



## **Timeline of Jenpeg-related Events and Communication with Government**

October 23, 2014

- 1875 Treaty 5 signed, committing parties to peaceful and honourable coexistence and sharing of the land
- 1957 Manitoba Hydro begins construction of the Kelsey Dam, without the consent of Pimicikamak. The dam continues to affect a large area of Pimicikamak territory.
- 1972 Manitoba Hydro begins construction of the Jenpeg Dam, about 20 kilometres from Cross Lake, the main Pimicikamak community.
- 1975 The water starts to rise behind Jenpeg, in Pimicikamak territory.
- 1977 Pimicikamak and other Cree nations sign the Northern Flood Agreement (NFA), along with Hydro, Manitoba and Canada, which was/is supposed to remediate and mitigate, or compensate for, the hydro project impacts, through a series of measures.
- 1998 Pimicikamak citizens blockade a Hydro convoy through their territory, because the NFA is not being implemented much. Hydro, Manitoba and Canada agree to work cooperatively to implement that NFA. The blockade is taken down. Little action follows to implement the NFA in a meaningful way.
- 2002 The Crown parties agree to an action plan for NFA implementation. The plan is implemented for 15 months, and then there is a return by the Crown parties to the past poor implementation.

This is not a full list of events pertaining to Pimicikamak rights, lands, waters and people, and how they have been negatively affected especially by the hydro project. The history is long and complicated. The bottom line is that whatever has been done and however much money has been spent has not resulted in the fairness, equity, environmental rehabilitation and poverty alleviation promised in the NFA.

- Oct 16, 2014 Approximately 600 Pimicikamak citizens deliver an eviction notice to the housing complex on the Jenpeg dam grounds. Hydro personnel in the building then vacate the premises, following which Pimicikamak places its own locks on the doors.
- Oct 17, 2014 Hon. Stan Struthers and Hydro CEO Mr. Scott Thomson meet with Pimicikamak leaders in the presence of an estimated 900 Pimicikamak citizens on the Jenpeg grounds. A

constructive exchange takes place. Pimicikamak presents an initial set of requests.

- Oct 21, 2014 Pimicikamak sends a letter to Manitoba officials clarifying its proposed solutions. The core of the solutions (in addition to some more technical matters) are:
- a formal apology for past and present hydro harms;
  - a renewed NFA implementation process including high-level participation, funding, measurable goals for environmental mitigation and remediation, and a revenue sharing and/or equity ownership arrangement;
  - aggressive Power Smart programming in Cross Lake;
  - sharing of water rental payments, which now go solely to the province; and
  - a say in how water levels are managed in Pimicikamak territory.

Oct 21, 2014 The province responds in writing by saying it is committed to a “Framework,” but will proceed only if normal operations at Jenpeg are allowed to resume. The letter contains no concrete commitments other than to work toward resolution (and only if Pimicikamak leaves Jenpeg (which is in its traditional territory).

Oct 23, 2014 Pimicikamak sends a letter to Premier Selinger acknowledging that he cancelled his participation in the China trade mission to deal with this matter. The letter sets out parameters for a meeting between Pimicikamak leaders and himself. The letter says certain concrete gestures of goodwill—including a public apology—on the part the government will be required in order to ensure a productive meeting.

Pimicikamak does not want to meet for the sake of meeting. Pimicikamak needs concrete acts of goodwill. Too many past commitments and promises on the part of Crown parties have later proven empty. Pimicikamak cannot build its future on promises, commitments, frameworks and meetings. It needs action.

Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro may try to make Pimicikamak look like the unwilling party, but they are the ones in fundamental breach of the NFA. They are the ones reaping the benefits of our homeland while we live in poverty and while our land lies destroyed.

Pimicikamak has put forward its positive vision for change and invited the Crown parties back into an honourable and fair treaty relationship.