

Pointe du Bois Site and Slave Falls Generating Site
Water Power Act Short Term Extension Licence Requirement:
Winnipeg River Indigenous Engagement Report
June 16, 2023 to June 15, 2024

Prepared for:
Manitoba Environment and Climate Change
14 Fultz Boulevard
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3Y 0L6

Prepared by:
Manitoba Hydro
360 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0G8

June 30, 2024

JUNE 16, 2023 TO JUNE 15, 2024

Manitoba Hydro operates throughout Manitoba on the original territories of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Anisininew, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. We are committed to respecting and supporting Indigenous peoples in all aspects of our business.

Indigenous peoples have a strong cultural and spiritual connection to the lands and waters, dating back to time immemorial. We acknowledge the impacts of our projects and operations, and we are committed to working collaboratively to strengthen and improve our relationships with Indigenous communities. We support the advancement of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in Manitoba, and we will work to contribute to reconciliation efforts in our interactions with Indigenous peoples and communities.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1.0 INTRODUCTION 1-1**
 - 1.1 STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT1-1**
 - 1.2 BACKGROUND1-1**
 - 1.3 PURPOSE1-3**
 - 1.4 COMMUNITIES INCLUDED IN THE REPORT.....1-4**
- 2.0 COMMUNITY SPECIFIC SUMMARIES (JUNE 16, 2023 TO JUNE 15, 2024) 2-1**
 - 2.1 BLACK RIVER FIRST NATION (BRFN).....2-3**
 - 2.2 BROKENHEAD OJIBWAY NATION (BON).....2-6**
 - 2.3 HOLLOW WATER FIRST NATION (HWFN)2-9**
 - 2.4 PEGUIS FIRST NATION (PFN).....2-12**
 - 2.5 SAGKEENG ANICINABE FIRST NATION (SAFN)2-15**
 - 2.6 THE MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION (MMF).....2-18**
 - 2.7 AGHAMING COMMUNITY COUNCIL2-21**
 - 2.8 MANIGOTAGAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL2-22**
 - 2.9 SEYMOURVILLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL2-23**

LIST OF TABLES

- TABLE 2.1: ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: BLACK RIVER FIRST NATION.....2-3**
- TABLE 2.2: ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: BROKENHEAD OJIBWAY NATION2-6**
- TABLE 2.3: ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: HOLLOW WATER FIRST NATION2-9**
- TABLE 2.4: ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: PEGUIS FIRST NATION2-12**
- TABLE 2.5: ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: SAGKEENG FIRST NATION2-15**
- TABLE 2.6: ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION2-18**

TABLE 2.7: ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: AGHAMING COMMUNITY COUNCIL2-21
TABLE 2.8: ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: MANIGOTAGAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL.....2-22
TABLE 2.9: ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: SEYMOURVILLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL2-23

LIST OF MAPS

MAP 1.1: THE WINNIPEG RIVER’S DRAINAGE BASIN1-2
MAP 1.3: LOCATION OF COMMUNITIES AND THE MÉTIS RECOGNIZED HARVESTING ZONE.1-5

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE 1.1: HYDROELECTRIC GENERATING STATIONS ON THE WINNIPEG RIVER IN MANITOBA ...1-3

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

This report includes two sections:

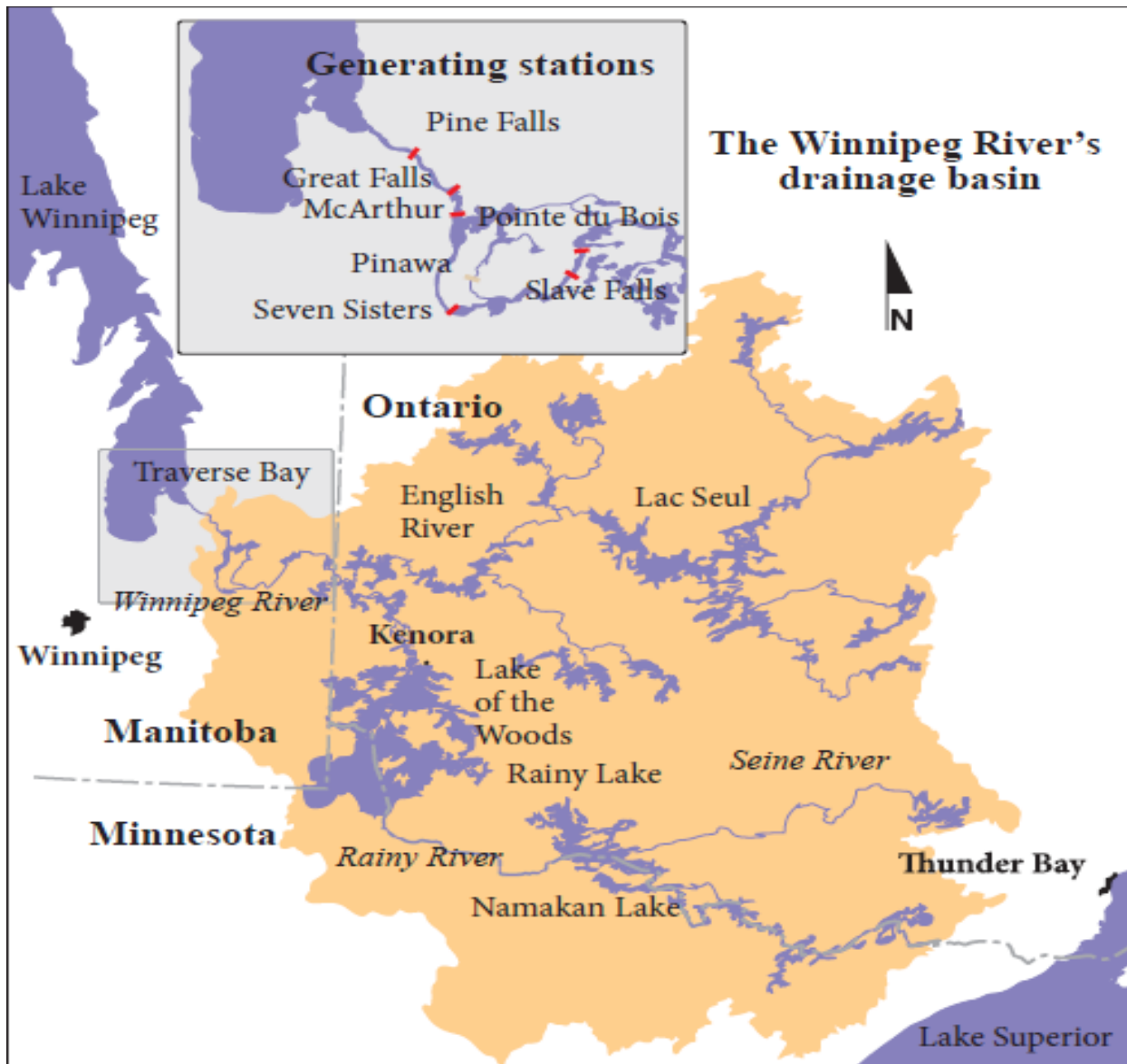
- **Section 1 – Introduction:** This section of the submission provides background, purpose of the report, and identifies communities included in the report.
- **Section 2 – Community-Specific Summaries:** These summaries describe the activities that have occurred with individual communities over the reporting period. The summaries are not intended to document every conversation between Manitoba Hydro (MH) and a particular community, but rather to provide a general overview of activities and dialogue that have occurred over the June 16, 2023 to June 15, 2024 reporting period. The community-specific sections include information that may be considered private by individual communities, and are therefore submitted to satisfy conditions of the Water Power Act licences for the Pointe du Bois and Slave Falls Generating Stations but are not intended to be made public.

1.2 BACKGROUND

The Winnipeg River flows northwest from Lake of the Woods in Ontario to Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba. The river spans approximately 260 kilometers from the Norman Dam in Kenora to its mouth at Lake Winnipeg. The Winnipeg River watershed spans approximately 150 000 square kilometers in area, with two-thirds of this drainage basin area in northwestern Ontario, one-fifth in northern Minnesota and the remainder in eastern Manitoba (see map 1.1).

For thousands of years the Winnipeg River has been an integral part of the lives of Indigenous peoples, including as a source of traditional foods and other resources, travel, and trade. The river also historically served as a major transportation route for fur traders and early explorers, and its powerful waters were later used to provide electricity to a growing province. Throughout the 20th century to the present day, the waters of the Winnipeg River have played, and will continue to play, a vital role in Manitoba's economic, cultural, and social well-being.

The first generating station on the Winnipeg River, the Pinawa Generating Station, owned by the Winnipeg Electric Company, became operational in 1906 and was constructed to supply the needs of the growing City of Winnipeg. The facility operated for 45 years, after which time the water flowing through its generators was returned to the Winnipeg River's main channel to enhance water flow to other Winnipeg River generating stations.



Map 1.1: The Winnipeg River's Drainage Basin

Between 1911 and 1952, six generating stations were built along the Winnipeg River, producing about 583 megawatts (MW). From east to west, generating stations are located at Pointe du Bois, Slave Falls, Seven Sisters Falls, McArthur Falls, Great Falls and Pine Falls (see Figure 1.1). All of these generating stations are owned and operated by MH; however, the two furthest upstream stations, Pointe du Bois and Slave Falls, were built in 1911 and 1928, respectively, by City Hydro, later known as Winnipeg Hydro. MH purchased these facilities in 2002 as part of its purchase of Winnipeg Hydro. The six Winnipeg River generating stations are run-of-the-river facilities with limited capacity to store and release water.

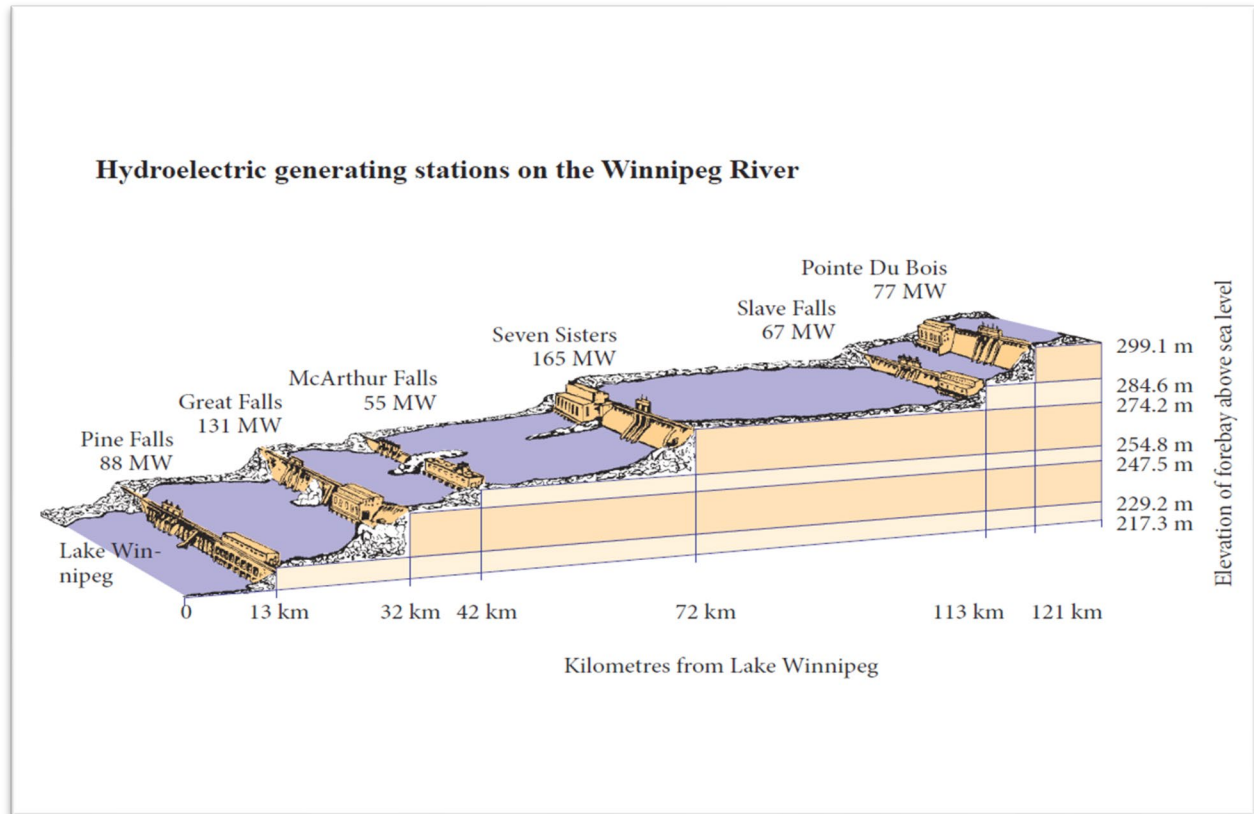


Figure 1.1: Hydroelectric Generating Stations on the Winnipeg River in Manitoba

1.3 PURPOSE

Manitoba grants the right to develop water power under the authority of The Water Power Act. MH received Water Power Act Short Term Extension Licences (STELs) for the Pointe du Bois and Slave Falls sites on December 31, 2021. These STELs contain new terms and conditions, including the following ongoing requirement:

- The Licensee shall within 6 months of the issuance of this Third Short-term Extension Licence, and annually thereafter submit a report to the Director documenting the Licensee's engagement with Indigenous communities on the continued operation of the Undertaking (article 6 in both Licences).

The objective of this report is to demonstrate compliance with this ongoing requirement in the Water Power Act STELs for the Pointe du Bois and Slave Falls Generating Stations. Information provided is for the period of June 16, 2023 to June 15, 2024. Information is provided for engagement activities undertaken with respect to all plants on the Winnipeg River, as dialogue with Indigenous communities is not generally specific to an individual generating station.

This report documents activities MH either leads or participates in. Separate community engagement activities, related to the operation of projects led by Manitoba or Canada, and that MH has not participated in, are not reported here.

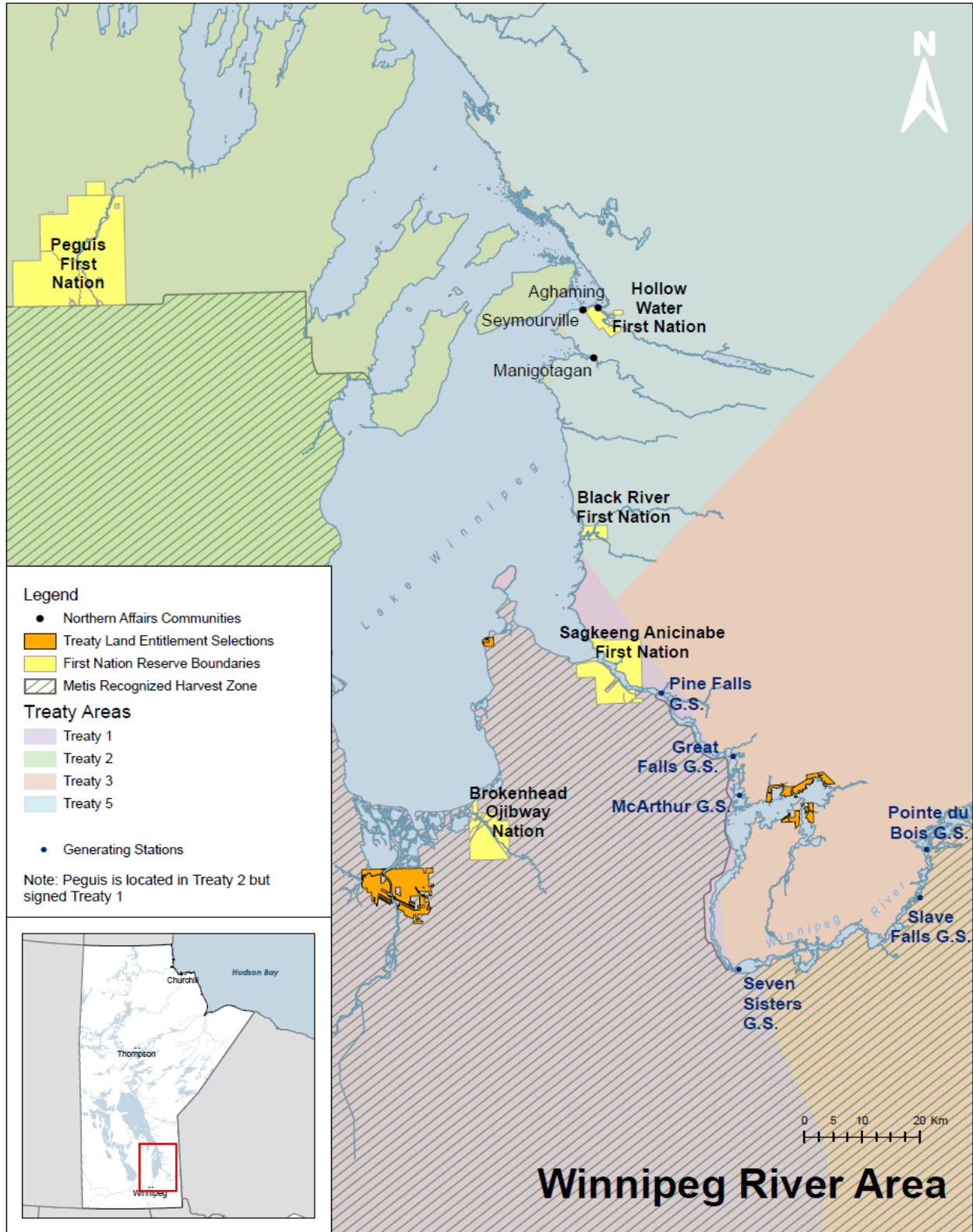
Project specific engagement activities are noted in this report; however, the outcomes of these engagements will be reported through separate regulatory processes.

1.4 COMMUNITIES INCLUDED IN THE REPORT

Over the reporting period MH undertook engagement activities with:

- Black River First Nation
- Brokenhead Ojibway Nation
- Hollow Water First Nation
- Peguis First Nation
- Sagkeeng Anicinabe First Nation
- The Manitoba Métis Federation
- Aghaming Community Council
- Manigotagan Community Council
- Seymourville Community Council

Map 1.2 highlights the locations of these geographical communities as well as the Métis Recognized Harvest Zone.



Map 1.2: Location of Geographic Communities and the Métis Recognized Harvest Zone

2.0 COMMUNITY SPECIFIC SUMMARIES (JUNE 16, 2023 TO JUNE 15, 2024)

The community specific summary tables included in the confidential section of this report describe the engagement activities that have occurred over the reporting period by community. This report summarizes MH's perspective of the activities that have been undertaken during the reporting period. Communities may have their own perspectives of the activities completed during the reporting period. This engagement report does not include activities led by either Manitoba or Canada.

The Heritage Resources Monitoring Program, Coordinated Aquatic Monitoring Program and employment and training programming are system wide initiatives that include engagement across large regions and with multiple communities. These programs are described below and referenced in the community specific summaries.

The Heritage Resources Monitoring Program

MH is committed to safeguarding cultural and heritage resources through its Heritage Resources Monitoring Program (HRMP). Under the HRMP annual rotational monitoring of registered heritage sites occurs throughout MH's hydraulic system. The purpose of this monitoring is to identify any changes in site conditions since the last monitoring visit, and to determine whether any future monitoring or mitigation is required. The HRMP also includes the screening of construction or maintenance projects to determine the chance of finding or disturbing heritage resources in the work area so that appropriate protection measures can be implemented prior to work being initiated. MH works with Manitoba's Department of Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism to review and develop appropriate protection plans to ensure Manitoba's rich cultural history is preserved. This monitoring and protection planning work includes notification and collaboration with local communities on a rotational basis depending on annual field work requirements and schedules.

Coordinated Aquatic Monitoring Program

The Coordinated Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP) was developed in partnership by MH and the Province of Manitoba to study and monitor the health of waterbodies affected by MH's generating system. The program established consistent sampling protocols for a range of ecological parameters at various levels in the ecosystem and at specific on-system and off-system waterbodies in order to track ecosystem health over the long-term. Sampling under CAMP began in 2008.

Where opportunities arise, contract employees are hired from communities near where the work is taking place to assist with monitoring activities.

The reporting framework developed for CAMP includes annual activity reports, information, and data presentation via a dedicated program website (www.campmb.ca) and detailed synthesis reports prepared every three years. The website offers summary reports, technical reports and maps, and sampling results for key parameters. All CAMP data are publicly available upon request and have been shared with communities, researchers, government organizations and individuals.

Employment and Training

MH has dedicated programming intended to enhance both operational and project-related Indigenous employment, training, and business opportunities.

MH has pre-placement programs for Indigenous candidates who do not meet the minimum academic qualifications of its Power Electrician/Mechanical Technician and Power Line Technician training programs. The pre-placement programs provide paid academic upgrading and on-the-job training and experience. The programs are six-to-nine-month in duration with no guarantee of continued employment upon completion. Recruitments are posted on MH's external website when they occur.

Since program inception to March 31, 2024:

- 524 trainees had been hired; and
- 448 trainees had moved on to employment at MH.

These programs have contributed to a significant increase in Indigenous representation in MH's operational employment over the years. As of March 31, 2024:

- 1064 Indigenous employees worked at MH;
- 20.1% of total corporate employees self-identified as Indigenous;
- 47.2% of total northern employees self-identified as Indigenous;
- 7.8% of total management employees self-identified as Indigenous; and
- 10.2% of total professional employees self-identified as Indigenous.