

## **Appendix 8.18**

# **Report of the Open Houses Process**

**EAST SIDE PLANNING INITIATIVE**  
**Public Open House**  
**“Charting the Course”**  
**Exit Survey Responses**  
**May 18 to 26th 2004**

COMPILED BY: LOMBARD NORTH GROUP LTD.  
505 – 93 LOMBARD AVENUE,  
WINNIPEG, MB R3B 3B1  
PHONE: (204) 943-3896 FAX: (204) 947-5696

---

## **Background on the Open Houses**

Community Open Houses were organized by staff of the East Side Planning Initiative and with assistance from Lombard North Group. The purpose of the Community Open Houses were to share the research and views received through East Side Community consultations with a broader cross-section of the people in Manitoba. The open houses were designed to inform and provide further opportunity to invite input into the development of a Broad Area Plan for the East Side of Lake Winnipeg. The Open Houses were held in the following communities during the later part of May from 10.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.

- **Thompson:** May 18 (only five persons attended);
- **Lac du Bonnet:** May 20 (65 persons attended); and
- **Winnipeg:** May 26 (85 persons attended).

The Open Houses presented through a series of maps and display boards (appended hereto) the background information which residents of the area and Manitoba in general could use in learning about the region's issues and the needs to be addressed in the preparation of a large-area land use plan for the area east of Lake Winnipeg. The open houses also provided an opportunity for participants to share their views with the East Side Planning Team on the key issues and priorities which a sustainable development plan for this area should include.

In addition, copies of background reports on work carried out by the East Side Planning Initiative to date were made available to persons who attended.

Staff of the East Side Planning Initiative provided advance information to the communities and their surrounding areas on the dates and locations of the open houses, through placement of newspaper advertisements, interviews with key media, and arrangements to have announcements made on local radio stations. Also, members of the Initiative's Advisory Committee and other consultative groups were provided with the information in order to ensure participation in and attendance at the Open Houses.

Staff and planning advisory consultants were in attendance at each Open House to greet and orient residents who came to an Open House, answer their questions, and explain the planning process which the East Side Planning Initiative has followed to date.

Persons attending the Open Houses were asked to complete an exit questionnaire, either before leaving or by June 15. A copy of the exit questionnaire is appended hereto. Twenty-seven questionnaires were completed and given or forwarded to staff. Following, we present a consolidation of the individual responses received to the four questions in the questionnaire. The reader should be aware the responses reported are the opinions of individuals who attended the open house where more than one person held the same opinion we note this in parenthesis.

## **1. Economy and Quality of Life - Important Issues and Opportunities:**

- Strategy must include opportunities for local wealth creation
- Opposed to world heritage site designation
- The area needs all – weather provincial road access (4 responses)
- Transportation corridor(s) should be located where there is the least environmental impact
- Strategy to include Policies to encourage and guidelines to structure public-private partnerships and co-management of regions resources
- Strategy should be a tool to clarify the application of provincial guidelines on development including clear departmental responsibilities for licensing and regulatory applications in the ESPI area and how these can be coordinated with First Nation and local government plans
- Strategy should be led by the needs of people living in the area (4 responses) and others agenda's should be balanced by how they impact local needs
- Sustainable development means taking an approach in the East Side where our response to development and the environment results in decisions that save more than we waste (3 responses)
- Encourage aboriginal business/economic development as the number one priority (2 responses)
- Tembec's expansion objectives are excessive
- Smaller and more localized forestry operations (less clear-cutting), including more local jobs

- Economic diversity leads to less dependence on just one resource
- Road to Berens River (a future hub of the area)
- Increase forest development in the area
- Mobile chippers and sawmills would create local jobs
- More roads would stimulate economic development and can lead to more hunting, fishing and camping in the area
- Less uncertainty needed in order to stimulate more investment from the mining sector
- Resources should be used from economic activity (including eco-tourism, hunting and fishing, wild rice harvesting)
- Development of a road from south to north would lead to economic development and less poverty
- A road should be approved to Quartz Mountain, to allow extraction of high-quality quartz
- Some mining development in the area would be beneficial (potential mining development should be addressed in the plan)
- World heritage site designation of part of the area would be beneficial in the long term (it is important to protect an intact area)
- Treaties in place with First Nations must be adhered to
- Social and educational conditions of First Nations people in the area are the number one concern
- Economic development requires a flexible and multi – use approach to identify opportunity and what may be possible to facilitate diversification of the economy of the area
- First Nations control of the area's resources must be recognized
- Roads and access are key elements to economic development, and provide the foundation for development of a common vision for the future, which includes attracting capital to invest, entrepreneurs, and proper infrastructure (there is still much to do in the area)

## **2. Environmental Health - Key issues and opportunities:**

- The southern portion of the area has good environmental protection already (2 responses)

- The northern portion is only partially protected, and more consultation is needed
- Eco-tourism will be important
- Independent evaluation and monitoring systems are needed
- Sustainable development does not mean no to development, it means balancing use with protection of resources for the benefit of future generations. Both development and resource conservation decisions will be part of our legacy for the area we need them to be wise and value added
- There is no benefit to closing whole areas to development
- Residents should be included in decisions on the environment, they should have the major role in deciding how development and environmental protection will be balanced (2 responses)
- We need greater information and education concerning renewable resources
- Science to protect the forests is a basis of sustainable development
- No more roads should be built (roads will lead to less forest area)
- Increased small economic activities, including eco-tourism and selective logging
- Enforce the laws in place first
- Build an all-weather road from the Bloodvein River to the north
- The forest industry provides jobs and taxes, and is willing to follow reasonable rules
- Re-plant trees at a faster rate (2 responses)
- Conserve fish and wildlife
- Too many restrictions, such as destroying beaver dams
- Responsible use of area resources would mean no irreversible impacts upon the area's environment
- Treaty considerations mean that time should be taken to reach agreement on what development should be in the area
- All species should be considered, not just humans, in planning for the area
- The number one priority will be to link important protected natural areas and reserves in one belt across the area
- Protection of woodland caribou habitat is crucial

- Responsible limits on hunting and fishing should be applied and maintained
- It is essential to protect that which is still intact in the area (such as areas which have not been touched by development in the boreal forest area north of the Bloodvein River)
- Up to one-third of all North American birds interact with the boreal forest in and near the east side area
- The approach of using Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) to guide planning should always be followed
- More research is needed on the amount of boreal forest which must be saved intact
- Good planning will lead to proper development.

### **3. Resource Management - Future Development:**

- Evaluate mineral potential before UNESCO/park designation
- Consult with residents, especially of First Nations on the direction of the draft strategy (5 responses)
- Get development moving again while planning continues (2 responses)
- Special interest groups should not dominate
- Encourage a multi-use approach (eg- Nopoming Park – recreation, cottages, forestry, hunting and fishing, mining)
- Long-term plan is needed: aboriginal (First Nations) communities sign on through an agreement with other stakeholders, with an economic development focus and consensus approach (4 responses)
- A certain percentage of development profits should be provided to east side area communities
- Get clear development policies
- Conservation is the number one issue
- No Hydro transmission corridor
- Environmental protection is the number one issue

- A plan for five to ten years is needed: roads, jobs, involve both the province and the Federal government
- Diversified economic development (including soft environmental impacts)
- Present policies are OK as is
- More public-private partnerships – communities and companies
- Less politics and more science and reason should guide future planning
- Information should be provided to communities on development potential through the Manitoba Mines Branch, the Mineral Exploration Liaison Committee (M.E.L.C.), and the Manitoba Prospectors' Association
- Some parts of the area should be left intact and unchanged
- Co-management agreements should be encouraged
- Examples of similar areas in British Columbia show that a key core protected area can effectively be surrounded by a land-utilization zone
- Good planning will lead to sound sustainable development.

#### **4. Other Issues To Be Considered By ESPI:**

- Plan for the power corridor to strike a balance between environmental protection and economic development objectives
- Need an east side road to later connect to an east–west road above Lake Winnipeg
- Inform First Nations about protected area designations in advance
- Need a geological survey of the area (2 responses)
- Finish planning soon; action is needed (5 responses)
- Development will improve living conditions
- Development will help the Manitoba economy
- Wilderness doesn't help the economy
- Plans should be understandable to the average person

- Define real benefits for First Nations and others
- Save the boreal forest
- Penalties for companies' which act in non-sustainable manner
- Reduce job losses and economic leakage in the area
- Increased housing construction using local timber
- Increase Tourism
- Reduced boreal forest area will lead to reduced water quality
- A road up the east side of the Lake will lead to more jobs and multiple benefits
- Important to encourage investment in the area from outside Manitoba
- The number one priority is to resolve First Nations treaty issues, then consider economic development
- The east side area could be a model of conservation and promote less consumption by North Americans
- No transmission line should be permitted through the area
- The transmission corridor should be permitted
- The importance of caribou habitat is over-emphasized
- Manitoba and Ontario must work together
- Key intact areas in Canada and Manitoba to be preserved for future generations.