



**“Energy Security and Emergency Response for the
Mathias Colomb Cree Nation:
2,200 Citizens Evacuated for 128 Days Due to Loss of Power
and the PowerSafe Turn-Key Backup Generator Solution”**

**Manitoba Hydro Fiscal 2026 to 2028 General Rate Application
Manitoba Public Utilities Board**

Mathias Colomb Cree Nation Panel

December 8, 2025 – Treaty No. 1 Territory – Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

**2,200 Mathias Colomb Citizens
Evacuated for 128 Days Due to Loss of Power**

- On May 28, 2025, Wildfire No. WE025 caused an order for the mandatory evacuation of the 2,200 citizens of Pukatawagan, and a province-wide State of Emergency was declared on May 28, 2025
- The evacuation continued for 128 days due to a complete Loss of Power to Pukatawagan, even after Wildfire No. WE025 was declared “controlled”.
- The complete Loss of Power resulted from the burning of the “Line 7” radial transmission line connecting Pukatawagan to the Laurie River Generating Station.
- Manitoba Hydro did not install backup generators in 2025 to restore service and return community members to their homes as was done in 2022 when a wildfire also caused our evacuation.

The PowerSafe Energy Services Turn-Key Backup Generator Solution for Pukatawagan

- The Mathias Colomb Cree Nation contacted PowerSafe Energy Services of Surrey, British Columbia to design and package a complete, turn-key backup generator solution that would restore power and bring the evacuees home to Pukatawagan.
- On August 19, 2025, Mathias Colomb provided PowerSafe's complete and fully-costed proposal to the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada with a request to cost-share.
- The Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro was provided copy of the complete and fully-costed PowerSafe proposal on August 20, 2025 during a joint meeting with ISC Minister Gull-Masty, Mathias Colomb and the Grand Chief of MKO, also with a request to share the cost.

The PowerSafe Energy Services Turn-Key Backup Generator Solution for Pukatawagan

- On August 22, 2025 a Teams meeting was held between PowerSafe, Manitoba Hydro, Manitoba Hydro's consultant the KGS Group, Mathias Colomb and MKO to review the complete and fully-costed August 19, 2025 PowerSafe proposal for a turn-key backup generator solution.
- On August 25, 2025, Manitoba Hydro wrote to Mathias Colomb and stated:
 - ***"Manitoba Hydro is committed to assist your community from a technical standpoint to engineer a solution that will safely interconnect Mathias Colomb's generator's to Manitoba Hydro's distribution system."***

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- On August 25, 2025, Manitoba Hydro also stated:
- ***“Manitoba Hydro is also prepared to assist Mathias Colomb with their funding discussions with Indigenous Services Canada from a technical standpoint. Manitoba Hydro would attend meetings and answer any technical questions that Indigenous Services Canada may have.”***
- During the face-to-face meeting on August 20, 2025 and following, Mathias Colomb repeatedly requested that Indigenous Services Canada and the Manitoba Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro each commit to share the cost of the immediate installation of the vetted turn-key backup generator solution to bring the evacuees back home.

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- On August 28, 2025, the KGS Group issued a written report, *“Manitoba Hydro/ MCCN Conceptual Design for Back-up Generators in Mathias Colomb Cree Nation (Pukatawagan)”*, concluding:
- ***“The temporary back-up generator solution outlined in the Powersafe proposal to promptly restore power to the community is feasible and the associated costs seem reasonable. (...) We believe this would be the most effective path to get the community energized in an emergency fashion.”***

The PowerSafe Energy Services Turn-Key Backup Generator Solution for Pukatawagan

- Mathias Colomb has received no response from either Indigenous Services Canada or the Manitoba Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro about our request that Canada and Manitoba cost-share the KGS-vetted design and cost of the PowerSafe turn-key backup generator solution.
- The Minister of Indigenous Services advised the Senate of Canada on October 28, 2025:
 - ***“ISC is not responsible for energy supply to the community. That is really at the provincial level and Crown corporation level.”***
- The KGS-vetted PowerSafe turn-key backup generator solution has not yet been installed.

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- All of the Residential and General Services accounts at the Mathias Colomb Cree Nation are customers of Manitoba Hydro.
- Mathias Colomb says that the ***“continuance of a supply of power adequate for the needs of the province”*** must include taking steps to address the energy security and emergency response requirements of Manitoba Hydro’s customers.
- **The rates for service and the revenue requirement must take into account and reflect the energy security and emergency response requirements of Manitoba Hydro customers which are peculiarly vulnerable to and at risk of frequent and repeated extended Loss of Service, including due to the effects and adverse effects of climate change.**