

#### **6.4.8**

The East Side First Nations Council be involved in the review of road corridor alternatives and prior to final route selection, Manitoba Transportation apply for an environmental license and present the final road alternative to the Clean Environmental Commission.

#### **6.4.9**

Prior to any construction, regardless of road standard, Manitoba Transportation and other road developers develop road management plans for all roads. These plans would include standard options, location options, environmental impact mitigation plans, decommissioning plans and access restriction plans. The process of road management planning should also have a thorough public consultation process built in.

#### **6.4.10**

An environmental impact assessment address the cumulative impact of rights-of-way for both an all-weather road and Hydro Bi-Pole III.

#### **6.4.11**

Ferry and barge services to east side communities remain commissioned and unchanged until alternatives are in place, at which time, private ownership could be encouraged as an option to services not publicly owned.

#### **6.4.12**

An economic assessment be undertaken to evaluate potential impacts that might occur as a result of the loss of existing business relationships between east Lake Winnipeg and west Lake Winnipeg businesses through the decommissioning of ferry/barge services.

#### **6.4.13**

The on-going maintenance and upgrading of airports, or the development of new airports, will remain a government responsibility and priority and not be at the expense of any work on an all-weather road.

#### **6.4.14**

Prior to the establishment of new all-weather road developments, and with local community involvement, comprehensive plans should be developed to protect wildlife (refuge corridors) that could be impacted by increasing road access.

#### **6.4.15**

Any transportation development or activity with a permit or license to proceed or operate must investigate, identify and mitigate impacts on other licensed or permitted activities such as trapping, wild rice propagation, lodges and outfitters, and others. The Government of Manitoba must work with the East Side First Nations Council to establish a process to ensure sufficient communications between license holders and provide a mechanism to resolve any conflict or disputes that may arise due to competing licensed interests. Conflict resolution by a third party mediator could be a consideration.



## 6.5 Tourism and Recreation

### **Mandate**

*“The east side round table consider and address the opportunities and acceptability of ecotourism and tourist development in the planning area.”*

It is generally agreed that there is a high potential for tourism and recreation in the planning area. Recreational opportunities are especially high for wilderness and ecotourism, cultural tourism, and backcountry camping and canoeing. Maps prepared for the ESPI show dozens of locations of campgrounds, outfitter camps and caches, and numerous commercial lodges throughout the southern portion of the planning area. There are fewer facilities north of the Poplar/Nanowin Rivers Park Reserve. Most of these facilities are focused on hunting and fishing activities, require air access, and are aimed at a clientele able to afford it. Licenses to lodges and outfitter camps are issued by the Licensing Advisory Committee, a committee internal to government, formed under the *Resource Tourism Operator’s Act*.

The opportunities for further development of tourism and recreation in the planning area have not yet been considered in detail by the Round Table. This is an area for further elaboration in the development of the Broad Area Plan. To date, indications are that further development of this potential is wanted and needed, and that the focus should be on creating improved local capacity and benefits. More tourism development in the area is strongly linked to the transportation network. More local benefits in this sector would flow from the development of all-weather roads. However, there is a great concern over the creation of new cottage developments, because these tend to be followed by incremental demands for improvements in services and access. There are also concerns that access could impact remote tourism opportunities. If tourism is to yield economic development opportunities for the area residents, careful consideration must be given to how access can be coordinated with the tourism potential.

During the community visits, as reported in *What We Heard*, there were several references to the need for tourism and ecotourism development. There is an awareness of the attraction that the planning area holds for tourists, and the potential for business in this sector. Many submissions emphasized the need for jobs. There is a perception that local businesses are refused licenses for tourist facilities by the Licensing Advisory Committee, while larger companies from outside the region obtain them. Some local residents feel disadvantaged by this.

### **Recommendations**

#### **6.5.1**

Decisions on development of tourism facilities should be tied into other decisions on infrastructure, such as roads and other services. Better



coordination of these decisions is needed in the placement of tourism developments. This is particularly important if tourism developments are spurred by the Aboriginal Tourism Strategy being developed by the province.

#### **6.5.2**

A local decision-making mechanism for approval of new or expanded tourism facilities is needed, and must be based on joint governance arrangements between First Nations, local communities and the province. The Licensing Advisory Committee should seek advice from a local decision-making mechanism. The criteria for making these judgments need to be clear and complete explanations given to applicants when permits and licenses are turned down. A process for resolving disputes and appealing decisions is also required.

#### **6.5.3**

The expansion of opportunities for non-consumptive forms of recreation, such as outdoor education and ecotourism, in addition to the existing hunting and fishing opportunities, is encouraged. Provision should be made for the hiring and training of significant numbers of local residents for advancement in the industry.

#### **6.5.4**

Provision for hiring and training people for advancement in the industry from the local community must be a condition of licenses and permits in future tourism facilities. Training programs should provide accreditation to recognized standards and certification.

#### **6.5.5**

Provide First Nation, Métis and local communities with better access to information and training in tourism development, marketing and entrepreneurship.

#### **6.5.6**

Because of potentially significant environmental impacts, new cottage developments must be subject to rigorous environmental impact assessments. New road locations to cottage developments should not negatively affect ecotourism and entrepreneurship opportunities.

#### **6.5.7**

The Government of Manitoba support a comprehensive Aboriginal tourism strategy and provide resources for its implementation.

#### **6.5.8**

The Government of Manitoba support the creation of a Manitoba First Nations Tourism Group with financial and technical assistance to, in part, facilitate their participation in the areas of ownership in lodges, outposts, camps, etc., and in training and advocacy. Provision for hiring and training of members of First Nations communities for advancement in the industry should be a condition of licenses and permits in future tourism facilities.



### 6.5.9

Any tourism and recreation development or activity with a permit or license to operate must investigate, identify and mitigate impacts on licensed or permitted activities such as trapping, wild rice propagation, lodges and outfitters, and others. The Government of Manitoba shall work with the East Side First Nations Council to establish a process to ensure sufficient communications between license holders and provide a mechanism to resolve any conflict or disputes that may arise due to competing licensed interests. Conflict resolution by a third party mediator could be a consideration.

### 6.5.10

The East Side First Nations Council develop a clear consultation process regarding the allocation of non-resident big game licenses as the current process appears to be unfair to local entrepreneurs.

## 6.6 Hydro Transmission Corridor

### **Mandate**

*“As part of the planning process, Manitoba Hydro co-ordinate any future transmission line communications and public consultation activities with the east side round table. The east side round table provide regional guidance relative to Manitoba Hydro in regards to future electrical transmission facilities within the planning area. Manitoba Hydro work with the East Side Planning Initiative Secretariat and, directly, with the East Side Round Table to ensure the effective and efficient co-ordination of planning and communication activities in the planning area.”*

Consideration of the proposed Manitoba Hydro transmission corridor was initially defined as a “procedural” mandate to ensure co-operation and co-ordination between the East Side Planning Initiative and Manitoba Hydro in approaches to east side of Lake Winnipeg communities. Community information sharing and consultation sessions quickly refocused the issue to the potential location of the BiPole III transmission corridor proposed by Manitoba Hydro. This was due, in part, to a number of community visits undertaken by Manitoba Hydro, immediately prior to the first round of east side community visits organized by ESPI. The purpose of the east side community visits initiated by Manitoba Hydro was to gauge public interest and reaction to the possible location of a hydroelectric transmission corridor down the length of the east side of Lake Winnipeg. Manitoba Hydro had not completed its full round of community visits when, by mutual agreement between Manitoba Hydro and ESPI, the former agreed to suspend all community information sessions/consultations until ESPI had completed its first round of community visits.

A wide range of issues and concerns were broached in submissions to ESPI from east side communities and residents, numerous stakeholders and Manitoba citizens on the subject of hydroelectric transmission. They ranged