



Anishinaabe Agowidiwinan (Treaty 2)

August 21, 1871

*Dauphin River First Nation + Ebb & Flow First Nation + Pinaymootang First Nation
Keeseekoowenin First Nation + Lake Manitoba First Nation + Lake St. Martin First Nation
Little Saskatchewan First Nation + O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi First Nation + Skownan First Nation*

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MEDIA RELEASE

April 26, 2012

Ebb & Flow Reserve, 26 April 2012 – Chiefs of Treaty #2 have written Premier Greg Selinger to caution against the use of their territory for Manitoba Hydro's proposed Bipole III project without fulfilling the provincial government's legal obligations.

During a council held at Ebb & Flow Reserve today attended by seven of the nine First Treaty 2 First Nations, it was decided they would take a united collective treaty-based approach to questions relating to the proposed Bipole III project. Treaty #2, entered into in 1871, covers territory from the U.S. border as far north as the tip of Waterhen Lake, from the eastern shore of Lake Winnipeg as far west as Moose Mountain in Saskatchewan.

In the letter to Premier Selinger, the Chiefs reminded the provincial government of its constitutionally-mandated duty to consult the First Nations on any decision or activity which might affect their rights and interests. The purpose of meaningful consultation is to develop a means to accommodate their rights in the project so that the sovereignty of the First Nations by virtue of their prior occupation is reconciled with the assumed sovereignty of the Crown. These consultations are separate from any public consultations.

The letter, signed by co-chairs Chief Norman Bone of Keeseekoowenin Ojibway Nation and Chief Barry Swan of Lake Manitoba First Nation, also reminded Premier Selinger that Treaty #2 is explicitly for the purpose of "obtaining the consent" of the indigenous peoples for the sharing of their lands for purposes "of immigration and settlement". "Bipole III goes far beyond the permission given through Treaty," the letter said, since the power transmitted is for purpose of export.