

Achimowin

SPRING 2022

Last Unit brought online, and ceremony held in March 2022

The tops of the seven units inside the Keeyask powerhouse

The major goal of the Keeyask Generation Project has been the installation of seven, functional generating units.

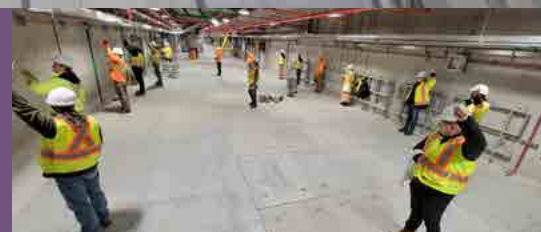
The seventh generating unit was released for service on Wednesday, March 9, 2022; this represents the reaching of a major milestone for us all.

“One Team, One Mission’ means that this is a proud moment for us all,” said Barry

Nazar (Construction Manager, Keeyask). “We accomplished this as a team and everyone contributed to this goal of generating reliable electricity for generations of Manitobans.”

Barry recalls the efforts of everyone during the pandemic, “I am impressed how the entire Keeyask team leaned in to get the job done in spite of everything COVID threw our way over the last two years.

“It speaks to the grit and dedication I see every day, bringing this legacy mega-project towards the finish-line,” said Barry. “We can all be proud of reaching this milestone together.”



During the Unit 7 blessing, tobacco was held up in prayer to acknowledge the four directions, the Creator, Mother Earth and all living things.”

A Unit 7 blessing ceremony was held in the powerhouse, led by Alex Beardy of Employee Retention & Support Services.

The blessing of the unit not only provided a reminder of the significance of the event, but also acknowledged the importance of our environment and the changes the project has made to our surroundings.



Environment, and Site Rehabilitation

Trapping Program to Monitor Mercury in Wildlife

The **Keeyask Mercury and Human Health Implementation Group** oversees mercury-related initiatives to build understanding about mercury and human health and to promote safe consumption of wild foods.

A registered trapline holder (from TCN) has been trapping beaver, muskrat, mink and otter this winter as part of the **Terrestrial Effects Monitoring Plan**. We are working with this trapper to find out what the mercury levels are in these animals now that the reservoir exists upstream of Keeyask.

As a result of the creation of the Keeyask reservoir, mercury levels will increase in fish in Gull Lake, and to a lesser extent in Stephens Lake. As otters eat fish some increase in mercury levels is expected in their bodies.

Other furry, water-based animals in the area are expected to continue to have low levels of mercury due to their diet being mainly plant-based. Mercury levels in wildlife consumed by people are expected to remain low.

This trapping program is focused on areas near the new reservoir and will run in each of the first 7 years of Keeyask's operation, and then occur once every 3 years until mercury levels return to what they were they were before, or are found to reach a new, stable level.

As part of this monitoring, partner First Nation community members are also able to submit a tissue sample from any trapped or harvested animal (be it muscle, liver, or kidney) for testing. This is to allow them to determine what the mercury levels are in the captured animals near the project site. Samples can be submitted to a local Mercury Coordinator.

The main source of mercury in people is from eating fish, particularly large predatory fish. Free confidential hair sampling is available to help you understand how much mercury may be in your body. Ask your local **Mercury Community Coordinator** for more information about hair sampling and eating fish from Gull and Stephens Lakes.





Tree Planting

The next round of tree planting is planned for June 2022. Trees were planted at site in 2016, 2020 and 2021, so this will be the fourth year that we are planting in areas disturbed during Keeyask construction.

250,000 seedlings, mostly jack pine and some black spruce, have been grown at a tree nursery using locally collected seed and will be ready for the summer 2022 planting efforts.

These trees will be planted by community members hired through Iron North, by tree planting coaches from Outland Reforestation, as well as by Manitoba Hydro staff (including Keeyask site staff: Earthworks and Engineering, and staff from Generation Environmental Services).

Keeyask Workers' Opportunity Fund

Dillon Beardy & Anthony Spence receive Tool Fund awards and Shanelle Garson awarded bursary

Anthony Spence and Dillon Beardy, both members of Tataskweyak Cree Nation, were recipients of the Keeyask Workers' Opportunity Fund - Employee Equipment and Tool Fund awards. Anthony is a Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Mechanic Apprentice, working for Northern Maintenance Services (NMS), and Dillon is a former employee, having worked with Amisk on the project.

Each received \$250 to help offset some of the initial equipment and tool costs trainees and apprentices may have, and to support them in their progress towards training certification.



Anthony Spence, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Mechanic Apprentice, (TCN)

She is now in her first year of the Business Administration program with University College of the North. Her plan is to achieve a degree in Business Administration, obtaining a major in administration, but also ambitiously seeking a double-major in management.

The Keeyask Workers' Opportunity Fund provides opportunities to support education, training, and employment for members of our four KCN partner communities: Tataskweyak Cree Nation, War Lake First Nation, York Factory First Nation and Fox Lake Cree Nation.

Individuals can contact their supervisor, KCN site rep, or Manitoba Hydro Site Support Liaison for eligibility and application process; we are still accepting applications.

Shanelle Garson, also of Tataskweyak Cree Nation, was awarded an Apprentice Training Award and an Education Award/Bursary. She started at Keeyask as a Keeyask Cree Nation (KCN) Summer Student for Manitoba Hydro during the summer of 2017. In 2019 she returned with our On-the-Job Training program as a Clerk I for NMS. She wrapped up at the project in August 2021 - as a Clerk II - in anticipation of starting post-secondary education that September.



Shanelle Garson (TCN)

WORKFORCE ADJUSTMENT SERVICES

FOR THOSE WHO
WORKED AT
KEYYASK

WE'RE HERE TO SUPPORT YOUR NEXT STEPS

We work with you to
develop a plan for
continuing work.
Want training?
Education?
A similar job?
Career development?



We support that,
and can connect you
with other agencies
that can assist in
getting you there.

We work with anyone
affected by
Keeyask workforce
adjustments.

**It all starts with
an employment
survey.**

We Can Provide

Coaching: Job searches • Resume building • Interview prep • Career development
Info on: Labour market • Training/re-training options • Self-employment
Upgrading education • Mental health and Community resources

01.

Phone: 1-204-778-8094 • Email: kunal@nmscouncil.ca
We have someone who can answer your questions
and set up an appointment to identify your options.

Once an appointment is made:

You can visit our Thompson office. We can look at your
next steps in-depth, whether it's polishing up a resume,
looking for new work, or maybe finding a new career.

.02

FOR VIDEOS AND MORE
INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

Keeyask.com

Available in accessible formats upon request.

Send your feedback and suggestions to:

Shea Newton - Project Liaison Officer
Email: snewton@hydro.mb.ca
Phone: 204.792.9730