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**Living Through the Impacts of Churchill River  
Diversion and the Uncertain Future for the  
Young Generations**

# Overview of Socio-Economic Impacts of Churchill River Diversion-Augmented Flow Program.

- **1. Economy**
  - Fishing/Trapping Industry
  - Main Way of Life
  - Travel
- **2. Recreation**
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  - Boating/Launching
  - Berry Picking
  - Camping
  - Fishing
  - Fall Freeze Up
  - Winter
  - Seagull Egg Gathering
- **4. Physical & Mental Health**
  - Social Issues
  - Low Self Esteem
  - Relocation
  - Band Recognition
- **5. Natural Habitats Disruption.**
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  - Birds
  - Moose/Caribou
- **3. Social Aspects**
  - Social Attitudes; self worth, pride, dignity, motivation, determination.
  - Education

# 1. Economy

## A. Fishing/Trapping Industry

- Our fishing and trapping industry has been greatly impacted. Southern Indian Lake fishermen used to catch 420,000 Kilograms quota annually now only 50,000 Kilograms yearly. This shows the drastic impact in the fishing. The large lakes fish population has greatly declined. Fishing is not affordable because there currently no meaningful production in Southern Indian Lake. The fishermen moved inland to keep up the production and to keep the fish plant open. Going on 40 years now the impacts of this industry is coming close to extinction. For the young people there is no chance to go fishing for employment or learning. The majority of the fish are gone effected by the fluctuation of water, there is no chance of recovery of fish as erosion is on going unless there is change.
- The compensation the fishers were paid was based on approx. 94 fishermen, it was inadequate compared to the value of the fishery to the community. \*\* The settlement amount was based on the information given in relation to the CRD Interim Licence, and was in turn used for expectation of a come back to the fishing economy and trying to provide employment with fishing based on that information. It was not based on the AFP or future projects.
- In spite of all agreements signed a subsidy that was provided from MB Hydro for the fishing is no longer available due to the cut backs from Manitoba Hydro (2013) we believe to be an attempt to help the sustainability of these expensive projects, this puts the fishermen in a position of not being able to fish inland. The subsidies did help the inland fishermen with the freight cost as air plane rates are expensive. Southern Indian Lake once provided grade "A" fish white fish, now only cutters the lowest graded fish is been caught. Some studies done with white fish shows no growth, when mainly the Jumbo and Large were an abundance to this lake. Daily catch in 10 nets = 30 tubs whites. Today 10 nets = 3 tubs mixed.
- Socio-economic has not been justified; very little employment for communities that have been impacted such as South Indian. Before the flood people were self sufficient, hard working, independent and close to the land that provided all the resources to enjoy life. At that time 90% of the people were fishermen and trappers. Today approx. 80% of the people are unemployed and live on Social assistance.

## **B. Main Way of Life**

We see this as again another addition to the most destructive project(CRD-AFP) that we have had to live through. A land and lake once so rich with all the resources that were there for our livelihood and future. Our way of life has been totally altered. Projects like Wuskwatim, the proposed Conawapa & Keeyask Dams are an investment by Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro into this continued destruction and negative altered lifestyle. With no address or acknowledgement of on going destruction our way of life and culture may become extinct as a result of these projects.



Murdo Dysart moose hunting at South Indian Lake, 1954

## 2.

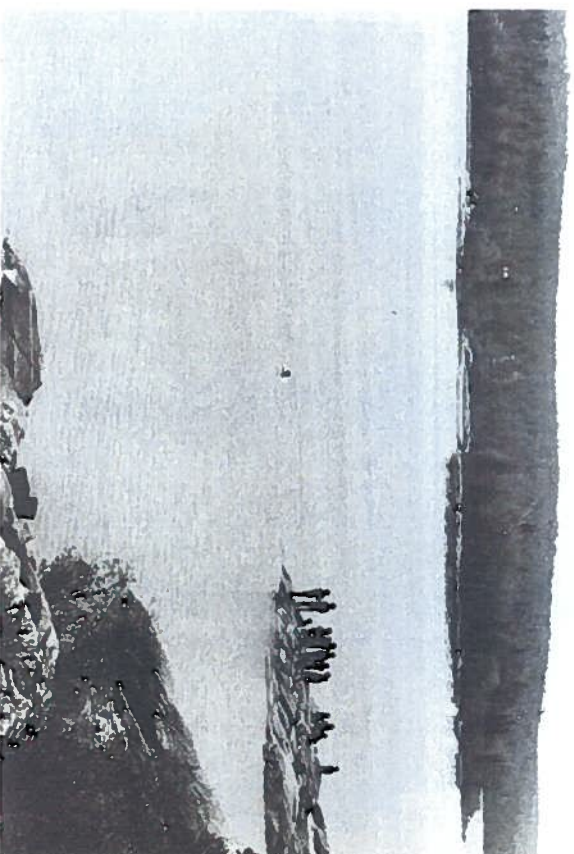


Photo: [Kids swimming near the old school, South Indian Lake, Manitoba ca. 1969 - 1966 - 1972 1966 - 1972](#)

□ All natural recreation areas such as beaches, boat launching, camping, skating have all been flooded out. The family activities such as berry picking, seagull egg gathering, traditional medicine areas are also all washed away. The areas used skating, sport fishing are now all unsafe during freeze up and winter in the immediate community areas, and throughout the lake where our traditional trapping and fishing used to take place.

□ With the CRD compensation, some of the money was used to build an arena. The monies from the compensation has been used to operate and maintain this facility -100% unlike other communities such as Nelson House , at the cost of \$140,000 yearly. The hydro bill alone averages \$31,000 annually with basic usage. We are at the point where we may not be able to continue to keep this facility open and with the projected doubling or tripling of rates due to these projects MB Hydro will guarantee that our only facility in the community for youth will close.



# 3. Social Aspects

A. Social Attitudes; pride, dignity, motivation, determination.

B. Education

C. Relocation

- ❑ The people have lost their self worth, pride, dignity, motivation, determination after being stripped of their livelihood. No one can really understand how this impacts an individuals, youth, especially the elders. It is sad to see them just sitting, observing their grand children almost totally disconnected to land, the traditional way of life. Our children have been affected, they have not been able to learn substantially the traditional way of life. Although with efforts of the community people we have an annually traditional camp, where we teach the children the traditional ways. Once a totally independent, hard working community now struggling to keep up with the on going changed land. With no acknowledgement of the continued destruction of their environment to power these new projects. Wuskwatim, Keeyask, Conawapa in the Preferred Development Plan, has it been decided we are to be sacrificed?



Brother Lou's Fish Camp



Brother Lou Dumas 4. Lou Tending Moose Ribs & Bacon 5. Jo-Momma Filletting Fish

## **B. Education**

### **C. Relocation**

### **D. Band Recognition**

- ❑ There is a low graduation rate; Working in the school we see the kindergarten class enrollment with 25 students, out of this only 10 or less will graduate. With the low education rates this will guarantee the youth not have the opportunity to work with Manitoba Hydro on their projects, any other projects or employers anywhere, this is a growing majority of aboriginal youth throughout the Hydro Impacted Communities
- ❑ “ When youth lack opportunities for meaningful participation; self-destruction, & antisocial behaviors including drug abuse, depression, premature parenthood, suicide, and delinquency are a common place.”
- ❑ Relocation of the community with sub-standard houses that did not fit the life style of our people and again was inadequate to the then population and future generations. A promise of a bright future which remains unfulfilled.
- ❑ Band Recognition OPCN – As a result of the Muskawim project our community finally realized Band recognition, only now we are realizing that this will be a long road to Reserve Land and uncertain future as the only immediate result was the benefit of the elimination of 400 NO votes for the Project Development Agreement for NCN and Hydro, now in its third round of redrafting and voting after what was suppose to be the “Perfect Agreement”.

# 4. Physical & Mental Health

## A. Social Issues- low employment

### B. Low Self Esteem

- When there is little hope and faced with much devastation people are put in a position that they have very low self-esteem. There has been a rise in social issues, such as alcohol and drug use. The social assistance is basically the livelihood of our people, this has to change or the real impacts of these projects and the cost to our communities and Province has yet to counted, where is this cost in the Preferred Development Plan
- The community agreed to build an economy with the compensation and started a Tourist Fishing/hunting Lodge “ Big Sand Lake” which seasonally employs approximately 25 - 35 local people. Unfortunately due to USA Economics it is difficult to sustain, yet we receive no “gift” of 50 Million Dollars from MB Hydro such as being proposed to NCN in the Supplement to PDA #2, due to failed projections of USA revenue from Wuskwatim, what lesson has been learned? Where is the fairness and equality and where are the benefits that everyone was sold?
- Why suffer us again for another project that is not needed and will cost future generations untold expenses and hardships, has this been analyzed
- What is the Environmental, Soci-Economic cost to SLL , its people, youth and future generations unborn
- What gives Manitoba Hydro, and Manitoba the right to destroy a lake, a population of fish, an economy, a culture and a future of thousands of aboriginal youth and yet ignore it as a cost to proposed projects
- Where is this new era of aboriginal relations that is being “sold” to the American consumer



# 5. Natural Habitats Disruption.

## A. Fish and their Environment

### B. Birds

### C. Moose/caribou

- Fish spawning- white fish spawn freeze out or dry out in spring, fish are older and smaller resulting in a mainly uncatchable fish = low production rates
- The plant growth fish feed on is gone with fluctuation of the water .
- Our Manitoba Premier promotes that the Sturgeon Fishery will be rebuilt in Northern MB as a result of the proposed Keeyask and Conawapa projects, what about our Sturgeon, Northern Pike, Walleye and Lake Whitefish are we not people that have equal needs? Why are we not considered since Muskawim, Keeyask and Conawapa will rely on our lake for water that will generate a significant amount of power that is to be sold yet we are overlooked.

### B. Birds: The nesting areas flooded.

The shoreline habitats of some species are gone and so are those birds of what use to be a sustainable healthy food source

### C. Moose/Caribou: The eroded shorelines and the debris on the shorelines make it difficult for the animals travel and feed.

Caribou no longer migrate to the community because of the currents that keep the water open all year. Our younger generation have not even seen the caribou herds.

# CRD - AFP

What do we know?

- There is very little mention, description, justification and “tie” to the proposed projects (Keeyask) of the benefit, impacts and need of the Churchill River Diversion NFAT submission
- There is no mention at all of the Augmented Flow Program in relation to the proposed projects, need, demand, revenues and impacts
- The big Question becomes Why?
  - Up to 25 – 40 % of SIL water will power the dams, why is not mentioned, described, justified and explained as an operation of the sustainability of the Keeyask project, if it is not needed why is operated? Keeyask is not going to be operated in a vacuum.
  - There is no Permanent License of the CRD after 41 years of operation
  - There is no environmental review of the AFP after 38 years of operation
  - The AFP absorbed the operating parameters of the Interim CRD License, there is No license interim or permanent for AFP
  - No cumulative Effects Study of the system wide impacts of the most destructive projects in Manitoba
  - No Adverse Impacts Agreement in relation to the proposed project to impacted people and groups
  - MB Hydro refusal to discuss real impacts
  - 4889 page plus appendices submitted to the Public Utilities Board for NFAT and only brief mention of CRD and no mention of AFP, why, maybe is of no impact to operation, then why operate, maybe there is huge impact to operation then why not mention it?
  - The latest Wuskwatim Project has failed projections and Keeyask is not needed currently and we Ground Zero of the operation that will provide significantly to these projects will suffer yet again, with the indignity of not being addressed, recognized as impacted people, suffer the further indignity of paying double or triple the rates to pay for these gambles, why have we not learned the lessons of Wuskwatim.
- Keeyask/Conawapa IS directly linked to CRD – AFP, SIL and its people!

- Alternatives to the Project:
  - Invest in Aboriginal Youth so they once again contribute positively to the Provincial economy
  - Invest in the SLL Environment so once again it can become sustainable as a contribution to the North and economy
  - Mandate MB Hydro to operate responsibly for the benefit of all Manitobans as the claim to do currently, are we not equal to other Manitobans and Canadians
  - Cheeskwa, Wait, Keeyask does not need to be built, assess what you know, address the issues do not sacrifice our community, people and our youth for yet another project.
  - Katha Pi-Ta-Mach, Not Right Now
- In all the destroyed , socio – economic, environmental impact and cost is too great to be assessed you have not been informed of everything.