

# Keeyask Project Manager Update

A quarterly publication on behalf of Manitoba Hydro as the Keeyask Project Manager

Summer 2015



## Construction Highlights

BBE, the General Civil Contractor, has been focusing on constructing cofferdams in the water to manage the flow of the river. The Powerhouse Cofferdam has been constructed and the excavation work for the Powerhouse is well underway. The inner and outer rock groins for the Spillway Cofferdam are nearing completion.

Significant construction progress was made on the Keeyask Main Camp these past few months. The entertainment centre was completed and the camp is being expanded by an additional 1,500 rooms. The camp expansion involves manufacturing and transporting modular buildings to site, craning into place and finishing activities. The water and waste water treatment plants were finished and all required testing was completed to ensure the water treatment plant produces potable water that is safe for drinking.

Construction of the Keeyask transmission facilities progressed over the year. The construction power station,

which will provide power for the construction of Keeyask, is nearing completion. The clearing for the Generation Outlet Transmission Line 1 was almost completed over the winter.

The contract to construct the south access road was signed with Amisk Construction, the Joint Venture partnership involving Sigfusson Northern and the Cree Nation Partners (Tataskweyak Cree Nation and War Lake First Nation). Construction has started and when complete the South Access Road will provide access from the south side of the Nelson River to Gillam. The south access road will eventually be opened to the public after the last generating unit is commissioned and the road is turned over to Province of Manitoba.

## Did you know . . . ?

The Joint Keeyask Development Agreement provides for a number of committees with membership from the Keeyask Cree Nations and Manitoba Hydro. These committees provide the partners with an opportunity to discuss current activities and accomplishments related to the Keeyask project as it is being constructed. The committees include a Monitoring Advisory Committee (MAC) to talk about the outcomes of environmental mitigation and monitoring, a Construction Advisory Committee (CAC) that reviews the status of construction activity, and an Advisory Group on Employment (AGE) to discuss construction employment at the site. There is also a General Partner Board

of Directors that oversees implementation of the Project on behalf of the Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership and a separate Issues Coordination Committee (ICC) to review and discuss matters of concern that are not addressed at the other Committees. The committee structure is another way for Keeyask information to be provided to all of the partner communities. Community representatives on these Committees and the Board are encouraged to share the information they receive (unless it is confidential), and community members are encouraged to ask questions and share comments and concerns with these representatives. A list of the KCN representatives is outlined below.

	<b>General Partner Board – KHLP Board</b>	<b>Monitoring Advisory Committee (MAC)</b>	<b>Construction Advisory Committee (CAC)</b>	<b>Advisory Group on Employment (AGE)</b>	<b>Issues Coordination Committee (ICC)</b>
TCN	Chief Duke Beardy	Victor Spence	Victor Spence	Victor Spence	Victor Spence
TCN	Coun. Norman Flett	Coun. Norman Flett	Coun. Norman Flett		
TCN (alternate)		Coun. Nathan Neckoway	Coun. Nathan Neckoway		
TCN (alternate)	Victor Spence (Imp. Mgr)	Coun. Alwyn Keeper	Coun. Alwyn Keeper	Elijah Dick	Vacant
WLFN	Chief Betsy Kennedy	Coun. Thomas Nepitabo	Coun. Philip Morris	Chief Betsy Kennedy	Chief Betsy Kennedy
WLFN (alternate)	Vacant	Coun. Philip Morris	Coun. Thomas Nepitabo	Coun. Thomas Nepitabo	
FLCN	Sandra Nabess	Brandy Bone	Coun. Francis Neepin	Victoria Henderson	
FLCN (alternate)	Karen Anderson (Imp. Mgr)	Coun. Shawna Henderson	Conway Arthurson	Jonah Anderson	Karen Anderson
YFFN	Martina Saunders	Vacant	Jimmy Beardy	Evelyn Beardy	
YFFN (alternate)	Wayne Redhead (Imp. Mgr)	Vacant	Marie Ryle-Beardy	Wendy Saunders	Wayne Redhead

## Environmental

Gull Rapids is traditional breeding habitat for thousands of gulls and hundreds of terns. As such, a program has been developed to reduce the risk to these birds during construction, and to ensure a safe environment for project workers. This program encourages gulls and terns to safely relocate outside the active construction area and nest elsewhere. The program utilizes a combination of falconry (which generally means flying raptors — Harris’s hawks and Peregrine falcons and flying drones), audio (such as using noise makers within the construction area), and visual deterrents (kites).



*Harris's Hawk.*

## Camp Life

The Wellness Centre is one of the many camp amenities available to workers when they are not working. It's recognized that healthy people are more effective in the workplace and promote a safe working environment. Facility use has been increasing with an average of 115 residents visiting the centre on a daily basis. For the month of April, nearly 20% of the camp population used the Wellness Centre.

The Wellness Centre staff has developed evenings dedicated to soccer, badminton, basketball and volleyball as well as instruction on all equipment in the facility. Fitness programs led by qualified Instructors are offered several times daily and include a variety of programs. The Centre also includes other options to promote health and wellness in the workplace. Some of these are a gymnasium, walking and jogging space and weight lifting facilities.

There is certainly something for everyone in this excellent facility.



Keeyask gym.

## Transportation

The condition of the road (PR 280), between Thompson and Gillam, attracts a lot of attention this time of year. Spring is when the road is in its weakest state and at risk to increased damage.

Since 2010, Manitoba Hydro has been actively engaged with the Province of Manitoba in an effort to improve the safety and reliability of PR 280. Amisk Construction (a joint venture between Tataskweyak, War Lake and Sigfusson Northern) completed the production of aggregate stockpiles in 2013 in preparation for PR 280 road upgrades and maintenance.

Province of Manitoba, supported by Manitoba Hydro, will be undertaking the following work on the road:

- Reconstruction of a 22 kilometer section west of the Split Lake access;
- Spot grade improvements between the Keeyask site entrance and Gillam;
- Pulverizing the discontinuous asphalt and re-grading sections between Gillam and Limestone;
- Increased maintenance activities along the whole length of PR 280 and 290 including additional grading, dust control suppression, signage, speed, and weight compliance enforcement, along with a dedicated maintenance supervisor.

Manitoba Hydro will continue to work with the Province to make changes that will improve the road for all users.

## Safety — the Keeyask Project's number one priority

A Drug and Alcohol Standard has been implemented to assist with maintaining a safe, healthy, and productive work environment for everyone working at the project site. This standard defines consistent expectations and outlines support and resources available to assist workers with a substance abuse issue or addiction.

### Next Steps

Over the next six months, continued expansion of the main camp will occur. A further 1,500 rooms will be added to accommodate the large number of workers required for the Project.

Construction of the south access road will continue throughout the summer until mid-2016. The road will not be utilized as a public roadway until the completion of the Generating Station.

The General Civil Contractor — BBE — will continue to work on the Spillway Cofferdam and excavation of the Powerhouse and Spillway areas. This excavation work is required before the concrete for the powerhouse and spillway can be poured.

The construction power station will be completed over the summer.

## How to get hired

- Register for Keeyask Project employment opportunities through the Province of Manitoba's Job Referral Service (JRS). Register online at:  
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/jrs/keeyask/index.html>
- To register in person, visit Manitoba Jobs and Skills Development Thompson Centre.  
North Centre Mall, 188-3 Station Rd.,  
Thompson, MB R8A 0N3  
Employment and training inquiries:  
204-677-6544 or toll-free: 1-866-332-5077  
Email: [jobreferralservice@gov.mb.ca](mailto:jobreferralservice@gov.mb.ca)
- Keeyask Cree Nation (KCN) members and all northern Manitoba Aboriginals can be directly hired by KCN businesses that have been directly awarded contracts for work on the Keeyask project. Please visit  
<http://www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/keeyask/tenders.shtml>.
- KCN members who need more information about Keeyask Project employment and training opportunities can also contact their local Job Seeker Manager.

## Job Seeker Managers

Keeyask Cree Nation community Job Seeker Managers, located in the communities listed below, can help KCN members register for employment, including a training opportunity, on the Keeyask Project.

- Tataskweyak Cree Nation – Phone: 204-342-5054;
- War Lake First Nation – Phone: 204-288-4315;
- Fox Lake Cree Nation – Phone: 204-486-2463;
- York Factory First Nation – Phone: 204-341-2236.

## Training opportunities

Interested in becoming a trainee? Training opportunities are currently available for the following positions:

- heavy equipment operators;
- level one apprentices – heavy duty mechanic, carpenter, electrician;
- office clerks;
- catering/janitorial/housekeeping;
- security officers.

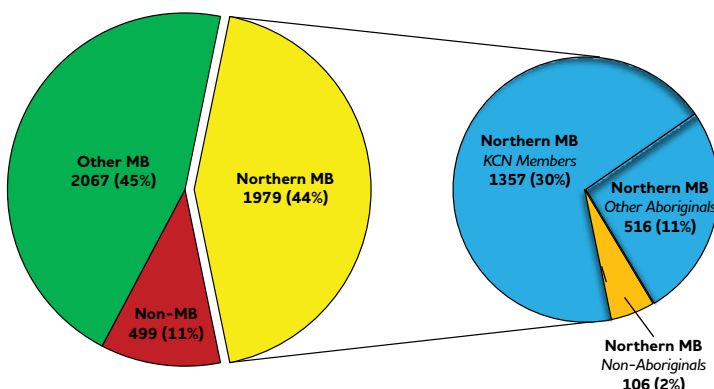
Future training opportunities include:

- emergency medical responders;
- construction labourers;
- teamsters;
- crane operators;
- cement masons;
- iron workers;
- pipefitters.

For information related to these job classifications, please visit:

[http://www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/bna\\_job\\_descriptions.pdf](http://www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/bna_job_descriptions.pdf)

### Keeyask project breakdown of total hires\* May 2015



\*Total Hires = 4545 (based on contractor data received from June 1, 2009 to May 28, 2015)

## Top five jobs hired to date

1. equipment operator;
2. environmental field staff;
3. labourer;
4. truck driver (Teamster);
5. catering/janitorial.

For more information on the Keeyask Project, visit [hydro.mb.ca/projects/keeyask](http://hydro.mb.ca/projects/keeyask) or [keeyask.com/wp](http://keeyask.com/wp)

## Have a business?

To be considered for future tendering opportunities, register your business with Manitoba Hydro at:

[https://www.hydro.mb.ca/selling\\_to\\_mh/vendor\\_information.shtml](https://www.hydro.mb.ca/selling_to_mh/vendor_information.shtml)