



Pimicikamak Okimawin
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NOTICE OF INDIGENOUS POWER

To the Government of Manitoba and the parties running in the May 22, 2007 Manitoba election; the Government of Canada; and Manitoba Hydro (the Crown Parties):

Pimicikamak and its supporters are placing the Crown Parties on notice that we are moving to the next stage in the fight for justice, for the lands, waters, and indigenous rights and way of life. Enough is enough. Govern yourselves accordingly.

Pimicikamak is a people with the right to live with and by the lands and waters which have been its home since time beyond memory. This right, and our very survival, are being eroded away by Manitoba Hydro's major industrial hydro project, and by ongoing failures and refusals of Hydro, the Province and Canada to meet their treaty obligations under the Northern Flood Agreement, under Canada's constitution, and under international law which Canada has ratified.

The Hydro Project is fueled by gross injustice and inequity – against the indigenous peoples of the north. Our blood is in the power lines. The Hydro Project has turned the waters – the lifeline of Mother Earth and our home – into a death trap. It has rendered many of us homeless in our homeland.

The Hydro Project is fueled by a great lie – that industrial-scale hydro is clean, green and renewable. There is nothing clean and renewable about eroding shorelines and waters choked with massive amounts of dead trees. There is nothing clean and renewable about dead fish and animals, floating belly up in the re-engineered waterways.

The Hydro Project is fueled by a great theft – indigenous peoples in the north pay the price for cheap power that feeds the south. And we pay and pay and pay, as long as the NFA treaty is breached and ignored. The NFA treaty was supposed to remediate and mitigate the enormous ongoing and accumulating harm, and compensate for what has been taken and cannot be brought back. But Hydro, the Province and Canada continue to rob us by fighting implementation of the NFA at every turn – only when forced do they implement the NFA at all, and often in as a narrow and piecemeal a way as they can devise.

Yet Manitoba Hydro, the Province and Canada continue to push for more hydro power development. In the next term of government of the Province, Wuskwatim dam might be completed, Conawapa and Gull/Keeyask dams might get approved, and a massive transmission line connecting the northern generating stations and dams to southern Ontario might be initiated. This could be enough to turn the entire Nelson River system into an industrial sewer, and destroy what remains of our homeland, and our hope.

If the boreal ecosystem – the greatest carbon repository on the face of the planet – starts to disintegrate, so too will the security of people everywhere in this province and beyond.

Jenpeg is the tap that controls the entire system. It is in our homeland. We put the Crown Parties on notice that we can, and if need be, will, mobilize support to regain what is rightfully ours – our rights, our way of life, our trust in the waters and lands, and our human dignity.

Pimicikamak begins the next stage of our fight to regain what is ours, with a show of power at Jenpeg Generating Station:

- **May 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**
- **Peaceful protest, march, speeches, symbolic re-enactments**

We mobilize support and action to effect remedies which are long overdue.

CALL TO ACTION

Pimicikamak is seeking action on the many violations of its rights, and the lands and waters. Pimicikamak asks all parties running in the Manitoba election, to commit to remedial action. Pimicikamak expects whichever party forms the next government of Manitoba, and Canada and Manitoba Hydro, to publicly commit to the following:

- a. The NFA treaty will be implemented in its spirit and intent.
- b. They will respect and deal with the government of the Pimicikamak people, Pimicikamak Okimawin, regarding Pimicikamak rights and interests and responsibilities.
- c. They will deal with the Cross Lake Band of Indians administration only regarding the legitimate business of the Band.
- d. They will negotiate in good faith with Pimicikamak for equitable allocation of Manitoba Hydro revenues, to reflect the benefits they take from our traditional territory and compensate for impacts of Hydro operations.
- e. Hydro will reimburse Pimicikamak's reasonable costs for NFA implementation as promised, and cooperate in the re-opening of Pimicikamak's NFA office.
- f. The Crown Parties will fund and participate in preparation of community and governmental plans for revival and survival of the Pimicikamak people as contemplated by the NFA treaty.
- g. They will work cooperatively with Pimicikamak to create and implement annual "action plans" for NFA treaty implementation.
- h. Hydro will provide training and assistance to Pimicikamak and Cross Lake First Nation to maximize energy efficiency and minimize waste from which it profits at our expense.

The Pimicikamak people expects action on these responsibilities. Enough is enough.

"I now leave my beloved northlands in good hands" – Chief Albert R. Sinclair (1939)