

# "Promises to Keep..."

## *Towards a Broad Area Plan for the East Side of Lake Winnipeg*

### A Status Report





# “Promises to Keep...”

## *Towards a Broad Area Plan for the East Side of Lake Winnipeg*

### **Legal Impact of the Status Report**

The contents of this Status Report – the narrative, analysis, observations, and recommendations are presented to the Government of Manitoba in the spirit of good will and good faith. The Government of Manitoba is committed to improve the relationship between the people of the province and First Nation/Aboriginal peoples based on principles of mutual recognition, mutual respect, and mutual responsibility. Nothing in this Status Report shall be construed to restrict, compromise or fetter the ability of First Nations and Aboriginal communities and their members to fully enjoy the Aboriginal and Treaty Rights recognized and affirmed by the Canadian Constitution and the evolution of Canadian case law. The Government of Manitoba, in creating the East Side Planning Initiative, has affirmed that the content of this Status Report shall not be construed to alter, replace, or fetter the legal responsibility and obligation of the provincial government to engage in meaningful consultation and accommodation with respect to any and all issues identified in this report.

# "Promises to Keep<sup>1</sup>..."

## *Towards a Broad Area Plan for the East Side of Lake Winnipeg*

**Dedicated to:**

**The future of the people  
of the east side of Lake Winnipeg  
and to the land which will continue to sustain them.**

<sup>1</sup>The title of the status report is taken from the final stanza of the Robert Frost poem  
*Stopping By Woods On A Snowy Evening*

The woods are lovely, dark and deep.  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.



**Broad Area Planning**

***East Side Planning Initiative***

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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:

On behalf of the East Side Round Table and the First Nations Council, it gives us great pleasure to submit to you our status report on the development of a Broad Area Plan for the east side of Lake Winnipeg entitled *Promises to Keep*. For your convenience and reference, as well as for broader distribution, we are also pleased to provide you with a separate executive summary of the status report.

In presenting this report to you and your government, we wish to assure you that we have laboured long and hard to both gain the confidence and understand the preferences of the residents of the east side of Lake Winnipeg concerning the current and future land use of this magnificent area.

As our report will outline, there have been numerous meetings and discussions with interest groups and stakeholders, Northern Affairs and Métis communities and the leadership and residents of First Nations communities, the latter comprising over 96 per cent of the population of the east side of Lake Winnipeg. As the first prototype and flagship initiative emanating from the recommendations of the Consultation on Sustainable Development Implementation, this status report will affirm that the Government of Manitoba has embarked on a unique and promising venture – a venture that seeks to empower the residents of the east side of Lake Winnipeg and engage them in a process that increases their access and control over decisions that will affect the quality of their lives. On their behalf, we commend your government for initiating this most important dialogue.



The development of the Broad Area Plan has not been completed. Yet much has been accomplished in defining a sustainable land use plan for an area equivalent to one-eighth of the land mass of Manitoba. While this status report provides you with a measure of our progress, much remains to be done in our quest to protect the environment, assure sustainable development in the area and achieve certainty for investment and economic development ventures.

We believe that our preliminary observations and recommendations chart a precise and measurable course on the path to completing the Broad Area Plan and we strongly recommend that the Government of Manitoba stay the course through to its completion. The *Memorandum of Understanding* with First Nations communities and the promise of one with the Métis Nation residents on the east side of Lake Winnipeg, the extensive consultations with Northern Affairs communities, and the pending comprehensive dialogues with Manitoba's First Nations communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg, will shape a Broad Area Plan based on thorough consultations and a sensitivity to the environment that is unparalleled in recent Manitoba history.

The recommendations contained in this report are based on extensive preliminary consultations with communities on the east side and the dedicated work of our colleagues on the East Side Round Table, the First Nations Council and the Advisory Committee. We are convinced that this East Side Planning Initiative will produce a Broad Area Plan that will not only serve the residents of the area and the interests of all Manitobans, but will also define the future of Broad Area Planning and sustainable development in Canada.

We commend this work to your attention and respectfully request that it be permitted to reach its natural and positive conclusion.

Respectfully yours,



Chief Phil Fontaine  
Chair  
East Side Planning Initiative



Elder Ed Wood  
Associate Chair  
East Side Planning Initiative