

PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

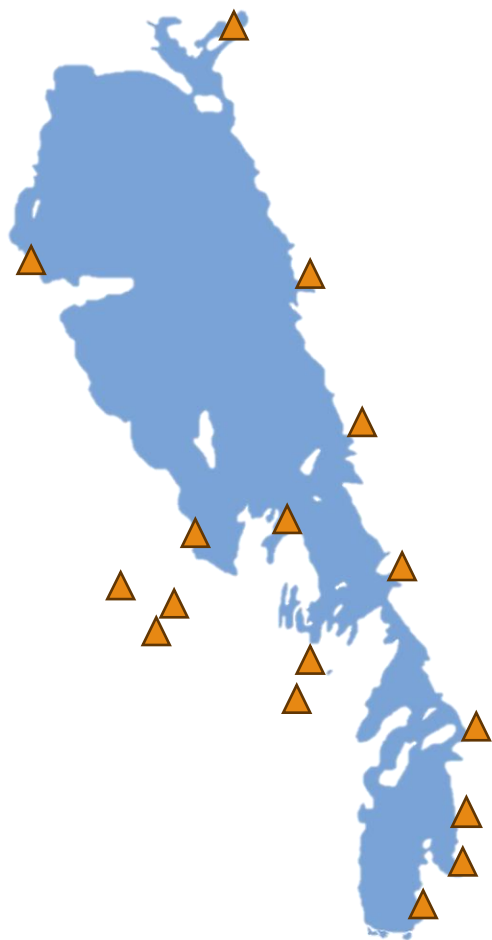
REVIEW OF MANITOBA HYDRO 2025 INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN



August 21, 2026
Daniel Gladu Kanu

QUALIFICATIONS

- Red River Metis and Anishinaabe Animakee Wa Zhing 37
- 20 years experience supporting First Nation in developing monitoring, restoration, food, and energy development.
- Executive Director of the Lake Winnipeg Indigenous Collective.
- Biology (BSc.) University of Winnipeg.



Indigenous-led grassroots not-for-profit

Purpose: is to advance Indigenous knowledge, values and practices in the protection and restoration of Lake Winnipeg for all future generations.

Activities: Gatherings, public education, advocacy, water monitoring and habitat restoration

SCOPE OF TESTIMONY

PUB Order No.39/26

- Manitoba Hydro's public engagement conducted in support of the development of its 2025 IRP, including approaches and outcomes.
- Implications of any shortcomings identified in Manitoba Hydro's public engagement, including related to IRP risks and resource options.
- Opportunities for Indigenous-led energy resource options, including in relation to economic reconciliation.
- Evidence: WNST-14,
- IR responses: PUB/WA NI SKA TAN-1, PUB/WA NI SKA TAN-2, CC/WNST 1-1

NOT IN SCOPE

- Commercial and benefit agreement between Manitoba Hydro and its Indigenous partners.
- Environmental reviews of proposed projects.
- Consultation pursuant to section 35 of the Constitution Act.
- Historical environmental costs.
- Manitoba Hydro's operations or their effects unrelated to the IRP.

MANDATE TO RESET THE RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

“clear mandate to **reset the relationship between Manitoba Hydro and Indigenous communities** by rescinding the former government’s directive to prevent Indigenous nations from engaging directly with Manitoba Hydro. It is the clear expectation of our government that **not only will Manitoba Hydro consult with Indigenous communities but partner with them** to advance economic reconciliation so that all Manitobans can benefit from our Crown corporation.”

Letter from Adrien Salas, Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro

UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

- **Path to reconciliation Act** (March 15, 2016): affirms “that the Government of Manitoba is committed to reconciliation and will be guided by the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the principles set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”
- **Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada** Call to Action (43) for federal and provincial governments “to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation.”

INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- **Consultation** - specifically the duty to consult under Section 35 of the Constitution Act intends to mitigate Aboriginal rights is a distinct activity (out of scope).
- **Direct Collaboration** – community specific planning and agreements
- **Public Engagement** – broad input across the wider community
- **Interested Parties Engagement** – targeted input.

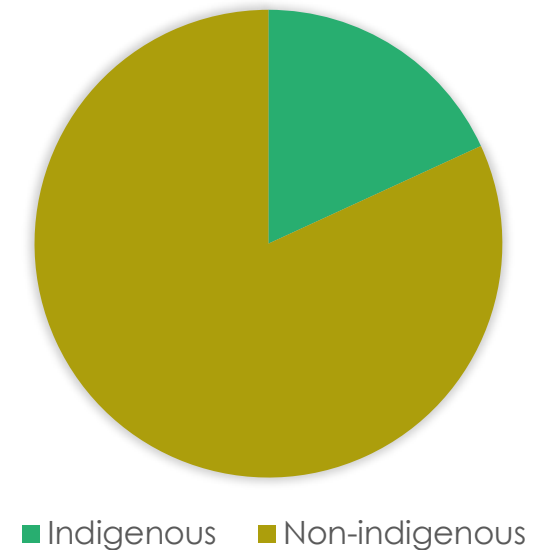
Opportunity for Manitoba Hydro to strengthen long-term relationships with Indigenous nations, leaders and people.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN THE IRP

- Manitoba Hydro describes meaningful engagement as “foundational” to the planning process.
Attachment 1.2 - 2025 IRP Engagement Report
- Dr. Fitzpatrick noted that the province set expectations that the IRP would be approved “with stakeholder input”. (CC-21)
- Indigenous people are a critical component of public engagement.

IMPORTANCE OF INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION

- 237,190 Indigenous people in Manitoba, 18% of the population
 - 134,890 First Nations
 - 96,730 Métis
- Occupy a large geographic area
- Experience significant gaps in energy equity
- Building trust
- Climate-related risks (MKO-17)
- Legal risks



ASSUMPTIONS ON OPERATING PARAMETERS

- Recommendations to change operating parameters by First Nations along the Churchill and Nelson river. “Manitoba Hydro’s 2025 IRP modelling assumes that existing hydro facilities continue to operate in accordance with current Water Power Act licences and associated operating constraints.” *Wa Ni Ska Tan/MH I-25a-d*
- October 2025 report “The Impact of the Churchill River Diversion on Lake Sturgeon in the Lower Churchill River” prepared for Tataskweyak Cree Nation recommends amended conditions for the Churchill River Diversion licence. “The recommended development plan assumes that the current licences remain in place.” *PUB/MH I-5a-c*

INDIGENOUS UNDER REPRESENTATION

IRP Public Engagement

- Round 1 Survey - Indigenous respondents were ~50% (CC-21, Table 2, p.14)
- Minimal participation in Interested parties' workshops.
- No interviews with Indigenous Interested parties. Compared with 15 major industry representatives and 24 representatives from municipalities .
- Community energy planning workshops are not part of the IRP.
- Recognize that Manitoba Hydro is taking more steps towards Indigenous engagement with advisory, leadership surveys and energy planning workshops.

Ongoing Engagement Challenges for Indigenous communities

- Trust
- Capacity to participate
- Opportunities for dialogue
- Follow through

MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

- Early, preferably prior to any planning processes.
- Frequent connections throughout the process, before and after.
- Commitment of dedicated time and resources.
- Transparent and accountable processes.
- Using multiple scales and touchpoints.

COMMUNITY-SPECIFIC PLANNING

- Manitoba Hydro asserts that community energy priorities are advanced through direct engagement, partnership agreements, and community-focused planning initiatives.
- Concerns:
 - Limited opportunity for public review and accountability,
 - IRP sets a pathway that undermines community-specific needs.

RURAL AND REMOTE CONSIDERATIONS

- Large complex and diverse systems require multiple planning stages. The IRP exists has an overarching planning that informs and guides more detailed plans and processes.
- Manitoba must pay particular attention to rural and remote regions, especially Indigenous communities and First Nation reserves.
- Example from BCUC showing that a conventional IRP is not an “adequate planning vehicle for remote, isolated diesel reliant systems” MKO-11, p.9

CHALLENGES FOR RURAL AND REMOTE FIRST NATIONS

- Reliability
- Emergencies and crises
- Economic investment
- Infrastructure
- Business and economic development
- Housing
- Affordability

ECONOMIC RECONCILIATION AS A METRIC

Economic Reconciliation concerned with “potential to promote economic reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, Nations, businesses, and governments.” This metric is further defined by the promotion of economic benefits that include employment, training, investment options, opportunities to participate and procurement.

The IRP definition is too limited and misses key aspects of the concept:

- Economic self-determination
- Closing the socio-economic gap
- Indigenous-led economic development
- Equitable access to education and opportunities
- Ability to make long term revenue
- Shared land and resource management approaches

— **ADDITIONAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC METRICS**

- Health and wellbeing
- Housing and infrastructure
- Cultural impacts
- Traditional livelihoods
- Education
- Employment

INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING DEFICIT

- Reliable energy is critical to ensure effective community infrastructure and housing
- First Nation people living on reserve in Manitoba are more likely to live in crowded housing than non-Indigenous people (%20.8 and 3.1%, respectively).
- Manitoba has a larger gap (17.7%) than any other province in Canada.

CALL FOR POWER

- Call for Power 2026 is a major undertaking requiring considerable effort and planning. Made possible through commitment made in policy and planning. The IRP is another opportunity to reach this goal.
- Manitoba Affordable Energy Plan – stated that wind power was the priority but included possibilities for new generating capacity with Northern communities.
- Opportunities for northern communities are still needed.
- Established in the policy directive.

INDIGENOUS-LED ENERGY OPTIONS

- Indigenous-led energy options have multiple scales depending on needs and goals of the community and partnerships.
 - Addressing reliability and redundancy in regional energy systems
 - Supporting clean-energy transition
 - Improving regional environmental and health needs.
 - Reduce amount of energy needed and overall energy costs
 - Increasing economic opportunities
- Expectations for partnership from the Manitoba government and Indigenous nations. Energy generating projects includes more than just wind power.

MIIGWECH

