

East Side Planning Initiative Community Visits

September 2003 to January 2004

What We Heard

Final Report By Issue

Response to East Side Planning Initiative Community Visits

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What We Heard

Groups invited to participate:

FN – First Nations
MMF – Manitoba Metis Federation
NACC – Northern Association of Community Councils
ESPI – East Side Planning Initiative
ESRT or Round Table – East Side Round Table

Communities Visited:

Berens River FN, NACC, MMF	Matheson Island / Loon Straits /
Bissett NACC	Princess Harbour NACC
Bloodvein FN	Norway House Cree Nation
Bunibonibee Cree Nation	Norway House NACC
Garden Hill FN, MMF	Pauingassi FN
God's Lake FN, NACC	Pine Dock NACC
Hollow Water FN	Powerview and local MMF
Island Lake NACC	Red Sucker Lake FN, NACC, MMF
Little Black River FN	Sagkeeng FN (North Shore)
Little Grand Rapids FN	Sagkeeng FN (South Shore)
Little Grand Rapids NACC	Seymourville / Aghaming NACC
Manigotagan NACC, MMF	St. Theresa Point FN
Manto Sipi Cree Nation	Wasagamack FN

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Note:

Some of the messages heard are presented as one concern shared by more than two people. Some are phrased as general topics of concern. Others are individual concerns paraphrased in short form.

Treaty Rights and Tradition

- People down south do not know what it is like around here. They do not know our youth enjoy the forest and to go hunting. We are not in the bush enough though. The decline of traditional knowledge (i.e. curing of trees for medicine) has resulted in a decline in our health (i.e. diabetes). We have to obtain knowledge of our environment again and how to use the forest wisely. The Elders are passing on and the knowledge is being lost. The school system has to recognize this. There has to be a balance to allow people to go on the land.
- We have to keep government honest with respect to Treaty rights. The government wants to amend various acts to get out of its commitments. An example is federal changes to the Indian Act. It says it has consulted us - via the Internet. This is not adequate consultation.
- Concerned that corporations come in and ruin a First Nation community and the First Nation doesn't get anything from it. For example, First Nations currently do not benefit from harvest of timber resources. Communities must benefit if there is development, not the individual but the whole community.
- Government regulations prohibit using trapline/cabins for rental purposes. Regulations should support trappers.
- One of the questions I have, one thing promised to us, First Nations have access to live off the land so how come there are regulations e.g. hunting? After all is done what is going to become of the process and plan?
- Trapping is an issue of sharing resources again. This should be part of the issue for the Round Table – so we can maintain our lifestyle. Trapping and its regulations need to be addressed in the plan
- Concerns were expressed about a burial ground threatened by development. There are 3 graves and it should be marked on a map.
- Trapping regulations not meeting our needs and don't make sense.
- The literature provided does not address how this process might affect treaty rights. Should speak
- We need to know more about constitutional treaty rights, protected areas.
- How will this plan affect outstanding Treaty Land Entitlements? What has been happening with respect to the TLE process? How much Crown Land should we be granted?

- There is no protocol to consult with First Nations.
- If the Trappers Association make a presentation, will you hear it?
- Trapline boundaries should be the boundaries for planning.
- First Nation Communities are getting all the traplines and pulp potential. They have a federal voice, larger than ours.
- The planning process should be with First Nation's people directly because it impacts First Nations directly.
- We need to do more as a community to protect treaty lands.
- Elders and youth must be involved to voice concerns in our community.
- We need protected area for our traditional lands.
- We want total control of the management of forestry and mining here.
- How much space will the Native people have?
- Concerns about hunting. When an area becomes developed there is a boundary placed around it and you can't hunt there. Can we go hunting and hunt where we want? The plan has to allow us to be able to go in and hunt where we want, even if the area is developed.
- Concerns about third parties coming in and using our traditional areas and then we have a problem negotiating with them on land use. Negotiating can take a very long time.
- Youth are not aware of the Treaties, their cultural traditions, the old way of life and survival on the land. Government should provide funding to train youth to learn about Aboriginal tradition and culture.
- Loss of traditional way of life and children being taught to follow dominant way of life.
- Health is a major issue, particularly diabetes. Government should work more closely with northern communities in the area to address health concerns.
- Government needs to respect hunting and other rights, if parks, which include traditional hunting areas, are deemed to be set aside as protected areas.
- In the past, the province did not consult with trappers regarding government actions impacting on traditional trapping/hunting grounds.

- We are not fully aware of the Treaty anymore. The younger generations have not been educated about the Treaty and the significance of our Treaty at the time it was signed.
- The younger generation is not learning the traditional ways. Our youth only correspond with what they learn from a white dominant society. Our sickness is worse today (diabetes) because we have lost some of our traditional ways. If we dropped a young person off in the bush today he would not know how to survive, to make a fire, to make a bed. We need funding to retain our traditional ways and livelihood. We have to retain our traditional ways to heal ourselves.
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- You must be aware that there is a park being proposed in the area of the Wasagamack First Nation. The local trappers do not want this. There also is mining at Twin Lake. The trappers at Red Sucker Lake did not agree to this. They also are planning a road. Can the people at Red Sucker stop this legally. The people there have not been consulted. Is this the way it should be? Does the province have a responsibility to consult?
- There was a process with Treaty land selections where we identified our traditional lands, and sacred and cultural spots. The round table does not have this information. This must be integrated, but we never had the money like you have to record all of this and create fancy maps. We need money to identify and map where the important sites and lands are. We are short of technical skills. Your community coordinators cannot do this alone.
- Our rights are treaty driven. How can the process affirm treaty rights when the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement is a contradiction to them? We have to educate mainstream society about our treaties.
- Government has a hidden agenda. When we ask the province to address our needs they say that they are not responsible. First Nation people should not be considered a federal responsibility.

- When traditional areas are referred to by governments they think it is a trapline. Our ancestors come from Ontario and our traditional area is also in Ontario. It is not only ours but belongs to other First Nations.
- Provincial government is holding up our treaty land entitlement – they should move a little faster.
- The chief and council should be here, as we need to have direction and input from our leadership
- Let's put our minds together to make our reserve a better place. We have people come to our community, let's work together with them to plan for our community.
- Relations must improve, not just with government but people in general. We do not want to be in a position where we have to beg for our own future. Give us our resources back.
- We are scared of partnerships that are formed without the First Nations Council.
- I am glad that governments seek knowledge from our scientists (Elders). Does the government already have a plan? Everything we need is contained in Treaty # 5. Why do you have to come back for reaffirmation?
- Maybe we don't need your help; we just need the resources you took from us.
- There are trust issues between community members and government in general. The community finds it difficult to trust the objectives of the initiative and whether or not their suggestions/comments will be taken into consideration when it is time to make decisions.
- An elder from each community should sit on the round table to represent communities and present traditional knowledge on resources and medicines. Elders should attend all meetings.
- We are beginning to return to traditional medicine.
- The Norway House Cree Nation is not accountable to the Government of Manitoba and an MOU should be in place before we participate in any planning process dealing with resource management
- Norway House considers itself a sovereign nation and the fact that the province established a First Nation Council does not mean it represents Norway House First Nation. We consider this a provincial entity.

- Land planning is important to the trappers. The trappers believe they are losing access to traditional trapping areas.
- One Elder noted that boundaries were set up and regulations passed that interfered with the peoples' livelihood.
- Concerns were raised on the impacts of opening up the East Side on traditional lifestyle of hunting, trapping and fishing.
- Metis and NACC communities need to have an equal say with First Nations.
- I heard someone welcomed the shift in government policy to include First Nation people in planning processes. He indicated government has been exploiting resources since 1933 and deliberately excluded First Nations in resource management
- Traditional territory belongs to community members.
- Terms and conditions of treaty should be resolved first before commencing with planning activities on the East Side.
- Trappers and fishers should be treated the same as farmers down south.
- Health conditions and lack of proper nutrition is an issue because of restrictions on hunting rights that are an infringement on Treaty and inherent rights.
- All resource issues need to be looked at to preserve First Nation culture and way of life.
- The general public and public school systems need to include Aboriginal history life styles and way of life in order that we eliminate cultural differences.
- Hudwin Lake is recognized as a traditional area.
- Is Hudwin Lake a protected area and do they have the right to hunt or trap or will restrictions be implemented? Can a community member go into the area and build on it as his inherent right?
- Our rights to hunt and fish are being restricted. We should not require any permits (gun registration, fishing permits) as this is an infringement on our rights. The legislation has to be looked at.
- The Province, not only the Federal Government, must respect the treaties.
- It is my wish to leave our resources as they once were. The way this should be – the goose knows when to go south. This is how nature works. We

cannot disrupt this. Our climate changing is upsetting the natural process. This is what so-called development has done to our country.

- There is a concern regarding the future of the young people in the area. This process must enable their ability to practice traditions and culture in order that they can survive on the land.
- Traditional hunting grounds are being invaded and communities have been told there is nothing community members can do about it. There is a need to respect and protect wildlife and hunting grounds. Sport hunting should not be allowed. We have video footage of hunters killing for sport.
- The community is thankful for the opportunity for Elders to speak and share their knowledge.
- There are times today when you hear that outsiders are invading our hunting territories. A man has been told that he cannot hunt or fish in his area for the area is set aside for sport fishing now. The (Canadian) government said they would take care of the Indian People and allow us to hunt in our traditional ways. They are taking this away slowly, just look at the gun registration. This East Side plan must protect hunting, fishing and trapping rights and respect the traditional hunting grounds.
- The community needs to define traditional boundaries. We need to map traditional sites, summer camps and burial grounds. This will take a lot of resources, but these things have to be respected. We need this information before Bi-Pole III and roads come through.
- There was a story from an elder who witnessed his father becoming the first chief for Wasagamack. At this time an Indian agent signed an agreement and wrapped the chief in a Canadian flag as a symbol that Canada would protect our people and protect the land. This was a show of respect for Indian leaders. Now the chiefs do not get respect. Today all we have is broken promises on Treaty. There was a tree beside the Band Office that symbolized our first chief. This is where he went when it was time for him to pass on. Today there is a monument outside the Band Office that symbolizes our first chief.
- As First Nation people we have a lot of disadvantages in these communities. I fished and trapped when I was 14. This was the education provided by my parents. Your time here is too short for me to tell my tale. What I will tell you is that the four communities of Island Lake are close knit. As individual First Nations we are not strong enough to deal with the issues. The four must stand together.
- If we knew before hand that the government was coming we could have come better prepared. For some reasons we take it for granted that our council will

give us the information. This does not happen. You see only a few people here – it embarrasses me. Because of such short notice we can not put our ideas in writing. We have to follow-up though. It is important to maintain contact.

- Does the government or industry consult with the people or just Chief & Council?
- Do the Chief and Council have to be present for there to be consultation?
- What would happen if the recommendations conflict with the community plans?
- Is this consultation or an information session?
- We need a map to indicate traditional uses at Hollow Water and include Black Island.
- Hollow Water could provide a land use plan to RT.
- How can the province come in and provide permits on the Hollow Water river for cottages?
- Is Black Island included in the planning area?
- What about traditional territories beyond treaty (reserve) lands?
- Traditional lands are being taken away. All this is predetermined. There is a lot of skepticism about this process.
- There has been experience with vandalism of trap lines. There is no compensation with respect to loss of revenue by local trappers.
- What type of agreements can the community get from this process?
- We want to be involved in benefits, partner and training for anything happening in our region.
- Traditional areas need to be extended and users need to have a say on what happens there. It all comes down to the land you control. Give us the control to see how serious you are.
- How do we ensure outsiders don't come in and over exploit the resources.
- Cottage and lodge developments are a concern. It appears only white outsiders are approved for lodge and other licenses.

- Non-Aboriginals will force us out of our own lands.
- The Norway House Cree Nation is not accountable to the Government of Manitoba and an MOU should be in place before we participate in any planning process dealing with resource management.
- Land planning is important to the trappers. The trappers believe they are losing access to traditional trapping areas.
- Treaty Rights must be honoured and accessibility to the lands be available for First Nations.
- When people are given permits to trap in the Pauingassi traditional area, the First Nation wants to be consulted so that the First Nation members can be apprised of who has been given permits and develop working relations with permittees.
- The First Nation remains opposed to Outpost hunting in the area. This was done without consultation with the local people.
- The First Nation requested a land status report on their existing reserve lands.
- Tembec erects fences and gates on roads after they clear-cut and claim that area. We have no access anymore. In one Tembec area, we went hunting by going through an unlocked gate, however, conservation charged our people with trespassing and hunting and seized our guns. By doing this, our treaties rights and land entitlement are taken away.
- While the province talks about shared resources, we haven't had anything shared with us through treaty rights or land entitlement.
- If the First Nations claimed the beaches on the east side of Lake Winnipeg, they could get millions of dollars in return.
- How are court case decisions concerning Treaty Rights, such as the Supreme Court decision concerning Sparrow, going to be looked at by the Round Table?
- Treaties need to be interpreted to know what they imply before land use decisions for the east side can be made.
- Treaty Rights have not been defined by Anishnabe people within our communities. We need to understand some of these things before we get involve with East Side Planning. Our land has been taken over, we are now beggars in our own land.

- Roads construction will affect plants and animals and therefore how can treaty rights to hunt not be impacted?
- First Nations are not allowed to hunt in parks yet Tembec can go in and harvest. This is an infringement on Treaty Rights.
- Understanding Treaty Rights is also responsibility of Manitoba Government and not just First Nations.
- Treaties were signed and recognized as nothing but promissory notes.
- There is nothing left in our traditional area because of mining, forestry, etc. All the game and furbearers are gone. There is nowhere to trap.
- Treaties were signed with the Federal government. Where does Province fit in?
- There is nothing in our trapping area now and our medicine is being destroyed. We hope that you are in a position to help

Environment, Protected Areas

- We have concerns about the environment and have been fighting with the province about cleaning up the old transmission line to an old mine on Elk Island. There is about 50 miles of wire just left on site. The government tells me they have no funds so how can they make this process work if they can't even undertake one little mine clean-up project. I don't know who else to talk to.
- Fish are being depleted from the lakes and information is not being shared on fish management strategies, if any are planned or exist.
- Is Hudwin Lake a true protected area? If you do your research you should find past agreements on this area. Can First Nations hunt, fish and trap in these protected areas. My son wants to put a cabin up at Hudwin Lake. This has been a traditional area since 1953. Some elders used to live there.
- The traditional territory is where the older people were born. It is only recently that people have lived in communities like St. Theresa Point. The environment has changed, the land has been spoiled by white people. The fish and animals are not the same.
- How can the City of Winnipeg dump raw sewage that affects Lake Winnipeg and not be held responsible? Fisheries are affected by water quality in the lake. Algae blooms are increasing and affecting fishers' livelihood.

- Protected areas need to be revisited. The Poplar River Protected Area includes some lands, which are part of Berens River traditional territory. Because Berens River was never consulted on this, its territory should be removed from the protected areas.
- Wanipigow River Protected Area has allowed mature trees to fall into River and is destroying the river quality. If trees are allowed to be cut, the economic gain is met and the river is managed. Protectionism measures applied by Parks Manitoba may do more harm than good to the river and river areas.
- Land allocation methods for specific purposes by the province are not an acceptable practice.
- Nopiming Park was originally a multi-use park. Now you cannot consider it a multipurpose park due to restrictions. Recreation activities and development are causing problems.
- We as a community are concerned with Lake Winnipeg water quality. The algae, smell and water levels are all concerns for us.
- River quality is threatened by activities that are still occurring in Ontario. What happens in Ontario will ultimately affect the Watershed here in Manitoba. We need to know what is happening in Ontario.
- Caribou habitat protection important.
- Economic development and environmental protection processes need to work together in a balanced way.
- What are the hidden agendas on economic development?
- Not happy with 100-foot set back from water bodies.
- A 200' x 200' area for trapper's cabins is not realistic. There should be more flexibility for types of traps to be used.
- Expansion at Nopiming will mean that pollution will come down through our river system.
- A concern was raised that cyanide from a mine on Elk Island was polluting a river that runs into God's Lake, and whether or not it could be stopped before it was too late. The water quality should be checked.
- How can we make our living here in a deteriorating environment?
- How can we protect our mother earth because this land is all ripped up?

- A concern was raised about mining companies abandoning mines and just leaving the environment destroyed. An example was noted in which 197,000 gallons of diesel fuel were left in tanks within one trapline after a mine closed. The site is in Ontario, 30 miles from Red Sucker Lake. The tanks are now leaking.
- Depletion of resources, medicinal plants, fish and animals are being destroyed by outsiders.
- An elder expressed concerns regarding the ability of wildlife populations to sustain them. He asked what the province is doing regarding the protection of drinking water on Lake Winnipeg and fisheries.
- Environment is changing and land ruined and disrespected by non-Aboriginal people.
- Natural law of nature is being altered and changed.
- We need to keep the land clean – we depend on the land for food and medicine. The land is what keeps us alive. Any kind of development must preserve and conserve. I hear Lake Winnipeg is polluted. If they (Whites) are going to come are they going to do the same with their technology.
- Fish caught locally do not taste the same and now we have to go to traditional fishing areas to be able to eat fish.
- There was a time you could drink water straight from the lake. Due to water quality concerns, the community must now rely on the water treatment plant for its water.
- How do we ensure outsiders don't come in and over exploit the resources.
- Concern of lodges taking in hundreds of fish, how can the community stop this from happening. Commercial fishing is being opposed by local lodge owners and therefore sport fishing is the only game in the area. Water quality is becoming an issue as the water color is changing and affecting fish quality.
- There was mention of the World Heritage site being proposed by three First Nations in the area. What will happen to the committee formed for Accord with Pikangikum, Pauingassi, Poplar, and Bloodvein to address the issue of sustaining the environment. Will it be disbanded because of the Round Table and this process?
- No recycling opportunities in the community as a result landfill sites are pressured to take recyclable materials thereby using necessary space.

- Traditional areas indicate that wildlife is moving away from traditional spawning and calving areas.
- Trappers notice change in animals moving away from spawning areas.
- Lodge owners are using airplanes to hunt.
- Only a small part of original Manitoba left; it is fearful what is happening. How can we make our living here in a deteriorating environment? How can we protect our mother earth because this land is all ripped up? -
- Change in the water, it's dirtier with more algae. Swampland has an ecological process and function and is not to be viewed as wasteland.
- The First Nation is part of an alliance with three other First Nations to identify and request a world heritage site be establish identifying their traditional territories.
- There should no more Federal and Provincial parks established without consent of the community.
- We are concerned about the environment. Hunting, fishing and trapping are an important part of our life.
- Parks would be OK if the tourists didn't make such a mess.
- The only thing allowed on the Bloodvein River is a canoeing and people are making decisions about the area without knowing anything about it.
- There is support for the construction of an and all-weather road, but not more Parks.
- People are in favor of development but we also care about the environment. We live here and do not want to see the environment destroyed. The mill at Pine falls is very environmentally concerned and responsible. We helped reforest areas while Abitibi was here. That was never done down East.
- Environmental impact studies must take place.
- You don't need to protect the trees to the degree that a protected area demands. There are enough protected areas.
- Tourist come from the city to our area and leave so much garbage behind that it costs our communities to clean up the mess. They also bring their own food and drinks with them so what will they be doing for communities up the east side when they don't spend money here?

- A concern was expressed about opening up the north to mining and its ecological impacts. How does mining development fit with sustainable development?
- What is happening with the impacts on the environment as a result of abandoned mines, ie tailings, heavy metal pollution, etc.?
- There needs to be environmental impact studies done before development takes place.
- Who is studying and monitoring water and air pollution?
- What damage does the pulp mill do to our water?
- Protected areas are being established without consultation with affected First Nations.
- How do you protect the environment if a road goes through?
- Ecotourism should be seen as an alternative to forestry and mining. Bring in German tourists who want to learn about our culture.
- There is too much poison from the mining industry.
- There is nothing left in our traditional area because of mining, forestry, etc. All the game and furbearers are gone. There is nowhere to trap and our medicines are being destroyed..
- Tembec and First Nations have to work together to develop a committee to define Traditional Ecological Knowledge projects and surveys. Is TEMBEC committed to funding TEK mapping?
- Want to see more emphasis on watershed management. Look at how many mills, cottages, towns, etc. are dumping into the river as far away as Thunder bay.
- Concerned about water pollution and its impact on the health of our people and children. Monitor our water intake - not like Waterton. We need money to get our domestic water supply treated. Our Elders are telling us that there is something wrong with our water.
- Mines declare bankruptcy and the clean-up is left to others.

Economic Development, Forestry and Mining

- We need to do something for our young people. We need to look in the long term.
- Must plan right with traditional knowledge. Must carefully consider how development takes place. Have to consider how we are part of the land.
- Trapline regulations pretty strict - size of a cabin etc, cost of permits to build etc. Regulations quite an issue here. Too many regulations and why are there regulations on our land?
- Teach youth how to grow trees and about renewing the forest and fishery resource. Learn how to develop and operate businesses to create a good living for residents
- Thankful that people are focusing on our concerns. Often people call on us for work and we do most of the hard work. In the end however, we are thrown aside. It is good to have people who are concerned about us.
- Why can someone own our traditional land? I worked for long time in fisheries and for 5 months could make a living fishing. Prices of fish not viable now. We need a subsidy program for fishing.
- People who come up here like mining companies, need to bring more money into the community and share the wealth.
- Were there studies done for resource assessments, land analysis, community development, economic development and traditional history?
- Interesting idea – teaching our young people to grow trees so they can re-grow what is taken out, same with fish – need to target the young people.
- Important that First Nations gets the first chance to get employment.
- There was mention of stakeholders. Northern Stores, MTS, MB Hydro are stakeholders. Are they trying to maximize benefits for the communities – what are they doing for the communities?
- High price of goods and services makes it difficult if not impossible to purchase healthy foods such as fresh fruit and vegetables

- Concern about mining at Twin Lake and if the community could get government to involve them in meaningful consultation before permitting mining in their traditional territory.
- Possibility of constructing a larger airport on a cost shared basis.
- Lack of telephone lines is a real problem. People are not able to use the phone between 5:00 pm to midnight. This causes further problems regarding emergencies.
- Economic development and environmental protection processes need to work together in a balanced way.
- Years ago the white man put up a sawmill here and took all the best trees. Then he came for the fish. There are still trees and fish, but the best are now gone
- Prices are too high to afford the goods that we once could afford.
- Years ago the Island Lake Tribal Council talked about co-management of resources.
- In the past, government projects (i.e. MTS) have not included extra funding to First Nations. You have a few people, but need more people involved in the planning process. You have to understand another reality. There is no money here, there are no jobs. Up north we have vast resources, but the money and the jobs benefit the south (Winnipeg).
- Do you know how hard it is to get a telephone line between Garden Hill and Winnipeg from 5-11 at night because all the lines are jammed (internet users). Think about this from a medical perspective. There are ten thousand people up here.
- We have to consider the human factor in this process. Our regional needs have to be considered; health and education. For example, we need a regional hospital that is central to communities such as in God's Lake narrows.
- Governments don't want to listen and probably won't listen to this plan either. For example, cottagers – governments would soon listen to them.
- The timber company in The Pas has a license for cutting in our area.
- Governments do not consult with us about mining and claims until after the fact.

- We have to have training for our youth to prepare them for future opportunities such as resource development that may result from the East Side plan.
- Timber is being cut within our trap lines without our input.
- Economic benefit and jobs are not going back to local communities
- Any additional travel going north will create additional opportunities for us such as a gas bar for example. A gas bar location on highway #304 might be accomplished through Little Black River reserve land being “swapped”.
- We need economic development, tourist development; there are lots of alcohol problems.
- We have visions of ecotourism and general tourism development.
- We need to create employment and learn how to use resources. The Round Table is here to help us, we have a small reserve and there have been too many changes of leadership. Let’s work together.
- Our infrastructure needs to be upgraded. We have a beach but lack the funding to improve the road to it. We need gravel and crushed rock for the road.
- If there is forestry development we want to do it. We disagree with the Forest Management License.
- One time wild rice was open for use by anyone but harvesting was taken away from us. Today we need a permit to harvest. We want it back and be able to share with everyone. We want to get back to that way of life. We were here before the boundaries.
- Cottage developments and expansions are occurring. Water treatment plants etc. are issues that are happening on our traditional lands and we are not being informed. We need to be made aware of these developments and our concerns listened too.
- Lets do the planning so we can help our community develop and prosper.
- We are a small community with a lack of support. Changes in leadership lead to minimal positive activity/development. We need to develop our plan to aid our community. We need to get as much from our resources as we can.
- We have concerns with sustainable development. What happened to our buffalo?

- We are hindered in what we can do in our territory because of our circumstances
- Little Black River is very interested in cottage development in the area and we should have exclusive rights to such
- Local people must benefit from resource use activities.
- The community requires jobs and road improvement projects could provide them.
- Whenever industry moves into the area, people from outside the community benefit more than local people.
- There is a lot of mistrust due to past actions of government. For example, at Wanipigow, cottage owners erected a water control structure drastically reducing the flow of water downstream. This is the source of drinking water for the Hollow Water First Nation.
- The Manigotagan River Park Reserve is being pushed on the people. The community of Manigotagan is planning to expand their boundary up the Manigotagan River to the second falls. Because our community is situated on the river, we would like to continue our community on the river. The park reserve is willing to start at the second falls but once the BI-Pole III line comes down, will they take the land back from the community for this line? This is something that the community does not want to see happen.
- Manigotagan will share its community plan with the round table when it is ready.
- Jobs and economic development are important.
- Fish movement in and out of the land is important
- The local trappers association wants to know what will happen to the trap lines when development occurs.
- There is high unemployment in our communities, because when any development opportunities arise, proponents bring their own people to work on local projects. We have a lot of traditional people here that are qualified to work.
- We want government to consult trappers about their plans because we want to keep the land in its original state.
- There is mining activity in the Red Sucker Lake vicinity, however, we believe this to be Norway House traditional territory.

- The community needs someone to point out the potential for development and how to develop resources.
- There is a need to be involved in the designation of protected areas. A community member had received a map from Energy & Mines that showed an area south of Red Sucker Lake that he was told was protected. If that were true, mining in the area would not be available to the community, nor would jobs. There is also good timber around Red Sucker Lake and there was a concern that a protected areas designation would prevent one individual from developing a sawmill to replace a number of tents with buildings.
- For this reason as well, the community must also be consulted about mining activity. Community members have observed the comings-and-goings of mining equipment, personnel, etc., all of which, it knows nothing about.
- One trapper raised a concern about people coming onto his trapline and staking a claim and then him being asked to leave his trapline.
- Several people noted the hardship in living up north. Gas is \$1.99 per litre. The cost of a helicopter to go there (33 miles) is \$4,000.00 for a one-way trip. Everything is expensive. The round table is needed.
- Tourism must be made more accessible in the area. One person had a proposal to purchase additional land to expand his tourism facility refused due to competing interest of protected areas and Tembec's right of first refusal in the area. Operations like Pelican Harbour however, got land development privileges and were supposed to provide jobs in return, which they did not.
- There needs to be profit-sharing between large corporations and communities.
- A concern was expressed that a proposed sawmill partnership excluded Seymourville.
- Seymourville needs to develop its own plan as well as look at a larger geographical area and work with surrounding communities. It will need funds to accomplish this.
- It has been suggested negotiations between First Nations and the province include resource ownership, resource management and revenue sharing.
- First nation education should be a requirement of the public school systems including universities schemes.

- Development would upset natural process. Any development should be properly planned and proceed with caution.
- Trespassers should be charged for trespassing and destruction on traditional land and affecting the livelihood of local trappers.
- Planting and harvesting of wild rice on traditional land by non-Aboriginal people is affecting livelihood of local people.
- Need to consult with community before any activity happens in the planning area.
- Activities from Hydro, logging, mining adversely affect the community and the land.
- What plans exist regarding the construction an airport and a road from St. Theresa Point to Wasagamack First Nation?
- The province should negotiate ownership since development would be on their land.
- There are concerns respecting the proposed Manitoba Hydro BI-Pole III transmission line and how it will impact employment opportunities for the communities.
- Need to conserve and preserve all resources for future generations.
- There is a need for funding for community cleanup to help attract and develop tourism opportunities for the communities.
- Development of resources needs to be clear and transparent.
- Conduct clear and open surveys.
- How can I charge a trespasser on my land? The issue is a wild rice harvester who also put a dam up to raise water levels and impacted his livelihood.
- First Nation people are keepers of the land. The new activities like hydro, forestry and mining are an exploitation of our resources.
- The North-West Hydro project that brought power to seven local communities was funded 75% by INAC, 15% by Manitoba and 10% by Hydro. Now Hydro owns an infrastructure that was paid for by Treaty (INAC) dollars. The First Nations should have ended up owning the lines and hired Hydro to manage them. The First Nations should also own the roads and airports that will be built on reserve land in this area. Bi-Pole III is a moneymaking scheme for

Manitoba. The revenues should be shared with us. The same can be said for mining, forestry and commercial fishing.

- We do not want secret surveys of our resources. We hear of helicopters flying people around to look at the land. Developers must come to the community first.
- There should be a process for 10-year reviews of development in the north.
- Wasagamack First Nation has begun to explore and research the development of a forest management plan, a resource management plan, a community development plan and a long-term sustainable development plan. There should be a process for 10-year reviews of development in the north.
- A concern was expressed about outsiders coming into the community, collecting and recording data, leaving and not returning any information or results.
- Intruders onto existing trap line areas affect wildlife populations due to poor mining practices and lack of environmental and wildlife considerations. These same people also trap in the community's traditional trapping area which results in declining revenues for trappers and less wildlife for sustenance use by local people.
- There is a need for maps to show burial sites so they are not desecrated in any future land developments
- We hear of (southern) people flying around in helicopters to shoot moose. We do not appreciate these sport hunters who only take the antlers. This is disrespect. We have to use every part of the animals we hunt. We also find intruders on our trap lines. This happened as far back as 1933 when I came upon a driller while out shooting for rabbits. My mother told me there was a lot of exploration and mining in the early days.
- Outfitters planted wild rice in my trap line. Over time we have noticed the fish disappearing from this area. I met this person and told him he should not have done this in the first place. No one talked to us about this development.
- There was talk some years ago about planning for the land in our area. The Island Lake Tribal Council has begun to look at how the land should be cared for.
- The people of Wasagamack need to work together with the southerners. We have to focus on what is going to happen in our lands. We also need to capitalize on our fishing and hunting skills.

- A representative of MKO spoke about areas that the Community needs opportunity to explore. These are a (1) community development plan; (2) forest management plan; (3) resource management plan; and (4) sustainable development plan.
- Forestry is not offering much employment because of changing modern technology.
- We need economic development; government is stalling development.
- Our children's education service is below provincial teaching standards.
- Our business is presently going to Pine Dock, then Gimli and Selkirk. They value our business
- The province should sell Crown lands for development by local land developers. I am specifically referring to a piece of land, which is not pristine, but on which other activities used to take place but no longer do. All that remains now is a bunch of run down buildings. To allow local residents to make use of such lands is sustainable development in my opinion.
- Trust issues are non-existent with government initiatives (i.e. lodges and cabin development). Government did not follow the recommendations of the community in the past, why should we trust them now?
- The Prospectors and Developers Association should be represented on the East Side Advisory Committee.
- Community is all for economic development.
- We need to develop our own plan.
- If we tell you what we want, what guarantees are there that we will get what we want?
- We are working on several proposals that involve our traditional land and we are asking for total control.
- Does the area that Tembec is planning to cut involve Bloodvein, or is it part of the planning area? We want to do the cutting ourselves, not Tembec. We are in a process of looking at deals like the one Pikangikum has with their Whitefeather Initiative and co-management model.
- We are not a stand-still community; we are looking forward to young people gaining employment.

- Why should we be interested in mining activity when the broad area plan is going to prevent such?
- Land regulations contravene Mining Act.
- Bissett is a mining town and residents believe there is mining potential for the area.
- Mining is the lifeblood of Bissett. Exploration needs to continue.
- Government bureaucracy is causing problems with respect to mining activity. To keep a claim valid, one has to show some kind of development or be in violation of the Mining Act and lose the claim. In many cases, people have been refused permits to travel forestry roads to their claim.
- Government must allow claims in the area. The government supports the community, however not in the way the community wants them to.
- Nopiming and Atikaki Parks restrict mining development.
- It appears that the message that Manitoba is not open for business is getting outside to the industry. American mining investors are going elsewhere when they learn the Hayes River will be set aside as a heritage river. How will this affect future mining exploration activity?
- Residents want to benefit from mining and want to stop restrictions imposed by park regulations and legislation.
- A Canadian Heritage River designation impedes mining exploration.
- Who is going to replace the vacated mining representative position on the ESRT.
- There is a need to create a local advisory board. This initiative is an opportunity that the community must seize now because if it does nothing it would lose an opportunity. We want to be involved in benefits, partner and training for anything happening in our region. We will block any developments done without consultation.
- The First Nation needs employment and has identified employment opportunities with Manitoba Conservation as a part solution to local unemployment issues.
- First Nation identified future resource sharing as a means of financing resource management.
- Atikaki Park closed all doors and no economic development opportunities.

- Members expressed the concern that if the forests are not cut and used it will burn and no-one will benefit.
- There is high unemployment in our communities, because when there are any development opportunities arise, proponents bring their own people to work on local projects. We have a lot of traditional people here that are qualified to work.
- Tourism would be a plus for the community.
- Economic development over the next 10-15 years is a major priority for the community.
- Development of a fish processing plant is currently being discussed. Fish is currently being sent to Freshwater Fish Marketing Board.
- Need to develop eco-tourism.
- Growing cranberries could be a viable opportunity for the area.
- First Nation identified wild rice harvesting as an opportunity they can develop and maintain.
- The construction and maintenance of a local airport would bring much needed jobs in the area as well as bring the costs of goods and services down to acceptable levels.
- The construction of a local airport would improve medi-vac programs for those individuals who require medical emergency assistance.
- Job creation is a major concern for the First Nation. Current unemployment rates range in the 80-90 percent. The council indicated commercial fisheries in the area would improve job creation, however, transporting fish would remain a high cost to the industry.
- The First Nation remains opposed to Outpost hunting in the area. This was done without consultation with the local people. The First Nation wants to work closer with the Natural Resource Officers who frequent the area. They want their people hired to work alongside the NRO's and believe the province has sided with local lodge owners and favour these owners when developing policy on lodges in the north. People who live in these areas (north) should be given priority when policies are developed.
- All communities in the southern portion of the study area have been developed around logging. We need logging and mining on the east side. Logging is much more environmentally sensitive today.

- It is not easy to reforest a mature forest; it is much easier to reforest an area after has been cut.
- Why wasn't Manitoba Tourism in the video? We should be looking at the potential of this sector instead of forestry and mining.
- There needs to be more support from Tourism Canada, not just from the Province of Manitoba.
- If the First Nations claimed the beaches on the east side of Lake Winnipeg, they could get millions of dollars in return.
- Development on the East Side has to do with resource harvesters, not First Nation's people. Forestry harvesters and cottage developers will benefit from development.
- What benefits do we get from Forest development? We were promised jobs by past forest operations, it did not happen.
- Ecotourism should be seen as an alternative to forestry and mining. Bring in German tourists who want to learn about our culture.
- Mining raises red flag; companies create pollution. They provide jobs, but what about safety?
- Should have First Nation people looking after natural resources.

Roads

- An all-weather road would cut through many traplines and trappers would not get anything from it.
- An all-weather road has all sorts of advantages including training for heavy equipment operators.
- Oxford Lake was closed for fishing due to high transportation costs to market. We were throwing away our catch because there was no transportation to market. It is a waste of time, energy and fish. Pickerel is the only viable species now and it is three times the work. Need to build a road to transport fish out. Advantage of road – transportation the fish, shopping trip, etc, - all weather road is the answer. On the other side more influences coming in and not all good influences. We need to be aware of that.

- Do not talk about a hydro line before a commitment to an all-weather road as the community cannot continue to be at an economic disadvantage due to an absence of all-weather road access.
- We see the pros and cons of roads to communities. The social impact has to be addressed when we see a road coming into Garden Hill. A lot of elders have expressed they do not want a road because of the destruction of life from alcohol and drugs.
- There is concern about a proposed road which can be built from North of God's Narrows connecting Northern Ontario.
- An all-weather road would effect Treaty #5. Right now there is no money coming this way for road development and maintenance of existing network. Available dollars are not reaching into the northern areas.
- If a road goes through we need to get our lands back for ecotourism. We are not getting our share.
- We have 3rd world roads here.
- Tourism does not benefit Bissett. The road through Nopiming bypasses Bissett.
- Government has negatively impacted Caribou when they developed the road through Nopiming. Road development has affected the Owl Lake Caribou herd (Black Lake calving grounds).
- Pave road from Manigotagan and finish straightening road to Bissett.
- What is happening with the Cat Lake to Red Lake Road?
- Jobs are needed in Bissett. Some have to leave by spring for work.
- Are they going to hurt the rivers if the road comes?
- A proposed road on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg would impact inhabitants, wildlife, eco-system, etc.
- We are preparing for the all weather road by training our people how to use the heavy equipment needed too build.
- Pros' and cons of an all weather road discussed - would lower the price of goods and transportation.
- Communities will need an analysis on what impacts an all-weather road will have on them. Elders have expressed some negative thoughts a road would

bring to the community, such as alcohol, drugs and gang related problems. Government in the end will go the cheapest route.

- The cost-efficiency or feasibility to build an all-weather road up the east side of Lake Winnipeg is questionable.
- We want an all-weather road because we see things will be cheaper for us to but, but we are also concerned for our youth because this road will make it easier to bring in booze and drugs.
- We are not opposed to an all-weather road as it would help alleviate the high cost-of-living for First Nation people. We would like to see road access to communities before hydro lines go through. What are other communities saying about this?
- We would like our road and human issues dealt with before Hydro.
- I can't see that there is anything wrong with an all-weather road. We would have benefits such as forestry and tourism.
- The community would want an east-west road connection. Use the winter road alignment so as not to disturb any more landscape.
- Who is pushing for the all weather road? Government or communities?
- Government needs to hear from communities other than Island Lake in regards to an all weather road.
- Local people need to be hired if an all-weather road is to be built.
- Money should be spent on existing roads before a new one is planned for the east side.
- An all-weather road is important; it would be good for groceries. Concerns raised around all-weather access to the community included a negative impact on the lodge, on young people (access to drugs) and possible abuse of traditional areas. Highway would have to be kept clean by R.C.M.P. It is not going to be easy.
- Any routing of an all-weather road should connect God's River with Thompson.
- Is there an issue with stopping the road in the East Side?
- It would be a blessing to have a road for those communities.
- Why does Manitoba Hydro get to say "no" to the road?

- Since the construction of the highways, the three types of Caribou who used to be here, no longer inhabit this area.
- Internal road conditions pose health and safety concerns that have to deal with on a constant basis. Can the round table help the community lobby for better roads?
- Road access into traditional lands would impact on wildlife and traplines.
- The annual practice of building winter roads is that they are built too late in the season. There is a need to ensure the winter road is built earlier by the band. There is lack of capacity and experience for neighboring communities to do the job they need to do.
- Since the construction of the highways, the three types of Caribou who used to herd here, no longer inhabit this area.
- Concern that once the road is built people will follow with their developments. Outside influences coming into the community could be a concern.
- Current road into the community is in terrible condition and needs repair.
- Government won't build a road unless it is for their own needs. It won't be built because the community wants it. It will be built because of the resources the government wants and needs.
- There is support for the construction of an all-weather road, but not more Parks.
- Costs in the north are directly related to the freight costs.
- An all-weather road would not only be helpful to the community, but also to taxpayers.
- Health problems are greater in the north; a road would help alleviate much of the problem.
- You cannot find nurses to go north because they have to fly.
- Education in health and diet, as well as nursing, ambulance and police services, would all improve with a new road.
- If a road goes into a remote area, concerns about culture are what that area makes of it. People from remote areas must leave their community on medical trips and have no one to escort them, visit them, or aid in their recovery, because others can't get to and from the hospital by road.

- There are a lot of untapped Federal dollars that could be put to training programs for local people to develop an all-weather road. This would create local employment.
- What ill effects will an all weather road do or have? Has the road through the Interlake affected the environment?
- If our First Nations brothers want a road we should support them.
- If an all-weather road is built, funds should not be deducted from our INAC funds.
- Give dollars for road development to communities to lower their costs for consumption.
- What benefits will First Nations get out of an all-weather road and will we be compensated for its impact?
- How do you protect the environment if a road goes through?
- Roads construction will affect plants and animals and therefore how can treaty rights to hunt not be impacted?
- What are other communities saying about an all-weather road?
- A road will open up the drug trade and communities will lose their language. Look at Cross Lake and Hydro and the negative consequences it caused.
- Communities have to be educated on the all-weather road and its impact.

Hydro

- Hydro promised money (\$8000.00 per trapper) to trappers who were hit by the development but they did not follow through. I get the same impression about the round table.
- It is critical to understand and be aware of the many sites of historical and cultural significance before proceeding with roads or hydro.
- We have heard from Hydro before. They came to us, but did not give us enough time to respond. You have to give us more time. There is a lack of information provided by Hydro for the community to adequately respond or participate. We do not want a poor consultation process. We do not want this to be like the Hydro process.

- Manitoba Hydro held a consultation process on its hydro Bipole III transmission line but shared only what they wanted and expected the community to learn everything on that day. Time will be needed for the community to absorb the information and get it out to all the members in order to fully participate in this process.
- We have concerns with hydro and Bipole III.
- Why are there no muskrats and fish anymore? Is it because of hydro?
- Manigotagan does not want the Manitoba Hydro BI- Pole line running through their community.
- At what stage is Manitoba Hydro at in getting their line in?
- Can the north-south hydro line be done in collaboration with the winter roads, ie. make 1 instead of 2 corridors?
- Why not put the roads and lines together so they do not have to use so much forest?
- I can feel the effects of the damage that Hydro has done, the water levels are low.
- There has been destruction from Hydro in the past with little compensation.
- Is there compensation for impacting trapline areas of First Nations if hydro lines go through?
- A question was asked where BI-Pole III was going to be erected and how close it will come to the community.
- The community of Manigotagan is planning to expand their boundary up the Manigotagan River to the second falls. Because the community is situated on the river, they wish to continue growth along the river. While the Manigotagan River Park Reserve is willing to start at the second falls, there is a concern that once the BI-Pole II comes down, the Province will take the land back from the community for this line. This is something that the community does not want to see happen.
- There are concerns respecting the proposed Manitoba Hydro BI-Pole III transmission line and how it will impact employment opportunities for the communities.

- Once the report is completed will the committees be consulted and will Hydro work only with the round table?
- Compensation concerns from Manitoba Hydro to the First Nation were raised.
- We need to know what Manitoba Hydro has in store for us. We cannot create an effective community plan without knowing where the hydro-line is going to be placed.
- Hydro maintains its transmission lines by using chemicals to kill plants. Imagine what that will do to our trees and animals. We would like to know what type of chemical they will be using and have any existing studies forwarded to us.
- Hydro lines and roads will destroy our traditional way of life. How are the young people going to survive?
- Are they going to put the lines in the north, but distribute the electricity to the south?
- The cost of hydro in the north shows we are not getting our share of the resources sold.
- We will not be able to tap into the hydro lines.
- Are there any studies of the effects of transmission lines on humans and the environment? If so, we would like to see them.
- Are there any studies being done on the effects of dams and the associated lake quality and lake level changes? These factors affect our livelihoods. What about studies on the rivers, river levels and river water quality? Also we need to know the effects of control structures on our water systems. Our water has gone down 4 feet and it is affecting our fishermen.
- Hydro should consult if they have a plan in place.
- Do you come out and help us with an action plan to stop its development if we do not want a hydro line here?
- Hydro development along the east side is a concern for the community.
- Hydro rates are a serious concern to local residents. They provide examples of current rates for an average sized bungalow is approximately \$200.00 while rates in the south for similar size home is approximately \$75.00 per month. Manitoba Hydro has introduced an insulation program to help defray hydro costs, however, liaison and communication between Hydro and the

First Nation administration has not been the best. The First Nation wants to see rates lowered through any means.

- How will the Hydro projects on the East Side impact the ESPI Process?
- Is the extension of 304 highway north talked about in connection with hydro development?
- Tembec and hydro do not care about damage, they care about profit.

Other Issues and Concerns

- We need to plan what we are doing in an orderly fashion.
- Gain must be distributed to the community as a whole, not to individuals.
- More meetings are needed.
- If a trapper loses a cabin in a fire is there a way that he can be reimbursed for it?
- This information should go to the schools for study and response.
- Need to look at funding for informing the community of the process.
- Concern raised because of the lack of community members at the meeting. Another community meeting recommended allowing for more involvement from the rest of the community.
- There is a need for more information on the ESPI process.
- Government can promise anything but not deliver because in the end government will do what they want.
- There is a lack of trust between communities and government.
- A suggestion was made to include all East Side communities in one meeting.
- Maps don't show territorial lines due to lack of funding and shortage of technical people. Need for technical people to assist the community in this process.
- If the community does not become involved in the process, they will be losing an excellent opportunity to participate in planning and development activities.

- Community is concerned of the short timeline.
- Where is the funding coming from.
- What are the next steps to this process?
- The people of Garden Hill need to hear from other communities. Why not get a few people from the 16 communities to get together to see if there are shared values. We need to understand one another. Recommend two or three from each community.
- The East Side Planning Initiative is entirely new to us and more information is needed. Who are the 22 people on the round table? Where are they from? How were they appointed? Is there a timeline for this process?
- Once the recommendations have been made, when will they be given to government?
- Is there any one community that can stop the process? There may not be consensus at the end of this process because different groups have different interests and views.
- Will there be a possibility to meet as a community to discuss this process to include all members.
- Is there any one community that can stop the process? There may not be consensus at the end of this process because different groups have different interests and views.
- Will there be a possibility to meet as a community to discuss this process to include all members.
- The ESPI ties in with some of our community initiatives.
- The maps on the wall need to be blank so that we can identify what we want to protect as ours
- We are hindered in what we can do in our territory because of our circumstances.
- Non-Aboriginal people have to work with us; relations between us have to improve.
- Decisions will be difficult given all the competing issues.

- It is unrealistic to expect communities to develop positions by June 2004. This date makes the process seem like it is being fast-tracked. Communities need time and resources (money, facilitators, etc.) to identify issues and formulate positions on them.
- Manigotagan will share its community plan with the round table when it is ready.
- Who is to tell us how to make these decisions and who will help us develop a plan?
- What advantages does the west side have when the East Side opens up?
- What are other communities saying about their issues? They might have said things we won't think about and vice-versa.
- Only a small part of original Manitoba left; it is fearful what is happening.
- What are the government's plans regarding the development of the East Side?
- There is a need to find a way to get community members more informed about the East Side Planning Initiative. Radio and TV could be used and information is required in the local dialect.
- There is a need for more discussions between government and the community.
- There is a need to have more Elders involved in this process.
- Youth must have a role in this process as they are excluded most times.
- Everyone needs to work together in this process.
- The East Side Planning Initiative requires more time to discuss issues focussing on aboriginal interests.
- A concern was raised regarding the composition of the Round Table: how many Aboriginal people were on it and how many lived in the planning area.
- Concerns were expressed about how NACC communities would receive fair representation and what they could do to ensure their recommendations are honoured.
- The deadline to complete the plan by June 2004 is unrealistic. It is unrealistic to expect communities to develop positions before then.

- Media needs to be kept in check and lines of communication need to be clear.
- Local trappers and fishermen need to be represented on the round table.
- There should also be a trapper representative and a fishing representative on your round table.
- Farmers get compensated for loss of income. So do East Coast fishermen. Trappers have lost income because of markets. Trappers should be treated the same as farmers with respect to loss of income.
- People in the south need to be educated about our ways in the north – they get a slanted view of our ways. The South has no understanding of the hardships here.
- I have expressed my concerns many times. The creator gave us the resources – all the things on Earth. These are what define us as First Nations. My concerns over government are decisions that affect our identity. As an example, First Nations had their own way of child rearing. We believe that it is important to discipline a child. Now there are laws against this and it results in delinquency. Also, the government has wanted to assimilate us and change us to white people.
- Due to the language barrier and infrequency of communication between the two cultures, it is difficult to communicate and resolve local issues and concerns. There is a need to work closer together and translate all literature to Oji-Cree for elders and other community members to understand and participate fully in this process.
- It is preferable to have a united voice representing the Island Lake First Nations. For that reason, the round table members need to sit down with the Island Lake Tribal Council to discuss concerns, ideas and views about their communities and development in the area.
- There is a need for the community to be given time to absorb the information provided and return views and comments at a later date.
- You need to change a few things with this new process. People often come from the outside to speak and get our input, but they never come back. Very few people get involved this way. You need to come back to Wasagamack.
- The next time you come up should be in the winter when the roads are in. Then you can have a meeting with all four communities together.
- Most often people out there come here to tell us what's best for us, but we live here, not them. They come in and take over and say it is in our best interest. They have not walked in our moccasins so to speak. The time

frame is too long, it take too much time and in the mean time the government have their way to control it till they get what they want.

- Safety on Lake Winnipeg is an issue as people have died crossing the lake.
- Need to make recommendations immediately - be preventive.
- Berens River recommended the ESRT advise the government that it would like to see Rupertsland Constituency cut in half.
- We do not condemn the ESPI process; we just do not have a position in place as yet
- We do not think the people on the ESRT represent us. I strongly recommend considering one of the communities like Poplar River or Hollow Water to represent us. They live on the East Side.
- There is a need to have something in place besides just a community forum and working group. There is a need to go house to house.
- Information should be provided beforehand to facilitate preparation and discussion. Provide information by all available means.
- When did this process start? Was there nothing before that? Shouldn't the community have been involved in 1999? Why did it take so long to get to the communities? This should have begun with the communities.
- Need to improve relations and communications with Manitoba conservation, particularly with the NRO'S.
- Chair discussed the INAC funding and use of it for this process. Historical moment for government to open the doors to share information with First Nations people.
- Need for their own conservation officers to police their own community.
- Have more RCMP/policing for the surrounding communities.
- Concern was raised regarding child welfare issues in the communities. What is government's strategy to deal with alcoholism and rampant drug abuse by adults and youth? This is the future of the communities and more priority should be given on these life and death issues.
- We are beginning to return to traditional medicine.
- Should be able to revisit the plan and have a renewal within 5 years and have the ability to revisit because changes will continue to change in the area.

- Norway House NACC is currently in the process of creating a community plan. Northern Affairs has been dealing with Northern Flood issues and this has pushed their planning back.
- Current road into the community is in terrible condition and needs repair.
- Trappers and elders communicate in Cree so there is a need to make the information available in Cree.
- Tembec open houses are being held for the public. Tembec is not a proponent on the all-weather road.
- Is the extension of 304 highway north talked about in connection with hydro development?
- Send future information to Powerview Metis Local through the Manitoba Model Forest.
- People in the community are educated and must be listened to.
- What ill effects will an all weather road do or have? Has the road through the Interlake affected the environment?
- It is startling on how the wealthy all over the world try to tell us what to do we are being watched by the world. There was a person from Germany in Hollow Water begging the people of Hollow Water to stop this process (ESPI).
- How much time is being spent in schools? It is their future and they need to be involved. We must get information to the schools, to teach the children to protect the environment but still have progress and development
- We in the community have to have a say in what is going on. We need to have a strong understanding of what has to be done, not some millionaire in Florida.
- The community of Pine Dock expressed concerns about not being notified well about East Side meetings and requested that information be sent to them in a timely manner so that they would be able to comment effectively.
- Communities must be advised of the park issues, so that they understand the impact.
- Is it odd that chronic wasting disease is rampant in Manitoba's major National Park, Riding Mountain, where logging and hunting are prohibited?

- The environmental people should come to talk to our community so that we can tell them how we feel.
- There should be more Elders and youth involved in the process.
- Promote students in each First Nation. Students have role to play and need to work closely with your office. Set up a sub-office in Sagkeeng to help students gather information and advocate on behalf of their First Nation.
- Pine Dock wants to be consulted on land transactions and allocations in the area.
- The maps you have arrived with have no Anishinabe input.
- When I was young, we lived off the land and didn't need help. We had an abundance of resources. Then change came in a form of a document called The Indian Act. In 1942 a person pushed for the Indian Act, from British Columbia. Our chief went against it, he knew enfranchisement was coming. In 1948, chiefs were called in to revised the Indian Act. It was rejected but passed through in 1951. Our Chief John Thompson was disregarded, and the Federal government declared elections. Sagkeeng had been in a downward spiral ever since. We were self-sufficient until 1951; money wasn't needed, goods were traded.
- If we put resources too use in comminutes today, we would teach people to be like before 1951.
- Tembec and First Nations have to work together to develop a committee to define Traditional Ecological Knowledge projects and surveys. Is TEMBEC committed to funding TEK mapping?