

# CHAPTER 3

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

# CHAPTER 3

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## 3.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

Public involvement has been an integral part of the overall environmental assessment process. The overall purpose has been to provide interested parties, particularly those potentially affected by the Project, with opportunities to receive information, provide input and influence the Keeyask Generation Project (the Project).

This chapter describes public involvement activities carried out by the Proponent, how these activities identified issues relevant to interested and potentially affected parties, and how this information has influenced the planning and environmental assessment activities. Outcomes from these activities that have been incorporated into project design and planning have been documented for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Project.

### 3.2 KEYASK CREE NATIONS

As detailed in Chapter 2, the Keeyask Cree Nations (KCNs) and their Members have been involved in Project planning discussions with Manitoba Hydro for more than a decade. The KCNs participated together and separately in multi-year negotiations of a Partnership agreement with Manitoba Hydro which resulted in the Joint Keeyask Development Agreement (JKDA). This multi-year process has included an extensive community consultation process in each of the KCNs' communities. This process is described in Chapter 2 and in each of the KCNs Environmental Evaluation Reports.

The JKDA was negotiated between 1998 and 2009. These negotiations shaped the key features of the Project and the terms of the Partnership between the KCNs and Manitoba Hydro, including governance of the Partnership and financing and management of the Project. Among other matters, the JKDA also addresses the KCNs' potential income earnings, training, employment, business opportunities, and involvement in the Partnership's environmental and regulatory affairs. The JKDA was signed in May 2009 by representatives from each KCN and Manitoba Hydro.

In addition to the involvement noted above, the KCNs, as affected communities, have also received the same information provided to other communities participating in the public involvement program (*e.g.*, newsletters, presentations).

### 3.3 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The Project proponent, the Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership (the Partnership), has engaged in discussions in a variety of forums and settings, and has used multiple mediums to communicate and receive information (*e.g.*, website, newsletters) to gain an understanding of related issues, concerns and potential effects on individuals and communities. Chapter 2 describes the detailed involvement activities with the KCNs leadership and their respective Members. This process, which focused on issues resolution and relationship building, produced a collaborative working relationship between the KCNs and Manitoba Hydro, culminating in the formation of the Partnership.

As the Keeyask environmental assessment progressed, specific audiences were identified to share information and to better understand issues and concerns they may have had about the Project. These target audiences included other First Nations, Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF), representatives of the provincial and federal governments, communities and citizens within the larger Project region and non-government organizations (NGOs).

The Partnership subscribes to the core values for public participation put forward by the International Association of Public Participation (International Association for Public Participation 2011), which include the following:

- “Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process;
- Public participation includes the promise that the public’s contribution will influence the decision;
- Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers;
- Public participation seeks out and facilitates the participation of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision;
- Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate;
- Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way; and
- Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.”

These core values were incorporated into the Project’s 2007 Public Involvement Plan (PIP) and were used as the basis for the PIP engagement process. The detailed description of the plan, process, and outcomes are documented in the Public Involvement Supporting Volume (PI SV).

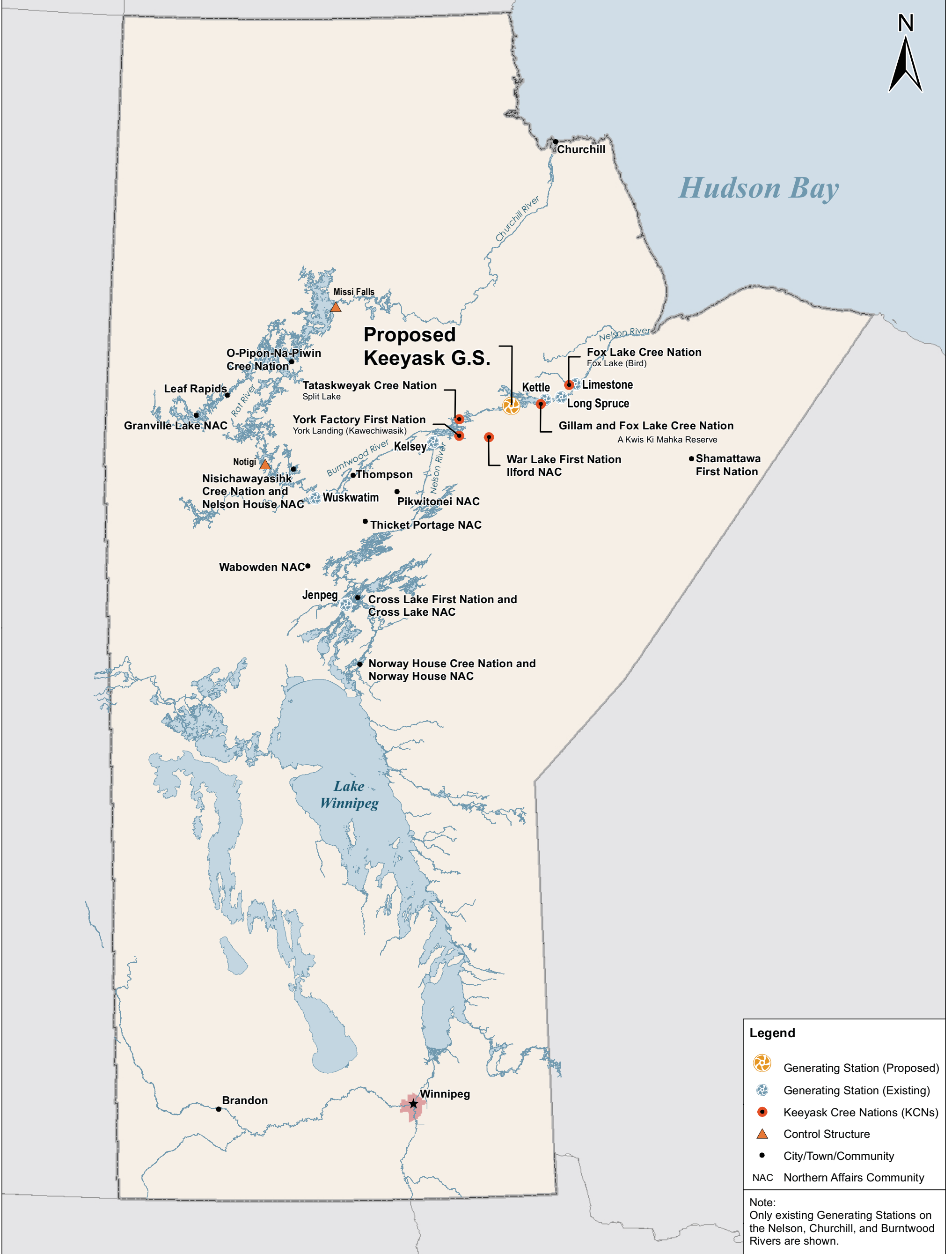
The PIP objectives were established to guide public involvement activities associated with the targeted audiences and any other parties that are interested in the Project (see the PI SV for more details).

The objectives guiding the PIP process are as follows:

- Allow for an accessible process. For example, opportunities have been and will be provided at key stages in the environmental review and planning process for the public to provide input that could potentially influence the Project:
  - Round One: When the Project was described and issues were identified;
  - Round Two: When initial impact assessment results were reviewed and ways to mitigate such effects were considered; and
  - Round Three: When the EIS has been filed for initial public review and comment.
- Encourage open and transparent dialogue and sharing of information pertaining to the proposed Project.
- Provide a variety of mechanisms to communicate and receive feedback from the public and to engage in ongoing dialogue (*e.g.*, Project website, newsletters, community meetings and open houses).
- Consider results of the public involvement process in the assessment process. Provide feedback to stakeholders about the results of the process, especially how their input may have contributed to the Project, the effects assessment and mitigation (included in the EIS as well as through Round Three engagement).

### 3.4 TARGETED AUDIENCES

The public involvement program, started in 2008, provided for and will continue to provide opportunities for involvement focused on targeted audiences beyond the KCNs. These audiences include potentially affected Aboriginal people (*e.g.*, Cross Lake First Nation (CLFN) and Pimicikamak Cree Nation (PCN), Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) and other northern Aboriginal communities and groups); other potentially affected people and groups in the general public (*e.g.*, City of Thompson in northern Manitoba); and other interested groups (*e.g.*, NGOs). Federal and provincial government agencies with responsibilities for licensing and approvals of the Project were also consulted (described in Section 3.5.4). Communities invited to participate in the public involvement program are shown on Map 3-1.



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## Communities Invited to Participate in the Public Involvement Program

### 3.4.1 POTENTIALLY AFFECTED ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES AND GROUPS BEYOND THE KEEYASK CREE NATIONS

This section reviews the public involvement, to date, of potentially affected Aboriginal communities and groups beyond the KCNs (the involvement of the KCNs in the Project and environmental assessment are summarized in Chapter 2).

#### 3.4.1.1 CROSS LAKE FIRST NATION AND PIMICIKAMAK CREE NATION

Manitoba Hydro, along with the governments of Canada and Manitoba and the Northern Flood Committee, signed the Northern Flood Agreement (NFA) in 1977 to address impacts of the Churchill River Diversion and Lake Winnipeg Regulation hydroelectric development projects on five First Nations. Since that time, comprehensive implementation agreements have been signed with four of the five communities (not CLFN). Consultation with CLFN remains governed by Article 9 of the NFA.

Under the NFA, the Northern Flood Committee, of which the Cross Lake band was a member, represented the Cross Lake Band of Indians and dealt with the Cross Lake Reserve and the collective community resident on the Cross Lake Reserve. Under the Indian Act the Cross Lake Band of Indians formally registered a change of its name to the Cross Lake First Nation. Subsequently, the Cross Lake First Nation, through its Chief and Council, advised Manitoba Hydro that for many purposes the Nation had moved to a traditional form of government, Pimicikamak Cree Nation (PCN), consisting of an Executive Council, who are elected and who also serve as Chief and Council of the Band under the Indian Act, a Womens' Council, an Elder's Council and a Youth Council.

To date, discussions with CLFN (PCN) have focused on an overview of Project description and environmental effects assessment information. Several meetings have been held with CLFN (PCN) representatives to introduce the Project, the program of environmental studies, including VECs, and potential environmental effects. Meetings also have been intended to learn about the concerns and issues of CLFN (PCN) related to the Project.

Examples of topics discussed, to date, with CLFN (PCN), include the following:

- A request to review a list of study reports – Manitoba Hydro provided a list of study reports, including the Keeyask annotated reference to field studies and the Keeyask environmental study reports and technical memoranda.
- A request to review component studies in draft form prior to integration into the EIS and to receive a list of VECs - Manitoba Hydro considered CLFN's (PCN's) request and provided access to selected studies, but otherwise took the position that releasing studies



in draft form would require approval from the limited partners of the Proponent, for which approvals had not yet been obtained. A list of VECs was provided.

- A recent request that Manitoba Hydro fund a two-year land use and occupancy study, for which a proposal is currently under consideration.
- A concern that any effects of the Project be considered cumulatively with the Lake Winnipeg Regulation and the Churchill River Diversion.
- A concern that the study area is not broad enough and the whole of CLFN's (PCN's) traditional territory should be considered – Manitoba Hydro's position is that the study area comprises areas that could be substantively affected by the Project.

Further details about consultation with CLFN (PCN) (*i.e.*, contact information, territories, the process undertaken to date, content of those discussions and disposition of issues and concerns) can be found in the Public Involvement Supporting Volume.

### 3.4.1.2 NISICHAWAYASIIK CREE NATION

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN), formerly known as Nelson House First Nation, was one of the original signatories to the Northern Flood Agreement. In 1996, NCN entered into a comprehensive agreement with Canada, Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro to implement most of the NFA obligations. In 2006, NCN and Manitoba Hydro entered into a Project Development Agreement to plan, construct, and operate the Wuskwatim Generation Project through a limited partnership - the Wuskwatim Power Limited Partnership. NCN and Manitoba Hydro have agreed to enter into a separate process with respect to NCN's involvement in the Keeyask Project. To date, NCN has provided comments during the federal guidelines process and has identified issues that are of particular interest to NCN.

### 3.4.1.3 MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION

The MMF is an organization that asserts that it is the sole authority responsible for the representation of Metis interests in Manitoba. Manitoba Hydro, acting on behalf of the Partnership, has met with the MMF to explore the interests of its members in the Project area. The Keeyask Generation Project is located in a region where the MMF asserts that Metis rights, interests and way of life will be impacted by the Project. The MMF further asserts Manitoba Hydro as a Crown agent has commitments generally to Aboriginal peoples in the Keeyask Joint Development Agreement (JKDA). (Note: The JKDA is a private contract between five parties, including Manitoba Hydro, to facilitate the planning, licensing, construction and operation of the Keeyask Generation Project).

Since meeting with the MMF in 2008 during Round One of the public involvement process, the MMF and Manitoba Hydro have participated in a series of meetings to describe the Project and discuss the development of a workplan for the MMF to develop and carry out a

research program. But to date, no consensus has been achieved, and the parties are continuing to work toward an agreement for such a study. The program would seek to understand how Metis people make use of the area potentially affected by the Project.

Further information about the series of meetings with the MMF is provided in the Public Involvement Supporting Volume.

### **3.4.1.4 OTHER POTENTIALLY AFFECTED ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES AND GROUPS**

Concerns from other potentially affected Aboriginal communities and groups were also sought. These communities and groups included Norway House Cree Nation, O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation, Shamattawa First Nation, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO) and Keewatin Tribal Council (KTC).

In general, the Partnership sought to involve Aboriginal communities within the Churchill-Burntwood-Nelson area that has been affected by the Churchill River Diversion and Lake Winnipeg Regulation projects; it is from within this area that qualified Aboriginal workers will be drawn as a first preference for construction employment. The public involvement program also sought to identify potential users of land and resources affected by the Project. To date, the Partnership has been unable to meet with Norway House Cree Nation and O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation, but continues attempts to establish meetings. The Partnership met with Shamattawa First Nation to provide information about the Project and to determine if use was made of the area affected by the Project.

Other potentially affected Aboriginal political and/or advocacy organizations, including MKO and the KTC, were contacted by the Partnership as part of the public involvement program. MKO is an advocacy organization that provides a collective voice on issues of inherent Treaty, Aboriginal, and human rights for the citizens of the 30 First Nations it represents in northern Manitoba; and the KTC is an advocacy organization that represents 11 First Nations in northern Manitoba. KTC participated in Round One and Round Two of the public involvement program and MKO participated in Round Two, as indicated in Table 3-2.

While First Nations are identified in this section, it is also apparent that Aboriginal people reside in other communities within the Churchill-Burntwood-Nelson area, including Northern Affairs communities and the communities of Thompson, Gillam, Leaf Rapids, Churchill and LGD of Mystery Lake (highlighted in the next section). The public involvement program was designed to invite participation by Aboriginal people from throughout the area.

Further information about the outcome of consultations held to date is provided in the Public Involvement Supporting Volume.

### 3.4.2 OTHER POTENTIALLY AFFECTED PEOPLE AND GROUPS

Other potentially affected people and groups within the Churchill-Burntwood-Nelson area contacted as part of the public involvement program included the following:

- Town of Gillam, which would be the base location for the operations phase of the completed Project;
- City of Thompson, which is the closest regional centre to the Project;
- The Towns of Churchill and Leaf Rapids;
- Northern Affairs Communities (identified on Figure 3-1 by the community name followed by NAC) (*i.e.*, Wabowden, Pikwitonei, Thicket Portage, Cross Lake, Norway House, Ilford, Granville Lake and Nelson House);
- LGD of Mystery Lake;
- Northern Association of Community Councils (NACC); and
- Resource management boards and other groups involved in resource use activities in the area, including the Norway House Fishermen's Co-op.

Selected NGOs with an interest in the Project were included in the public involvement program.

In addition, the general public was provided an opportunity to participate via public open houses in Winnipeg and Brandon (in addition to open houses in Gillam and Thompson), and via the Project website.

Further information about the outcome of consultations held to date is provided in the Public Involvement Supporting Volume.

## 3.5 APPROACH AND METHODS

Project engagement and consultation activities have and will take place at key stages in the environmental assessment and review process. Three rounds of information sharing and consultation activities were planned in the process.

Figure 3-1 describes the purpose and scope of each round of public involvement.

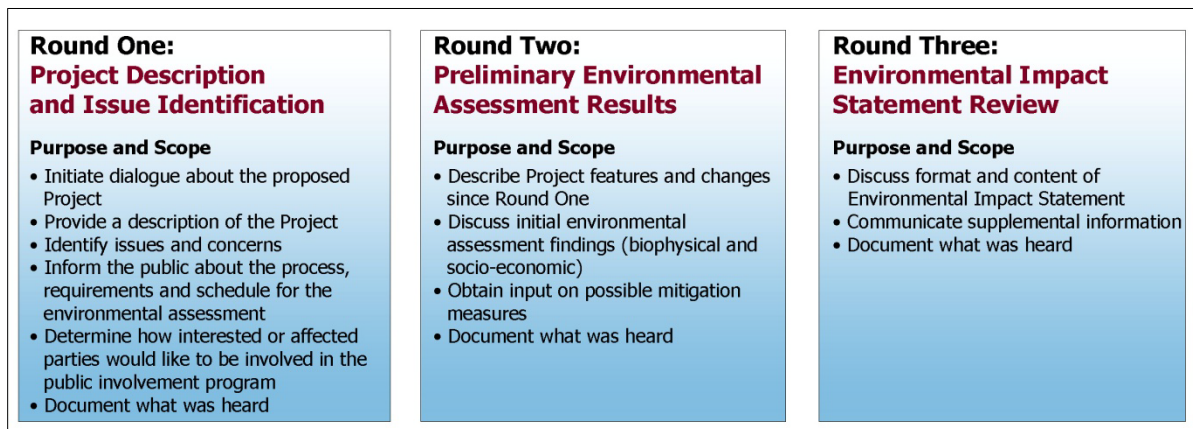
The first round, completed between June 2008 and December 2008, involved the introduction of the Project and the initial identification and consideration of issues and concerns expressed by other Aboriginal communities and stakeholders. Its purposes were to:

- Introduce the public to the proposed Project;

- Learn about any issues or concerns the public had about the Project; and
- Obtain feedback from the public regarding how they wished to be consulted in future rounds of the PIP.

The second round, completed between February 2012 and May 2012 was undertaken to obtain feedback on initial effects assessment results and proposed methods to mitigate Project effects.

The third round, to be undertaken after filing of the EIS, will discuss the format and content of the completed EIS as well as supplemental information and will be submitted to the regulators as a supplementary filing.



**Figure 3-1: Stages of Public Involvement for the Keeyask Generation Project**

### 3.5.1 ROUND ONE OF THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

Round One activities occurred between June 2008 and December 2008, focusing on communities in northern Manitoba and potentially interested/affected organizations.

A variety of public involvement methods were used during Round One including the following:

- Meetings with community leadership;
- Community information sessions;
- Public open houses;
- Workshops;
- Meetings with organizations;
- A Project website; and

- A Project newsletter.

Meetings with community leadership provided an opportunity to introduce the Project and the environmental assessment process and initiate dialogue about potential Project issues and concerns. Throughout and following the discussion, meeting participants were encouraged to ask questions, offer perspectives and identify any issues or concerns they might have about the proposed Project, the environmental assessment and the PIP. Meeting notes were recorded from the discussion that took place during the meetings and these notes were later reviewed by meeting participants for accuracy.

Community information sessions were held in most communities following the direction provided by the community leadership to inform and have dialogue with interested community members. Community members were offered guidance through a series of information panels designed to provide participants with information about the Project. Comment forms allowed participants to provide comments anonymously, and if questions were raised that could not be addressed at the session, they were recorded and then forwarded to the appropriate person for a response that would be followed up as required.

Public open houses were held in Winnipeg, Thompson and Brandon to provide opportunities for the broader public to learn about the Project and contribute to the process. Open houses were publicized in advance through local newspaper advertisements, local radio stations, and posters in the community. Open houses were conducted in a format similar to the community information sessions. Participants were encouraged to complete comment forms and speak to members of the PIP Team about any issues or concerns they might have about the Project.

Workshops were held with participants who had been individually identified and invited to participate because of potential Project-specific interests. At these workshops, participants were able to review the Project information panels shown at open houses and community information sessions and discuss the Project with the PIP Team. Workshop participants also received a presentation on the material by the PIP Team and participated in a facilitated question and answer period, as well as a round-table issues identification session where participants were encouraged to present their issues and concerns. Workshop participants were encouraged to fill-out comment forms and meeting notes from each of these sessions were drafted and reviewed by participants.

Meetings with organizations were held with the MMF, the NACC, KTC, Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Norway House Fishermen's Co-op. Each organization was informed about the Project, followed by discussion. Participants were encouraged to complete comment forms or raise specific questions with the PIP Team. Finalized meeting notes were shared with the organizations.

For Round One, a Project website ([www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/keeyask](http://www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/keeyask)) was developed in 2008 to support the distribution of Project-related information to the general public. As noted later for Round Two, a new Project website ([www.keeyask.com](http://www.keeyask.com)) was developed by the

Partnership. The website includes overview information about the environmental assessment process, copies of the Round One newsletter and open house information panels, and other Project information. Visitors are able to submit questions and comments about the Project, and the website is monitored for visitation activity. The website will be maintained until the completion of the environmental assessment process.

A Round One Project newsletter was developed and made available at all PIP events. These newsletters were also distributed to the KCNs.

In total, meetings were held with the leadership in 12 communities, followed by public information sessions for their respective members in eight of the communities. There were also four meetings held with interested organizations, one workshop in Winnipeg with ENGOs, and another workshop held in Thompson for resource and recreation user organizations. After Round One was completed additional meetings were held with organizations that expressed an interest in meeting to discuss the Project (*e.g.*, Norway House Fishermen's Co-op). Table 3-1 provides a summary of the PIP events held for Round One and Round Two.

**Table 3-1: Round One and Two Public Involvement Program Events**

<b>Round One Date</b>	<b>Round Two Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY MEETINGS/SESSIONS</b>			
6/10/2008	3/13/2012	Thompson Mayor and Council Meeting	City Hall
6/17/2008	3/1/2012	Churchill Mayor and Council Meeting	Council Chambers
6/17/2008	3/1/2012	Churchill Community Information Session	Pioneer Gallery
6/18/2008	2/29/2012	Leaf Rapids Mayor and Council Meeting	Council Chambers
6/18/2008	2/29/2012	Leaf Rapids Community Information Session	Town Centre Complex
6/23/2008	3/6/2012	Gillam Mayor and Council Meeting	Council Chambers
6/23/2008		Gillam Community Information Session	Recreation Centre
6/24/2008	3/13/2012	LGD* Mystery Lake Leadership Meeting	LGD* Office - Thompson
7/2/2008	2/22/2012	Thicket Portage Mayor and Council Meeting	Council Office
7/2/2008	2/22/2012	Thicket Portage Community Information Session	Administration Building
7/8/2008	3/8/2012	Pikwitonei Mayor and Council Meeting	Recreation Centre
7/8/2008	3/8/2012	Pikwitonei Community Information Session	Recreation Centre
7/9/2008	2/21/2012	Wabowden Mayor and Council Meeting	Town Office
7/9/2008	2/21/2012	Wabowden Community Information Session	Ke Na Now Centre
7/15/2008	3/27/2012	Norway House Mayor and Council Meeting	Community Administration Building
7/15/2008		Norway House Community Information Session	Fort Island Arena
7/16/2008	3/14/2012	Nelson House Mayor and Council Meeting	Community Administration Building
10/8/2008	3/7/2012	Cross Lake Mayor and Council Meeting	Town Office Cross Lake
10/8/2008		Cross Lake Community Information Session	Recreation Centre
10/30/2008	4/4/2012	Ilford Mayor and Council Meeting	Town Office
	4/24/2012	Shamattawa First Nation Chief and Council Meeting	Shamattawa Band Office
<b>WORKSHOPS</b>			
11/18/2008	3/12/2012	Winnipeg NGO** Workshop	Radisson Hotel/Delta Hotel
11/26/2008		Thompson Recreation & Resource User Workshop	St. John's United Church



**Table 3-1: Round One and Two Public Involvement Program Events**

Round One Date	Round Two Date	Event	Location
<b>OPEN HOUSES</b>			
6/24/2008	3/13/2012	Thompson Open House	St. John's United Church
6/25/2008	3/12/2012	Winnipeg Open House 1	Radisson Hotel/Delta Hotel
6/26/2008		Winnipeg Open House 2	Radisson Hotel
	3/6/2012	Gillam Open House	Recreation Complex
6/26/2008		Brandon Open House	Royal Oak Inn
<b>MEETINGS WITH ORGANIZATIONS</b>			
6/4/2008		Manitoba Metis Federation Leadership Meeting	MMF Winnipeg Office
6/27/2008	3/15/2012	Northern Association of Community Councils Leadership Meeting	Marlborough Hotel, Winnipeg
12/16/2008	3/13/2012	Keewatin Tribal Council Leadership Meeting	KTC Thompson Office
4/9/2009		Nature Conservancy of Canada Organization Meeting – Winnipeg Office	NCC Office
4/30/2009		Norway House Fishermen's Co-op Leadership Meeting	Radisson Hotel, Winnipeg
	3/9/2012	Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Leadership Meeting	MKO Winnipeg Office
*LGD – refers to Local Government District.			
**NGO – refers to Non-Government Organization.			
***Blank dates indicate that no meeting occurred.			
****Meetings did not occur in either round with the following: Norway House Cree Nation, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN), O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation (OPCN) and Southern Chiefs Organization.			

### 3.5.2 ROUND TWO OF THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

Round Two public involvement activities occurred between February 2012 and May 2012 and focused on potentially affected Aboriginal communities and groups, and other communities and groups in northern Manitoba who were contacted in Round One.

Initially, letters to notify potential stakeholders of the upcoming Round Two PIP were sent in January 2012. A sample copy of these letters is provided in the PI SV.

The public involvement methods used during Round Two were generally the same as those used in Round One. One change that was made was the development of a new Project



website for the Partnership to convey Project-related information to interested parties ([www.Keeyask.com](http://www.Keeyask.com)).

Round Two PIP events provided an opportunity for the Partnership to:

- Describe Project features and changes since Round One;
- Discuss preliminary results of the environmental assessment and receive input regarding these results;
- Obtain input about possible mitigation measures; and
- Document public input to be considered for the Project.

Meetings with community leadership provided an opportunity to discuss the preliminary results of the environmental assessment and proposed mitigation measures with participants asking questions, offering perspectives and identifying any issues or concerns throughout. Meeting notes were recorded from the discussions that took place during the meetings and these notes were later reviewed by meeting participants for accuracy. The finalized meeting notes are available in the PI SV.

Community information sessions were held in some communities following the meetings with community leadership to inform and have dialogue with interested community members about the preliminary results of the environmental assessment and proposed mitigation measures. A series of information panels were designed to provide participants with information about the Project, results of the environmental assessment and mitigation regarding key issues raised during Round One or highlighted by the environmental assessment studies. Comment forms were available at these meetings and allowed participants to provide comments anonymously. Sharing questions and perspectives about the Project was encouraged from participants, with any unanswered questions forwarded to the appropriate staff person to provide a response. Finalized community information session notes, documentation identifying questions or perspectives raised and sign-in sheets are included in the PI SV.

Public open houses were held in Gillam, Winnipeg and Thompson to provide opportunities for the general public to learn about preliminary results of the environmental assessment and proposed mitigation measures for the Project and to provide feedback. During Round One, an open house was held in Brandon, but not in Round Two due to minimal attendance in Round One. Open houses were publicized in advance through local newspaper advertisements, local radio stations, and posters were also used in the communities of Gillam and Thompson. Open houses were conducted in a format similar to the community information sessions. Participants were encouraged to complete comment forms and speak to members of the PIP Team about preliminary results of the environmental assessment and proposed mitigation measures for the Project. Documentation from the open houses in the form of summary notes identifying questions or perspectives raised and sign-in sheets are included in the PI SV.

A workshop was held with NGOs in Winnipeg. A wide range of NGOs were contacted to determine which groups had an interest in the Project and would be able to provide the Partnership with feedback on the preliminary effects and proposed mitigation measures. At the workshop, participants were able to review the Project information panels shown at open houses and community sessions and discuss the Project with the PIP Team. Workshop participants also received a presentation about the preliminary results of the environmental assessment and proposed mitigation measures; they also participated in a facilitated question and answer period and a round-table session where participants shared their perspectives about the preliminary results of the environmental assessment and proposed mitigation measures. Workshop participants were encouraged to fill out comment forms and meeting notes from each of these sessions were drafted and returned to participants for their review. Finalized workshop meeting notes are included in the PI SV.

As previously discussed, a workshop was also held in Thompson with recreation and resource users during Round One of the PIP. This workshop was not held in Round Two due to a low level of interest from stakeholders. The two individuals who were interested in attending a workshop were invited to the open house that was held in Thompson in the evening of the same day the workshop had initially been scheduled to occur.

Meetings with organizations were held with the MKO, KTC, and the NACC. A meeting with the Natural Conservancy of Canada was not undertaken because it was determined during Round One that their interest lay primarily with projects affecting southern Manitoba. A presentation was made to each organization about the preliminary results of the environmental assessment and proposed mitigation measures, followed by discussion and feedback. Participants were encouraged to complete comment forms or raise specific questions with the PIP Team. Draft meeting notes were returned to the organizations for review. Finalized meeting notes were shared with the organizations and are included in the PI SV.

All meetings held for Round Two with community leadership, community members, organizations, open houses and workshops, up to May 1, 2012, are shown in Table 3-1.

During Round One, a Project website ([www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/keeyask](http://www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/keeyask)) was developed to support the distribution of Project-related information to the general public. Prior to Round Two a new Project website ([www.Keeyask.com](http://www.Keeyask.com)) was developed by the Partnership and used to communicate Round Two information to interested individuals. The website includes overview information about the environmental assessment process, copies of the Round One and Two newsletters, open house information panels, and other Project information. Visitors were able to submit questions and comments about the Project. The original website developed during Round One will be maintained until the completion of the environmental assessment process and the Partnership website will remain active until the Project is complete.

The Project websites include a link to an email address for inquiries about the Project. Between June 2011 and March 2012 there were a total of 27 email inquiries. Of these 13 inquiries were from businesses interested in opportunities with the Project; six were inquiries about when jobs will start, seven were inquiries about the timeframe for the Project and a physical description of the Project and one was an inquiry about when the Winnipeg Open House was to occur. Each inquiry received a response by email, telephone or by mail.

A Round Two Project newsletter was developed and made available at all PIP events and on the Project websites. The newsletter provided an update on the Project and information about the preliminary results of the environmental assessment and proposed mitigation measures.

In total, meetings were held with the leadership in thirteen communities, followed by public information sessions for their respective members in five of the communities. There were three meetings held with interested organizations, one workshop in Winnipeg with NGOs and three open houses for the public in Winnipeg, Thompson and Gillam. After Round Two was completed the Partnership continued to offer to meet with communities and organizations that did not schedule a meeting before the submission of the EIS.

In addition, work planning meetings continued with the MMF during this period. Meetings with CLFN (PCN), under Article 9, also continued through this period.

### **3.5.3 ROUND THREE OF THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM**

Round Three of the PIP will be undertaken following the submission of the EIS. The purpose will be to discuss the format and content of the EIS filed with regulators and to communicate any supplemental information. Results from Round Three will be documented and submitted in a supplemental filing to the EIS.

The Partnership has made an ongoing commitment to meet with interested parties, both in the Project area and elsewhere, to examine together ways to address specific concerns.

### **3.5.4 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

In 2005, prior to the formation of the Partnership, Manitoba Hydro initiated discussions with federal and provincial government agencies regarding the Project. Since that time, a variety of meetings have occurred with government agencies regarding the Project and the environmental review process. In April 2008, the members of the then-proposed Partnership (including representatives of Manitoba Hydro and the Keeyask Cree Nations) met informally with representatives of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA), Transport Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Manitoba Conservation and Manitoba Water Stewardship. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the Project and

to alert government agencies to Round One of the public involvement program, which occurred in the spring and summer of 2008. Also in 2008, informal meetings occurred with CEAA, DFO, Transport Canada and the federal Major Projects Management Office (MPMO) to learn more about the role of the MPMO in the assessment process. In addition, a meeting was held with CEAA and Manitoba Conservation to learn about the type of environmental assessment that would be required for the Project.

In May of 2010, the Partnership provided an updated presentation about the Project, the anticipated timelines for the environmental assessment process and the public involvement program to the same federal and provincial government agencies.

In May of 2011, the Partnership provided an updated presentation about the Project as well as the VECs proposed for the environmental assessment, to representatives of the following agencies: Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, Manitoba Local Government, Manitoba Health, Manitoba Innovation, Energy and Mines, CEAA, Environment Canada, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, Natural Resources Canada and DFO.

The Partnership provided MPMO with the MPMO Project Description on July 5, 2011.

Technical meetings among DFO, Manitoba Water Stewardship and the Partnership began in September 2009 and are ongoing (an initial Project description meeting was held in July 2005). Topics covered at these meetings have included: the Project description; hydraulic modeling; alternative means of carrying out the Project; an overview of aquatic field studies; and results of detailed analyses of aquatic habitat and the fish community, including lake sturgeon, in the existing and post-Project environments. Effects and mitigation related to construction activities were also discussed. In addition, planned mitigation and compensation measures, including the construction of compensatory habitats and a stocking plan for lake sturgeon, as well as issues such as fish passage and turbine effects, were discussed. In addition to participating in meetings, DFO took part in two field trips to the Project site: one in the spring of 2010, and the other in the fall of 2011.

On behalf of the Partnership, Manitoba Hydro met with the Province of Manitoba's Water Power Licensing Section on August 18, 2011 to describe the Project and to establish an understanding of the licensing process under the *Water Power Act*. Subsequent coordination meetings have occurred.

On behalf of the Partnership, Manitoba Hydro met with Transport Canada on November 4, 2011 to describe the Project and to discuss the licensing process under the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*.

The Partnership met with the provincial and federal governments' Section 35 Consultation Steering Committee on December 19, 2011 to provide a description of the Project, a summary of the main environmental effects and a summary of all public involvement activities to date.

The Environment Act Proposal Form and Scoping Document for the Environmental Assessment of the Keeyask Generation Project (the Scoping Document) were submitted by the Partnership in December 2011. The first meeting of the Partnership with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for environmental review of the Project was held on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The meeting included representatives of Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Manitoba Justice and Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation. Representatives from federal agencies included CEAA, DFO, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), MPMO, Transport Canada, Health Canada and Environment Canada attended. The purpose of the meeting was to present and discuss concerns and questions about the Scoping Document.

Final Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines for the Keeyask Generation Project were received from the federal government in March 2012. Technical meetings with federal and provincial government agencies continued in 2012.

### 3.6 KEY ISSUES AND PERSPECTIVES

Issues and perspectives raised by Aboriginal and other communities and groups in Round One and Round Two of the public involvement program are summarized in Table 3-2, including the response by the Partnership to the issues raised. The responses indicate how these issues and perspectives were dealt with in Project planning and/or the environmental assessment process. The information has been organized into Project-related topic areas. A complete inventory of the issues and perspectives raised by Aboriginal and other communities and groups is included in the PI SV.

A number of issues and concerns raised during these PIP activities reinforced similar concerns raised by the KCNs (see Chapter 2, Sections 2.3.2 and 2.4). It should be noted that the initial list of VECs was discussed at workshops with the KCNs and Manitoba Hydro in 2008 and by the EIS Coordinators (with representation from the KCNs and Manitoba Hydro). They were also shared with the PAT and TAC, with CLFN (PCN) and with Manitoba Wildlands.

**Table 3-2: Issues and Perspectives Raised During Round One and Two of the Public Involvement Program and the Responses**

Issue	Response
<b>PROJECT PLANNING ISSUES AND PERSPECTIVES</b>	
Communities were generally supportive of a potential Partnership between Manitoba Hydro and KCN communities; however, some communities questioned why KCN communities had an opportunity to become Project partners with Manitoba Hydro while other communities were not provided that same opportunity.	Manitoba Hydro made a policy decision to involve those Cree Nations that are closest to the Project in the Partnership. Note: this decision is beyond the scope of the environmental assessment.
The need for more hydroelectric generation was questioned by some members of the public ( <i>e.g.</i> , domestic versus export needs).	The Partnership will sell production from the Project to Manitoba Hydro. Manitoba Hydro will use power from the Project for Manitoba and export markets. Manitoba Hydro's mandate includes export. While this topic is beyond the scope of the Keeyask environmental assessment, the Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro has indicated that Manitoba Hydro's plans regarding the Keeyask Generation Project will be subject to a comprehensive "need for and alternative to" review.
The integration of Aboriginal traditional knowledge and technical scientific knowledge in the EIS was viewed as important.	The Partnership agreed and incorporated both Aboriginal traditional knowledge and technical science in the environmental assessment. See Chapters 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8.
The assessment of cumulative effects was identified as needing special attention in the EIS since there are other Projects (past and future) near the proposed site.	Cumulative effects assessment was undertaken for the Project, considering other past, present and future projects. See Chapters 5, 6 and 7.
<b>PROJECT TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS ISSUES AND PERSPECTIVES</b>	
Communities were positive about potential employment and training opportunities associated with the Project.	The topic of employment and training opportunities was included as a VEC in the socio-economic studies. See Sections 4.6.17 and 6.6.3.1.

**Table 3-2: Issues and Perspectives Raised During Round One and Two of the Public Involvement Program and the Responses**

Issue	Response
There were questions and concerns about long work rotation schedules and suggestions to have shorter work rotations so workers could minimize the amount of time they would have to spend away from home.	Work schedules will be determined by the general contractor in a manner consistent with the Burntwood-Nelson Agreement, the collective agreement governing construction of the Project. This concern will be conveyed to the general contractor.
Access to timely information about Project training and employment opportunities communities not in the vicinity of the Project was viewed as important.	The topic of employment and training opportunities was included as a VEC in the socio-economic studies. Participation in construction employment by qualified northern Aboriginal workers throughout the Regional Study Area ( <i>i.e.</i> , beyond the in-vicinity communities) was considered in the analysis. The Hydro Northern Training and Employment Initiative was in operation between 2001 and 2010 and has now concluded. See Sections 4.6.17 and 6.6.3.1.
Some Northern Affairs communities were worried about a lack of training and employment opportunities for their respective community members since they are not part of the Partnership.	The topic of employment and training opportunities was included as a VEC in the socio-economic studies. Participation in construction employment by qualified northern Aboriginal workers throughout the Regional Study Area ( <i>i.e.</i> , beyond the in-vicinity communities) and including Northern Affairs communities was included in the analysis. The Hydro Northern Training and Employment Initiative was in operation between 2001 and 2010 and has now concluded. See Section 6.2.3.5.
Preference for construction contract opportunities should be given to local companies.	The topic of business opportunities was included as a VEC in the socio-economic studies. A variety of contracts will be negotiated with companies controlled by the KCNs and their joint venture partners.



**Table 3-2: Issues and Perspectives Raised During Round One and Two of the Public Involvement Program and the Responses**

Issue	Response
Concerns were expressed about issues of hiring and worker retention ( <i>e.g.</i> , raised re: the Wuskwatim Generation Project). There was an interest in knowing more about the Advisory Group on Employment and if it will address these concerns in a proactive and timely manner on the Project.	The Advisory Group on Employment (AGE) identified in the JKDA is expected to develop strategies to address challenges to participation in construction employment and to lower turnover rates. Strategies can then be recommended to the Project manager for implementation. Other employment enhancement measures are discussed in Section 6.6.3.1. A Socio-Economic Monitoring Program (SEMP) to track key data is discussed in Chapter 8.
<b>PHYSICAL ISSUES AND PERSPECTIVES</b>	
Concerns were raised about how the Project may contribute to additional shoreline erosion.	The topic of shoreline erosion is addressed in the physical environment studies. See Section 6.3.7.
Members of the public expressed an interest in how climate change would be integrated into the assessment studies and noted its importance.	The effects of climate change on conclusions about residual effects of the Project were examined in the environmental assessment. See Sections 6.3.12, 6.4.9, 6.5.11, 6.6.7, 6.7.7 and 6.8.5.
Members of the public inquired as to whether there would be changes to Lake Winnipeg water levels and/or flows on the Nelson River as a result of the Project.	Flows from Lake Winnipeg into the Nelson River will continue to be regulated as they have in the past, according to the Manitoba licence granted for the Lake Winnipeg Regulation Project.
<b>AQUATIC AND TERRESTRIAL ISSUES AND PERSPECTIVES</b>	
Potentially elevated mercury levels caused by Project flooding were concerns of many northern communities.	Mercury in fish was examined in detail. See Section 6.4.7. Effects to people will be mitigated through public information and provision of alternate fishing locations to local First Nations. See Section 6.6.5.3.
Concerns were expressed that sensitive species such as lake sturgeon and caribou should be studied carefully given their importance to people in the region.	Lake sturgeon and caribou were included as VECs and examined in detail in the EIS. See Sections 6.2.3.3 (existing environment – sturgeon) and 6.4.6.2 (effects – sturgeon); and Sections 6.2.3.4 (existing environment – caribou) and 6.5.8.1 (effects – caribou).



**Table 3-2: Issues and Perspectives Raised During Round One and Two of the Public Involvement Program and the Responses**

Issue	Response
<p>Perspectives were offered regarding how changes to climate have started to impact northern communities (<i>e.g.</i>, new insect species, migration of deer further north than in the past).</p>	<p>Local knowledge was considered in the terrestrial studies. See Sections 6.2.3.3 and 6.2.3.4.</p>
<p>Some people wanted greater clarity about which type of caribou is staying in the area throughout the year and which ones use the Project area during their migration. Additional concerns were raised about the effects that the Project would have on caribou food and migration patterns.</p>	<p>Caribou was included as a VEC in the terrestrial studies. See Section 6.2.3.4. Monitoring and avoidance will be used to minimize effects to caribou. Plans are being developed to monitor caribou habitat and migratory patterns. Effects and mitigation measures on caribou are discussed in Section 6.5.8.1.</p>
<p>Concerns were raised about the effectiveness of the constructed lake sturgeon spawning area below the Keeyask powerhouse. Concerns were also raised about the need for monitoring before undertaking mitigation measures for some of the other effects, since the lack of immediate mitigation measures may not reduce effects on lake sturgeon.</p>	<p>The loss of spawning habitat at Gull Rapids is the largest effect of the Project on lake sturgeon in Stephens Lake. To compensate for this, spawning habitat will be developed immediately below the generating station in the tailrace, based on a design that has proven effective in Quebec. In the reservoir, alteration of spawning habitat at Birthday Rapids and loss of young of the year habitat in Gull Lake will be the largest effects. Monitoring will be undertaken for a few years after construction to determine whether the new environment provides appropriate habitat, before undertaking planned mitigation measures to modify the habitat. Stocking of young lake sturgeon into the reservoir will compensate for any reduced recruitment of lake sturgeon while mitigation measures are implemented. See Sections 6.4.6.2 and 8.2.2.</p>
<p>Questions were raised about the lake sturgeon stocking program, including where it was going to occur, how many years it would run and where the lake sturgeon would be taken from for restocking.</p>	<p>The stocking program will address effects of the Project. It will also be conducted in coordination with other regional sturgeon recovery plans. The program will use local sources of brood stock and will be a long-term commitment, at least 30 years. The stocking program is discussed in Sections 6.4.6.2 and 8.2.2.</p>

**Table 3-2: Issues and Perspectives Raised During Round One and Two of the Public Involvement Program and the Responses**

Issue	Response
<b>SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND HERITAGE ISSUES AND PERSPECTIVES</b>	
Concerns were noted about safety and deteriorating road conditions from construction traffic.	Transportation Infrastructure and travel, access and safety were included as VECs for the socio-economic studies. Manitoba Infrastructure and Transport (MIT), which is responsible for the provincial highway system, is aware of the Partnership's plans for the Project; and, with support from Manitoba Hydro, MIT is upgrading PR 280 to accommodate the increased traffic. Once the Project is completed, the north and south access roads will become part of the provincial highway system, reducing travel from Gillam to Split Lake by approximately three-quarters of an hour (more information is available in Chapter 4).
Concerns were raised about potential crowding of schools and other infrastructure and services in neighbouring communities as a result of an influx of workers during Project construction.	Community infrastructure and services was included as a VEC for the socio-economic studies. While education and other services are under the responsibility of other agencies, the Partnership has considered these issues in the assessment. Due to characteristics of the construction project ( <i>e.g.</i> , hiring mechanisms; camp provided at site) and limited housing in communities in the Local Study Area, very little population change is anticipated. See Section 6.6.4.3.
Social concerns were raised regarding workers travelling to neighbouring communities during their time off from work ( <i>e.g.</i> , to Gillam, Thompson).	Public safety and worker interaction was included as a VEC in the socio-economic studies. See Section 6.2.3.5.4 and 6.6.5.4.
Project effects on cultural sites ( <i>e.g.</i> , burial sites) were identified as needing to be considered in the EIS.	Heritage resources were included as a VEC in the heritage resource studies. See Sections 6.2.3.7 and 6.8.
First Nation cross-cultural training for workers at the Project work camp was considered important, as was the facilitation of appropriate religious and traditional ceremonies at key Project milestones.	Cross-cultural training will be provided at the camp, and appropriate ceremonies and rituals will be conducted at key Project milestones.

**Table 3-2: Issues and Perspectives Raised During Round One and Two of the Public Involvement Program and the Responses**

Issue	Response
<b>RESOURCE USE ISSUES AND PERSPECTIVES</b>	
Project effects on resource users ( <i>e.g.</i> , Aboriginal resource users and trappers) were identified as needing to be considered in the EIS.	Domestic fishing, domestic hunting and gathering, and commercial trapping were considered to be VECs in the resource use studies. See Sections 6.7.3, 6.7.4 and 6.6.3.5.
A concern was raised about the effects that the Project would have on caribou migration patterns, considering that caribou are an important resource used by people.	Caribou is considered to be a VEC for the terrestrial studies and domestic hunting is considered to be a VEC for the resource use studies. Monitoring and avoidance will be used to minimize effects on caribou. Plans are being developed to monitor caribou habitat and migratory patterns. Effects and mitigation measures on caribou are discussed in Section 6.5.8.1.
While clearing the reservoir area prior to flooding received positive comments, interest was expressed about the wood being cleared in the reservoir area. Is there a plan for reuse/harvesting both timber and peatland, if salvageable?	Commercial timber salvage is not expected to be economically viable at this time due to distance to market and market conditions. It is possible that market conditions will be different at the time of clearing. Salvaged timber may be made available for local community use where demand exists. See also the Reservoir Clearing Plan (Appendix 4A, JKDA Schedule 11-1). See Section 6.7.4.3. The peat that will be stripped to construct the principal structures, borrow areas and quarries will be stockpiled and used on disturbed areas during site decommissioning where possible. To date, salvage of peat that will be inundated by the Project has not been considered -- it is not expected to be economic to harvest because of the large volume, spatial extent and type of peat. However, Manitoba Hydro has committed to investigate the feasibility of harvesting some peat for purposes yet to be defined.
<b>COMMENTS ABOUT THE CONSULTATION PROCESS</b>	
Communities appreciated the opportunity to learn about the Project and to provide their perspectives.	No response required.

**Table 3-2: Issues and Perspectives Raised During Round One and Two of the Public Involvement Program and the Responses**

Issue	Response
Participants noted the need to ensure presentations and documents are in plain language to appeal to a wide audience.	Agreed.
More information on job opportunities and training associated with the Project for Round Two was considered important.	This was provided in Round Two Public Involvement Program meetings.
A graphic illustration of the area flooded by the Project would be useful for Round Two of the PIP.	While available in Round Two, more will also be provided in Round Three.
There is a need to provide more information about plans to address the potential negative effects of the Project.	Greater detail about mitigation of potential adverse effects of the Project is included in the EIS. See Sections 6.3 (Physical), 6.4 (Aquatic), 6.5 (Terrestrial), 6.6 (Socio-economic), 6.7 (Resource Use) and 6.8 (Heritage Resources).