



Working with communities to provide sustainable benefits

In 2012, construction of the 200 MW Wuskwatim Generation Project was completed through a partnership between Manitoba Hydro and Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation. And, in July 2014, the 695 MW Keeyask Generation Project began construction through a partnership with four Manitoba First Nations – Tataskweyak Cree Nation and War Lake First Nation (acting as the Cree Nation Partners), York Factory First Nation, and Fox Lake Cree Nation. These projects create jobs, training, and income and business opportunities for the partner First Nations.

Responsible development

Manitoba Hydro has worked hard to reduce environmental impacts and to ensure that local communities benefit from these new hydropower developments. This responsible approach to development respects the environment and the special relationship Indigenous people have with the land and waterways. By engaging local communities, we gain Indigenous knowledge that complements Western science and is incorporated into project planning, environmental assessment and project monitoring.

Manitoba Hydro also provides support for local communities to secure expert professional advice to effectively represent their interests about projects, impacts and opportunities.

Understanding and addressing past issues

Today's model for northern hydropower development is in dramatic contrast to those in place at the time of earlier developments, some of which were undertaken over 50 years ago in northern Manitoba. The social, legal, regulatory and political environment at that time was quite different from today. These past projects involved much less engagement and consultation than would be expected today and there was less upfront planning to address environmental effects. As societal understanding of environmental impacts advanced, pressure on governments and business to protect the environment grew. Respect for Indigenous people and their experiences with the development process was also growing, and the 1982 Constitution Act provided protection of Aboriginal and treaty rights.

At the same time, Manitoba Hydro became increasingly involved in environmental initiatives and in efforts to understand and address Indigenous grievances and claims about past projects. Manitoba Hydro established a range of measures to correct damage that resulted from its activities, and to reduce new effects, as well as compensate people and communities who were affected. As of 2015, Manitoba Hydro has committed over \$1 billion for mitigation and compensation of project related impacts.



Great Falls Generating Station construction, circa 1920.



Wuskwatim Generating Station construction – traditional knowledge tour, 2011.

Jobs and benefits to local communities

Manitoba Hydro is continuing to work towards long-term relationships with Indigenous peoples founded on trust and shared interests. This includes the implementation of policies, programs, and activities aimed at increasing Indigenous participation in employment; providing business and partnership opportunities in new developments; maintaining regular contact with communities; and managing community-specific issues, including supporting and promoting the safety of people using affected waterways.

Manitoba Hydro helps provide apprenticeship training and work experience for Indigenous trades people in those industries where these skills are needed in the Industrial Electrical, Industrial Mechanical and Pipefitter/Steamfitter trades.

In 2015, 18 per cent of the corporation's 6500 employees were Indigenous; in northern Manitoba, 46 per cent of employees were Indigenous.

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