

Acknowledgements

September 2004

The Honourable Stan Struthers
Minister of Conservation
Government of Manitoba
Room 330 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister Struthers:

The preparation and submission of this status report, *Promises to Keep*, and the separate executive summary which accompanies it, is premised on the assumption that it is but an important waypoint on a path that will lead to Manitoba's first Broad Area Plan based on the sustainability principles identified in the *Consultation on Sustainable Development Implementation*, which your government has adopted as policy. The East Side Planning Initiative (ESPI) has begun a comprehensive and inclusive process of information sharing and gathering. The complexities of the many issues at hand require no less.

This status report, the contextual observations and many recommendations it contains, owes its genesis, first and foremost, to the many people resident on the east side of Lake Winnipeg who took the time to attend community meetings and express their concerns and ideas. This report, in thanks for their participation, is dedicated to them and their fellow citizens.

The East Side Round Table and the First Nations Council, as duly constituted and in working groups, have spent countless hours hearing of people's concerns, listening to presentations, sifting through forests of documents, reports and expert opinion, debating the issues and, finally, crafting this status report. That they were able to do so while respecting the diverse views and disparate interests of those around each table, is a testament to their dedication and commitment to this process. Thanks are also extended to the members of the East Side Advisory Committee who took the time to attend meetings, and furthermore, took advantage of the opportunity to submit observations and recommendations to the ESPI.

Appreciation is also extended to Phil Fontaine who retained his role as chair of the East Side Round Table and First Nations Council even after assuming the onerous role of National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations. A particular vote of thanks is given to associate chair Ed Wood who so often went above and beyond the call of duty in encouraging participation, supporting the goals of the process and providing his expertise, influence and credibility in developing a common agenda.



Our appreciation is also extended to community leaders, elders, and co-coordinators who facilitated and took an active part in assisting the ESPI process; to community residents who attended meetings, prepared thoughtful interventions and attended ESPI Open Houses; to the many presenters who appeared before the Round Table and the First Nations Council; to the numerous organizations and individuals who supported the preparation of the East Side Youth Conference, which we hope will materialize in the fall of this year.

Thanks are also offered to the minister and officials of Manitoba Conservation, as well as those departments and agencies of the provincial government that facilitated and supported the work of ESPI.

And finally, I would like to thank each member of the secretariat and the consultants who have supported our work. Their tireless pursuit of excellence and the professionalism and respectably demonstrated in supporting both the East Side Round Table and the First Nations Council in their pursuit of an independent course in crafting this report, have been very much appreciated. I know that I speak for both the Round Table and the First Nations Council in expressing appreciation for the efforts in preparing the numerous drafts and re-drafts of this report.

Without these contributions, the Round Table and the First Nations Council would not have achieved its impressive list of accomplishments in preparing *Promises to Keep*. As the title suggests, this status report is but a stop along the pathway that we must continue to walk to fully complete the Broad Area Plan for the east side of Lake Winnipeg and its accompanying protocols. In starting this important initiative, it is hoped that the Government of Manitoba will see it through to its fruition.

Peter André Globensky
Executive Coordinator
East Side Planning Initiative

