

Darrell Settee's Presentation to the PUB for the NFAT Review

Hello, My name is Darrell Settee, from Pimicikamak, and I disapprove of the Hydro Project in its entire form, and as a Pimicikamak citizen, I do not recommend, or believe it's practical for any new project to proceed, we have paid a heavy price already in destruction of environment, and also in human casualty. The scars in the Pimicikamak Territory will not be washed by water, all the wonderful creation was made by God, However, man has forgotten, the things that do appear were made by things that do not appear, but Man hath brought about the alteration of their works and has allowed the destruction and manipulation to the stewards of such beauty. But what motivates the destroyers is quite obvious.

alterations have been present for decades with hydro-electric dams and transmission lines that stretch from the North to the South have dramatically changed the landscape, traditional way of life, travel, navigation, pre-historic camp sites, all living things whether they walk or crawl, whether they are microscopic, or in shells or present in water, all are subject to the mass destruction and lack of reproduction as nesting migratory birds eggs are flooded out along with offspring and are washed away and compromise is of no concern but considered a nuisance. We have heard so much of the protection of all species, it has been said numerous times and reverberated in many places but it is the demise of species and habitat that prevails.

Time and time again correspondence from the crown parties propose a new relationship and build more obstructions and fail to fulfill obligations without consulting the Pimicikamak people, and then resort to under mining schemes to attempt sell out and termination policies, it is clear as we have witness four other NFA communities were systematically relieved of their rights to benefits.as one Late Pimicikamak elder put it, and I quote:" fulfill obligations, follow through with promises, or leave us".

If the crown parties and their utility companies would play a country western song backwards, the dog would come back, the chevy would come back, the Northern Flood Agreement would be implemented in its spirit and intent, the environment will be protected from harm, fish and wildlife would not be decimated and we would have green green water, we would not drink dirty, recycled water that went through sewage treatment. I heard Jay Leno say one night," the coffee you had this morning is the same beer you had last night.

In addition to sparse benefits, the losses to traditional burial sites have been great, the ancestors of the Pimicikamak People do not rest in peace, once were smitten by the plague, remains are washed away, buried in rubble of eroded shorelines, once many Islands thrived in many lakes and rivers, were also washed out by floods and are gone forevermore, and many more are at risk in ever increasing development as more and more pressure is put upon the environment and will not absorb radical change to flows on the river systems designed and redirected to produce electricity while spawning areas on tributaries are over-run.

The environmental nightmare has existed for decades and pushing fish and wildlife habitat to the brink while the south and Northern States have been misinformed and led to believe that no harm to human life and environment occur, debris infested lakes and shorelines pose a serious threat, management programs go through the motions but do not address the clean up required and the mass unemployment is has not been dealt with, line-ups at welfare departments are a reality.

While economic benefits are directed south and passed on to the Northern States and benefit huge profits on the misery of the Pimicikamak People, while others are lured and forced into partnerships which are contrary to traditional beliefs and subsidize the south in the form of high bills for electricity. Luxury and misery are not the same, quite the difference.

When it comes time to deciding who gets the coin from the fish's mouth, well there are regulations placed as barriers to prevent such people from the benefits, also prevent them from exercising their aboriginal and treaty rights, income and income in kind have been reduced greatly since the time thriving fish and wildlife provided and sustained the Pimicikamak People which were very Important. Sturgeon populations are very low, stocking programs are not a success, visits to the holding tanks at Jenpeg have revealed the mortality rate was an average of thirty a day and needs to be addressed.

Therefore I stress that there should be no further adverse effects placed on the now distorted environment and traditional way of life that was known to Pimicikamak People when elders said before the development, God filled their traditional Territory with food and health much like a plate that was set before them but somehow our plate was broken and was taken from us, turbines are a wheel of fortune on one side, and a meat grinder on the other, and the Pimicikamak People are on the receiving end along with fish, wildlife, lack of benefits, thank you,