  
25 community when they -- when they were starting the school

1 in Brochet.

2 So now the challenges is there for us as a  
3 leaders to challenge that to try to get high school in  
4 our community. We -- I did put forward resolution,  
5 talked to Vic To -- Vic To -- Toews, making my  
6 recommendation for the high school back in Barren Lands  
7 First Nation.

8 So those -- those are the education system  
9 that -- that I'm speaking on behalf of, Barren Lands  
10 First Nation.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. If...

12 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Chief Dantouze, did  
13 you have any comments that you wanted to add about  
14 education in your community or Councillor Nalge?

15 Councillor...?

16 MR. ADAM NALGE: Okay. Thank you. Adam  
17 Nalge, councillor for Northlands. I just want to say  
18 that, regarding the education to -- to my band, I feel  
19 like, you know, we're a little more fortunate than the  
20 two (2) bands that are here with us today in education-  
21 wise, because in 1980 when we were recognized as a band  
22 our first priority as we got elected at first -- I was  
23 one (1) of the councillor that was elected, first  
24 councillor, for the band at the time when we were  
25 recognized as a band in 1980. So when I got a council

1 and then there was a Chief and three (3) councillors  
2 elected, and -- and in our first community meeting our  
3 people said that the first priority that we want you to  
4 do for us is to get an education system in our community.  
5 So that's how we started working on, 1980.

6 And it took us fifteen (15) years for the  
7 Federal Government to finally recognize that, yes, we did  
8 needed an education sys -- an education school in our  
9 community. But through the years for that period of time  
10 waiting, they did put in small trailers for classrooms.  
11 I think they put in five (5) or six (6) of them in. And  
12 they only went up to grade 7. So when -- when they  
13 completed grade 7 and they had no choice but to go out to  
14 further their education to Thompson, some of them to  
15 Winnipeg. So the only two (2) places that they went to -  
16 - that they chose to go to was Thompson or Winnipeg.

17 So that happened. And then, finally, in  
18 1995 the government decided, okay, we'll -- we'll build a  
19 school for them. So we have a school now today from --  
20 right from nursery right up to grade 12 in Lac Brochet.  
21 And that's a little bit of history of our school.

22 And in -- in that school we have just  
23 about everything that any high school has in the  
24 province. But to -- to -- what we're talking about now,  
25 I wanted to turn it over to the Chief so he can elaborate

1 more on what's happening there with our education funds.

2           So that's why I just wanted to give you a  
3 little bit of history of our school there. So I'll turn  
4 it over to the Chief. Thank you.

5           THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

6           CHIEF JOE DANTOUZE: Just to add on to  
7 what he -- Councillor Adam has explained and -- about our  
8 school, the history of our school and what's happening  
9 today at our -- at our school. And, financially, I guess  
10 a lot of the funds that we get for -- for our school --  
11 for the operations of our school, looking at all -- all  
12 areas, and at this time a lot of our moneys have been  
13 spent to pay off the cost of -- on hydro at the school,  
14 the electricity, the bills that do come in.

15           So most -- a lot of those monies are spent  
16 there, and then -- and then we're -- and then, later --  
17 after that -- after that -- that happens, and then we --  
18 we start to see that we don't have enough funding to do  
19 other programs within the education of Northlands in the  
20 school.

21           So these are the things that we -- we see  
22 happening. And we know that we -- we like to work with --  
23 - with the -- with the -- with INAC on -- on these -- on  
24 these matters and trying to get more funding for -- for  
25 the school. And we -- we are addressing that with them



1 or -- now.

2                   And -- and we'd like to -- I -- I'd like  
3 to see members -- children of -- of -- from my community  
4 to get the best education for them for -- for their --  
5 for their future, and -- and it's not happening. It's  
6 not happening as -- as we speak here, because of the  
7 system. The education system that's happening in our  
8 community right now is like -- the cler -- curriculum  
9 that's -- that's being delivered to -- to the children  
10 that go -- that go to school in -- in our school is  
11 there's something wrong there. There's -- really,  
12 there's something wrong because I'm not sure what is the  
13 problem there. Maybe there's not enough programs. Maybe  
14 there's not enough teachers that we need in -- in the  
15 school. Maybe there's other things. And we -- that  
16 needs to be looked at. That needs to be reviewed.

17                   And a lot of our -- our young people do  
18 want to move forward within their education and they do -  
19 - they want to move forward, and -- to become what they  
20 want to become. Maybe they want to become nurses,  
21 teachers, and -- and others. And so these are the things  
22 that we have -- we see -- and asking us today about our  
23 education system. And we're -- we're -- you're learning  
24 from us about these things.

25                   And -- and then -- and we -- we need to --

1 you need to address -- you need to help us address these  
2 problems as well. And sitting here and explaining  
3 ourselves, about our histories, about our -- our  
4 communities, and at the same time, we're asking the --  
5 the Board that the lack of our -- of these things that's  
6 happening in our community and we're -- we're talking  
7 about.

8                   And -- and, like I said, we're learning  
9 from you and we need to learn from you too as well, in  
10 how you can help our First Nations. And that's -- we're  
11 communicating and we're working together as -- as we're  
12 sitting here. And that's the reason why we're -- we're  
13 here addressing all -- all of -- all of these issues that  
14 we see we have problems with, and our -- our health as  
15 well.

16                   Just recently, about las -- four (4) --  
17 three (3) or four (4) weeks ago, in my community an  
18 elderly person fell off the bed at her home and she broke  
19 her -- her head bone, and then I -- I had to go to that -  
20 - to -- to her and -- to give her help. And -- and I was  
21 calling the nursing station, and he told me, well, we  
22 can't come there, and -- because there's a policy in  
23 place that you have to bring her down.

24                   And I said, well, we can't bring -- we  
25 can't -- we can't move her, there's something wrong with

1 her. She -- she can't move. She has a broken bone. And  
2 I said, you have to get here right now.

3                   You -- right now you get here or else  
4 tomorrow you're going to be on the -- the first flight  
5 out. So they -- so they managed to come, eh -- they  
6 managed to come. And then we had to put her on the  
7 stretcher and -- and moving her, and then we had -- we  
8 took her to the nursing station, and she was medivaced  
9 right to Winnipeg the -- the same night.

10                   And these are the things, eh, that -- that  
11 -- that's happening with our healthcare, so we're letting  
12 you know we're addressing it, and let's do something  
13 about it. Thank you.

14                   THE CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Kinew...?

15                   DR. KATHI AVERY KINEW: Thanks, Chief  
16 Dantouze. This Board is -- looks at requests from  
17 Manitoba Hydro about the costs and -- and the costs of  
18 service and what kind of rates should be set, so I think  
19 the questions that the Chair and Vice Chair have been  
20 giving have been just clarification of the impacts.

21                   Because I find it unbelievable that this  
22 report by Hydro that you got in June talks about minimal  
23 socioeconomic impacts for you to have any other kind of  
24 energy source than diesel.

25                   It certainly seems from what you're saying

1 that there'd be major impacts if you were able to have  
2 the run of the river power source, or if you were able to  
3 have wind, or if you were able to have the transmission  
4 line, it would have major socioeconomic impacts, not the  
5 minimum one that they've presented.

6                   So my question is -- one (1) of my  
7 questions is in your communities about education, are --  
8 are you connected -- do you have enough -- I know you  
9 have limitations on your electric capacity in your homes.  
10 I was wondering about the schools, as well, or are the  
11 students allowed to use internet? Do you have computers  
12 there? Do they get any of their education that way?

13                   MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Chief Bighetty, if  
14 you'd like to announce her first, please.

15                   CHIEF ROY BIGHETTY: Good afternoon  
16 again, Chair. Yes, all have right to do that. All --  
17 all the organization band -- especially band office we  
18 use an internet computer, so all the employees -- forty  
19 (40) employees using the Internet. Some of them are at  
20 nursing station, health employees, that -- that they are  
21 working there, but we're paying the hydro bill the same.

22                   And all the homes that -- that -- that the  
23 community members -- most of them I know that they --  
24 they have computers for home, Internet connection. So as  
25 same as well at school. The children, they have a

1 computer room in the -- in the school, so each class use  
2 that computer, I guess, for learning. So that's --  
3 that's what we have in our -- back home for Brochet.

4 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Chief Thorassie,  
5 did you have some comments that you wish to add, please?

6 CHIEF JIMMY THORASSIE: I want to make a  
7 comment on -- on the education part there. In the  
8 community, I guess continuity is important in any  
9 education system. For my community there in regards to  
10 education, the -- the way the -- the system has been set  
11 up for the community, it's a local run school, and -- and  
12 the teachers that are hired up there are teachers --  
13 sometimes are teachers that are hired that are, I'd  
14 better say, old school teachers.

15 They're not trained in the new -- new  
16 curriculum documents that are being taught or used today  
17 across Manitoba. These teachers are sometimes hired,  
18 especially at a -- at a short time notice for a small  
19 school. That they go into the school and they -- they  
20 teach the way they have always taught, and they don't use  
21 the -- they don't follow the Manitoba curriculum  
22 documents as they should have been.

23 And therefore, when it comes down the  
24 students are gonna be taking the National Standardized  
25 Testing, when that happens these students are way below

1 average. And the -- the quality of education to  
2 delivered to these students are not -- does not meet --  
3 the students, their not -- are not brought up. And  
4 mainly because of the -- the way the teachers are hired.

5           If we had teachers that are fresh out of  
6 college right into the school system, I think we can  
7 deliver a better education to the students without having  
8 to rely on retired teachers from another province that  
9 don't know how to use the Manitoba curriculum documents.  
10 So that's one of the contributing factors to the  
11 education system that's delivered to our students.

12           So having said that, I guess it's the --  
13 the quality of education that given to the community  
14 isn't -- isn't there really because of that -- because of  
15 not having the staff to deliver it. So with a community  
16 like of three hundred and forty (340) -- three hundred  
17 (300) or so people, out of that we have what: sixty-five  
18 (65) -- sixty-five (65) students enrolled and we have six  
19 (6) -- five (5) teachers and a principal teaching them.  
20 So education should be a priority, it should be  
21 continuity.

22           And the high cost of living up north, the  
23 high cost of buying groceries, and whatever it takes to -  
24 - to live up there as an outsider coming to the  
25 community, there again -- like, it's the high cost comes

1 into play. Like the -- the high cost of groceries that  
2 they -- two dollars and forty -- two dollars and fifty  
3 cents (\$2.50) for a loaf of bread.

4 And, I mean, you can probably get that for  
5 about eighty-eight (88) cents up here, or something like  
6 that. But the high cost of living also contributes to  
7 the teachers not wanting to, probably, come up north and  
8 teach. So overall it's the high cost of living too that  
9 -- that kinda contributes to education and effect in some  
10 way. So I just wanted to mention that and share that.

11 DR. KATHI AVERY KINEW: Thank you, Chief  
12 Thorassie. I was just wondering, do they have computers?  
13 You probably have the smallest school of the four (4),  
14 I'm not sure. And do you have computers? Do you have  
15 sufficient electricity for the schools to have that? Do  
16 you have enough money to pay the bills for the schools to  
17 have computers?

18 Computers in the schools, do you have  
19 them? And -- and -- so you have sufficient electricity  
20 for it?

21 CHIEF JIMMY THORASSIE: Yes.

22 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Chief Thorassie,  
23 if you could turn on your mic and just repeat the answer  
24 that you gave to Dr. Kinew, please.

25 CHIEF JIMMY THORASSIE: You were talking

1 about computers in the school, did you say? Yeah, there  
2 is a system. There's a -- last year there was a -- the  
3 previous year we had high school up to senior one and  
4 two. This year we only -- we only have grade 10 and we  
5 don't have no science computer teacher. So there is a  
6 system there in place for computers up for the whole  
7 school for the class, but there's -- we're -- we're short  
8 -- we're short of teachers for the high school gym.

9                   Yeah, we're still short -- we're underfund  
10 -- understaffed this year. But previously it was about  
11 seventy (70) to eighty (80) or -- or so, enrollment and  
12 that number has dropped down to sixty-five (65). So  
13 that's -- that's where it's at with -- I don't know, the  
14 teachers, I guess.

15                   DR. KATHI AVERY KINEW: Thank you.

16                   THE CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Anderson, if you  
17 don't mind, we're just going to take a -- a five (5)  
18 minute health break.

19                   MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: That would be  
20 fine, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

21                   THE CHAIRPERSON: That would be fine.  
22 The panel, I'm sure, has been sitting there for quite a  
23 while too. We'll just stretch our legs and we'll come  
24 back in five (5) minutes. And we still have a few more  
25 questions, if -- if the panel is willing to -- to respond



1 to them when we come back from the break.

2 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Thank you. I  
3 think that's fine, Mr. Chair.

4

5 --- Upon recessing at 4:18 p.m.

6 --- Upon resuming at 4:28 p.m.

7

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you  
9 everyone. I know it's late in the day, but it's -- it's  
10 very helpful to the Board. Mr. Anderson and the panel,  
11 just a couple of questions with respect to the houses and  
12 property and buildings. How -- by what means are the  
13 residences in the communities heated? How are they  
14 heated? If they're not heated by electricity, is it  
15 wood, oil? You made reference to oil furnaces and things  
16 of that nature.

17 And I imagine if it's oil it's got to be  
18 trucked in for a very short season, too.

19 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Councillor  
20 Powderhorn would like to provide an -- at least part --  
21 one (1) -- part of your answer, Mr. Chair.

22 MR. TONY POWDERHORN: I guess, all those  
23 four (4) communities, they -- I'm pretty sure they all  
24 work on furnaces, and so that -- that would be diesel, so  
25 that's trucked in every time the winter road season opens

1 up. And it's -- it's the -- that -- that's another  
2 really risky thing too. Like it's -- it takes a lot of  
3 like -- I know probably sometimes -- I'm sitting here for  
4 a while now and listening to you people speak and that,  
5 and it seemed like it's -- it's kind of a different topic  
6 about -- between rates and -- and furnaces and that.

7           But like you -- you got to have a  
8 certified technician to -- to fix a problem on a furnace.  
9 And people just go by taking chances and trying to fiddle  
10 around with furnace that -- that can be -- have a lot of  
11 danger to it. And that's one (1) of the things that I'm  
12 still encounter with, people that think they know how to  
13 fix a furnace but they don't. And they're -- they're  
14 putting themselves at risk from -- because you have  
15 electrical stuff that's on there too.

16           And -- and it's danger right around  
17 because there's so much you have to know about that and  
18 there's so many parts to it. And -- and that's why like  
19 -- and almost every house in the community has one (1)  
20 now, in my community anyways. And it's a -- it's a risk  
21 that a person takes when they try to find a problem,  
22 what's wrong with it, why isn't it working, and -- and  
23 stuff like that.

24           But it -- it's a diesel operated furnace,  
25 a lot of the houses there, so...

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: So the fuel has to be  
2 trucked in and --

3 MR. TONY POWDERHORN: Yeah, from --

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: -- and stored within  
5 the community.

6 MR. TONY POWDERHORN: Yes. Yeah.

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Is it stored in common,  
8 or by individual house, or...?

9 MR. TONY POWDERHORN: No, it's stored in  
10 -- they got tanks there, 50,000 litre tanks, so you got  
11 about maybe seven (7) of them, and they fill it up, and  
12 that's supposed to last you a year, until the next season  
13 winter road opens up, yeah. So that's -- that's what --  
14 I was going to bring that up on -- about the furnace  
15 part, anyways, and diesel. Thank you.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: What -- in most of the  
17 homes, and I'm imagining the appliances that the most  
18 homes would be, would the appliances be such things like  
19 washers, dryers, stoves, ovens, microwaves,  
20 refrigerators, computers, televisions?

21 MR. TONY POWDERHORN: Everything that --  
22 yeah, everything that you said there, that's -- that's in  
23 all pretty well no -- a lot of the homes. And that's --  
24 it takes up, I think -- I don't know what -- I think it's  
25 130 amps for -- per house or something. Like I'm not

1 sure about how that works, but it's in that area.

2                   And so -- but you -- you could do it  
3 though. You could operate all of that appliance on a  
4 daily basis, yeah, for sure.

5                   THE CHAIRPERSON: Are there -- the  
6 material that was supplied through the survey, the INAC  
7 survey that was on their website that the Board received  
8 during the Hearing itself indicated that approximately 70  
9 percent of the residences in the communities required  
10 repair and that approximately, if I recall properly, 30  
11 to 50 percent required major ones.

12                   We had two (2) professors from the  
13 University of Manitoba put on a presentation that showed  
14 a bit of a slide show of the communities. Are there  
15 homes in the communities that need new windows and doors?

16                   MR. TONY POWDERHORN: Yes, they are, and  
17 they're -- we're working that -- towards that right now  
18 to -- to get that fixed up. It's -- there's some ongoing  
19 work that's being done right now, but I think it's shut  
20 down because of the winter season and that, so they'll  
21 probably continue back in springtime again, I guess,  
22 yeah.

23                   THE CHAIRPERSON: Would the panel be able  
24 to confirm indication by the professors for -- that there  
25 was problems with the houses. One (1) of the panel

1 members re -- referred to tra -- trailers and things of  
2 that nature with mould and...

3 MR. TONY POWDERHORN: Yeah, for sure  
4 there is, because like I myself, like I'll -- I'll tell  
5 you a little bit of background of this for going to lean  
6 to what you're talking about now. Like, I worked at the  
7 school for about thirteen (13) years, and before they  
8 built a new school I was servicing furnaces, so I -- I  
9 know a little bit about furnace stuff and that, so I went  
10 to a lot of the houses and some of the old houses, and  
11 not too old houses and did -- I did see that for sure,  
12 like mould and stuff like that, yeah.

13 And -- and I can't see how some people can  
14 live through that, like in there on a daily basis. I've  
15 seen that myself.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: The professors were  
17 suggesting that some of the health issues in the  
18 communities were related to poor air circulation  
19 compounded by the mould?

20 MR. TONY POWDERHORN: Excuse me?

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: I was saying the  
22 professors that presented for the Hearing were suggesting  
23 that some of the health problems in the communities were  
24 related to the mould and the poor air circulation within  
25 the homes.

1 MR. TONY POWDERHORN: Yeah, because like  
2 these guys that were there, they -- they -- they told me  
3 a little bit about, like they -- this was just this past  
4 summer, I think they were up there and doing a lot of  
5 research on a lot of these houses and that. So there is  
6 poor -- like -- like these houses we're talking about,  
7 like they were built years ago.

8 And so when, you know, a house has been  
9 like -- we're probably talking back early '80s and stuff  
10 like that and probably '70s in some of these houses. And  
11 they do add on additions to it because they were so small  
12 when they were built, so that's what -- what -- that's  
13 what problem like arises too, I guess, yeah.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Does the construction  
15 of -- of new or replacement homes keep up with the need  
16 for population growth, or just because of the  
17 deterioration of the homes themselves? Is the  
18 construction programs adequate enough?

19 MR. TONY POWDERHORN: Construction --

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: The building of new  
21 homes.

22 MR. TONY POWDERHORN: Yeah, well, go  
23 ahead.

24

25

(BRIEF PAUSE)

1 MR. TONY POWDERHORN: Oh, okay. Okay.  
2 Okay, he lost me for a second there, can you re...

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: I was wondering, we --  
4 we'd noticed there had been growth in the population and  
5 that there was some rebuilding of new homes. It was  
6 indicated a certain number per year. We're just  
7 wondering whether the -- to get to the question, I guess,  
8 is the population per home increasing? Like is the -- is  
9 enough new homes being added each year to maint --

10 MR. TONY POWDERHORN: Well --

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: -- to provide proper  
12 housing?

13 MR. TONY POWDERHORN: -- I -- I know  
14 Tadoule side, that we get a lot of renovations, but we  
15 never actually got new homes in the last couple of years,  
16 Tadoule, so -- we're supposed to get two (2) new homes  
17 next year, I guess, from what like I hear through housing  
18 people. So like KTC -- I don't know if you've ever heard  
19 of KTC, they're in charge of our housing and stuff like  
20 that, and they say we're supposed to get two (2) new  
21 houses this coming -- next year, yeah, next year.

22 So hopefully -- that's -- that's what I  
23 know so far about it.

24 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Mr. Chair, if I  
25 might, I've made a list of your questions and I just

1 wanted to briefly canvas the Northlands First Nation and  
2 the Barren Lands First Nation, because I think there's  
3 some differences in fuel source and -- and so on. So if  
4 I might summarize quickly the chain of questions the  
5 Chair has asked.

6 He asked about fuel sources, appliances in  
7 your homes, percentages of your homes needing repair,  
8 mould, whether that's related to poor air circulation,  
9 and whether the construction in your community is keeping  
10 up with the need for new homes. And I know that Chief  
11 Bighetty had mentioned that there's -- that you use wood  
12 as another source of heat in your community.

13 I wonder if you could comment on that and  
14 some of the other questions that the Chair had raised.

15 Chief Bighetty...?

16 CHIEF ROY BIGHETTY: Good afternoon,  
17 Chair. Okay, for heating, a lot of homes are -- we have  
18 -- we have a lot of homes that using furnaces, and it is  
19 some that some homes are using the wood stoves. But the  
20 heating is still -- electricity is still high cost for  
21 the homes 'cause according to appliances that we're  
22 talking about, especially like dryers and, you know --  
23 it's an overcrowded population that we have in -- like in  
24 the homes, overcrowded community members that -- that  
25 lives in -- in one house. Like, ten (10) to twelve (12)



1 people living in one (1) house. So they use the  
2 electricity more like -- well, usually using washers and  
3 dryers.

4 And the one (1) -- one (1) thing I find  
5 out in the -- according to that fuel furnaces, we use  
6 electricity on our fuel furnaces as well. You know, you  
7 have to keep on running the furnaces because according to  
8 the -- I guess the cold, the weather that we have in  
9 north.

10 And -- and the other thing is water --  
11 water boiler, it's steady going, you know. Steady going  
12 according to the overcrowding that -- that we live in in  
13 our community. Now, we -- we are going after -- like I  
14 said, we are going after governments and then we're --  
15 the needs that -- that we need here today.

16 Like, we're sitting here today regarding  
17 the needs of the electricity that -- that we're going to  
18 see or not see to increase the electricity in -- in our  
19 community. So those are the definitions that -- that we  
20 put forward to -- to the Board, is the -- the heating  
21 costs.

22 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: One (1) of the  
23 other questions that --

24 CHIEF ROY BIGHETTY: And --

25 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Oh, sorry.

1 CHIEF ROY BIGHETTY: Okay. The -- the  
2 fuel -- the fuel storages that -- we're all the same, we  
3 have all the bulk -- bulk station that -- that we -- we  
4 have in our community to a storage for a year to try to -  
5 - you know to try to have enough for the year.

6 Besides the storage of the -- of the fuel  
7 storage, we should be economically that -- we should be  
8 using selling hydro, our fuel and selling the community -  
9 - other community residents, but it's not happening in  
10 our community because, you know, the high cost of the --  
11 the fuel that we brought same -- they do the same thing.

12 They -- they buy the fuel in -- but they  
13 don't -- they don't want to do a business with us, but  
14 we're looking for it in the future. We are in a  
15 community, we want to do a business. So those are my  
16 comments.

17 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: If I might,  
18 Councillor Nalge, do you have comments that you'd like to  
19 add on, for example, percentage of homes needing repair  
20 and mould in homes in Lac Brochet?

21 MR. ADAM NALGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
22 guess my -- one (1) of my -- my biggest concerns  
23 regarding housing situation in my community, like I said  
24 earlier, I'm the -- the housing portfolio councillor for  
25 the band, was when I -- when I got under a year -- two

1 (2) years ago, almost two (2) years now, the -- the lot  
2 of things that I found was happening was the homes that,  
3 you know, the people are living in now is way  
4 overcrowded, and some houses there are twenty-four (24)  
5 by thirty-two (32) with three (3) bedrooms, and the  
6 bedrooms are like twelve (12) -- probably ten (10) by  
7 twelve (12) I think some of the -- the bedrooms, and  
8 they're even smaller, some of them are eight (8) by ten  
9 (10). And some have decided to have families living in  
10 there, like ten (10), eleven (11), twelve (12) people per  
11 home. And we had requested at one time for -- if we can  
12 get an extensions made to these homes for -- for some of  
13 the bigger families that are living in -- in these small  
14 houses, but nothing has happen.

15                   And then I -- I said at the beginning of  
16 our -- this -- this afternoon when we started, like the  
17 retrofits and the insulation program that was introduced  
18 to us this past -- all our materials was brought up on  
19 the winter road. So we started that. We did that  
20 through the summer. And -- and I know that what I found  
21 out too that was -- this was introduced, like I said,  
22 1994 to the bands through Hydro for energy efficiency  
23 program.

24                   Why did this program start at only sixteen  
25 (16) years after it was introduced, and what was Hydro

1 doing all these years, just billing us, billing us,  
2 billing us, year after year from the very little that we  
3 were getting from Canada, INAC, for other programs that  
4 we have to administer for our people.

5                   And in -- in return, you know what -- you  
6 know what -- like it just goes back to what I'm saying,  
7 you know, what -- what did Hydro do for us yet from all  
8 the monies that we've been getting from Canada, it goes  
9 to the Hydro. We know that for a fact, because that was  
10 mentioned last week. Hydro got \$27 million back from --  
11 from the diesel operated communities, the four (4)  
12 communities.

13                   That they say that there was a -- an  
14 overuse in power. But why are we not treated like the  
15 rest of the province is one (1) of the biggest issues  
16 that is never answered yet until today. And in getting  
17 back to your question about how the program is doing, and  
18 I told you that, you know, from what we did this summer  
19 for the ten (10) retrofits plus insulation of ten (10),  
20 like not the people that came up to do that inspection,  
21 they were pleased what -- with the way it was done. The  
22 peop -- the way our people did the work that supposed to  
23 be done.

24                   And there again, it created employment for  
25 our people, you know, a lot of the people that got hired

1 there were happy, you know, they make good money from  
2 there, because, you know, like we say that -- that the  
3 welfare program is very high up there because of lack of  
4 employment.

5                   And -- and the other thing that I wanted  
6 to add onto this, what I'm saying today is -- excuse me,  
7 I have a dry spot here -- is our streetlights in our  
8 community. Like I don't know for how many years now, but  
9 I haven't lived in my community for almost ten (10)  
10 years. I lived in Thompson for a while, and then one  
11 night before I left there I noticed there was a lot of  
12 streetlights bulbs were burnt out; that's what, ten (10)  
13 years ago, over ten (10) years ago. And then when I came  
14 back two (2) years ago and I started to live back on the  
15 re -- reserve again, some of those lights that were burnt  
16 out ten (10) years ago still haven't been changed. And  
17 we're getting billed for that. I know that.

18                   We've been billed for that, yet there was  
19 nothing done to replace those bulbs. And it's too bad,  
20 you know, when we talk about things like this that people  
21 like yourselves, and people that have never seen our  
22 communities, we -- you actually don't know what we're  
23 talking about, what conditions that we're living in. But  
24 I think it's time that, you know, that people have  
25 started, you know, trying to make efforts, like, you

1 know, like chiefs are saying here, to communicate, work  
2 together, come to our communities, see firsthand yourself  
3 what we're talking about and then you'll get the real  
4 picture of what the province that we're -- we're living  
5 in, the kind of conditions that we're living in and what  
6 we have to pay for the very little of what we get.

7                   So with that, I'd -- I'd -- I'd like to  
8 leave it -- leave it there for -- this is concerning  
9 Northlands, and I'm pretty sure the communities' reps,  
10 they have issues that they want to bring forward for  
11 their communities too. Thank you.

12                   THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

13                   MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: You had some  
14 additional questions, I believe, Mr. Chair.

15                   THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes. Our understanding  
16 from a historical perspective from the extension of the -  
17 - of the grid, at one time our understanding is, which  
18 may be corrected by further study, that there was some  
19 twenty-seven (27) communities that weren't on the grid,  
20 and then there was thirteen (13) and now there's four  
21 (4).

22                   We're wondering what your perspective is  
23 of the four (4) communities that aren't on the grid, as  
24 when these other projects were ongoing, that was  
25 extending the grid to the other communities, were you

1 consulted or involved at all in discussions with respect  
2 to the extension of the grid to the other communities?

3 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: To my knowledge,  
4 if I -- if I might, chiefs, to my knowledge, the four (4)  
5 -- three (3) of the four (4) remaining diesel First  
6 Nations were not part of the overall examination of  
7 transmission interconnection; that as you have  
8 illustrated, the twenty-seven (27), to thirteen (13), to  
9 four.

10 I say three (3) of the four (4) because  
11 the Shamattawa First Nation -- and you'll recall that we  
12 had presented cross-examination and some documents in a  
13 previous proceeding, some exhibits, and had a lively  
14 discussion, as I recall, with Manitoba Hydro about this.

15 In 1988 there was actually a congeal  
16 proposal of \$8 million for a 69 kV transmission line to  
17 Shamattawa that was preceding, to my recollection, toward  
18 a project agreement. There was subsequently a re-  
19 evaluation of the project cost estimate that was done by  
20 Hydro, and an engineering consultant for community CESO,  
21 Canadian Executive Services Overseas, had engaged a  
22 colleague from Quebec and they reexamined the project and  
23 indicated the value as something in the order of thirty-  
24 five dollars (\$35).

25 So the project funding arrangements that

1 were in progress at that time were suspended,  
2 essentially. That ne -- that negative document, the  
3 Kelly report, as we call it, ended up on the top of the  
4 file. Shamattawa, you may recall, Mr. Chair, resumed  
5 their quest for a Shamattawa transmission line.

6                   And we had belie -- we tabled a letter  
7 from Mr. Jake Howley (phonetic), who is vice-president  
8 interna -- of Acres International Engineering, who  
9 estimated, in his professional opinion, it could be built  
10 at about \$18 1/2 million at 69 kV.

11                   Two (2) consultants were engaged who -- in  
12 partnership with INAC and Hydro and the First Nation to  
13 take another look at it. And it was -- really, it took a  
14 great deal of effort. There's correspondence I believe I  
15 filed as well from Mr. Jack Wilson to myself confirming  
16 that a revisitation of the load forecast for the  
17 assumptions on Shamattawa came with a finding that  
18 appears in the options report, Tab 5 of the MKO panel  
19 book of documents, as we'll call it for the moment.

20                   Again, that 69 kV was technically  
21 feasible. It was shortly after those ideas had  
22 congealed, of course, though that Manitoba Hydro  
23 proceeded with a \$16.9 million diesel generating facility  
24 that in the end became a considerable portion of the  
25 undepreciated capital costs that have recently been paid



1 that Councillor Nalge referred to.

2                   So there's this long chain of events on  
3 Shamattawa. And now, with the material that the chief  
4 has filed, he's speaking directly with the deputy premier  
5 and the minister responsible for Hydro to breathe life  
6 back into that project.

7                   So there was consideration early on, early  
8 days, in eight (8) -- 1998, at least, of connecting  
9 Shamattawa, but it's been up and down really as different  
10 preferences. And the expenditure of the nearly 17  
11 million on the new generating station again was a topic  
12 of dis -- examination by MKO and some expert ev --  
13 testimony by our witness, Mi -- Mr. Hildebrand. And  
14 that's been, of the four (4) communities, the one that  
15 has engaged the most attention and effort, in addition to  
16 the recent proposal by the province to Canada and so  
17 forth.

18                   The others are in feasibility stages that  
19 were set out in Hydro's report, recommendations for  
20 reducing or eliminating the use of diesel fuel to supply  
21 power in off grid communities and predecessor reports on  
22 which that one is based. But they haven't taken on  
23 nearly the amount of effort that the Shamattawa line of  
24 the four (4) has to date, that I'm aware of. Thank you,  
25 Mr. Chair.

1 DR. KATHI AVERY KINEW: Thank you, Mr.  
2 Anderson. Do the chiefs feel that they were involved in  
3 the development of this report? It was done, I think, by  
4 June, and they came to -- Manitoba Hydro came to the  
5 reserves in August and talked about different options,  
6 but they illuminated several options in their  
7 presentation.

8 Did you feel that you were involved in the  
9 preparation of the report or had any say about changing  
10 direction of the report?

11 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Chief, just as  
12 background, to assist, it's in -- it's the document at  
13 Tab 5 of your binder.

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17 DR. KATHI AVERY KINEW: What we have  
18 that's not in Tab 5 is dates of meeting with the First  
19 Nation, the four (4) First Nations and what was  
20 discussed.

21 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Chief Bighetty...?

22 CHIEF ROY BIGHETTY: Yeah. To recall --  
23 to recall this, there is no consultation that has been  
24 taken from the Hydro, but a document that was put forth  
25 to the band, and that's it.

1 DR. KATHI AVERY KINEW: So there was only  
2 one (1) meeting then, Chief Bighetty, and that's it?

3 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Chief, if you  
4 wouldn't -- just for the record, if you wouldn't mind  
5 putting your mic on and answering the question.

6 CHIEF ROY BIGHETTY: Yes, just one (1)  
7 meeting.

8 DR. KATHI AVERY KINEW: Thank you.

9 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Chief Dantouze, do  
10 you recall any discussions about that -- that particular  
11 report with Northlands prior to it being released?

12 CHIEF JOE DANTOUZE: Yes, I do, and I  
13 remember Hydro came to my community and sat down with us  
14 and they were talking about options about a transmission  
15 line, and wind power, and others -- other many hydro.

16 And -- but there wasn't too much of a  
17 consultation with the community. When I -- if they want  
18 to do a consultation with the community it should be  
19 general -- general consultation of the community, not  
20 only the Chief -- myself and -- and council.

21 It should be with -- with the community  
22 members, and to gather information about the transmission  
23 line -- possible transmission line coming to our  
24 community. So I remember the -- but it wasn't much of  
25 any consultation. It wasn't so much of -- of that.

1                   So way I feel that there was not -- just a  
2 little -- little information that was given to us on  
3 this.

4                   MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON:    Chief Thorassie,  
5 do you recall any consultation with Tadoule Lake -- with  
6 Sayisi Dene First Nation regarding that report?

7                   CHIEF JIMMY THORASSIE:    Maybe Tony can  
8 probably answer that.  I'm not -- I wasn't on council  
9 that time when they were there.

10

11   (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

13                   MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON:    Councillor  
14 Powderhorn...?

15                   MR. TONY POWDERHORN:    I think in the --  
16 in the last couple of years I've -- I've gone to a couple  
17 of meetings with -- with the former Chief, Ernie  
18 Bussidor, and my two (2) other councillors.  I think it  
19 was about less than a year ago, and we -- we had  
20 consultations about the -- the transmission line, and we  
21 went to a meeting here at the Manitoba Hydro here and met  
22 with -- I think her name was Ruth -- Ruth Kristjanson, I  
23 guess, and that's the whole idea about trying to get that  
24 grid line.

25                   But -- and they came in -- and Hydro also

1 came up to Tadoule Lake and we keep in contact with Blair  
2 Burdett about the joint -- the joint venture with  
3 Sifrosin (phonetic) about trying to get -- to do the  
4 upgrade on the hydro station itself.

5 And that's the only couple of meetings  
6 that I recall that really happened, but it was -- I don't  
7 think the community were involved in anything. It's just  
8 the Chief and council, as I recall, and some of those  
9 meetings that we have attended.

10 And a lot of -- to do was just to -- was  
11 the phone calls and that's about it. And that's --  
12 that's the best to my knowledge what I recall. And  
13 that's -- that's what I know of it. Thanks.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Just as a  
15 follow-up, just to confirm something, I recall of our  
16 earlier dis -- discussion, but I just want to confirm  
17 this, in Mr. Anderson's book in Tab 7 there's a letter  
18 from the then Minister of Science, Technology, Energy,  
19 and Mines to Manitoba Hydro, and then in Tab 8 there's an  
20 accord between Manitoba and Northlands.

21 Is there -- was there any further  
22 developments with respect to either the letter or the  
23 agreement?

24 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Chief, do you want  
25 to describe the activities that have taken place since

1 the accord was signed?

2 CHIEF JOE DANTOUZE: The accord was  
3 signed 2000 -- June of 2009 and -- and since then the --  
4 there's little has been done on this matter.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

6 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: If I might, I -- I  
7 can add that I've been designated by Northlands to  
8 participate in the economic development and mineral  
9 exploration task group. And the item of the hydro  
10 retrofits, you'll recall that there was the walkthrough  
11 results. That was placed as a high- priority item to be  
12 operationalized, and seeking Manitoba IEM's assistance in  
13 getting the job done.

14 We also had a meeting with Manitoba Hydro  
15 for the -- for this purpose. In respect of the micro-  
16 hydro project, there have been -- there's been some work  
17 but it's not on -- it's been discussed as an item before  
18 the working group, but hasn't been given the same  
19 attention as the retrofits and community conservation  
20 initiatives.

21 Essentially, because there's employment  
22 involved in operationalizing those retrofits and so  
23 forth, because it engages Hydro and the First Nation, the  
24 effort was to try to seek Manitoba's engagement through  
25 the accord and to getting everybody together to get the

1 job done. And to date, as the Chief has reported, no  
2 concrete steps have taken further to that, although, it  
3 was identified as a high-priority item.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 DR. KATHI AVERY KINEW: I was wondering,  
9 Mr. Anderson, too about Shamattawa and all the letters  
10 that were copied to Manitoba Hydro regarding the  
11 transmission line and the proposal for the green fund,  
12 did -- were there any follow-up that you know of? I know  
13 the Chief is not here, but you might know. They were  
14 cc'd, would -- did they get involved in following up  
15 themselves?

16 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: I'm advised that  
17 there have been discussions between the Deputy Premier  
18 and the President regarding the concerns of Chief  
19 Napoakesik and getting a viable proposal for the  
20 transmission line put forward under the green  
21 infrastructure funding. And to date it's -- I -- I would  
22 say that they are continuing to discuss it.

23 My understanding is that the Deputy  
24 Premier and Chief Napoakesik speak on the phone to each  
25 other about this initiative, so it's pretty direct

1 contact. And he has high hopes to have it moved forward,  
2 at this present time, based on my understanding of his  
3 reports, of his discussions with the Deputy Premier, and  
4 certainly he's advancing it to the national stage at the  
5 AFN special assembly, partly based on his understanding  
6 of the -- and the interest of Manitoba in pursuing it.

7                   Hence, if the National Chief's office  
8 knocks on the door of the Deputy Premier to seek some  
9 kind of collaboration, that's what he's seeking, as I  
10 understand. Thank you.

11                   THE CHAIRPERSON: Well, I want to thank  
12 Mr. Anderson for bringing all of you together and thank  
13 each and every one of you for attending and providing  
14 your presentations to the Public Utilities Board. As you  
15 know we've been conducting a hearing into a Manitoba  
16 Hydro application for revised rates for the diesel zone.

17                   The hearing itself is concluded, so we'll  
18 now be deliberating and our findings will come out in due  
19 course. But we very much appreciate the fact that you  
20 took the time to -- to come and provide us with  
21 information with respect to your communities and your  
22 dealings with various bodies with respect to your power  
23 sources and many of the problems that relate directly or  
24 indirectly to power and -- and support funding. Mr.  
25 Peters, have we forgotten anything?



1 MR. BOB PETERS: There was a matter that  
2 Mr. Anderson and I spoke of at the recess, and it was a  
3 request by Mr. Anderson to have the September 26th, 2007  
4 letter included in the transcript that was read and  
5 referred to by one (1) of the presenters.

6 And, in addition to that, I think Mr.  
7 Anderson was just going to make a list of the items that  
8 were specifically referred to in the presentations. So  
9 that's the last matter I have, Mr. Chairman.

10 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: That's correct,  
11 Mr. Chair. As -- we had read much of the relevant  
12 passages of the other correspondence from Chief  
13 Napoakesik, which, of course, is addressed to the Board,  
14 so the Board will have it in its own materials.

15 And we had asked that, as Mr. Peters  
16 mentions, that the letter from Minister Rondeau to Mr.  
17 Brennan be incorporated into the transcript record.

18

19 (LETTER INSERT)

20

21 Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mines

22

23 September 26, 2007

24

25 Mr. R.B. Brannan

1 President and CEO  
2 Manitoba Hydro  
3 820 Taylor Avenue  
4 Winnipeg, MB R3M 3T1

5

6 Dear Mr. Brennan:

7 I recently met with Chief Dantouze of  
8 Northland Denesuline First Nation. He and his council  
9 are keen to see the diesel generation replaced by a  
10 cleaner locally produced alternative. Their preference  
11 is for a mini-hydro project on the Cochrane River.

12 I understand that pre-feasibilities have  
13 been conducted showing that mini-hydro is lower in cost  
14 than the diesel generation that occurs now.

15 As you are aware, our Government is  
16 supportive of reducing the need for diesel use in the off  
17 grid communities. We would be pleased to work with you  
18 and the community to see this project become a reality.

19 Would it be possible to provide my office  
20 with an update on where this project is at and what  
21 Hydro's plans are to see this project developed?

22 Sincerely

23 Jim Rondeau

24 c. Chief Dantouze

25 Northland Denesuline First Nation

1 (LETTER INSERT CONCLUDED)

2

3 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: The other is that  
4 I had wanted to make reference with the hope of  
5 incorporating it into the transcript record the census  
6 profiles prepared by Manitoba Bureau of Statistics. And  
7 so what I'll do is I'll read how they're described at  
8 this point, if I might, Mr. Chair, so that they're  
9 incorporated, because they are available online.

10 And perhaps given that they're set out in  
11 graphic format as well, it may be the simplest way to  
12 proceed with that.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, please.

14 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Each of -- we --  
15 we ask that reference be ma -- incorporated in the record  
16 to each of the September 2008/2006 census profile  
17 prepared by the Manitoba Bureau of Statistics for each of  
18 the Shamattawa Indian Reserve number 1, Lac Brochet  
19 Indian Reserve 197(a), Brochet Indian Reserve number 197,  
20 and Churchill Indian Reserve number 1.

21 And, with that, the additional documents  
22 that were -- were in our materials I had outlined at the  
23 beginning that were unique were the outline of oral  
24 presentation to the Mani -- the Public Utilities Board at  
25 the MKO panel book of documents, Tab 1. At Tab 2 is the

1 November 29th, 2010 letter of invitation of the Board to  
2 MKO, also addressed to Manitoba Hydro.

3 At Tab 7 is the September 28th, 2007  
4 letter from the Minister of Science, Technology, and  
5 Mines to the President and CEO of Manitoba Hydro, which  
6 Mr. Peters has addressed. At Tab 8 is the June 3rd, 2009  
7 accord between the Minister of Science, Technology,  
8 Energy, and Mines and the Northlands Denesuline First  
9 Nation.

10 At Tab 10 was the December 2nd, 2010  
11 letter to the Board from the chief of the Shamattawa  
12 First Nation, and then the loose attachments that I've  
13 described previously. On be -- on MKO's part, Mr. Chair,  
14 I -- I'd like to express our gratitude for the Board --  
15 to the Board for its accommodation of the panel that  
16 you've heard today and for its accommodation of our  
17 engagement otherwise in seeking authorizations and  
18 execution of the diesel settlement agreement.

19 And we're pleased that we've -- with your  
20 support and -- and your accommodation of our efforts in  
21 that regard, have been able to do our best job in both of  
22 the diesel proceeding, we hope, and in completing the  
23 execution of the agreement so that the Board can take  
24 that into account when it renders its decision in this  
25 matter.

1                   And, with that, those are my comments of  
2 thanks. And I invite the panel, if they had any other  
3 comments that they would like to make, to do so at this  
4 time.

5                   Councillor Nalge...?

6                   MR. ADAM NALGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
7 just wanted to let the Board and the panel know that, you  
8 know, I guess you can probably -- I hope you understand  
9 the reason why we are -- we feel frustrated at times when  
10 we come to meetings like this because of the way we're  
11 treated.

12                   And -- and you -- and where we live, where  
13 we come from, and all the things that has happened to our  
14 people in the past, and all this comes into play when --  
15 when you start coming in front of a panel like  
16 yourselves. And it's time that, you know, that we -- we  
17 keep saying it's time to -- we -- we have to start  
18 working together and do things that's -- that's good for  
19 everybody, you know, not leave some people aside and like  
20 be forgotten about it. And that's why -- why our  
21 communities are the way it is today. Because of there  
22 was a lot of things that should've been done together  
23 with everybody that should -- that would -- that is  
24 involved, but it -- it has never happened.

25                   And now, only today after a lot of damages

1 is done, a lot of suffering has happened, now we're  
2 coming together and saying I think this -- we should do  
3 this to better -- you know, for -- for people to have a  
4 better life. And that's all we want, that's all we're  
5 asking for.

6                   And I want the panel to understand that  
7 what we're -- you know, that's all we're asking. Thank  
8 you.

9                   THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

10                   MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: And if I might,  
11 I'd also of course like to thank the panel. We have the  
12 leaders of three (3) First Nations governments with us  
13 for several hours this afternoon, and in terms of -- I --  
14 I know that the -- the phones -- I -- I had just wanted  
15 to comment on them, that they are the senior decision  
16 makes in their governments and a lot of business has been  
17 set aside this afternoon while the -- the Chiefs have  
18 made the -- have come here together -- together to  
19 explain this to you, which indicates, in our view, their  
20 sense of priority, as well, if I might add that on your  
21 behalf.

22                   And I thank the councillors and Ms.  
23 Bussidor for visiting this chamber again to provide their  
24 comments. And with that I'd like to thank you all.  
25 Chief Thorassie has a comment he'd like to make.

1                   CHIEF JIMMY THORASSIE:    I'd like to thank  
2 everybody that came here today and have the discussions  
3 going. I'd like to conclude, on my part, too, that on  
4 behalf of my community members, having knowing that  
5 Manitoba Hydro have been profiting off our people for the  
6 number of years since the '70s or '80s, whenever they've  
7 been there.

8                   Never once was there a -- a time where  
9 Manitoba Hydro had contributed -- contributions of any  
10 kind, any funding towards the winter road that we  
11 constantly have to do every year. Once the bands --  
12 three/four (3/4) bands get together and we make the  
13 winter road, who benefits from that? Hydro.

14                   Hydro's already have road all the way up  
15 to these communities and they don't -- they -- they don't  
16 have to dish out any money towards the -- the winter  
17 roads that are going up there. And yet they haul up  
18 their fuel all the way up on the roads that our done by  
19 our funds. And there should be some sort of a payment  
20 towards these -- these bands for hauling their fuel on  
21 our hard-earned work.

22                   The road's paved up for them. And yet  
23 they haul this fuel up there so they can charge us an arm  
24 and a leg. So somewhere along the line there should be  
25 something coming back to the people. Hydro is

1 consistently -- continually I should say profiting the  
2 peop -- from the people from the roads that we plow up  
3 there.

4                   So one way or another they profit. We get  
5 nothing back. We -- we make the road for them, in other  
6 words, so they can bring up the diesel fuel and make  
7 money off us, so where do we fall in? Where do -- you  
8 know, where does Hydro come in so -- so that this winter  
9 road that comes up this year, is Hydro going to do  
10 anything about that?

11                   How much money are they going to  
12 contribute to each of the bands to help us make the road  
13 -- winter road, so we can haul our supplies up the road,  
14 building material, fuel? Where does Hydro fit in on  
15 that? There's got to be something coming from Hydro in  
16 regards to that somewhere. I mean, there's just -- it's  
17 just profit.

18                   I mean, there's nothing coming back to the  
19 community from Hydro using our roads, winter roads, that  
20 are done by our people. So somewhere along the line  
21 something's got to be done. Someone's got to say -- step  
22 up and say, here, these how much we contribute to your  
23 roads that we're using up there. In conclusion, I'd like  
24 to say thank you. Mahsi cho.

25                   THE CHAIRPERSON:    Again, thanks for



1 everyone for coming. We appreciate it. It brought  
2 perspectives and information that we otherwise would not  
3 have had, and it's most appreciated. Thank you for Mr.  
4 Anderson for making the effort to pull everyone together.

5 We will look forward to the receipt of the  
6 settlement agreement. We can drop the T from the front  
7 of it, at -- at long last. Oh, was there -- did someone  
8 else want to make a comment? I...

9 MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Chief Dantouze,  
10 please.

11 CHIEF JOE DANTOUZE: I want to thank you  
12 on behalf of myself as Chief of Northlands First Nation,  
13 and my council and -- and other leaders from other  
14 communities being here this afternoon bringing our issues  
15 forward. I hope that we're not going to be sitting here  
16 again the next fifteen (15), or ten (10) -- five/ten  
17 (5/10) years from now talking about the same issues. We  
18 want to work together and bring the -- and bring it forth  
19 and -- to start working on these -- on these matters.

20 So with that I -- I would like to -- I --  
21 I want to work with the Manitoba Hydro, like I said, and  
22 other departments to -- to start working on the -- how we  
23 can bring these things, these issues forward and to work  
24 together in the -- to build from there. So we would like  
25 to -- I would like to see that.

1                   And like I said, I want to thank you for  
2 this time, this day, but there's other -- other -- other  
3 issues -- there's more other issues that we can't get to  
4 because of time, I guess, and now, but -- but it was --  
5 it was nice for being here this afternoon, but I think we  
6 covered many of the issues today.

7                   So I look forward to working with Hydro  
8 and -- for my community and the other government  
9 province, or federal to -- to do it together. Okay.  
10 Thank you so much.

11                   THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Well, that'll  
12 bring our -- our proceedings today to a close, and I just  
13 want to mention that the transcript of today's hearing  
14 will be -- of course the various Intervenors, including  
15 Mr. Anderson from MKO will have it and it's also on our -  
16 - our website.

17                   MR. MICHAEL ANDERSON: Mr. Chair, I -- I  
18 will be making copies available, of course, to the First  
19 Nations thanks to your PDF file of the transcript. Chief  
20 Bighetty would like to make a final comment, please.

21                   CHIEF ROY BIGHETTY: I would like to say  
22 thank you for listening to us. We've brought a lot of  
23 the issues that -- that we feel that we should be treated  
24 the same. So we should work with Hydro making --  
25 management is working with Hydro to stay low my

1 electricity in my community. I want to make sure that --  
2 that happens to us. If anything that comes, like, to  
3 deal with this economy, I want to deal with the economy  
4 with Hydro. Thank you for listening. Thank you for  
5 everybody that's here today.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you.

7

8 --- Upon adjourning at 5:16 p.m.

9

10 Certified Correct

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Cheryl Lavigne, Ms.

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