Achimowin

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018
ISSUE 04

HONOURING OUR SACRED WATERS

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 part of everyday life for the partner communities. It is used for transportation, to access traditional food and medicines, and to enjoy recreational activities. River diversion is the term for the waters of the Nelson being channeled through the Spillway.

Once the river changes course, traditional water and land use will be altered forever.

To respect the Cree world view, ceremonies held at Keeyask acknowledge the changes to the land and water; and ask for forgiveness and to heal the land.

Check out the posters in the Arctic Corridor for more information about River Diversion. To learn more about Indigenous culture, visit Employee Retention & Support Services.

"The lands, the waters and the resources have provided for us in the past ... these waters and their power could once again help provide for our people."

- Elder William Beardy, Tataskweyak Cree Nation

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KEEYASK

YOU OBSERVED AND WE HEARD

Staff response to the Keeyask Safety Observation Card Program has been steady. The Manitoba Hydro site safety team has received almost 70 cards detailing: seven hazards, 13 safety suggestions, three near miss, three positive observations and 43 other comments. The program was launched at the end of June.

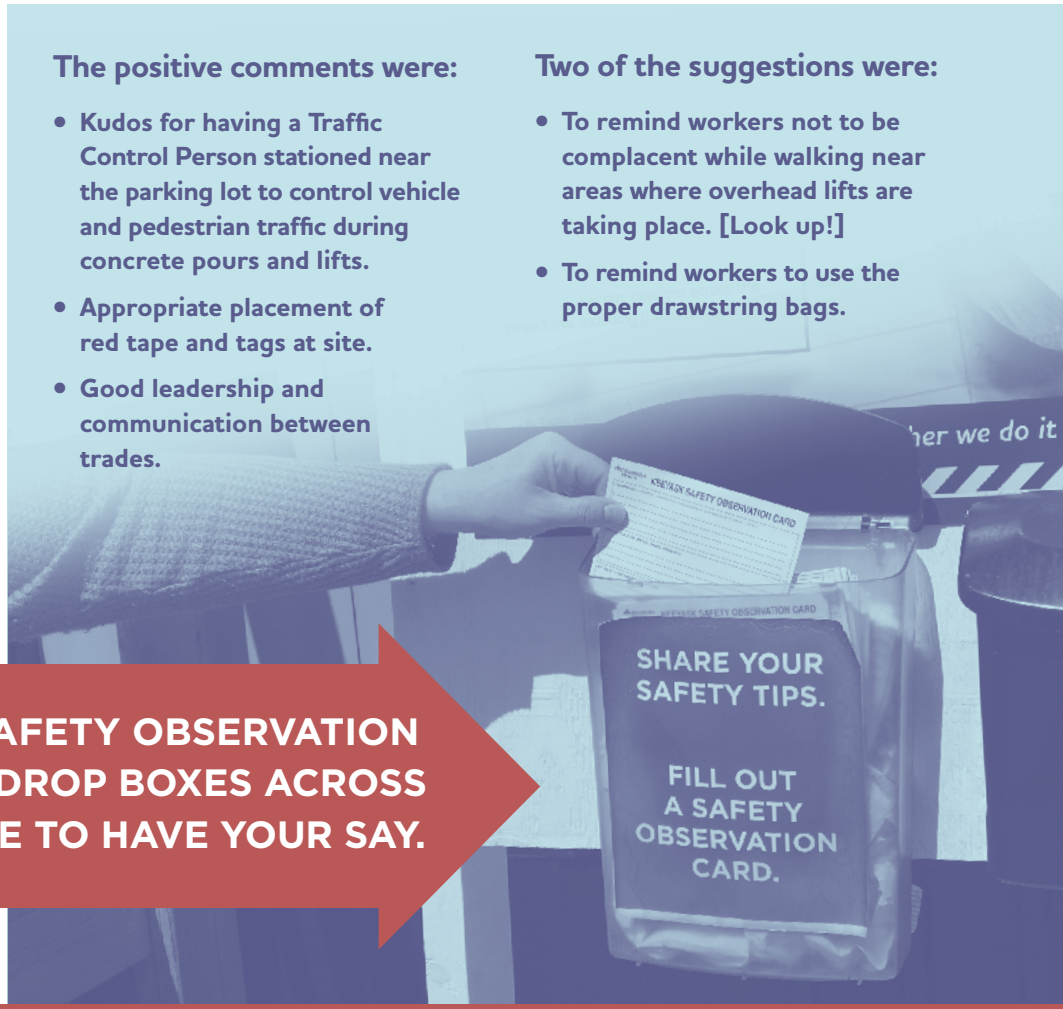
"We take your feedback seriously and investigate each comment to ensure the proper procedures and practices are followed," said Jason McDonald, Site Safety Lead, Manitoba Hydro. "The cards provide a confidential way for you to bring forward any concerns so we can continue to do better."

The positive comments were:

- Kudos for having a Traffic Control Person stationed near the parking lot to control vehicle and pedestrian traffic during concrete pours and lifts.
- Appropriate placement of red tape and tags at site.
- Good leadership and communication between trades.

Two of the suggestions were:

- To remind workers not to be complacent while walking near areas where overhead lifts are taking place. [Look up!]
- To remind workers to use the proper drawstring bags.



LOOK FOR SAFETY OBSERVATION CARDS AND DROP BOXES ACROSS PROJECT SITE TO HAVE YOUR SAY.

ONE TEAM. ONE MISSION.

BBE Ltd. is the General Civil Contractor for the Keeyask Project. Their work covers the bulk of the site construction, including the principal structures – the Powerhouse and Spillway – as well as earthworks. Starting from left are just a few members of the BBE workforce: Shaun Dunbar, Omar Hassan, Daniel Jones, and Cody Redding.

KCN students working and learning about Keeyask

Left to right: Kristin Mayham (Tataskweyak Cree Nation), Chase Burns and Maverick Beardy in front of the Spillway.)

This summer, students from our partner First Nations communities worked at site to see what the project and camp life are like. Students worked in surveying, environment and earthworks roles, among others.

Students Maverick Beardy and Chase Burns, both members of York Factory First Nation, took part in a tailboard at the Spillway before a tour inside.

Construction milestone: Spillway gates now open

Gate one of the Spillway structure opened on August 3. Opening of the Spillway gates allows the Nelson River to be channeled through the structure. This is one of the activities of River Diversion – which is a major milestone towards completion of the Generating Station.

River Diversion is made up of several different activities, including: Spillway cofferdam removal in the dry; channel clearing; water up; Spillway cofferdam removal in the wet; and Spillway gate commissioning, among others.

Work has now begun on the South Dam Cofferdam. This involves first constructing rock groins upstream and downstream of where the South Dam will be positioned.

RUNNING THROUGH THE SPRINKLERS:

At the Keeyask site, high nutrient water provides both hydration and food for vegetation.

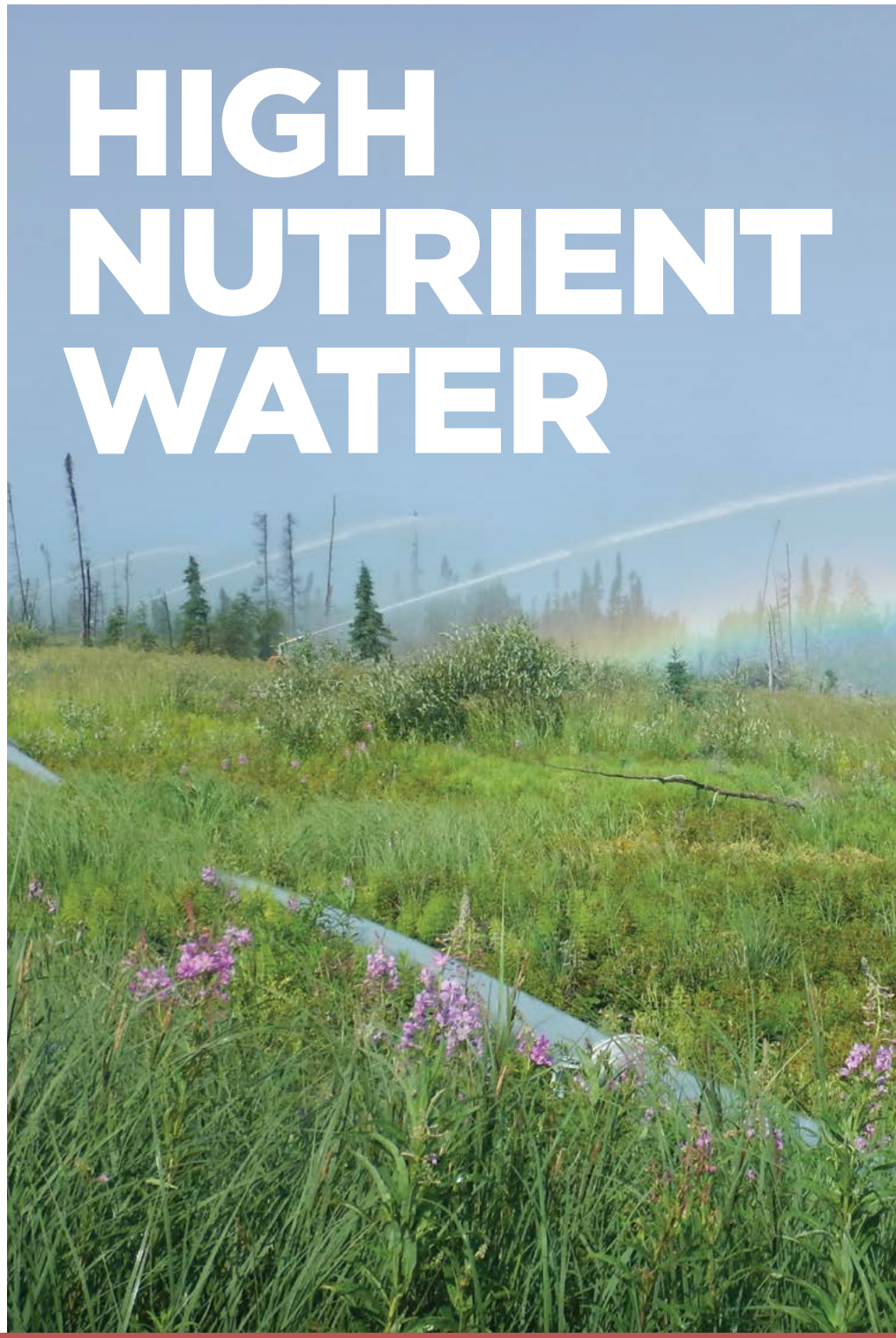
When rock is blasted, a residue of the blast compound is left on the rocks. The blast residue contains nutrients. When this rock is used to build cofferdams, as water seeps through, it collects those nutrients.

The water is then called high nutrient – as it's full of ammonia, nitrate or nitrite. The Keeyask Project has regulatory limits about how much of those nutrients can be released into the Nelson River.

The Keeyask Project shoots that water via sprinklers to nearby vegetated areas selected by the Manitoba Hydro environmental team.

"High nutrient water ultimately acts as a fertilizer," said Site Environmental Lead, Kim Bryson. "These nutrients, especially nitrate, are the same ones found in plant fertilizers you find at the store."

Monitoring points are established to ensure that water quality results meet discharge criteria once it meets the body of water it eventually discharges to (Looking Back Creek). These monitoring points are sampled daily by Manitoba Hydro and BBE Site environmental staff.



FOR VIDEOS AND MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

Keeyask.com

Send your feedback and suggestions to:

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