

BUILDING TRUST BETWEEN MANITOBA HYDRO AND GRAND RAPIDS

A Hydro- impacted community

Manitoba Hydro's projects adversely affect Indigenous lands and waters.

Many Hydro- impacted communities are not provided with subsidized hydro- electric bills, and face extremely high costs.

People who reside on reserve are also not eligible for any of the energy efficient upgrade programs from Hydro.

Compensation for past/ current damages often funnel back to the Crown because of high energy costs in remote communities.

Meanwhile, Manitoba Hydro personnel working in northern communities benefit from subsidized housing costs and northern allowance.

In January 2019, Manitoba Hydro began implementing new surveillance, lighting and fencing to prepare for the automation of the Generating Station in Grand Rapids without informing or consulting with the community.

Why is automation a bad thing?

- Restricts access to sacred burial grounds
- No personnel onsite to monitor Generating Station during evenings/ overnight
- If the dam breaches while no personnel are on- site, there could be severe flooding, injuries, or deaths
- Manitoba Hydro won't provide or fund an evacuation plan
- The emergency siren alert was deemed ineffective

What actions have been taken?

- Residents organized a petition and protest
- Residents scheduled a meeting with Manitoba Hydro
- No board members from Hydro present at the meeting
- Hydro tried to persuade residents to accept automation

REPARATION

Manitoba Hydro should:

- Suspend action that will restrict access for residents to sacred burial grounds.
- Reverse decision to leave the Generating Station unmonitored during evenings/ overnight.
- Formally apologize to community.

The Province of Manitoba should:

- Commission an independent, credible body to review Manitoba Hydro's impacts within Indigenous communities and provide policy alternatives.
- Reviews should be published in a final report for increased transparency.
- Share water rental payments from Hydro with Indigenous, impacted communities.
- Support revitalisation of language, culture and land-based practises by supporting cultural, ceremonial and education camps.

COMMUNICATION

Manitoba Hydro should:

- Commit representatives to participating in quarterly, rather than yearly meetings with community representatives.
- Meetings should involve community- based researchers and monitors providing updates on current projects.
- Re- commit to informing residents of any impending decision- making which may have further impact on the community.
- Re- commit to consulting with community representatives on important issues.

PARTNERSHIP

Manitoba Hydro should:

- Continue to provide funding for community- based environmental research and monitoring work.
- Partner with Indigenous- led conservation programs to provide long- term, stable funding, including for youth employment.
- Support revitalisation of language, culture and land-based practises by supporting cultural, ceremonial and education camps.
- Require that all northern employees participate in training led by hired local residents to learn local history.
- Include and recognize Indigenous research and knowledge in Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy reports.



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*Research and recommendations
are based on concerns and ideas of
local residents, as found through
in- person outreach and interviews
with community members*