

## **Crown Consultation**

### **Churchill River Diversion Project Final Licence**

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#### **CONSULTATION PLANNING**

*This document is intended to assist with the development of a Consultation Plan with individual First Nations and aboriginal communities that will guide us in a mutually acceptable consultation process.*

#### **1. Crown Consultation**

The Government of Manitoba has a responsibility to consult in a meaningful way with First Nations, Métis communities and other aboriginal communities about government decisions that might affect the exercise of Treaty or aboriginal rights.

In May 2009, Manitoba Hydro requested its Final Licence for the Churchill River Diversion (CRD) Project from the Government of Manitoba. Before the Government of Manitoba makes a decision about a final licence, the Manitoba Crown is undertaking consultation with First Nations, Métis communities and other aboriginal communities whose exercise of Treaty or aboriginal rights might be affected by this licensing decision.

#### **2. Guiding Principles**

The Government of Manitoba, through Manitoba Water Stewardship, will conduct consultations in good faith.

Manitoba will share all relevant information during the consultation and ensure that information is in a manageable and understandable format.

Manitoba has an obligation to make it a reasonable and workable consultation.

Manitoba wants to hear and understand concerns.

Manitoba will document all concerns and consider them.

Manitoba will attempt in good faith to substantially address the concerns of First Nations and aboriginal communities about the potential adverse effects of the licensing decision on the exercise of Treaty or aboriginal rights.

Manitoba will communicate with individual First Nations and aboriginal communities that participated in the consultation about government decisions on the CRD Final Licence and how concerns were addressed.

### **3. Crown Consultation Team**

The Government of Manitoba will set up a Crown Consultation Team of representatives from Manitoba Water Stewardship and Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs. A Consultation Facilitator will facilitate the process.

### **4. Consultation Plan**

Community-specific Consultation Plans will be developed jointly with the Crown Consultation Team and designated community representatives. The Consultation Plans will identify how the consultation will take place in each community (e.g. focus groups, community meetings, workshops etc.), community coordination arrangements, schedule, communications and record keeping. Consultations will be undertaken with each interested community in accordance with the mutually agreed to Consultation Plans.

### **5. Timing of Consultation**

The consultations will be undertaken during 2010 with an expectation that government decisions on the CRD Final Licence can be made in 2011.

### **6. Community Support Costs**

Community support costs are being made available to generally support the consultation in the community. These support costs are outlined in the *Community Support Costs Guideline* document.

### **7. Involvement of Manitoba Hydro**

Involvement of Manitoba Hydro in the consultation with each community will only occur if requested by a First Nation or aboriginal community.

### **8. Contacts**

Contacts from the First Nations and aboriginal communities will be identified to liaise with the Crown Consultation Team to plan the consultations.