

KEEYASK

Project Manager Update



Summer 2018

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

At Keeyask, Simeon can advance career and connect with family and culture

About 15 years ago, a young boy was driving down the road with his father and grandmother, when a fox darted out, causing his father to stop the car. He took that moment to point out the Nelson River, and say to the boy, "one day there will be a big Hydro project here."

The boy didn't think much about the moment until now.

Simeon Spence, member of Fox Lake Cree Nation, has been working on the Keeyask Project for over three years. He is that boy.

"I came on as a Third Cook early in the first stages of camp," said Simeon. "I had over ten years' experience from working as a dishwasher, prep cook and line cook in cities. I had a good understanding of how kitchens work."

Simeon says his kitchen jobs seemed random until the opportunity came to work at Keeyask.

"Those experiences led me back here, and the value of being a Partner is something not too many people have as an opportunity in life. Working here gave me the chance to reunite with my family and get in touch with my history and culture.

"I'm 32 and I have learned the value of this, so I tell the youth, we have such an opportunity here, don't waste it. Keeyask gives you the chance to provide for yourself, your family and learn your culture."




Simeon and Laura Kematch discuss lunch prep in the kitchen.

Simeon also keeps learning on the job front, and has progressed from Third Cook to Manager in Training, and now, Manager.

"Sodexo helped me advance through learning positions – and I have to remember I am still learning," said Simeon. "Sometimes I can be hard on myself, but when you love your work it's not work, it is enjoying your life. I am now able to also do things in my life I never was before."

Simeon aims to use his influence to further help others succeed.

"If you see potential in someone, like Sodexo did in me, you always want to help bring people up. People here are starting to know who I am, and with that, I hope I can make a difference somehow for others."

For more information on training and employment, see the back page. 

Keeyask Generating Station Project Timeline



June 20, 2018
Powerhouse Complex



June 20, 2018
Unit 3 Stay Ring



Respect campaign gives workers ways to report issues confidentially

Harassment and discrimination are not acceptable at Keeyask. Even one incident is too many.

The site-wide Respect campaign of mirrors, posters and merchandise intend to:

- Get workers thinking about our similarities; and
- Encourage everyone to work together to prevent discrimination and harassment by refusing to be silent witnesses.

“Regardless of whether you experience harassment or discrimination, or witness the behaviour, each of us should report it,” said Dave Bowen,


Director, Manitoba Hydro. “Tolerating or ignoring behaviour doesn’t stop it from continuing. Reporting issues is the first step.”

Workers can do that through these confidential ways:

- respect@hydro.mb.ca
- 204-360-5737
- Your supervisor or manager
- An Allied Hydro Council (union) rep
- A trusted, confidential person who will support you in reporting
- Employment Retention Services (ERS)
- Site Liaison staff of Manitoba Hydro
- KCN site representatives.

Site staff can also support the respect message and display the badges, luggage tags, and other items that are provided to them at camp.

It’s not only posters on the wall that send this message that discrimination


and harassment are not acceptable at Keeyask. It’s everyone taking the opportunity to lead by reporting incidents and wearing the merchandise. 

Ceremonies honour sacred waters of Nelson River

River diversion is one of the critical milestones for the project this construction season. The spillway is being prepared for the first waters to be channeled through it. Once this occurs, the natural flow of the Nelson River will run a different course at the Keeyask site.

Our four partner First Nations – Tataskweyak Cree Nation, War Lake First Nation, York Factory First Nation and Fox Lake Cree Nation have a sacred relationship with water. Water is respected for its life-giving, life-sustaining and healing gifts. The Nelson River is a significant part of everyday life for the partner communities as it is used to access traditional food and medicines, enjoy recreational activities and for transportation.

To honour the vital connection between the communities and the Nelson River, and to recognize the community impacts of its new path, ceremonies are being planned prior to the spillway diversion.

For more information about these events, please contact Employee Retention & Support Services (ERS) at Keeyask main camp. 





June 21, 2018

National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration



June 29, 2018

Spillway Water up



July 8, 2018

Spillway Cofferdam removal

June
2018

July
2018

2019

2020

Safety and employment achievements continue to build

Even as project staff focus on construction – there are already a number of achievements that warrant celebration.

“Our performance with respect to quality, employment, safety and the environment is impressive,” said Dave Bowen (Director, Keeyask Project).


On the safety front Keeyask continues to excel. The last time incident frequency recorded by May 31, 2018 was 0.27 on the project, while the Manitoba Industry average was reported at 4.2.*

Employment of Manitobans, Indigenous persons, and members from the partner First Nations communities remains strong. From project commencement to the end of May 2018, of the 17,531 total hires - 70 per cent are from Manitoba; 43 per cent have self-declared as being Indigenous; and 22 per cent are from our Keeyask Cree Nation (KCN) Partner communities.

By the midway point, the project has already far exceeded the KCN employment target set in the Joint Keeyask Development Agreement (JKDA) for the entire construction phase.

As well, Keeyask has also provided numerous business opportunities to the KCN partner communities. The value of the 17 Direct Negotiated Contracts (DNCs) with partner First Nation businesses for infrastructure and generating station construction

is expected to exceed three times the value of \$203M committed in the JKDA. Additionally, four DNCs were awarded to Tataskweyak Cree Nation businesses for the Keeyask Transmission Project work with a total value exceeding \$80 million.

“Across the board, all staff working at and supporting the Keeyask Project should be extremely proud of these successes and how our team continues to come together to address challenges,” said Dave. “This project is a once in a lifetime opportunity to create a legacy of clean, renewable energy for our province.” 

Construction focused on 2018 milestones

The Keeyask Project site is moving full steam ahead in the 2018 construction season, building off a successful winter work plan which advanced progress to being ahead of schedule on some fronts.

“We placed 20,000 m³ of concrete through the past winter, which allowed us to make 60% of the shortfall from 2017. The progress gains during the winter work program have improved the schedule outlook for a first unit in-service in fall 2020, closer to fall of 2020 which is ahead of the August 2021 control schedule” said Dave Bowen, Director, Keeyask Project. “While this provides savings resulting from schedule advancement, the work is more costly to perform in winter so we have to balance


that trade-off when we pursue these opportunities.

Dave says there continues to be pressure to meet the current control budget of \$8.7 billion. “Even with the schedule improvement, we need a further 10 per cent improvement across the board by BBE Ltd., our General Civil Contractor (GCC), and no major risks to materialize if we are going to keep to the control budget.”

“The scope of work within the General Civil Contract holds the majority of risk that affects our ability to meet the budget and in-service date,” said Dave. “Once we determined a 10 per cent improvement is required, BBE rose to the challenge and set their target for a 30 per cent improvement for the remaining work. If BBE is not successful, then our project is not successful.

“Manitoba Hydro project staff are also diligently working to meet our control budget and capitalizing on as many cost saving opportunities as possible.”

Internally, Manitoba Hydro project staff are addressing costs and productivity by identifying over 100 ideas with potential savings in excess of \$500 million to help complete the project within or under the control budget.

Critical milestones for the 2018 construction season include: completion of the earthworks progress required to support river diversion (water flowing) through the spillway in summer; enclosure of powerhouse units 4 and 5; and placement of 105,000 cubic metres of concrete. 

Job opportunities

To build Keeyask, workers are needed in:

- Designated trades, such as electricians, iron and reinforcing workers, carpenters and other licensed, skilled trades;
- Non-designated trades, such as heavy equipment operators, labourers, truck drivers, etc;
- Support services such as clerks, cooks/catering personnel and security, among others; and
- Professional engineers, geologists, engineering technicians and surveyors.

How to get hired

1. Job Referral System

All craft/trade applicants must use the Keeyask Job Referral Service (JRS) at gov.mb.ca/jrs/Keeyask or call toll-free **1-866-332-5077**.

There is a Keeyask JRS office in Thompson at North Centre Mall, 118-3 Station Road, Thompson, MB R8N 0N3.

For employment and training inquiries, call **204-677-6544** or toll-free **1-866-332-5077**.

2. Job Seeker Managers

You can also contact a Job Seeker Manager through an authorized community registration agency, if you are a member of:

- **Fox Lake Cree Nation**
at **204-486-2463**
- **Tataskweyak Cree Nation**
at **204-342-5054**
- **War Lake First Nation**
at **204-288-4315**
- **York Factory First Nation**
at **204-341-2236**

3. Keeyask Cree Nation (KCN) Businesses

Keeyask Cree Nation members and all Northern Manitoba Indigenous people can be directly hired by KCN businesses working on the Project. Contact your local Job Seeker Manager or visit www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/keeyask/tenders.shtml

4. Training Opportunities

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

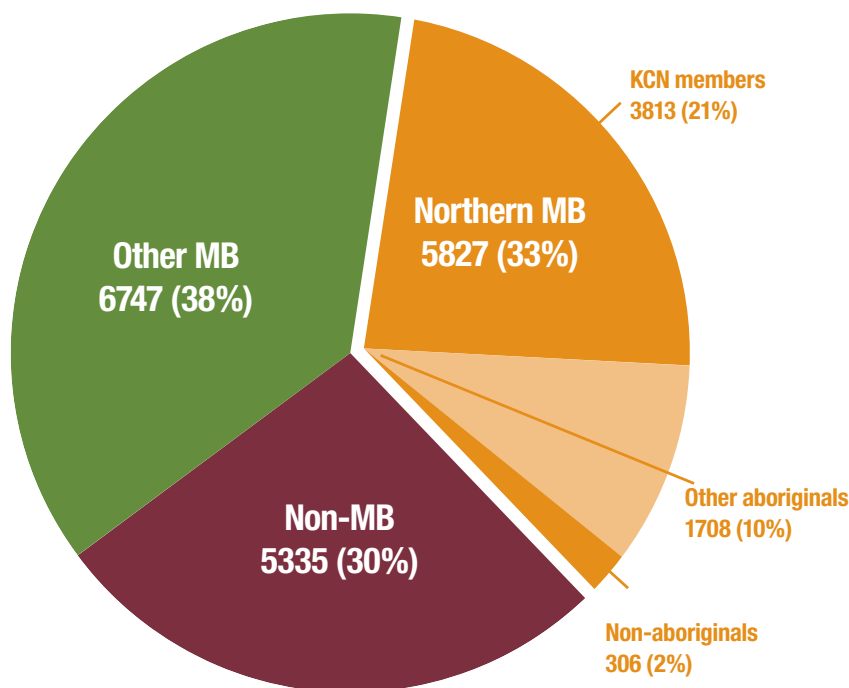
- **Heavy equipment operators;**
- **Trade apprentices;**
- **Utility workers;**
- **Office clerks; and**
- **Security officers.**

Future training opportunities include emergency medical responders, and catering/janitorial/housekeeping.

For more information on training opportunities contact the Keeyask Job Referral System or go to your local Job Seeker Manager.

Available in accessible formats upon request.

Keeyask Project breakdown of total hires* June 2018



* Total hires between June 1, 2009 and June 30, 2018 = 17,909
Total aboriginal hires = 7,739 (43% of total hires)

*Data as entered by contractors into the Construction Employee Database (CED) to July 6, 2018

For more information on the Keeyask Project, visit keeyask.com

Have a business? To be considered for future tendering opportunities, register your business with Manitoba Hydro at: www.hydro.mb.ca/selling_to_mh/vendor_information.shtml