



## ***Manitoba Hydro's Keeyask First Nation Partners Renew Call for Public Inquiry***

### **Press Release**

**January 18, 2019 12:00 p.m. CST**

(Treaty No. 1 Territory – Winnipeg, MB) The four northern Manitoba First Nations who are part of the Keeyask Hydroelectric Limited Partnership (KHLPP) held a Public Rally on issues of northern hydroelectric development on Friday, January 18, 2019 at the Manitoba Legislative Building. The York Factory First Nation, the War Lake First Nation, the Tataskweyak Cree Nation and the Fox Lake Cree Nation again demanded that the province of Manitoba conduct a Public Inquiry into the historical and current allegations of sexual violence, racism and discrimination at past and present hydroelectric projects in Northern Manitoba.

“Manitoba Hydro takes a one-sided approach that does not respect our people and our Nations and does not address the impacts of northern Hydro development. In September, 2018, we called for a Public Inquiry into the many serious impacts, including acts of racism, harassment, discrimination and sexual violence that were identified in the Clean Environment Commission’s Cumulative Effects Assessment released last August,” stated York Factory First Nation Chief Leroy Constant.

Tataskweyak Cree Nation Chief Doreen Spence stated “Manitoba Hydro will not engage the Keeyask First Nations to meaningfully address the serious social, environmental and health issues caused by northern Hydro developments and works to dismisses our issues as ‘non-issues’. This includes Manitoba Hydro not wanting to work with us to address the findings of the Clean Environment Commission’s Cumulative Effects Assessment.”

War Lake First Nation Chief Betsy Kennedy added “through the KHLPP Board, we have repeatedly called on Manitoba Hydro to take steps to fully implement the project agreements and ensure that acts of racism, harassment, discrimination and sexual violence are addressed and prevented. We have also called on Manitoba Hydro to fully implement and enforce the northern and Indigenous hiring preference promised to our First Nations in the project agreements”.

Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Grand Chief Garrison Settee stated, “Manitoba Hydro and the Province of Manitoba must fully and meaningfully engage the northern First Nations affected by Hydro development to address racism, harassment, discrimination and sexual violence experienced by Indigenous peoples, and in particular Indigenous women, in northern hydroelectric development.”

“The Keeyask First Nations are today renewing our call for the province of Manitoba to convene a Public Inquiry into the acts of racism, harassment, discrimination and sexual violence being experienced by Indigenous people and Indigenous women in northern Hydro development in Manitoba, including those that were highlighted in the Clean Environment Commission report”, concluded Chief Constant.

-30-

Contact: Louisa Constant, York Factory First Nation: (204) 307-6396  
Brennan Manoakesick, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, (204) 795-0449