



## **2011 Manitoba Election Survey #3**

### **Hydro & Energy**



**If elected, will your party:**

**First a general statement:** Manitoba needs to lead in hydro electric technology Manitoba Liberals see the need to make wise choices and would do a better job in managing Manitoba Hydro.

In the construction of a new hydro-electric power transmission line Liberals note that the NDP did not seriously look at the possibility of putting the line under Lake Winnipeg in spite of the fact that hydro-electric power lines underwater are being used more and more. One example is a long line from Sweden to the Netherlands under the North Sea. This line is longer and deeper than what is needed for Lake Winnipeg, making the Lake Winnipeg line look easy by comparison. Recently plans for a line from Quebec to New York may result in a line running under Lake Champlain and under the Hudson River.

This option is more secure than an above ground line because the section of the line that is underwater is not susceptible to damage from ice storms and tornados which can have disastrous effects on above ground hydroelectric power transmission lines. It is much better, from an environmental point of view than either the West side route favoured by the NDP or the East side route favoured by the Conservatives. It is less intrusive on farmers and agricultural land than the West side route, and it is much shorter than the West side route. There are also not the large power losses which will result from the much longer west side route.

To better manage Manitoba Hydro and Energy Investment in Manitoba, Manitoba Liberals will promote the viability of an underwater transmission line and promote the research and exploration of the technology, so long as it remains feasible and affordable to do so; develop a long term plan for Manitoba Hydro into the next decade with more accountability and input from Manitobans; continue to build our energy infrastructure, particularly using clean and renewable energy and reducing the use of coal, oil and natural gas, and move to more investments in wind energy, solar energy, and becoming geo-thermal leaders.

- 1) **By listening to Manitobans, fulfill the NDP commitment to arrive at a long-term energy plan for Manitoba?** This NDP commitment has never been fulfilled. It has been forgotten by the NDP for so long that it is apparent the NDP have never had any real intent to fulfill it. Manitoba Liberals will implement a long-term energy plan for Manitoba within the first two years of a Liberal government.
- 2) **Make sure Manitoba Hydro – now exempt from Planning Act – is also governed by Planning Act requirements?** Manitoba Liberals will revise the Planning Act so that Manitoba Hydro actions are considered as part of the planning act.

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- 3) **Make sure generation stations/dams in Manitoba's Hydro system have environmental licenses?** **Yes**
- 4) **Require Manitoba Hydro to disclose funds spent on future projects?** **Manitoba Liberals will require improved disclosure by Manitoba Hydro.**
- 5) **Ensure open and transparent access to Manitoba Hydro information?** **Manitoba Liberals will review Crown Corporations and introduce increased openness and transparency.**
- 6) **Require Manitoba Hydro to provide technical reports when filing proposals, and during proceedings for a new project, under the Environment or Water Acts?** **Manitoba Hydro is now required to provide an Environmental Impact Statement. Manitoba Liberals agree there is room for improved technical information from Manitoba Hydro.**
- 7) **Require Manitoba Hydro to regularly post water levels for any lake or river for which it holds a power reserve?** **Yes**
- 8) **Require Manitoba Hydro to make public its long term development intentions, including all transmission corridors/systems?** **Yes**
- 9) **Ensure advance notification about water level changes are timely, public and accessible?** **Yes**
- 10) **Expand Manitoba's wind generated electrical capacity beyond those projects presently built or licensed?** **Yes**
- 11) **Move forward with power purchase agreements for wind projects licensed, but not yet developed?** **Manitoba Liberals will introduce a feed in tariff for wind power to allow competitive projects to proceed.**
- 12) **Produce a public wind resource atlas for Manitoba?** **Yes to the extent that information is publicly available.**
- 13) **Assess transmission needs in relation to potential wind projects?** **This is the responsibility of Manitoba Hydro.**
- 14) **Establish public environmental standards for new renewable energy proposals in Manitoba (wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, etc.)?** **Yes**
- 15) **Investigate potential developers, users, and benefits for solar energy in Manitoba?** **Manitoba Liberals will establish a feed in tariff to encourage solar energy development in Manitoba.**
- 16) **Determine how a feed in tariff would work in Manitoba?** **Manitoba Liberals will implement a feed in tariff in Manitoba.**

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- 17) Create a separate crown agency/corporation to guide the new and alternative renewable energy sector in Manitoba? **No.** The establishment of a feed in tariff will be sufficient to move Manitoba forward on renewable energy.
- 18) Make public in Manitoba documents, standards, and other reports Manitoba Hydro provides to other utilities, other governments, including in the US? **Where Manitoba Hydro documents are made public in other jurisdictions, they will be also made public in Manitoba.**
- 19) Put in place further measures to enhance energy efficiency in Manitoba? **Yes**
- 20) Increase the ceiling for Power Smart upgrades per residence to \$10,000? **Manitoba Liberals will consider this option.**
- 21) Set interest rates on Power Smart loans 1% above prime? **Manitoba Liberals will consider this option.**
- 22) Build Conawapa generation station? **Yes subject to having long term sales at prices which are profitable to Manitoba Hydro which require this generation.**
- 23) Build the Keeyask generation station? **Yes subject to having long term sales at prices which are profitable to Manitoba Hydro which require this generation.**
- 24) Keep Manitoba Hydro publicly owned for the benefit of all Manitobans? **Yes**
- 25) Commission an independent agency to review environmental impacts, social and economic costs, and benefits from our hydro system, since the first dam? **No.** Federal reviews of environmental projects include cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts will thus be required to be a component of the environmental review of future dams.

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