



# Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc.

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Office of Grand Chief Garrison Settee

November 2, 2020

Premier Brian Pallister  
204 Legislative Building  
450 Broadway  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

## **Re: Request for emergency meeting to address uncontrolled outbreak of COVID-19 at the Keeyask construction project**

Dear Premier Pallister,

I am writing to request an immediate meeting with yourself and your Ministers to have a discussion on the emerging, uncontrolled epidemic that is unfolding at the Keeyask Hydropower project. Our understanding is at the time of writing this letter, there are believed to be 31 active COVID-19 cases at Keeyask.

MKO has been working directly with Dr. Michael Isaac, Regional Medical Health Officer for the Northern Health Region along with Dr. Brent Roussin to express our concerns on how Manitoba Hydro is managing the outbreak. Our position is that the situation is **not** under control and immediate public health measures are required.

Our First Nations leadership have been in direct communication with our workers who are at the Keeyask site. We have first-hand information that Manitoba Hydro is not communicating on the seriousness of the current situation to its workers in a transparent and clear manner.

I am requesting to meet with you and the four First Nation Chiefs who are partners in the Keeyask construction project as soon as possible to discuss our concerns. Please have your office contact my Chief of Staff, Brennan Manoakesick, by phone at 204-795-0449 or by email at [brennan.manoakesick@mkonorth.com](mailto:brennan.manoakesick@mkonorth.com) to confirm a meeting time and date.

Sincerely,

Grand Chief Garrison Settee  
Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc.

cc: *Chief Doreen Spence, Tataskweyak Cree Nation*  
*Chief Leroy Constant, York Factory First Nation*  
*Chief Morris Beardy, Fox Lake First Nation*  
*Chief Betsy Kennedy, War Lake First Nation*  
*Dr. Brent Roussin, Chief Provincial Public Health Officer*  
*Dr. Barry Lavallee, CEO, Keewatinohk Inniniw Minoayawin*  
*Dr. Michael Isaac, Northern Regional Health Authority*  
*The Honourable Eileen Clarke, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Relations, Manitoba*  
*The Honourable Cameron Friesen, Minister of Health, Manitoba*  
*Ms. Jay Grewal, CEO, Manitoba Hydro*