

Achimowin

SUMMER 2021

Alex Beardy starting a sharing circle
for Indigenous Peoples Day

Ceremonies, Prayers, and Milestones

Project milestones come with profound changes to the lands and waters near the Keeyask site and affects those who have traditionally used this area. Our project continues to acknowledge these changes and their impacts through ceremonies and cultural

events that are led by Employment Retention & Support Services (ERS).

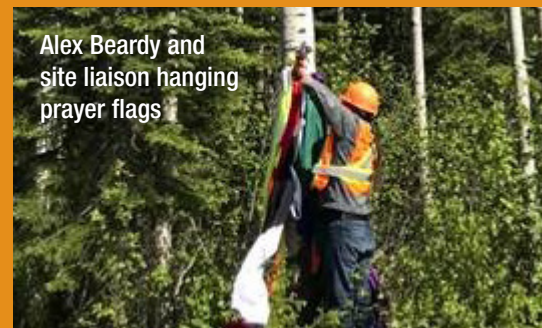
This year there have been ceremonies and prayers for each of the generating units as they are brought online to recognize the sacrifices - made by all - to reach these significant milestones. For National Indigenous Peoples Day, Alex Beardy of ERS held a sharing circle and, to mark the summer solstice & Father's Day and to recognize residential school survivors, hung prayer flags with the site liaison.

Alex Beardy
smudging before
prayer and blessing
at Unit 3 of the
Powerhouse



The prayer flags were used to send out prayers and healing thoughts to all plants, animals, and humans. The flags were tied on trees, with a tobacco offering, to carry the thoughts and prayers out on the wind to reach others - not just locally but globally. Sending out positive intentions is important in these challenging times when site visits are restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic and people are unable to take part in ceremonies or cultural events at site.

Alex Beardy and
site liaison hanging
prayer flags



EVERY CHILD MATTERS

– a walk to honour the missing children

On July 1, Employee Retention and Support Services (ERS) held a walk to honour the missing children from residential schools. Alex Beardy began with a prayer and opening remarks. Residential and day school survivors carried a banner and led the walk around the Ring Road at camp. As the walk progressed, the banner was passed to other community members as they led the group.

At the completion of the walk, a sharing and healing circle was held in ERS, as well as a meal.



Walk for the Children, July 1, 2021, at the Keeyask camp

Keeyask workers continue to bring our project closer to completion, but if you can't get out on-site you may not see the changes. Next time you are taking a ride through the site you may see:

What's Going Up

- *3 units online*
- *Rollways at the spillway are complete*
- *Tree planting and grass seeding*
- *Guard Rails along roadways*
- *New fences and gates*

What's Coming Down

- *Haul roads removed*
- *Buildings, trailers, equipment, and laydown areas removed*
- *BBE warehouse and mechanic building removed*
- *Concrete batch plant and rock crusher dismantled, and silos moved off site*

MANAGING FIRE RESPONSE THROUGH PREPARATION AND PLANNING

On August 3, a fire north of Split Lake had grown in size and was moving closer to the community of Split Lake. This fire also resulted in the closure of Provincial Road 280 (PR280) shutting off that access to the Keeyask site.

Manitoba Hydro - in consultation with Manitoba Conservation and Climate Wildfire Service - actively managed the situation in case the fire moved toward our site. In the event the fire moved towards Keeyask - or the

closure of PR280 was for a long time - the site was prepared to respond.

Due to the closure of PR280 at the time, arrangements were made to use air transportation on August 4. That way workers that normally travel on the Thompson shuttle were not negatively affected by the road closure.

Also, due to community evacuation concerns for Tataskweyak Cree Nation (TCN) during the PR280 road closure,

communication with TCN leadership was established. This made sure that workers who reside in the community of Split Lake would be able to return home safely if they needed to leave Keeyask.

Manitoba Hydro continues to monitor the fire situation and is prepared to take action if required.



Over 200,000 trees planted in 2021

Once the snow came off the ground, Keeyask started seasonal work on replacing plants in areas disturbed by construction, to return them back to a natural state.

Iron North, Outland Consultants, Manitoba Hydro's Environmental Licensing & Protection Department, and Keeyask's Earthworks and Environmental teams got out on site and planted tree seedlings to start the process.

"This year was unique because we planted on islands. We had to helicopter the trees and equipment over, and then boat the workers over each day" said Kaela-Mae Rose (Manitoba Hydro Environmental Coordinator).

In total 217,500 trees were planted this season (190,000 jack pine and 27,500 black spruce) over an area of 75 hectares. The total area encompassed the two islands plus portions of the mainland. In addition to planting trees, two areas were seeded with grass.



Gabriel Spence – from OJT to a Journeyman

Gabriel Spence, a member of War Lake First Nation, completed his Plumbing Technical Training at Red River College (RRC) this year.

Gabriel began his apprenticeship with Northern Maintenance Services (NMS) in June 2016, with no experience in the plumbing industry. Since then he has completed five levels of technical training at RRC and accrued over 9,000 training hours.

With his red seal certification on the way, Gabriel continues working with NMS at site fulfilling the duties of a Journeyman Plumber.

Keeyask & Northern Manitoba Sector Council to provide employment services for work after Keeyask

The Northern Manitoba Sector Council is providing workforce adjustment services for Northern Manitobans to help lessen the impact of job loss due to Keeyask workforce reductions. Services are available to you in Thompson at the Keeyask Workforce Adjustment office (in person or by telephone). If you require assistance in securing employment after Keeyask we can help.

Services may include:

- Job Search
- Resume Writing
- Interview Preparation
- Individual Employment Counselling
- Labour Market Information & Opportunities
- Training/Retraining options
- Self-Employment Information
- Credit Counselling
- Financial Planning for Retirement
- Personal Counselling
- Upgrading Information

Keeyask Workforce Adjustment Office
Unit #104 - 7 Selkirk Ave.
Thompson, Manitoba
204-778-8094

FOR VIDEOS AND MORE
INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

Keeyask.com

Send your feedback and suggestions to:

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