MANITOBA PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

Re: MANITOBA HYDRO

NEEDS FOR AND ALTERNATIVES TO

REVIEW OF MANITOBA HYDRO'S

PREFERRED DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Regis Gosselin - Chairperson

Marilyn Kapitany - Board Member

Larry Soldier - Board Member

Richard Bel - Board Member

Hugh Grant - Board Member

HELD AT:

Public Utilities Board

400, 330 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba

April 23, 2014

Pages 7620 to 7917

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9 DAVE MOULAND, Affirmed

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1 --- Upon commencing at 9:02 a.m.

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good morning. I

4 believe that everybody's in position, so we'll start

5 this morning's proceedings. I wish -- I -- I hope that

6 everyone had a good weekend and ready to go the next

7 couple weeks. Before we start the proceedings and we

8 hear from CAC and MMF, I have a statement I'd like to

9 read into the record on behalf of the panel.

10 Last week, the question of additional

11 information to be sought from Manitoba Hydro arose.

12 Manitoba Hydro provided updates of its economic summary

13 tables and a partially updated quilt as part of Exhibit

14 MH-104. However, not all plans have been updated to

15 the same extent.

16 It is the panel's understanding that, to

17 date, Plans 1, 5, 6, and 14 have been updated on a

18 ref/ref/ref basis to include 2014 Keeyask and Conawapa

19 construction costs, 2013 planning assumptions, the

20 elimination of WPS's investment in the 750 megawatt

21 transmission line, and the impacts of various levels of

22 DSM with and without the pipeline load. However, Plan

23 6 is only updated for base and Level 2 DSM. We are

24 expecting economic summary tables for Plan 2 with DSM

25 Level 2 later today.

1 From the comments of our their counsel,
2 the panel is also aware that Intervenors are seeking
3 additional analyses. All requests need to be
4 considered -- considered in light of available time
5 lines. Additionally, Manitoba Hydro invited the panel
6 to prioritize the analyses.
7 Therefore, the panel requests that
8 Manitoba Hydro update Plan 4, economic analysis for the
9 2013 planning assumptions, 2014 capital costs, Level 2
10 DSM, and for the ref/ref case similar -- similar to
11 what has been updated in MH-104-4. To be clear, the
12 in-service dates for new generation are to be adjusted
13 to reflect the impacts of DSM.
14 Turning to the financial analyses, the
15 Board understands Manitoba Hydro is currently preparing
16 the financial analyses for Plans 1, 5, and 14 with the
17 pipeline load. The panel requests Manitoba Hydro to
18 postpone that work, and instead prepare the financial
19 analysis for Plan 2 with DSM Level 2. The panel sees
20 this as a higher priority than the pipeline load
21 financials.
22 To list the panel's request and
23 priorities: Number 1: To postpone the financial --
24 financial analysis of Plans 1, 5, and 14 with the
25 pipeline loads.

1 Number 2: Perform the financial
2 analysis of a fully updated Plan 2 DSM 2.
3 Number 3: Perform the financial
4 analysis of fully updotted plan -- fully updated Plan 5
5 DSM 2 with the pipeline load.
6 Number 4: Provide the economic analysis
7 of fully updotted -- fully updated Plan 4 DSM 2.
8 Number 5: Perform the financial
9 analysis of fully updated Plan 6 DSM 2.
10 Number 6: Perform the financial
11 analysis of fully updated Plan 6 DSM 2 (sic).
12 Number 7: Complete the financial
13 analysis of Plans 1 and 14 with the pipeline loads.
14 And finally, 8 and 9: Perform the
15 economic analysis of fully updated Plan 12 DSM 2.
16 And number 9: Perform the financial
17 analysis of fully updated Plan 12 DSM 2.
18 And on behalf of the panel, Manitoba
19 Hydro, once you've reviewed the transcript, the panel
20 expects you to advise the parties of the anticipated
21 time lines.
22 At the same time that Manitoba Hydro is
23 responding to those requests, the panel is also seeking
24 La Cap -- I'm sorry, is also asking La Capra to update
25 several of its charts and analyses. The panel requests

1 that La Capra update the following figures for Plans 1,
2 2, 4, 5, 6, and 14 for Level 2 DSM. The figures are
3 the following: 9-15, 9-21, 9-98, 9-99U, 10-10, 10-12,
4 10-42, and 10-43.
5 In addition to the Plan 2 economic
6 summary tables that Manitoba Hydro will provide later
7 today, La Capra will require the fully updated Plan 4
8 economic summary tables from Manitoba Hydro. I'm
9 sorry.
10 The panel also requests Morrison Park to
11 update their response to PUB/MPA-27a, which provides
12 Morrison Park's analysis of the -- of the impact of
13 drought on Manitoba Hydro's financials.
14 Thank you. And with that, let's turn to
15 today's proceedings. So there's just a long list of
16 things we had to do, so I apologize to the guests who
17 are probably not used to these proceedings. So I want
18 to welcome them all, and I'll turn the microphone over
19 to you, Ms. Menzies.
20 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you, and
21 good morning, Board. Good morning to everyone in the
22 room. It's an exciting day for both CAC (Manitoba) and
23 the Manitoba Metis Federation, because we're very
24 excited that all of these members of this panel have --
25 have given up a lot of their time and today to speak

1 before you.

2 And -- and this is the first time, to my

3 understanding, that a panel of this -- of this make-up

4 has been heard before this Board. And so not only are

5 we excited and thankful to -- to all of our members,

6 but we're very thankful to the Board for allowing us

7 this opportunity.

8 And I think that it's going to be --

9 it's been very education for both Ms. Saunders and I so

10 far. And so we're -- we're quite certain that it'll be

11 very educational for the room today. So thank you very

12 much.

13 The first thing we'd like to do is

14 actually just first introduce some of our exhibits. So

15 some more boring stuff is what we're going to go back

16 to now. We'll get to the exciting stuff soon.

17 So this should have all been sent out

18 over the weekend or, to be perfectly honest, late last

19 night. But first I'd like to file on the record the

20 table of projected annual bills as CAC-54.

21

22 --- EXHIBIT NO. CAC-54: Table of projected annual

23 bills

24

25 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And then as -- to

file as CAC-55-1, the -- the environmental evaluation -- or, sorry, the energy evaluation of Mr. Genaille.

--- EXHIBIT NO. CAC-55-1: Energy evaluation of Mr. Genaille

MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: As CAC-52, the energy evaluation of Ms. Albertine -- Ms. Albertine Mason.

MR. KURT SIMONSEN: I assume that's 55-2?

MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Sorry, mis -- yes, CAC-55-2.

--- EXHIBIT NO. CAC-55-2: Energy evaluation of Albertine Mason

MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And then as CAC-55-3, the energy efficiency evaluation of Mr. David Mouland.

--- EXHIBIT NO. CAC-55-3: Energy evaluation of David Mouland

MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Then as CAC-56,

1 the curriculum vitae of Mr. Gio Robson.

2

3 --- EXHIBIT NO. CAC-56: Curriculum vitae of Gio

4 Robson

5

6 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And then jumping

7 to CAC-61 -- and although it's confusing on the record,

8 we've been in discussions with Mr. Simonsen. And so as

9 -- as CAC-61, we will be filing the ratepayer panel

10 PowerPoint that will be presented by Mr. Gio Robson.

11

12 --- EXHIBIT NO. CAC-61: Ratepayer panel PowerPoint

13 presentation

14

15 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: I'd also like to

16 clarify that all of these exhibits are being presented

17 on behalf of both the Manitoba Metis Federation and the

18 Consumers' Association of Canada, Manitoba branch. But

19 for -- for logistic -- logistical purposes, they're

20 being filed under CAC, but they are joint exhibits.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

22 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you. And I

23 think the second step today will be to have all of the

24 witnesses sworn. And so if Mr. Simonsen could come

25 help out with that. Thank you.

1 CAC/MMF RATEPAYER PANEL:

2 GIO ROBSON, Affirmed (Qual.)

3 GLORIA HARTLEY, Sworn

4 DAVE MOULAND, Affirmed

5 ALBERTINE MASON, Sworn

6 JACQUELINE SALAMISAN, Sworn

7 DARRELL SETTEE, Sworn

8 RICHARD GENAILLE, Sworn

9

10 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: So as I do on a

11 daily basis, I should thank Mr. Simonsen for -- for

12 swearing our witnesses, and also being so nimble in his

13 -- in his swearing.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Ms. Menzies, let's

15 give it a few seconds. Yeah, let's give it a few

16 minutes.

17

18 (BRIEF PAUSE)

19

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Ms. Menzies, back to

21 you.

22

23 QUALIFICATION OF WITNESS:

24 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you. And so

25 I'm soon to introduce the panel before us, but the

first step that I'd like to do today is actually seek to qualify Mr. Gio Robson as an expert witness.

So I guess we'll -- we'll share this mic.

So first, Mr. Robson, could you please describe your education and training as they relate to your -- to the field of home performance?

MR. GIO ROBSON: Yeah, so I -- I have a -- an undergraduate degree at the -- from the University of Winnipeg, which is unrelated to home -- home performance, of course, but I'm certified as an energy advisor under Natural Resources Canada. I'm certified as a plan evaluator and inspector, and an air tightness tester under Natural Resources Canada for the R-2000 New Homes Program, and I'm also certified under Natural Resources Canada as a trainer of certified energy advisors for both new and existing houses.

And I've probably trained about twenty-five (25) energy advisors in the province since 2005/2006.

MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And so can you please describe for the Board what NRCan is?

MR. GIO ROBSON: Well, Natural Resources Canada is a department of the federal government, and part of their mission is to provide --

1 is to provide leadership in energy efficiency. So they
2 oversee a number of energy efficiency programs for both
3 new and existing housing. They also oversee the
4 EnerGuide Rating System, which is known to homeowners
5 typically as the program that provides an -- an energy
6 rating -- or an EnerGuide rating to homes, and it's
7 also serves as the framework for different incentive
8 programs, including the now defunct ecoENERGY Program,
9 which was a grant program for homeowners to do energy
10 efficiency improvements on their homes.
11 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you. And --
12 and similarly, could you please describe for the Board
13 an R-2000 -- or R-2000?
14 MR. GIO ROBSON: So R-2000 is a -- a
15 program, again, overseen by Natural Resources Canada,
16 and it represents one of the highest levels of energy
17 efficiency excellence. It's been around since the, I
18 think, mid -- mid-1980s, and it's -- it's held up
19 around the world as a -- as a benchmark for what new
20 housing can be in terms of energy efficiency and indoor
21 air quality.
22 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you. And --
23 and you had said that you've trained a number of -- of
24 persons in home energy audits.
25 Have you ever conducted home energy

1 audits?

2 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yes. Yes. So I've

3 personally been in about a thousand (1,000) existing

4 houses, performed official energy audits in about a

5 thousand (1,000) existing houses, four hundred (400) to

6 five hundred (500) new houses. My -- the team that my

7 company manages has probably been in about thirty-five

8 thousand (35,000) houses or so since 2002.

9 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you. And

10 you mentioned your company. Can you please explain to

11 us where you're working now and your position in that -

12 - at that company?

13 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yeah, so Prairie House

14 Performance Inc. has a number of clients, and we carry

15 out a number of activities. Our largest clients and

16 most of our activities right now involve supporting

17 Manitoba Hydro, delivering the -- the field services

18 for a number of their energy efficiency programs,

19 including the Home Insulation Program and the

20 Affordable Energy Program.

21 We're also doing quite a bit of work

22 right now for the Ontario Power Authority on their Home

23 Assistance Program, which is a lower-income centred

24 program for energy efficiency in Northwest Ontario.

25 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you. And --

1 and what is your role at Prairie House Performance
2 Inc.?
3 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yeah, so I'm -- I'm
4 the president of the incorporated -- or of the -- of
5 the company, so I'm responsible for everything from
6 recruiting, training, managing my team of energy
7 advisors, which are eight (8) in the province at this
8 moment, to dealing with clients and marketing, public
9 relations, everything.
10 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you. And
11 how long have you been the president?
12 MR. GIO ROBSON: Since -- since the
13 inception, so Prairie House was incorporated --
14 officially incorporated three (3) years ago. Before,
15 we were just Prairie House Performance. And I've been
16 president since we started in about 2003.
17 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you. And
18 with that, CAC (Manitoba) and the Mani -- oh, my -- if
19 the Board has -- if the Chair has any questions,
20 please?
21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Now, I just want to
22 clarify, you would like Mr. Gibson (sic) qualified as
23 an expert in DSM?
24 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: No, I'm sorry,
25 I'll clarify that more specifically. What we are

1 seeking is that Mr. Robson be -- be qualified as an
2 expert in residential home performance as that relates
3 specifically to home energy efficiency, home
4 durability, the health and safety of a home as it
5 relates to indoor quality, and home comfort.
6 So that would be what we are seeking to
7 have him qualified as an expert in.
8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I said,
9 Mr. Robson, "Mr. Gibson." I'm sorry, I apologize. So
10 I'd like to hear from the Intervenors -- canvass the
11 Intervenors.
12 Me. Hacault, do you have any comments?
13 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: No objections to
14 the qualifications as set out by Ms. Menzies.
15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Me.
16 Hacault. Mr. Gange, please...?
17 MR. WILLIAM GANGE: I have no objection
18 to the -- the qualifications as an expert.
19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr. Gange.
20 Mr. Orle, please...?
21 MR. GEORGE ORLE: MKO has no objection
22 to the qualification of the witness as an expert.
23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Me. -- thank you, Mr.
24 Orle. Me. Monnin, s'il vous plait?
25 MR. CHRISTIAN MONNIN: Merci, M.

1 President. The independent experts and consultants
2 have no objections.
3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Could I hear from --
4 merci, M. Monnin -- Manitoba Hydro, please, Ms.
5 Boyd...?
6 MS. MARLA BOYD: Thank you. Good
7 morning. We have no objection; however, I do have a
8 couple questions I just wanted to put to Mr. Robson to
9 clarify his -- his qualifications.
10 Am I correct, sir, that you're not an
11 engineer or an engineering technologist?
12 MR. GIO ROBSON: Sorry, yeah.
13 Absolutely, that's correct.
14 MS. MARLA BOYD: And I understand that
15 you're the audit service provider for Manitoba Hydro's
16 Affordable Energy Program.
17 Is that correct?
18 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yes.
19 MS. MARLA BOYD: And you're also a
20 subcontractor for audit services for Hydro under the
21 ecoENERGY Program?
22 MR. GIO ROBSON: We were, yes.
23 MS. MARLA BOYD: Yes, thank you.
24 That's -- those are our questions, and we have no -- no
25 objections.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Peters, are there
2 any questions that you'd like to address this --
3 MR. BOB PETERS: No. No, we don't.
4 Thank you.
5 THE CHAIRPERSON: So the panel would
6 agree that Mr. Robson would be an expert witness for
7 the purposes that you outlined earlier. So thank you,
8 and welcome, Mr. -- Mr. -- I keep forgetting your name,
9 sorry -- Robson.
10
11 (BRIEF PAUSE)
12
13 EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MS. MEGHAN MENZIES:
14 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Good morning
15 again. So this morning CAC (Manitoba) and the Manitoba
16 Metis Federation will be introducing six (6) fact
17 witnesses who will speak to their experiences as
18 ratepayers, outlining the impacts of Hydro rates in the
19 past -- past and present, as well as the impacts of the
20 potential rate increases going out into the future on
21 their lives specifically, and on their spending
22 specifically.
23 Following their testimony, we would
24 invite the Board to ask any questions that it may have.
25 Given that for many of these witnesses this is their

first time appearing in a regulatory proceeding, we would ask that the Board hold their questions until they have all provided their testimony, if that is satisfactory.

Following the questions of the Board, we will then hear from Mr. Gio Robson, who will provide insight on the home energy audits that he conducted on three (3) of the six (6) panellists' homes. We will then turn the floor over to the Intervenors, Manitoba Hydro, and PUB counsel for any questions that they may have.

So we will now begin with our first witness, who is Ms. Jacqueline Salamisan. Good morning, Ms. Salamisan.

MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: Good morning. Good morning.

MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Could you please introduce yourself to the Board?

MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: I'm Jacqueline Salamisan. I'm working part time in Best Western Hotel, and also in the entry program dealing with newcomers and immigrant for four (4) years. And I -- we came here last December 30, 2009. I have two (2) children. And we just bought -- bought our house last August 2012. And now I'm aware of all the utilities

1 that we need to pay as homeowners.
2 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: So, Ms. Salamisan,
3 you said that you just purchased your home.
4 Do you know what year your home was
5 built?
6 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: Yeah. It
7 was built last -- 1954.
8 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you. And do
9 you know if it has electrical heat or gas heat?
10 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: Electrical.
11 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you. And
12 you said that you came -- you came to Manitoba --
13 sorry, how long ago did you say you came here?
14 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: We came here
15 December 30, 2009. To be exact, we are here for four
16 (4) years and four (4) months.
17 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And how many days?
18 And where did you come to -- to Canada from?
19 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: I came from
20 the Philippines, and a really big village in
21 Philippines but -- and we really have a culture shock
22 when we came here because of the climate and all, so --
23 all the expenses, something like that. So we have
24 really a big adjustment and still adjusting until this
25 -- this time.

1 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you. And so
2 you said you live in a home that you've purchased.
3 How many members live in your household?
4 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: What I have
5 said, I have two (2) kids and -- with my husband, so we
6 are four (4) in the family.
7 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And could you
8 please describe for the Board the source of your family
9 income?
10 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: When we came
11 here, my -- luckily, my husband got a full-time job at
12 -- pardon me. It tooks (sic) one (1) year before I got
13 the job I prepare, which is related to my profession,
14 which is accounting. So now I'm working seven (7) days
15 a week with my two (2) part-time job and a simple job
16 as a bookkeeper.
17 So we really follow the budget, because
18 with being a homeowner, you -- and being a newcomer,
19 there's a lot of utilities that you are going to pay,
20 like the Hydro bills, water, insurance, mortgage, food.
21 And I think for us -- and being a mother, I also need
22 to prepare something for my kids, because my eldest
23 will go to the university next year, so we really
24 follow a strict budget, so.
25 And I think I am good in the financial

1 management. That's what my husband told me.
2 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you, Ms.
3 Salamisan.
4 Can you please provide an approximate of
5 what your household pays for -- pays in Hydro bills on
6 a monthly basis?
7 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: Okay. In --
8 in all the utilities that we are paying, Hydro has
9 really a big part of it. We are paying around 12 to 15
10 percent of our family income. Although we don't have
11 an air condition, during summer, we are only using
12 electric fan, but during winter, we -- we really pay a
13 lot, and I think -- and especially this time, we have a
14 long weekend -- a -- a long winter, so we really cut
15 off some of our expenses, like the bonding time during
16 weekend, so -- because we will not pay our Hydro, it
17 will be cut off, so.
18 And I think it's the front commodity
19 that we -- we are using, because we are using it with
20 the cooking, and everything in the house is -- use
21 electricity, like televisions, or radios, or -- I think
22 we don't have any options capping the Hydro services in
23 our -- in our house, so it really affect us, especially
24 this time.
25 So as what I have said, I need to have a

1 savings, but this winter period, I don't have -- we
2 don't have savings, because we really adjusted our
3 budget so that we can cover up the additional expenses
4 for the Hydro bills.
5 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you, Ms.
6 Salamisan.
7 And if possible, I know you -- you
8 provided a bit of a percentage, but do you know
9 approximately what you've been paying for your bills?
10 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: During
11 summertime, it's a little bit lower, like, for example,
12 around one hundred eighty (180) -- one hundred fifty
13 (150) to one hundred eighty (180), but I tried saving -
14 - to save energy, like turning off all our lights
15 during evening, and then I think we are not using
16 during the sleeping time any electricity in our house,
17 but during winter, it's only the heater is running now,
18 and also the refrigerator, something like that.
19 But we are not using dishwasher, so we
20 are avoiding those unnecessary, and -- and we're really
21 using hand washing something for our dish wash, dish --
22 dishwashing, something like that.
23 So I -- I'm also telling my kids to turn
24 off all the gadgets they have, like the laptop, the
25 iPod. So I'm trying to train my kids for the energy

1 saving of -- for what I -- I know how to save, but I
2 think it's really -- I think the rate here for the
3 electricity is much bigger compared to our country.
4 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Fair enough. So
5 prior to your participation in this panel, had you
6 heard anything about rates -- about Manitoba Hydro
7 rates possibly going up in the future?
8 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: To tell you
9 promptly, I don't have any idea for the rate increases.
10 I never heard about it, and I don't even remember that
11 there is a -- what they call this -- a brochure or
12 something telling me that there will be an increase in
13 the Hydro bills.
14 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you. And so
15 right now I'd like to actually direct you to CAC
16 Exhibit 54.
17 And so, Ms. Salamisan, have you seen
18 this chart before?
19 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: I seen this
20 chart when the -- when the CAC provided us a copy and
21 explained it to us. And that's the first time I saw
22 this chart and really understand what is really trying
23 to be the impact in our family life.
24 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And -- and can you
25 provide your understanding of what this chart outlines?

1 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: Yeah. In
2 the chart, it shows the different kind of plan provided
3 and also the -- how the rates will fluctuate during the
4 period of time. And there is a change. After twenty
5 (20) years, it goes down. But in the first twenty (20)
6 years, there is uniform increases. So I think it's --
7 but it's not really -- what do you call this --
8 detailed, clear to me what is those -- what are those
9 plans.
10 But in general, what I understand is
11 there is a -- there is a constructions of transmission
12 lines, and for a certain plan there is a planning to
13 build a dam, something like that. But I -- I really
14 don't have the full knowledge of the detail of this
15 different plans. But what I understand is there is a -
16 - an increase yearly, so -- in -- in the rate that we
17 are paying right now.
18 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you. And
19 you said that the -- the rates go up uniformly. Were
20 you saying that, for the first twenty (20) years, I
21 believe you said --
22 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: Yes, I think
23 so. My understanding is there is something like --
24 rate from Plan 1, Plan 2, there is similar rate
25 increase for the first -- I think for -- for the first

1 ten (10) to fifteen (15) -- yeah, fifteen (15) years.
2 And then all of a sudden, in the next
3 twenty (20) years, there is a little decrease in the
4 rate. So a -- for my own understanding, I really don't
5 know what is the basis of that decreases, but I'm
6 really concerned for the first five (5) and ten (10)
7 years because for us, being a new immigrant, we're
8 really on the stage of still adjusting.
9 And if there is -- if this increases
10 will be implemented, I think it's more -- what they
11 call this -- reasonable enough for us to have the
12 increase lower in the first five (5) years rather than
13 increasing like in the -- there is a plan that I think
14 it's bigger increase in -- suddenly, and then all of a
15 sudden it decreases and then -- after twenty (20)
16 years.
17 But I think -- I think after twenty (20)
18 years, I cannot say that I am still alive. No one can
19 tell it. But I think it's much more to have the
20 increase on the first -- have the lower increase on the
21 first five (5) years or ten (10) years so that they --
22 we can prepare in the future and to be adjusted also in
23 the future.
24 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you. So
25 I'll -- I'll stop making you explain this chart. So

1 looking at this chart -- now again, I will make you
2 look at the chart again, though -- it's -- it's based
3 on a thousand dollar ($1,000) annual income. Is that -
4 - is that similar to your -- sorry, not income; annual
5 bill.
6 Is that similar to your annual Hydro
7 bill?
8 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: It's more
9 than that. It's -- our annual bill is more than one
10 thousand (1,000), I think, because what I have said,
11 our monthly bill goes to two hundred (200) plus, so
12 around two hundred fifty (250) to two hundred eighty
13 (280) a month during wintertime. So it's only --
14 almost four (4) months of our bill.
15 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Okay. And do you
16 understand how this chart would -- how this chart would
17 relate to your specific Hydro bills?
18 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: Yes. It's
19 really have a great impact in our budget. That's what
20 I have said before. We have a stiff budget, and we
21 have really -- what they call it -- limited source of
22 income, because as what I have said, I'm working seven
23 (7) days a week, but we are on the breakeven and we
24 don't -- we cannot save. But if we will -- if we will
25 add additional expenses for the Hydro or for -- for

1 other utilities, because if we will increase the Hydro,
2 I think the other utilities will follow, because they
3 are using also electricity and producing food,
4 something like that.
5 So I think I need to work additional
6 job, but I don't know where I'm going to put it, maybe
7 evenings, night shift, or maybe I will force my husband
8 to work an additional job also. And I think it's --
9 and I think it's really affect us. And then we will
10 need to cut off some of our expenses.
11 And I think one (1) of what we need to
12 cut off is our entertainment, something like bon --
13 family bonding during weekend, we will not eat outside,
14 but instead -- yeah, we -- we can go outside, but we
15 cannot eat in the restaurant and something treated my
16 kids, because we need to pay additional expenses for
17 our family needs.
18 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: So again looking
19 at this chart, the chart goes out -- do you see -- what
20 year does this chart go out to?
21 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: Pardon?
22 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: What -- what is
23 the final year that this chart provides rates on?
24 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: In general
25 this chart shows really the -- for the -- there are

1 plans that they have a minimal increase, something like
2 for the fir -- so what I have said, for the first
3 twenty (20) years -- or ten (10) years, sorry, ten (10)
4 to fifteen (15) years, but there are plans that they
5 have significant increase that really affect us if we
6 will really base our rate in the after consumption of
7 the consumers or the end users.
8 And I think I can say that for the low-
9 income family, I don't think they -- it -- they can
10 survive or sustain with this kind of changes.
11 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And so looking at
12 this chart, the last date that it -- that it shows is
13 2039/'40. Is -- do you agree with that?
14 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: Yes.
15 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Would it have been
16 helpful for you if this chart went out further, to show
17 further increases or decreases in rates?
18 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: I think this
19 chart is based on the estimate. I don't know -- yeah,
20 for the economists maybe they can understand it fully.
21 But for me, long-term assessment of all expenses cannot
22 be 100 percent sure. So we don't have any assurance or
23 something like guaranteed that we can follow this kind
24 of charts.
25 But for me, what is important is the

first five (5) to ten (10) years, because I -- I really cannot see that I'm still alive on 2039. I'm still -- I'm still young, but I don't know really if I'm still alive. Or maybe there is a really great changes in our economy.

So I'm really concerned with the first five (5) or ten (10) years from now. And maybe for us being a -- a family -- or a mother, I really need to foresee also the future of my kids. But I think the kids in the generation now is more -- much more on the -- I think for me, is they are really advanced in technology, so they might think in the future the possible energy savings plan so they can propose something to the government which are much applicable that will not affect the -- really the low earner or low-income family.

So what is really bothering me and the important things is for us to really plan for the first five (5) or ten (10) years. And it will not take too so many years to think about, because we really don't know what will happen in our future.

MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And you had said previously that -- that you didn't know much about the proposed rate increases, you hadn't heard of them.

Would you like to know more about the

1 proposed rate increases?

2 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: Yes, it is

3 important for all the consumers and the end users to

4 know the proposed increases and how much, what will be

5 the basis for it, and -- and for them also to prepare

6 and to be -- to adjust, what is the -- what is really

7 need for any adjustment, in terms of their income, or

8 expenses, or maybe the way of living they have right

9 now.

10 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And what would you

11 like to know about the proposed rate increases?

12 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: I think it

13 is good for us, as a consumer, to know what is the

14 basis of the rate increases, what is the plan or what

15 is the rate they are going to impose. And I think what

16 it really affects not only to the consumers, but also

17 in the environment, I think.

18 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And if you were

19 going to hear more about these proposed rate increases,

20 how would you like to hear about them?

21 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: We have a

22 different source of informing the public; like, for

23 example, radio, televisions. It's much better to

24 include it in the main use, and I think to caught the

25 attention of the public. And also, pardon me, I'm

1 working in the -- in organizations dealing with the new
2 immigrants, so I think it's good for us also to be
3 informed and put it in the bulletin board, something
4 like that. Or maybe you can put a caption in the Metro
5 Newspaper, which is free to everything -- to everybody,
6 so.
7 And it's not -- I think it's not only
8 once or one (1) week, something like that; it takes a
9 while. So I think it's really good information to be
10 continuing -- continuously included in the news and for
11 the awareness also of the public and the consumers.
12 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Okay. Do you know
13 about any of Manitoba Hydro's energy efficiency
14 programs? You had spoken about energy efficiency
15 programs before -- or energy efficiency before.
16 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: Actually,
17 they -- they inserted some pamphlets in my bill, but I
18 really did not read about it. It doesn't caught really
19 my attention to -- to read it. And I think even in
20 their advertisement it's not really full detailed
21 explanation or fully -- what they call this. There is
22 not really enough information that the public should
23 know about the energy conserva -- conservation
24 something program.
25 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Would you like to

1 know more about these energy --

2 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: Yes. It

3 really helps the consumer. I think it's for -- very

4 important for us to know the detailed information about

5 it, not only the general information, but I think it is

6 much better to give us the full information, like what

7 is the qualification to -- for the agreement of this --

8 of that program and how are we going to pay for it.

9 And I think they need to make some campaign for the

10 awareness of the public about it also.

11 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you. And

12 thank you very much, Ms. Salamisan. I think perhaps

13 we'll move on to asking questions to Ms. Mason.

14 Good morning, Ms. Mason.

15 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: Good morning.

16 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Could you please

17 introduce yourself to the Board?

18 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: My name is

19 Albertine Mason. I'm from Cross Lake. I'm a single

20 mom of seven (7), six (6) who live with me. I'm a

21 grade 12 graduate. I have my first-year business

22 administration, but the -- I couldn't finish my second

23 year of business admin because that was the -- my due

24 date for -- my baby was in September, two (2) weeks

25 after I was supposed to start, and I didn't have no

1 help to take care of him. But my baby is now five (5)
2 years old, going to be going to grade 1 in September.
3 So my plans are to go back to school or
4 have a full-time job. I was not able to either before
5 because of how much my Hydro bill was. And to pay for
6 a babysitter plus transportation costs, it would be too
7 much. And so I just decided to wait until my baby was
8 school age and be there -- and be there in school all
9 day.
10 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And so you said
11 you're from Cross Lake. How long have you lived there?
12 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: With the
13 exception of five (5) years living in Cormorant,
14 Manitoba, I've lived in Cross Lake all of my life.
15 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And what kind of
16 housing do you live in there?
17 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: I have a five (5)
18 bedroom house which was built in 1998. And I've lived
19 in that house since it was built, so it was a brand new
20 house when I moved in.
21 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And do you know if
22 it has electric heat or gas heat?
23 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: It's electric
24 heat.
25 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And how many

1 members live in your household?
2 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: Like I said,
3 there are six (6) of my kids that live with me, and
4 there's not much housing in Cross Lake, so my sister
5 has been living with me for about three (3) years, and
6 as of last week, my brother also moved in with me. He
7 tried living in the city since he turned eighteen (18),
8 and getting a job, getting an apartment, and he was not
9 able to do -- able to take care of himself out there,
10 so he just came back to Cross Lake, and I allowed him
11 to move in.
12 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And can you please
13 describe for the panel your family income?
14 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: I -- well, before
15 I had my babies, I was a full-time cook at a
16 restaurant, and I'm -- like I said, I was not able to
17 be able to work, but I do work part time as a cook when
18 she does need a cook, and occasionally I cater for the
19 band. I have these little jobs, little catering jobs.
20 But other than that, I'm mostly on
21 social assistance, because, like, the day -- the -- the
22 expenses of the daycare and my Hydro bill ranges from
23 two hundred (200) in the summer and goes up to about
24 five hundred (500) in the winter, and so I am not able
25 to work full-time to get a job that will feed me and my

1 kids and my siblings. They give me a little money,
2 what they can, a month, and I -- I cannot find a job
3 that would pay for how much I get on social assistance
4 plus my Hydro, and to live comfortably.
5 Even on social assistance, that's still
6 not enough for all six (6) of us -- six (6) of my kids,
7 but I am trying. Like, I'm trying to teach working
8 values to my kids to try and earn money and whatnot.
9 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And so you've
10 mentioned your Hydro bill.
11 What has been your experience paying
12 your Hydro bills in the past?
13 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: When I was
14 working full-time, I made as much payments as I could
15 to my Hydro bill, and -- but I was not able to make the
16 full amount, but I still made payments. And then
17 finally, my bill got so high that I got disconnected,
18 so I went to the band and I asked them if they could
19 help me because I could not get my bill reconnected --
20 my Hydro reconnected until I think it was -- 35 percent
21 was paid for it.
22 So I went to the band and I asked them,
23 Can you please pay for this for me? I -- I can't do it
24 on my own. So they agreed, then they paid for it.
25 They reconnected me again. Again, I tried working and

1 paying off my bill, which I was not able to do again,
2 and a year and a half later, I found myself in -- owing
3 a lot of money, and then again, I got disconnected.
4 And then, so I was like, Okay, I -- I
5 know I can't do it, so I just went on social assistance
6 full time, just so that they would be able to pay for
7 the Hydro bill, because I couldn't do it. I had to
8 admit that I couldn't do it.
9 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And -- and you had
10 mentioned before the different expenses that you have,
11 including babysitting fees.
12 How -- how -- what are your babysitting
13 fees right now?
14 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: My babysitting
15 fees is for half a day, because he's in kindergarten.
16 So it's fifteen dollars ($15) a day, but if I'm to work
17 an evening shift, then it goes up to twenty-five
18 dollars ($25) a day, because then I -- I have to pay
19 for someone to cook for -- the supper for my kids, and
20 then there -- because I come home at ten o'clock at
21 night, then I got to include the cleaning in there too,
22 because I'm tired after working eight (8) hours on my
23 feet.
24 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And then your son
25 is five (5).

1 Will he be going to school part time --
2 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: Yes. He -- no,
3 he will be in school full time from morning to
4 afternoon, being grade 1, so he'll be in school all
5 day.
6 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Okay. And so
7 would you have the same babysitting fees when --
8 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: I expect to have
9 no babysitting fees, because he'll be coming home the
10 same time as the ones coming home in high school, and
11 because I'm not going to go back as a cook, 'cause
12 there's evenings alternate weeks, evenings and morning
13 shifts, I will not be going back as cook. I'm looking
14 to go to school full time, which will be in the
15 daytime, same time he's in school, or either that or
16 I'm looking for an office job, because I don't want to
17 go back to the same job.
18 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you.
19 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: The -- the only
20 reason why I'm at this job is 'cause she's flexible
21 with her hours, and she allows me to come in when --
22 when I -- when I can.
23 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Prior to your
24 participation on this panel, had you heard anything
25 about rates possibly going up in the future?

1 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: No, I did not.
2 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Okay. So again,
3 I'm going to ask that we pull up CAC Exhibit 54. And,
4 Ms. Mason, have you seen this chart before?
5 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: Yes, I have.
6 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And can you give a
7 brief description of what -- what you see in this
8 chart?
9 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: Well, all of
10 them, they -- they all have various rates of how they
11 are going to increase, with the bottom one being higher
12 and then towards the end it's more lower. And then the
13 other plans, they start off slow and then kind of like
14 a little bit more in the future.
15 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And so looking at
16 this chart, what would be the impact of these kind of
17 rate increases on your spending?
18 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: Okay. Well, on
19 the chart, it's like based on a thousand dollars
20 ($1,000) a year, which we all know is not realistic.
21 And then so if you multiply it by -- looking at this,
22 it -- it's -- the numbers look small.
23 But after I calculated the more
24 realistic number, then I realized how much more I'm
25 going to be -- I'm going to have to tighten my budget

1 and think -- I have to think of things that I can't do.
2 Because my four (4) oldest are Cadets in
3 Cross Lake. They're in the Cadet program, and I love
4 them being in the Cadet program. It's very
5 educational. They take them to places, they teach them
6 -- they teach them discipline and whatnot. And so I'm
7 proud to have all four (4) of them in there.
8 But the thing is, every year they go on
9 a trip somewhere, so be -- it may be the next province,
10 it could be in Minneapolis. But either way, I put
11 money away for them so that they are able to -- in
12 previous years, I only had two (2) of them in there,
13 and I put money away for them.
14 But this year I've got four (4) of them,
15 and if the -- with these increases, I would have to
16 tighten my belt a little bit more in order to put money
17 away because I'm not going to say to them, You can't
18 go, but you can go, you can go. There's things as a
19 parent that you have to give up sacrifices. Like I
20 would -- it would be like clothing-wise for my kids,
21 like I wouldn't be able to get them as much as they
22 wanted.
23 They may not get the new bike that they
24 want, or they'd have to -- it would just like --
25 entertainment-wise, like, I can't get you this, I can't

1 get you that. There would be things like that that
2 would cut into my budget.
3 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And we had
4 discussed spending. Would this have impact on any debt
5 that you may have?
6 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: That's another
7 thing. I -- I do not have savings. I'm barely making
8 it as it is. The reason I work is because I cannot
9 wait till the end of the month to buy things. So
10 that's another reason why I work, is because there's
11 things that you have to buy every three (3) days, like
12 the milk, the bread, the eggs. There's things that you
13 cannot stock up on.
14 And then so -- what was -- what was I
15 getting at?
16 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: I was just asking
17 if this would have any -- so we had just discussed the
18 impact on your spending. So I was just asking about
19 impacts on possible debt.
20 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: Oh, yeah. And
21 then so that, I do have debt because it was a new
22 house. And then I didn't have anything to begin with.
23 And then so I cannot pay off my -- I'm having a hard
24 time paying off my bill at the store, which is the only
25 place I was able to get credit in order to buy the

1 furniture there.
2 And it's been years, but the interest
3 rate is so high, I'm just battling with that month to
4 month. And I pay the minimums, but about half of that
5 is -- is the interest from the previous months before.
6 And then so that's why I really need to work and get a
7 better paying job, so I can pay off these bills.
8 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And looking at
9 this chart again, we see that it goes out to 2039/2040.
10 Would it have been helpful for you if
11 this chart went out to 2050 or 2070?
12 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: I think it would,
13 because I -- I do teach my kids about paying bills and
14 whatnot. And if I were to show them this chart and --
15 because my oldest is nineteen (19) and my baby is five
16 (5). And then by then, they will all be out on their
17 own.
18 And so seeing a chart like this would be
19 very helpful to them, because then I could show them
20 what to expect in the future, how much your bills are
21 going to be and whatnot, and ways to teach them how to
22 save money, like things that I didn't learn as -- when
23 I was younger, but I'm -- I'm learning as I go.
24 But I -- but a chart like this would be
25 very helpful to my kids, because that -- that's going

1 to be their adulthood.

2 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And so you had

3 said before that when you look at this chart, you see

4 that some plans are -- are higher at the beginning and

5 go lower, while others are lower at the beginning and

6 go higher out into the future.

7 Given the choice, would you prefer to

8 pay higher rates today and lower rates in the future,

9 or lower rates today with higher rates in the future?

10 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: I would like it

11 to be more gradual, to be able to get used to it. But

12 if -- I -- I would not be able to -- to deal with this

13 huge hike in Hydro bill when I'm barely making it as it

14 is. And then -- so I think I would like to go with the

15 gradual and a bit higher in the future, because we're

16 going to -- it -- I think there is going to -- the

17 rates are going to rise no matter what, because it is

18 the future. Everything goes up a bit.

19 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And so you had

20 said before that you hadn't heard much about the

21 proposed rate increases.

22 Would you like to know more about the

23 proposed increase?

24 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: Yes, I would like

25 to know more about it.

1 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And what would you
2 like to know about it?
3 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: What's that?
4 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: What would you
5 like to know about the proposed rate increases?
6 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: I would like to
7 know more about why the rate -- rates are increasing,
8 like how -- how fast they are going to be increasing,
9 and like how are they going -- why they are increasing
10 is basically what I would like to know.
11 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And how would you
12 like to hear about this?
13 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: As a -- well,
14 working in the restaurant, I do not have access to TV,
15 or when not -- I do watch TV at home, but being morning
16 and evening shifts I do not have access to a TV all the
17 time. But when I do, I do watch the news at six
18 o'clock. And at nighttime I watch the news also. But
19 I think that in Cross Lake where -- where -- like in
20 Cross Lake, they do paid announcements at lunchtime,
21 which I do have access to the radio.
22 Occasionally I do read a newspaper, not
23 all the time though because I'm either at home or at
24 work; home, work, that's pretty much where my life is.
25 But at work they also have a free newsletter for Cross

1 Lake, and then a lot of people read that. And then if
2 the ad is catchy enough, then someone may look at it,
3 but if it's just writing then you just tend to skip
4 right by it. That's what I think.
5 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And do you know
6 about any of Manitoba Hydro's energy efficiency
7 programs?
8 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: I -- I do now,
9 but previously I did not. I didn't know anything about
10 them. I -- not really. I have -- can't say that I've
11 -- I've known anything -- like I haven't read a website
12 or anything like that.
13 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And, so you say
14 that you do now. What do you mean by you 'do now
15 know'?
16 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: Because of Gio.
17 Gio told me a little bit about my house. But I already
18 knew that I was doing everything to try -- conserve
19 energy in my house. Like we have -- all of my windows
20 are -- like my house is new, so I have nice windows.
21 And everything's pretty much new. So other than going
22 around shutting off lights -- like we are trying to do
23 our part and keep the bills down.
24 One of the things that I did hear about
25 energy several years ago was the -- what are they

1 called, those fluorescent lights. Then I tried using
2 those ones, and then all it did was just give me a
3 headache because I -- I had to strain to see in that
4 light. And then so finally I just went back to the
5 regular light bulbs.
6 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Would you like to
7 hear more about Manitoba Hydro's energy efficiency
8 programs?
9 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: Yes.
10 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you very
11 much, Ms. Mason.
12 And over to you, Mr. Mouland.
13 MR. DAVE MOULAND: Good morning.
14 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Good morning, Mr.
15 Mouland. Could you please introduce yourself to the
16 Board?
17 MR. DAVE MOULAND: My name is Dave
18 Mouland. I am retired from the workforce but volunteer
19 at Winnipeg Harvest. But I am here strictly as a
20 representative of myself. I am not representing
21 Winnipeg Harvest at all before this Board, so let's
22 make that clear.
23 I worked for forty (40) years in the
24 labour force. And for medical reasons, I was forced to
25 take a early retirement. I have been retired now for a

1 little over five (5) years. I am on a reduced Canada
2 Pension with a small private pension plan as well, and
3 that is my total income for myself.
4 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And so, Mr.
5 Mouland, where do you live?
6 MR. DAVE MOULAND: I live here in
7 Winnipeg in a single-story cottage -- or a cottage, I
8 guess; bought for entirely. I have no loan or mortgage
9 against it. I do not pay rent of any kind. That's
10 basically it.
11 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And do you know
12 what year your house was built?
13 MR. DAVE MOULAND: 1904.
14 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: I'm sorry, I
15 should have said cottages -- or cottage.
16 MR. DAVE MOULAND: Oh, well, that's
17 fine.
18 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And do you have
19 electric heat or gas heat?
20 MR. DAVE MOULAND: It's all electric,
21 so.
22 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And how many
23 members live in your household?
24 MR. DAVE MOULAND: Just myself.
25 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: What do you pay

1 for your Hydro bills on a monthly basis?
2 MR. DAVE MOULAND: I am on a Manitoba
3 Hydro budget plan, so my Hydro is equal payments of one
4 hundred and thirty-three dollars ($133) a month for
5 eleven (11) of the year. The twelfth month of the
6 year, which is usually August of each year, there is an
7 adjustment either up or down, and it's always up, so --
8 but it's -- for the first eleven (11) months of that
9 year it is equal payments; it doesn't matter, winter,
10 summer, anything like that.
11 And in August, it is also adjusted for
12 the following twelve (12) months, and that again is
13 always going up. And also taken into consideration is
14 the amount of usage for the previous year. So in a
15 case like this year, it's going to go up a fair amount
16 because we actually had a winter this year.
17 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And so you say it
18 -- it always goes up. Has it ever gone down on your
19 budget plan?
20 MR. DAVE MOULAND: Not on the budget
21 plan, no.
22 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And what has been
23 your experience paying your Hydro bills to date?
24 MR. DAVE MOULAND: To me, I consider
25 Manitoba Hydro an essential service. So as soon my

1 pension cheque comes in, it's pay that Hydro bill. It
2 has to be paid. I cannot afford to live without Hydro.
3 I have not had a turnoff notice or anything like that,
4 but it's come close a few times.
5 And one (1) thing with the budget plan,
6 you -- if you fall behind, there is a greater risk of
7 you being cut off, it seems like, sooner. So you have
8 to keep up with it.
9 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you. Prior
10 to your participation in this NFAT panel, had you heard
11 anything about the rates possibly going up in the
12 future?
13 MR. DAVE MOULAND: Yes. I am an avid
14 newspaper reader. I listen to the radio quite often.
15 So news items, any newspaper articles about Manitoba
16 Hydro I read. So, yes, I do hear and read a fair bit
17 about those kind of things. I also read the newsletter
18 in the bills when they come out. Not sufficient
19 information there. It's just a very bland, sort of, We
20 are going to, kind of thing, but it's still
21 information.
22 I also talk to a lot of people
23 associated with different organizations that I work
24 with through Winnipeg Harvest. I talk to people there
25 and some of their -- that kind of thing I hear about

1 too, so.

2 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And have you read

3 about the proposed rate increases? You said you read

4 the newsletter in your bills. Have you read about the

5 proposed rate increases in there?

6 MR. DAVE MOULAND: Not very -- not very

7 much, just a general sort of yearly basis the rate --

8 rates are going to increase or we are applying for rate

9 increases.

10 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And so again, I'm

11 going to pull up Exhibit CAC-54.

12 MR. DAVE MOULAND: Yes, I have read it

13 -- or seen it.

14 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you. I

15 wanted to confirm that.

16 And looking at this chart, what would be

17 the impact of these kind of rates on -- on your budget?

18 MR. DAVE MOULAND: Quite -- quite

19 serious. Currently right now, I am pretty much to a

20 point where every cent of income coming in is going out

21 as fast as it's coming in, so any further increase is

22 definitely a big problem for me. My pension cheque

23 will generally go up cost of living once a year,

24 beginning of each year by about .8 percent, and that's

25 generally an average sort of increase.

1 My expenses, when you include Hydro, GST
2 increases or PST increases, any other taxes that are --
3 like property taxes, food, clothing, all that kind of
4 stuff will generally, overall, average for me about 1.4
5 percent. So I am all -- always on the wrong end of the
6 stick, as far as that goes. It's about .6 percent
7 difference that I'm losing each and every year, and it
8 does make a big difference when I have no savings to
9 fall back on anyway.
10 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And so based on
11 what you've just said, have there been any things that
12 you've cut out in the past to make up for those
13 changes?
14 MR. DAVE MOULAND: Certainly. I don't
15 have cable for the television. I don't go out to --
16 for entertainment, movies, or that kind of thing.
17 There's just no entertainment. Restaurants are
18 completely out. That doesn't happen, and -- and yet,
19 this is part of a normal life for all the people that
20 are on such a restricted income as myself.
21 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And so again
22 looking at this chart, can you provide a brief
23 explanation of what you see when you look at it?
24 MR. DAVE MOULAND: Just generally four
25 (4) different rate increases over an extended period of

1 time for four (4) different plans. It's different rate
2 increases and different rates of increase. For me
3 personally, I would like something that was a little
4 slower at the beginning, and doesn't matter -- by the
5 time it gets out to 2039/'40, I probably won't be
6 around.
7 So I really don't -- very selfish of me,
8 but I probably won't be around. There's no other
9 family members that I would be concerned about, so my
10 main concern is what's in my immediate future.
11 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And if we look at
12 this chart, we see that it goes out to 2039/2040.
13 Would it be helpful if it went out to
14 2050 or 2070?
15 MR. DAVE MOULAND: No. It doesn't
16 really mean anything. I will not be here. I have no
17 dependants that I would be concerned about as to how
18 they would be paying, so again, for the people that are
19 here, it's your problem, but for me, I don't have to
20 worry about it.
21 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Well, thank you
22 for that.
23 MR. DAVE MOULAND: You're more than
24 welcome.
25 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: So you had said

1 previously that -- that you had already known about the
2 proposed rate increases.
3 Would you like to know more about the
4 proposed rate increases?
5 MR. DAVE MOULAND: Yes, certainly. Any
6 information is important, so as long as it's accurate,
7 as long as it's more of, This is what we are going to
8 do, rather than, This is what we think we would like to
9 do. So a more definite sort of attitude as to what's
10 going to happen, and -- and why, def -- more definite
11 reasons as to why they're going to go about a certain
12 plan.
13 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And how would you
14 like to hear about -- about this additional
15 information?
16 MR. DAVE MOULAND: Again, radio, news
17 broadcasts, that kind of thing. Longer and more
18 detailed information through newspapers and specific
19 newspaper articles on Manitoba Hydro, and stories, that
20 kind of thing. More information in the -- the billing
21 with their newsletter, that kind of thing.
22 Perhaps a question-and-answer sort of
23 thing in the -- in your -- everybody's billing, what
24 Manitoba Hydro would propose to do, and what would your
25 -- what is your reaction to that proposal type thing,

1 and mail it in with maybe a incentive to answer the --
2 the probe, take five dollars ($5) off of your Hydro
3 bill or something if you answer the questionnaire, that
4 kind of thing.
5 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Mr. Mouland, do
6 you know about any of Manitoba Hydro's energy
7 efficiency programs?
8 MR. DAVE MOULAND: Yes, I do. I've
9 inquired about a couple of them, specifically, the Hot
10 Water Tank Plan. My hot water went, and I did apply
11 for it for help through Manitoba Hydro.
12 Got all to the point where it just had
13 to be approved, but it was finally turned down because
14 I did -- do not have house insurance, and at that time,
15 you had to have house insurance. I do not have house
16 insurance to this day, simply because I cannot afford
17 it.
18 I understand that some of the programs,
19 that policy has now changed, but because of that,
20 because of what happened to me, I really haven't
21 followed up on any other program available.
22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Mouland, I miss -
23 - I -- I'm not sure I understood the name of the
24 program you're referring to.
25 Could you repeat it, please?

1 MR. DAVE MOULAND: It was a -- a hot
2 water tank replacement. It was suggested to me by a
3 contractor that I was going to have come in, and that I
4 apply to Manitoba Hydro, and it would be paid by
5 Manitoba Hydro in full to the contractor, but then it
6 would be added to my Hydro bill.
7
8 CONTINUED BY MS. MEGHAN MENZIES:
9 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And so you said
10 that you -- that you've known about some energy-
11 efficiency programs.
12 Even given your experience, would --
13 would you want to hear more about other energy-
14 efficiency programs from Manitoba Hydro?
15 MR. DAVE MOULAND: Yes, certainly. Any
16 information is important, but I would like the
17 information to be current and to be accurate so that I
18 can get all the information.
19 Are there any restrictions as to who can
20 get it, level of income, that kind of thing, you know,
21 what -- whatever the restrictions are?
22 Must you have house insurance? What
23 happens if you live in a specific area where you can't
24 get house insurance because of the area of the city
25 that you live in, or the area of the province that you

1 live in? That kind of thing. So much more information
2 available before we even go ahead.
3 And even at that, I have my doubts as to
4 whether I would use them. I did find with the Hot
5 Water Tank Program, the price was very much higher
6 using the Manitoba plan than what I eventually used,
7 which was buy a water tank myself and get it hooked up
8 by a friend of a friend of a friend.
9 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you very
10 much, Mr. Mouland.
11
12 EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS:
13 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Good morning to
14 the Board. For the record, Jessica Saunders for the
15 Manitoba Metis Federation. I will be questioning Ms.
16 Gloria Harley. I should begin by noting for the Board
17 that we are very glad Ms. Hartley could be here with us
18 today.
19 Last night there was a death in her
20 family. She'll be leaving right after hearings today
21 to be with her family, but she said that she would do
22 her very best today. She even spent her birthday with
23 us yesterday to prepare, so good morning, Ms. Hartley.
24 We're very happy that you could be here with us today.
25 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: Thank you. Good

1 morning to you, too.
2 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: So, Ms. Hartley,
3 could you please provide an introduction of yourself to
4 the Board?
5 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: I'm Gloria
6 Hartley, a pensioner, live in Vita, Manitoba.
7 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Ms. Hartley, how
8 long have you lived in Vita?
9 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: Thirty-three (33)
10 years.
11 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Thirty-three
12 (33) years? Okay. And how --
13 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: 1978.
14 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: 1978. And your
15 home -- you live in a home in Vita. Is -- is --
16 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: Yes.
17 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Okay. And do
18 you own your home?
19 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: I own my home,
20 yes, I do.
21 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: What --
22 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: And I live alone --
23 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Okay.
24 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: -- until the
25 weekend, and then the kids come over and grandchildren

1 and great-grandchildren, so.

2 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: That's

3 wonderful. And so you have a lot of people that --

4 that visit you on the weekend, but you said that you --

5 you live alone?

6 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: Yes.

7 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: And I'm sorry,

8 did you indicate what year your home was built?

9 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: No. It -- it must

10 be about a hundred years old.

11 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Okay. And it's

12 the -- what -- could you describe the property you live

13 on? Like, you -- you described your house.

14 Is there anything else about your

15 property you'd like to tell us?

16 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: It's -- I have

17 gardens for a farmers' market. I belong in a farmers'

18 market. I have a hundred and fifty-seven (157) acres

19 where we use the farm. Well, the -- the last two (2)

20 years, we just couldn't afford it, and health-wise, I

21 wasn't feeling well.

22 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: How do you heat

23 your home, electric heat, gas heat?

24 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: Electric heat and

25 wood -- wood -- firewood.

1 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Okay. How many
2 wood stoves do you use in your home? How many wood
3 stoves do you use in your home?
4 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: I have three (3),
5 actually.
6 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Three (3), okay.
7 And how often during the year do you use your wood
8 stove?
9 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: All the time.
10 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: All the time --
11 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: Yes. And as soon
12 as it gets cold, I put -- make a fire.
13 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Okay.
14 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: And when I go out,
15 say for overnight or something, and then I switch to
16 electric heat.
17 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: So in the winter
18 and when it gets cold, that's when you primarily use
19 your wood stove?
20 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: Yes.
21 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Are you able to
22 say how much wood it takes to heat your home during
23 those times, just approximately, if you're able to say?
24 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: Ten (10) cords --
25 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Ten (10) cords.

MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: -- cords of wood.

MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Okay.

MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: And --

MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: How do you --

MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: And it's very expensive. Wood is very expensive.

MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Oh, sorry.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I missed how much the amount was.

MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: Two hundred (200) a -- a cord.

CONTINUED BY MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS:

MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: So two hundred (200) for a cord of wood. And --

MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: Yes.

MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: And a cord of wood is just --

MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: Eight by eight and four (4) --

MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Okay.

MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: -- of --

MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Yeah. No, no, that -- that's great.

MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: M-hm.

1 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: And can you
2 please describe your family income -- your income, Ms.
3 Hartley?
4 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: I'm a pen --
5 pensioner, old age, CPP and city pension.
6 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Okay. And --
7 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: Approximately
8 twelve hundred (1,200) a month.
9 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Okay. Twelve
10 hundred (1,200) a month, okay.
11 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: Yes.
12 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: And can you
13 please provide us with an approximate amount of what
14 your household pays for Hydro in a month?
15 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: I'm on a budget
16 with Winnipeg Hydro. I pay two forty-two (242) a month
17 for eleven (11) months.
18 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: M-hm.
19 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: But what I -- what
20 I don't care about is the -- they start me at two
21 forty-two (242) a month, and then by April or May, the
22 -- the -- they bring down the payment to one thirty-
23 four (134), and then when -- when August comes, either
24 I owe them, or -- I wish they would owe me instead of
25 me owing. And I like the lights very much, because I

1 lived in the dark for a long time, until 1955. When
2 the Hydro came in, well, that was, oh, light.
3 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: And prior to
4 your involvement in this panel, had you heard anything
5 about rates possibly going up in the future?
6 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: Yes, through the
7 paper and the television, radio.
8 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Okay. I'm, as
9 well, going to just briefly pull up CAC Exhibit 54.
10 And Ms. Hartley, you can confirm that
11 you've seen this chart before, correct?
12 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: Yes, I did.
13 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Okay. So
14 looking at this chart, we know that there -- well,
15 we've heard that there is going to be rate increases,
16 you've just confirmed. What would rate increases mean
17 for your spending and budget at the present time?
18 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: It would be -- I
19 would have a hard time to pay for it, that's for sure,
20 and I would have to cut off my dinners with my
21 children, and other expense to have them over. So I --
22 I would like to have the rate go up -- how can -- how
23 can I say...?
24 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Yeah? And --
25 and maybe I can -- I can assist you with that.

1 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: Yes.

2 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: What -- would it

3 be your preference that rates start out lower and go

4 higher, or that they start higher, and go lower?

5 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: Lower and go

6 higher.

7 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: And looking at

8 this chart, it goes out to the year 2039 to 2040.

9 Do you see that?

10 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: I don't think I'll

11 see it.

12 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: But you see it

13 on the -- the paper, correct, yes?

14 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: I see it on there,

15 yes.

16 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: So I guess my

17 next question would be, then, would it be helpful for

18 you if this chart went out to the years 2050 or 2070?

19 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: I don't think so.

20 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Okay. Thank

21 you. You had said previously that you heard that rates

22 were going to -- to increase.

23 Would you like to know more about the

24 proposed rate increases?

25 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: Yes.

1 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: What exactly
2 would you like to know about the -- the rate increases,
3 if you could say? Is it just general information, or
4 is there anything --
5 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: General
6 information.
7 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: General
8 information?
9 And how would you like to hear about
10 these rate increases?
11 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: In certain -- the
12 -- in -- in the billing, monthly billing, or the paper,
13 the TV.
14 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Do you know
15 about any of Manitoba Hydro's energy-efficiency
16 programs?
17 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: Yes, I do, yes.
18 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: When did you
19 hear about them?
20 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: Three (3) years
21 ago, I guess.
22 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Oh, years ago?
23 And how did you hear about them?
24 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: In the inserts,
25 billing inserts.

1 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Oh, okay.
2 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: And I apply for --
3 I applied for new windows and energy -- what is it,
4 insulation.
5 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: M-hm.
6 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: And I -- I was
7 disqualified for insulation, and the windows, they were
8 going to pay forty dollars ($40) per window. Well, I'd
9 rather have my windows covered with plastic, because I
10 can't afford -- forty dollars ($40) on the window paid
11 by Hydro is -- you might as well say nothing. So I
12 discourage it -- I -- I won't bother them anymore,
13 because I wasn't -- wasn't very happy with them.
14 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Okay.
15 And so that was the -- the window
16 program you had mentioned, and the insulation as well?
17 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: Insulation, yeah.
18 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Okay.
19 And if I could just ask you, what was
20 the application process like when you had to -- when
21 you -- you said you looked at them in your bill, right,
22 or you found out about the energy-efficiency programs,
23 and what was the process like when you applied for the
24 program?
25

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: There was -- I

4 can't explain it. I -- I was -- there was ladies

5 phoning me from Hydro about the -- the insulation and

6 about the windows, but then I was disqualified on the

7 insulation. And the windows, well, I forgot about it,

8 because forty dollars ($40) for Hydro to pay, one (1)

9 window maybe cost four (4) -- four hundred dollars

10 ($400), you know. There's no way that I can --

11 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: M-hm.

12 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: -- I can pay three

13 sixty (360).

14 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Okay.

15 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: So I just cover my

16 windows with plastic.

17 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: All right.

18 Well, thank you, Ms. Hartley. Those are all my

19 questions.

20 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: Thank you so much.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mrs. Hartley, I just

22 want to clarify, did you actually participate in the

23 Insulation Program?

24 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: Pardon me?

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Did you actually use

the Insulation Program?

MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: I -- I was disqualified.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Oh, I see. Okay.

MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: So to the Board, I think we are slightly behind schedule. I think we probably have about forty-five (45) minutes left of presentations, so we could either take a brief -- a quick break now and then return after?

THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Let's -- let's take a ten (10) minute break, please. Thank you.

MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you.

--- Upon recessing at 10:26 a.m.

--- Upon resuming at 10:48 a.m.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I believe that everybody is in position to resume the proceedings, so I will turn the microphone back to you, Ms. Menzies.

MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you. Welcome back from the break.

CONTINUED EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MS. MEGHAN MENZIES:

MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: So the next ratepayer panellist that we will hear from is Mr.

1 Darrell Settee. Good morning, Mr. Settee.
2 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: Good morning.
3 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Could you please
4 introduce yourself to the Board?
5 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: My name is Darrell
6 Settee, from Pimicikamak. I have lived there all my
7 life in that area where I grew up, and I did
8 participation in hunting, fishing prior to the
9 electrical power available -- or introduced into our
10 community. And then I grew up later with the inter --
11 into the first television and power in our community.
12 But in the past here, I experienced the
13 cool oil lamps, candles, wood stoves. And -- but we
14 did have a radio, which was very important to us,
15 especially on Saturday 'cause we listened to hockey
16 when Gordie Howe was playing. So I've had my
17 upbringing up there, and I still participate in the
18 hunting and fishing on our territory. So that's my
19 brief introduction into my background, where I come
20 from.
21 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you, Mr.
22 Settee. And I just want to clarify for the Board. My
23 understanding is that you've presented before the Board
24 in this -- in this NFAT proceeding before.
25 Is that correct?

1 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: Yes, I have on
2 another topic, or subject, but now we're -- I'm here
3 specific -- specifically for the -- the hearing on the
4 rates that we are all here for.
5 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you. And so
6 you said that you're from Pimicikamak. How long have
7 you lived there?
8 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: I lived there
9 fifty (50) plus years.
10 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And what is your
11 housing like in Pimicikamak?
12 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: Can you repeat
13 that, please?
14 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: What type of
15 housing do you live in, in Pimicikamak?
16 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: We live in like
17 band housing. Like we -- basically it's our home, we -
18 - we could say that.
19 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And do you know
20 what year the home was built?
21 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: It was built in
22 1991.
23 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And do you know if
24 it has electrical heat or gas heat?
25 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: It has electric

1 heat.

2 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And how many

3 members live in -- in your home?

4 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: Well, right now

5 there's three (3); my sister Ann (phonetic), myself,

6 and adopted girl named Aiden (phonetic). And a brother

7 that comes and goes once in a while.

8 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And can you please

9 describe for the Board your family income?

10 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: My income. Well,

11 I'm employed by Health Canada on a casual basis, and

12 also -- also function as president of the Cross Lake

13 Sports Complex board of directors. So that's about the

14 income, I guess.

15 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And approximately

16 what does your household pay for -- in Hydro bills on a

17 monthly basis?

18 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: I guess probably

19 close in the neighbourhood of four hundred (400), but

20 it -- you know, in cold months; but it's somewhat

21 different in the summer months. So it -- it'll -- but

22 I -- I would like to add that in colder months, like we

23 get some rates that go into the warm months a little

24 bit, and it changes, so.

25 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And so do you know

1 approximately how much you pay per month in the summer
2 months?
3 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: Maybe in the
4 neighbourhood of two hundred (200) plus, two hundred
5 and fifty (250), somewhere in that neighbourhood.
6 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And approximately
7 what percentage of your income do you spend paying
8 Hydro bills?
9 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: Well, I don't get
10 -- my -- my income does not stay at a level. It
11 fluctuates, more time, more work and et cetera. So I
12 could spend like 15 percent of it. Sometimes I could
13 have more. I could put in three hundred (300) or
14 sometimes one hundred (100), or one fifty (150).
15
16 (BRIEF PAUSE)
17
18 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: What might help is
19 I think the more you're fac -- I know that I'm being a
20 bad example of it right now, but I think the more you
21 face the microphone, the better it helps.
22 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: Yeah, okay.
23 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And what has been
24 your experience paying Hydro bills to date?
25 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: Well, I know it's

1 -- it's hard to keep up.

2 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Can you elaborate

3 on that at all, or...?

4 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: Well, generally

5 like in our area the -- the bills are much higher than

6 down here. And I hear they are much lower in -- like

7 in the northern states. So we -- we get much higher

8 Hydro bills here -- up there.

9 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Prior to your

10 participation in this NFAT panel, had you heard

11 anything about rates possibly going up in the future?

12 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: Yes, I have.

13 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And how did you

14 hear about that?

15 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: Newspaper clips

16 here and there. Some word -- word of mouth.

17 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: So again, I'd like

18 to -- Diana knows the cue. Again, I'd like to pull up

19 CAC Exhibit 54.

20 And are you familiar with this chart?

21 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: Yes, I am

22 familiar.

23 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And can you

24 provide a brief description of -- of what you see when

25 you look at this chart?

1 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: Well, there are
2 several -- several plans there. And in the first
3 column they are low, you know. But if we go up into
4 the later years, like it gets scarier and scarier as
5 you get there. And I guess it goes up across the board
6 to some point and then maybe it dips later on in the
7 years. So that's what my understanding of that chart -
8 - chart is.
9 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And you say it
10 generally goes up across the board. Is that what you
11 see for all of the plans?
12 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: Pretty much that's
13 what I understand, from what I see.
14 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And are there any
15 variances between the plans, or is that --
16 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: Well, there are
17 some, I guess, the variances, different plans here.
18 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And so what would
19 be the impact on your spending of these kind of rate
20 increases?
21 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: Well, we've got to
22 spend less on everything, I guess, all items,
23 necessities, entertainment, et cetera, et cetera.
24 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Can you describe
25 for the Board what would be the actual items that you

1 might have to consider cutting?
2 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: Well, I guess I
3 would cut down on eating at restaurants and I'd
4 probably eat more Corn Flakes and stuff like that.
5 And I guess we -- that little girl plays
6 in -- in hockey. So if we have to, we cut down like --
7 for example, this winter we skipped this tournament and
8 that. But we're going to attend this tournament. And
9 I guess we'll have to go with used equipment right now.
10 We've got some mostly new hockey equipment.
11 And so I guess we could probably spend
12 less money on food or clothing. I think we would
13 probably spend more clothing on the girl than -- than
14 myself or -- and I'd probably cut down on items like
15 Tim Hortons or, I guess, heating, I guess.
16 The practice we do now is we heat for a
17 while and then try and lower the heat so it doesn't
18 really use up too much power, you know, too much
19 electricity. So -- we don't have a wood stove, but
20 that's something we have to cut down on a lot of --
21 just about everything to save money.
22 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And you just
23 mentioned the wood stove. Just to clarify, did you say
24 that you do have a wood stove of you don't?
25 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: We -- we do not

1 have a wood stove.

2 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you. So

3 again looking at this chart, we can see that it goes

4 out to 2039 and 2040.

5 Would it have been helpful to you if

6 this chart went out to 2050 or 2070?

7 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: In my opinion, it

8 wouldn't help me because I see the numbers that are

9 pretty frightening right now up to where they are, so I

10 wouldn't like to see the other numbers.

11 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: We had explained -

12 - we had heard from other witnesses that some plans

13 start off with lower rates and move higher, while

14 others start off with higher rates but actually move --

15 with slightly higher rates but actually move lower into

16 the future.

17 Thinking of these two (2) forms -- these

18 two (2) models, would there be a preference that you

19 would have in paying rates?

20 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: I would prefer to

21 start off with the low payments. Then maybe I would be

22 able to adapt some form of alternative energy to keep

23 up so we do not have to use the electricity a hundred

24 percent of the time, so.

25 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: You had said

1 before that -- that you have heard about the rate
2 increases through -- through newspaper and other
3 sources -- the proposed rate increases, sorry.
4 Would you like to know more about the
5 proposed rate increases?
6 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: Oh, yes, I would
7 like to learn more.
8 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And what would you
9 like to learn about the proposed rate increases?
10 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: When are we going
11 to experience the changes? When are they -- when do
12 they appear in our bills and at what rate? And are
13 they going to be subtle changes or are they going to be
14 introduced? So we'd like to know how they're going to
15 be introduced into our lives, you know, and the way we
16 receive the bills and we expect the upward rates
17 increasing.
18 So we'd like a little more on how it
19 will affect us in the near future and -- and later on,
20 in a few years from now.
21 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And how would you
22 like to hear about the proposed rate increases?
23 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: Well, I guess it
24 would be the media too. But the paper -- I read paper
25 all the time, so if -- if it's on the front page, you

1 know, I wouldn't -- nobody would miss it, so. That's
2 the first thing that I look at, is the front page, for
3 -- for myself. You can see what the paper's going to
4 be like if you look at the front page, so I would
5 recommend more -- more of the announcements.
6 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Sorry, I missed
7 that last part.
8 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: More
9 announcements.
10 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And through what
11 means would you like to hear these announcements?
12 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: Well, I guess, in
13 our area, we -- we get news in the evenings. We try to
14 watch as much news as possible, and news on TV and the
15 paper, newspapers.
16 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And you said
17 before that you'd want to hear about it on -- on the
18 front page of a newspaper. Why would you specify --
19 you said that, Then everyone would see it.
20 Would -- would it make a difference -- a
21 big difference if it wasn't on the front page of a
22 newspaper?
23 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: I think it would
24 be passed up a lot more if it was on the front page
25 because we get the -- I would prefer to read -- like on

1 the Free Press, like it's really usually on the front
2 page, it's loud. It's very -- you know, very eye
3 catching, so.
4 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Do you know about
5 any of Manitoba Hydro's energy efficiency programs?
6 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: I -- I know about
7 some of the programs and I've heard about them. And
8 sometimes on TV or a clip on a newspaper, you'll see
9 that there are programs available.
10 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And what type of
11 programs have you heard about?
12 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: Well, I guess the
13 Power Smart, I guess, you know, is the -- I guess, some
14 appliances, you know, to -- to prevent heat from
15 escaping, like insulation and windows.
16 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Have you ever
17 applied for an energy efficiency program?
18 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: No, I have not
19 appli -- ever applied.
20 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And why have you
21 not applied for an energy efficiency --
22 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: Well, it's my
23 opinion that it was not made available, so there was no
24 -- no applica -- no -- no form of advertising that,
25 Here it is, there it is, you can -- it's kind of --

1 well, I guess that's probably why I was so sceptical,
2 that I -- I wouldn't apply, because it -- it seems that
3 it's not made available for us, especially in our
4 region or area where we live.
5 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And would you like
6 the energy efficiency programs -- not stating whether
7 or not they are actually available, but would you like
8 them to be more available in -- in your region?
9 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: I -- I definitely
10 would appreciate if there were more -- more made
11 available.
12 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And would you like
13 to hear more about the energy efficiency programs?
14 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: Yeah, I would like
15 to learn more.
16 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And how would you
17 like to hear about them?
18 MR. DARRELL SETTEE: Well, if they made
19 some -- well, they -- they had a place where you can go
20 for appli -- applications, and then you would apply and
21 see whether you qualify, what, you know, what -- what
22 difference it's going to make for you, and if there are
23 any costs.
24 So I don't know about the costs about --
25 associated with the Power Smart Program, so.

1 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you very
2 much, Mr. Settee.
3
4 (BRIEF PAUSE)
5
6 CONTINUED EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS:
7 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Good morning
8 again. Jessica Saunders, for the record, for the
9 Manitoba Metis Federation. I will be questioning Mr.
10 Richard Genaille. So, Mr. Genaille, could you please
11 provide us with an introduction to yourself?
12 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Good morning.
13 My name's Richard Genaille. I'm from Duck Bay on the
14 west side of Lake Winnipegosis. About five hundred
15 (500) people that live in my community. I'm forty (40)
16 years old, and I've lived there my whole life doing
17 various jobs. I'm a commercial fisherman and trapper.
18 I'm currently unemployed.
19 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: And Mr.
20 Genaille, do you own your own home in Duck Bay?
21 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Yes, we do own
22 our own home.
23 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: And what year
24 was your home built?
25 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Our home -- our

1 home was built in three (3) parts. The first part was
2 probably built in the '60s, and then we -- they added
3 another part probably -- well, very early '90 -- late
4 '80s, early '90s. And then the final part was probably
5 about 2000, in the year 2000.
6 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Okay. And how
7 many family members are a part of your household?
8 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Right now,
9 there's three (3) of us that live there, but my -- my
10 sister comes -- she comes home, leaves, comes home,
11 leaves.
12 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: And of those
13 three (3) members, could you let us know a little bit
14 more information about those -- the other two (2)
15 members with yourself in your household, please?
16 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Yes. I -- I --
17 we -- I live with my father, who's a pensioner, and my
18 little brother, who's on income assistance.
19 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Okay. Mr.
20 Genaille, how do you heat your home?
21 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: We heat our home
22 by two (2) ways. We've got the electric heat, but we
23 also have two (2) wood stoves.
24 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Okay.
25 And how often during the year do you use

your wood stoves?

MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: If we have the firewood, we use -- we use the wood stoves. We don't use the electric heat. We find that it's a -- a better heat from the wood stoves than it is from the electrical heat.

MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Are you able to say, like, explain further as to how it's better, for instance, for you?

MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: How could I explain it? If you -- if you had a -- if you had a wood stove, then you know it's a different heat from a wood stove than it is from electric, but I don't know how I can explain it. I don't know. It's soothing, I guess, or...

MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Okay. Great. Thank you. How do you get your wood?

MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: We used to -- my mother was in charge of that before, but now it's up -- up to my father and myself now. We just get -- we buy from the community -- different community members, or we -- we're going to plan on getting it ourselves.

(BRIEF PAUSE)

1 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: And can you
2 provide us with an approximate -- an approximate amount
3 that your household would pay for hydro each month in
4 the winter first?
5 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: In the winter
6 first. Okay. If -- if we use our wood stoves, then
7 our -- our Hydro bill pretty much stays the same, like
8 between one fifty (150) and two hundred dollars ($200).
9 It'll stay that.
10 But if we use our electric heat, then it
11 skyrockets to over three hundred (300), maybe even four
12 hundred (400). Like, this past winter's really cold,
13 and it was sometimes over four hundred (400), almost
14 five hundred dollars ($500).
15 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Okay.
16 And you use your wood stove during the
17 cold months, correct?
18 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Yes.
19 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: And so in those
20 months when you -- you use your electric heat, what has
21 been your experience paying your Hydro bills?
22 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: It's been --
23 it's been getting -- it's harder to pay them because --
24 or they're much higher 'cause you get -- when -- when
25 you're using electric, you're using more Hydro, so

1 they're higher. They're harder to pay. When we use
2 our wood stove, then they're -- they pretty much stay
3 the same.
4 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: And prior to
5 your participation in this panel, had you heard
6 anything about rates possibly going up in the future?
7 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Not really, but,
8 like, just watching the news and that, being informed.
9 Like, how Hydro, they're doing all these new projects
10 where -- where somebody's got to pay for it, so I guess
11 that's consumers, I guess.
12 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: And if I can
13 just bring up CAC Exhibit 54?
14 Mr. Genaille, you've -- you can confirm
15 that you've seen this chart?
16 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Yes, I have.
17 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Can you please
18 confirm your understanding of this chart?
19 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Yeah. It's --
20 it shows the four (4) different plans, and it -- it
21 just shows a plan. Like, it makes it easier for people
22 to understand it. Like, their Hydro bill is a thousand
23 a year, and then how much it'll go up percentage wise
24 each year.
25 So, like, I'm pretty sure nobody's Hydro

1 bill back then was a thousand for a year, because it's
2 probably higher than that, but it -- they just did it
3 at a thousand just so that they could show the people,
4 like, how much it's going to go up with each different
5 plan.
6 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Okay. And so --
7 so you have a general understanding of the various --
8 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Yeah.
9 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: -- of -- can --
10 can you explain further, you had mentioned the -- the
11 different plans over the years and how they go up. You
12 have an understanding of how they go up?
13 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Yeah.
14 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: So certain plans
15 have lower rates to begin with, and higher rates moving
16 out into the future.
17 Is that your understanding?
18 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Yeah. Yeah.
19 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: And further, at
20 least one (1) of the plans provided has higher rates in
21 the near term, but in a little over a decade and a
22 half, it's projected to have lower rates than the other
23 plans provided. Is that your understanding?
24 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Yeah. Yeah.
25 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: And given the

1 choice, would you prefer to pay higher rates today and
2 lower rates in the future, or lower rates today with
3 higher rates in the future?
4 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: I'd prefer to
5 pay lower rates now and -- and then higher rates in the
6 future, 'cause maybe in the future, we can find
7 alternative and it'll be lower.
8 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Sorry, what was
9 that?
10 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Maybe we could
11 find alternative ways instead of hydro in the future,
12 because -- and then in our -- like, if we pay low now,
13 and then if we -- maybe in the -- in the future, we can
14 find a lower -- something lower to pay. You know what
15 I mean? Like, to pay -- and we won't have to pay as
16 much.
17 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: And looking at
18 this chart, it goes to 2039 and 2040. Would it have
19 been helpful for you if this chart went to 2050 or
20 2070?
21 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Yes, it would
22 have probably helped me, because if it went up to 2050,
23 that would make me seventy-five (75), and then -- and I
24 -- I'd know what rates I'd have to pay as a pensioner.
25 So, yeah, it would have -- it would have helped.

1 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: And looking at
2 this chart, what would rate increases mean for your
3 spending and budget at the present time?
4 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Well, it would
5 be a big -- it would be a big hit to -- to our
6 household, because where I come from, there's no --
7 there's no stores, no gas. The place -- place to get
8 gas is about 30 kilometres away, and the closest place
9 to get fresh produce is -- is like Swan River and
10 Dauphin, and Swan River is probably over 100 kilometres
11 away, and Dauphin is probably 130 kilometres away. So
12 that would definitely affect if the rates went up, then
13 we'd have to cut down on getting groceries and other --
14 other things.
15 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Okay. You had
16 said previously that -- that you had some indication
17 you were aware of certain projects and such that were
18 coming up, and that rates, you assumed, would go up.
19 I'm just wondering, would you like to
20 know more about proposed rate increases?
21 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Oh, for sure.
22 For sure I'd love to know -- know more about rate
23 increases.
24 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: What would you
25 like to know more about the --

1 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Well, why -- why
2 -- well, I know in -- in inflation, you have to go up,
3 but if there's other reasons, then I think the
4 consumers should know about these other reasons, that
5 if they're going up.
6 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: And how would
7 you like to hear about rate increases?
8 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Well -- well,
9 from my -- where I come from, we don't have the
10 newspaper. Like, just maybe about a year ago that we -
11 - you could finally get the newspaper, like, 30
12 kilometres within that community. The -- the way I'd
13 like to know about it is on the news, or, like, because
14 people watch the news there, so -- and then from the
15 TV.
16 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Okay. Do you
17 know about any of Manitoba Hydro's energy efficiency
18 programs?
19 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Now I do, yeah,
20 after talking with -- when they did the -- the test on
21 my house.
22 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Did you? Okay.
23 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Yeah.
24 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: So before that,
25 did you how about any --

1 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: No, not really,
2 no.
3 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Okay. Would you
4 like to know more about Manitoba Hydro's energy
5 efficiency programs?
6 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Now, yeah, after
7 seeing how Hydro rates are going to, yeah, definitely.
8 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: How would you
9 like to hear about them?
10 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Like I said
11 earlier, like on the news, like TV, or even if Hydro
12 can assist people, like help people understanding about
13 their -- their things.
14 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: M-hm. And have
15 -- so I'm just wondering, when you get more information
16 about an energy efficiency program -- and you have an
17 understanding of your family's income -- do you think
18 that applying for an energy efficiency program is
19 something that you would consider for your household?
20 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Most definitely.
21 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mr.
22 Genaille. Those are all my questions.
23 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Thank you.
24 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And so having
25 heard from all of the ratepayer panellists, we would

1 invite the Board to ask any questions that they may
2 have of the panellists.
3
4 (BRIEF PAUSE)
5
6 THE CHAIRPERSON: I have a few
7 questions. And I guess one (1) of the questions I had
8 was with Mr. Mouland. And I wasn't quite sure about --
9 he -- I don't think I recalled you talking about the
10 level of insulation in your house.
11 I wonder if you could explain that,
12 please?
13 MR. DAVE MOULAND: I did have an audit
14 done, so I believe those facts are with Mr. Rio (si).
15 But I personally don't have them right in front of me.
16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Not sure if that was
17 provided to us. Maybe I'm missing it. Yes, I got it
18 here. Okay. Good. So that's -- thank you for -- for
19 that.
20 MR. LARRY SOLDIER: Mr. Genaille, how
21 much do you pay for wood?
22 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Generally, well,
23 we pay probably a hundred dollars ($100) a cord, and
24 we'd probably go through probably ten (10) cords a
25 winter. Before, when I wasn't living there, my dad was

1 a little bit younger and he was able to go out and get
2 it himself. And my mother made sure that he -- he'd
3 get the wood himself, so it was free. Just get it
4 around from the community there.
5 MR. LARRY SOLDIER: So your mother got
6 a better price?
7 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Yeah.
8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Now, I guess, you
9 know, we had three (3) -- the results from the three
10 (3) energy audits. And I -- yeah, I'd like to hear
11 from the people who had the energy audit, if they found
12 them to be useful.
13 I guess Mr. Mouland, Mr. Genaille, and
14 Ms. -- Ms. Mason, I wonder if you could comment on how
15 useful you found them to be in terms of understanding
16 issues with insulation.
17 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And just to
18 interject here, I -- I think that all the panellists
19 would be happy to -- to respond to that at this moment.
20 If you would prefer, though, Mr. Chair, we could hear
21 from Mr. Gio Robson first about the audits, and then
22 hear from them. But it's -- it's your preference.
23 THE CHAIRPERSON: That's fine. That
24 would be great.
25 DR. HUGH GRANT: Could I ask -- just

1 before we get to that, could I just ask how you found
2 out about this? Because I think we should all be fully
3 informed consumers, but I've been trying to find a link
4 to this on the Hydro page without any success.
5 So did -- was it CAC that helped you get
6 in contact to do this, or...?
7 MR. DAVE MOULAND: As far as I'm
8 concerned, it was CAC that contacted me about doing
9 this panel appearance.
10 DR. HUGH GRANT: Thanks. And I'll save
11 my questions for Mr. Robson about information gaps.
12 THE CHAIRPERSON: A question for Mrs.
13 Salamisan, I guess. I wasn't -- I -- I don't recall
14 you speaking about the quality of your insulation or
15 the windows in your house and so on.
16 Do -- did you -- can you comment on
17 that? Are you --
18 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: When we
19 bought our house, it's already insulated. So I don't
20 have any knowledge regarding the insulation program of
21 the Manitoba Hydro. I'm not aware of it.
22 THE CHAIRPERSON: I was more interested
23 in knowing if -- if you have good quality insulation in
24 the house, if you have good windows?
25 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: I think so,

because it was newly renovated when we bought it. So my husband was able to check all of it. So I think we already used the -- what do you call this? They are not using the asbestos or something like that. They -- they already -- the materials, that it's already updated. So I think we have a good insulation in our house.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I'd -- I'd like to hear from you about, you know, what would prevent you -- or what would encourage you to -- to participate in the program?

In other words, if you have a program that requires you to put some money up front, is that something you would -- you would consider?

MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: Yeah, sure. As long as it will help us to save, because right now I'm not so knowledgeable with the kind of conserve -- energy conservation offered by the Manitoba Hydro, although there is some contractor coming to our house, pretending that they are partner of Manitoba Hydro, something like that.

But they are not giving us all the information that we ask. And I think for the Manitoba Hydro what they really need is to do some campaign about it so that all the consumers will be

1 knowledgeable about what are they really offer. And --
2 and also for the qualifications and the restrictions,
3 it should be clear to the consumers so that we will be
4 aware of what are the necessary preparation that we
5 need to prepare, or what are the documents that we need
6 to prepare to send with them to apply for the kinds of
7 program.
8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. That's
9 all the questions I have.
10 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you very
11 much. And I have one (1) request before we begin with
12 Mr. Robson. Ms. Hartley, as -- as Ms. Saunders
13 explained at the beginning of the morning, does have a
14 family emergency and we would ask if she could be
15 excused. I -- I understand that there are other
16 Intervenors and -- and counsel that may want to cross-
17 examine on that and so we would seek their input as
18 whether or not we could excuse Ms. Hartley at this
19 moment.
20 THE CHAIRPERSON: I wonder if there are
21 any objections from the Intervenors if we were to allow
22 --
23 MR. WILLIAM GANGE: I can advise you,
24 Mr. Chair, I'm not going to have any questions for Ms.
25 Hartley.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: I don't see anybody
2 else indicating that they would like to ask questions,
3 so --
4 MS. MARLA BOYD: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair.
5 If I might --
6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Go ahead.
7 MS. MARLA BOYD: -- just indicate --
8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah, please.
9 MS. MARLA BOYD: -- I have -- I have no
10 objection to her leaving, but our staff would like an
11 opportunity to speak to her at some point. So if we
12 can arrange that at some point, that would be fine,
13 rather than asking questions on the record.
14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Is that okay, Mrs.
15 Hartley?
16 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: Yeah. Yes, that
17 would be okay.
18 MS. MARLA BOYD: Thank you.
19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. With that, I
20 would like to thank you for your participation this
21 morning, Mrs. Hartley, and I -- I express my con --
22 condolences on behalf of the panel that you have to --
23 you've -- you've obviously lost somebody close to you.
24 So thank you for coming today. I really appreciate
25 your participation.

1 MS. GLORIA HARTLEY: Thank you so much.
2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Have a -- have a good
3 balance of the day.
4
5 (GLORIA HARTLEY STANDS DOWN)
6
7 CONTINUED EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MS. MEGHAN MENZIES:
8 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you. And
9 with that, I would like to introduce Mr. Gio Robson.
10 MR. GIO ROBSON: There. Thanks. Thank
11 you very much. Before I -- I get into the PowerPoint
12 presentation and reviewing the results of the energy
13 evaluations that we carried out on three (3) of the
14 ratepayers' homes, I just wanted to touch on two (2)
15 things that came up during the presenting of me as an
16 expert witness that I thought was important.
17 I'm glad the question was asked whether
18 or not we were DSM experts. And although the type of
19 work we carry out, I would say, is an -- an important
20 component of -- of DSM, by no means do we work on that
21 macro level. Everything we do is on a house-by-house
22 level. All we see is the house and the energy use, and
23 -- in the house by the homeowner.
24 Another thing that -- that came out was
25 that -- I want to just make sure there's full -- full

1 disclosure. We are contractors to Manitoba Hydro and
2 we have been for many years; the frontline workers
3 doing -- performing energy evaluations, reviews,
4 verifications for them. But we're not experts in
5 Manitoba Hydro programs. We can't speak to
6 eligibility. We have a very high knowledge of the type
7 of programs that Manitoba Hydro offer on the
8 residential side.
9 And part of our mission when we're in
10 the house, whether it's officially on behalf of
11 Manitoba Hydro or a private homeowner who's phoned us
12 for an energy evaluation, is to make sure that people -
13 - homeowners understand the resources that are
14 available to them. And that may include federal
15 programming, provincial programming, Manitoba Hydro pro
16 -- programming, civic programming.
17 Okay. So the CAC (Manitoba) and MMF
18 essentially asked us to carry out the -- an energy
19 evaluation for three (3) homeowners, and it's the same
20 energy evaluation that we've done thirty thousand
21 (30,000) plus times in houses throughout Manitoba for
22 the last ten (10) or twelve (12) years.
23 So we're talking about energy
24 evaluations. I thought it was important to present to
25 the Board just a little background on what is a home

1 energy evaluation, why do we do them, the type of
2 information that we collect, a context that they're
3 carried out in. Oh, are we live? Sorry, everyone.
4 So what form can a home energy
5 evaluation take? There's a lot of ways of doing an
6 evaluation to evaluate the amount of energy a homeowner
7 -- homeowner uses. There's online or print
8 questionnaires that can be completed by the homeowner.
9 There's a lot of stuff that's available online.
10 Manitoba Hydro offers some interesting tools for
11 homeowners.
12 We can do very simple phone -- over-the-
13 phone or in-person interviews, where we -- a skilled
14 person can collect general information about a house
15 and, given the right skills, can give direction. I
16 often get calls from homeowners where I'm able to give
17 them the answer they need over the phone. They -- they
18 hold their house up to the phone, and I tell them what
19 to do -- or we tell them what to do.
20 There's in-home reviews or inspections
21 by energy advisors or skilled people, and -- and those
22 would involve visits and a review of the major
23 components of the house. A higher level of that type
24 of visit is doing detailed data collection and energy
25 modelling using software. So we can predict the house

1 performance and the energy savings from different types
2 of upgrades.
3 Often that higher level energy
4 evaluation may include a -- what we call a blower door
5 test. And that's where we put a big fan on the door
6 and we test to see how leaky or tight the house is.
7 And airtightness, as it turns out, is a really
8 important component of the performance of a house. And
9 it also can greatly per -- affect the indoor air
10 quality. Is it too humid? Is it too dry? Are we
11 comfortable?
12 And an even higher level, there's a
13 whole bunch of -- of techy tools out there that we have
14 at our disposal, including infrared cameras and other
15 more sophisticated, expensive diagnostic tools.
16 Okay. So what are we evaluating when we
17 do a home energy evaluation? Well, it can cover a
18 whole bunch of things, but typically we're looking at
19 the building envelope. And if you think about a house
20 as a six (6) sided box, a building envelope is the
21 roof, the walls, the floors, the windows, and the air
22 leakage that happens around that box.
23 We look at mechanicals, and that would
24 include the type of heating, sometimes cooling
25 equipment, the way hot water is created in the house,

1 and ventilation systems in the home. We often evaluate
2 the base loads. How much electricity is being used for
3 car heaters, for lights, for gadgets, for stoves and
4 fridges, and things like that.
5 And finally, this is a really difficult
6 one to evaluate, is occupant behaviour. How is the
7 homeowner occu -- operating the house? Some people
8 like to keep their thermostat at 78 degrees Fahrenheit,
9 and others keep them at seventy (70) or sometimes 60
10 degrees Fahrenheit. Okay. So sometimes part of an
11 evaluation is taking into account the occupant
12 behaviour, and that can have quite a significant effect
13 on energy use in the home.
14 So why do we do energy evaluations?
15 There's a wide range of reasons why we might carry one
16 out. Sometimes it's to rate or compare house
17 performance to similar housing stock. We do this with
18 fridges. Every time you buy a fridge, it has an
19 EnerGuide rating on it, and it allows you to say, Wow,
20 this fridge is more efficient than this fridge. Okay.
21 So it can be a way of -- of comparing your home to
22 other homes of similar age on the market.
23 It might be to satisfy mandatory rating
24 provisions, and some -- in some jurisdictions in Europe
25 and in -- in the States -- and there is some actual

1 federal debate about this coming. I believe Ontario
2 and BC have at one time or other had this on the board
3 to be -- to be passed as a bill. But in some
4 jurisdictions they're saying, Well, we're requiring a
5 label on every fridge; why aren't we doing the same for
6 a house which has an incredible -- or a much more
7 significant effect on people's economy?
8 It -- it adds a little sense of energy
9 literacy in the marketplace when it comes to buying or
10 selling a home. So in some places, it's actually now
11 mandatory to get an energy rating on a house, new or
12 existing, before you sell it.
13 In some cases, an evaluation may be
14 simply to identify or prioritize energy-saving
15 opportunities. Homeowners want to know: You know, I
16 don't know where to start. Where -- where -- what
17 should I do first?
18 We can also quantify energy-saving
19 opportunities. So homeowners may say, Okay, you've
20 given me three (3) or four (4) things. Well, how much
21 is this going to cost? And how much am I going to
22 save?
23 So it's important for homeowners and
24 program operators to understand the return on the
25 investment: Where are they going to get the best money

1 back for the money they spend on energy upgrades?
2 We often do energy evaluations to
3 identify components that might be eligible for rebates,
4 grants, or special programs. Often we get calls and we
5 do an energy evaluation because people come to us with
6 really specific problems in the house, whether it's
7 related to indoor air quality, high heating bills, or
8 extreme comfort problems in certain rooms or parts of
9 the house. And it's also a really good tool to size
10 heating and cooling equipment. People are putting in a
11 new furnace or a new air conditioner, they want to know
12 how big or small can it be, okay?
13 It's important to remember that, when we
14 carry out a home energy evaluation, it's not a home
15 inspection. We're not doing a detailed analysis of the
16 wiring or the cosmetic condition of the house or the
17 structural condition. We may take certain aspects of -
18 - of the structural condition of the house into -- into
19 account when we're making recommendations, but we're
20 not home inspectors.
21 Okay. So the -- the most typical and
22 common energy evaluation is NRCan -- is the NRCan
23 overseen -- 'overseen', is that the correct word -- is
24 the -- is the NRCan's EnerGuide rating system.
25 This has been performed on hundreds of

1 thousands of houses across Canada. We've probably
2 done, oh, thirty (30) to forty thousand (40,000)
3 EnerGuide evaluations in Manitoba since 2002 or so.
4 So it is a program that was developed by
5 Natural Resources Canada. And among other things, it
6 helps homeowners understand their current energy use:
7 how much is being spent on heating, cooling,
8 appliances, et cetera. It identifies ways to make
9 those home -- homes more comfortable and more energy
10 efficient.
11 It actually quantifies and prioritizes
12 those energy saving opportunities for the homeowner.
13 So it predicts, Well, if you insulate your attic, this
14 is how much you can potentially reduce your -- your
15 heating and cooling costs by, et cetera.
16 And it includes a report and label that
17 provides the energy efficiency rating of the house. So
18 I think you've all received the reports that we did.
19 This is a -- what you received is a typical EnerGuide
20 rating system evaluation report.
21 Okay. So how do we create the report?
22 An energy evaluation usually takes one and a half (1
23 1/2) to two (2) hours. If it's a really simple house,
24 it may take a lot less. If it's a really complicated
25 house with a homeowner that has lots of questions, it

1 may take a lot more.

2 But the energy advisor visits the house.

3 They walk through the entire house. They -- they

4 measure all of the components. They collect

5 information on insulation levels, windows, furnaces,

6 hot water, all the mechanical equipment. We do an

7 airtightness or a blower door test to measure,

8 quantify/measure the air leakage and also locate it so

9 that we can give information to the homeowner on what

10 they need to do to -- to improve the airtightness of

11 the home.

12 We take all that information and we use

13 a special software that's -- that's administered and

14 created by NRCan. It's called Hot2000. And in that

15 software, we build the house, a virtual house, and

16 we're able to put a virtual family in that virtual

17 house and run it through a year, a virtual year, a year

18 of virtual weather.

19 And that software can predict -- we can

20 also input the energy costs or unit -- you know, unit

21 costs for electricity and natural gas, wood, et cetera.

22 And it can predict how much energy that house would use

23 through a virtual year with a virtual family living in

24 it.

25 We can take that house and we can say,

1 What happens if we insulate the walls? What happens if
2 we make it more airtight? What happens if we change
3 the furnace? And that software will again keep that
4 virtual family in there and run it through that virtual
5 year and predict the energy savings in either dollars
6 or in percentage or whatever unit we're -- we're
7 wanting to take away.
8 And at the end of that, the software has
9 a pretty standard template report that it creates for
10 us and -- and a label that also would be provided to a
11 homeowner that would typically be stuck on a electrical
12 panel saying, This is the -- this is the energ --
13 EnerGuide rating for this particular home. Okay?
14 So it's important to remember that the
15 typical ERS evaluation actually compares the house
16 performance, not occupant behaviour. Earlier, I
17 referred to how much effect occupant behaviour can have
18 on the energy use on a house, and this became very
19 clear when we were doing the energy evaluations for the
20 three (3) ratepayer panel members, because we had on
21 one (1) end of the spectrum, a house that had a -- a
22 single person living in the house, to another house
23 that had six (6) children and two (2) to three (3)
24 adults living in it, so the amount of hot water and the
25 -- some of the living practices were very different.

1 So when we do ERS evaluations,
2 typically, I'd said we put a virtual family in the
3 house, and we make a whole bunch of assumptions. We
4 call those 'standard operating conditions'. And that's
5 -- we assume that there's two (2) -- two (2) adults and
6 two (2) children present in the house 50 percent of the
7 time, thermostats are set to a certain setting, 21
8 degrees Celsius, during the day on the main floors,
9 that the household is using 225 litres of domestic hot
10 water every day, electrical consumption, lights,
11 appliances, plugging in your car and stuff like that,
12 24 kilowatt hours per day.
13 We allow for a certain amount of
14 ventilation to be occurring, even if it's not actually
15 occurring in real life, and we use a regional dat --
16 weather that's averaged over the last thirty (30)
17 years.
18 Okay, so the ERS evaluation, based on
19 all those assumptions, is actually quite an accurate
20 tool of predicting the performance of the house, but it
21 often doesn't and usually may not match the homeowner's
22 energy bills or what's actually happening in the house,
23 but it gives a -- it gives a -- provides a -- a fairly
24 reliable roadmap for the homeowner on how to proceed
25 and what kind of returns on investments and what kind

1 of payback they're going to get from the type of energy
2 upgrades that they perform.
3 When we do an ERS evaluation, we do it
4 under the canopy of what we called 'house as a system'.
5 So over the last thirty (30) -- thirty (30) plus years,
6 a -- a lot of building science experts and energy
7 advisors have been working in the field, and we've
8 learned a lot about the way houses work, and a long
9 time ago, we would just throw some insulation on a
10 house and tighten it up and walk away and hope
11 everything worked -- worked well.
12 But we now know that all the different
13 components in the house are interlinked, and there's a
14 lot of things that upgrades can solve, but there is
15 also a lot of problems that certain upgrades can cause.
16 An example is that we know that if you
17 take an old furnace that had a big, wide open chimney
18 out, and you put a high-efficiency furnace in it that
19 no longer has a -- a chimney, it just has two (2)
20 little pipes, that's sealed combustion, two (2) pipes
21 that go up the wall, that can make a house...
22 We've taken a 6-inch hole out that was
23 ventilating the house and taking moisture out, we can,
24 all of a sudden, have a house that had fair indoor air
25 quality before that suddenly has major problems with

1 moisture or humidity, or all of the sudden, that gas
2 hot water tank in the corner, when you turn on a
3 bathroom fan or a dryer or a range hood, is
4 backdrafting.
5 So when we do ERS evaluations and we
6 make recommendations, we always do it under the spectre
7 of, "House as a system." We want to make sure that we
8 protect the integrity of the house and the safety of
9 the occu -- occupants. Okay?
10 Certified energy advisors carry out ERS
11 evaluations. Certified energy advisors undergo
12 classroom training. They undergo about two (2) -- one
13 (1) to two (2) weeks of field training. There's some
14 mentorship involved, and they have to write a -- write
15 an exam before they're considered certified energy
16 advisors. They have to be familiar with regional
17 building practices, codes, and challenges. They're --
18 they have a basic understanding of building science
19 principles and the 'house as a system' fundamentals.
20 This is important. Certified energy
21 advisors are neutral. They're not in the house to
22 favour or sell any certain technology or product or
23 fuel source. We do the ERS evaluation to serve and
24 protect the home and the homeowner and occupants, and
25 we do everything to -- we do everything in their best

1 interests to reduce their energy use, their energy
2 costs, and the quality and comfort of the home.
3 Okay, so let's -- that's just a
4 background on energy evaluations. I'll review the --
5 the three (3) homes, the evaluations we did for the --
6 the ratepayers. There were three (3) of them. There's
7 just a quick summary here.
8 There was a house in the Weston
9 neighbourhood that was just a 570-square-foot bungalow
10 built in 1912. It's built over a dug-out basement. It
11 had electric heat with electric domestic hot water. No
12 ventilation system. We flew up to Cross Lake, and
13 visited a house that was built in 1998. A 1,450-
14 square-foot bungalow. It was on a conditioned
15 crawlspace. It had electric forced air for -- furnace
16 for heat, electric domestic hot water, and it had an
17 HRV ventilation system installed.
18 And the third house that we visited was
19 in the northwest, in Duck Bay. I have 1970 plus. It
20 was late 1960s. I -- I may have to stand correct. I'm
21 sorry. Late 1960s/early 1970s. There had been a
22 couple of additions added to it. It's on an
23 unconditioned or unheated crawlspace. They use -- a
24 majority of their heat comes from their two (2) wood
25 stoves. They have some electric backup heat and supple

1 -- supplemental heat. There's electric domestic hot
2 water, and there's currently no ventilation system in
3 the house.
4
5 (BRIEF PAUSE)
6
7 MR. GIO ROBSON: So I'll just go
8 through them one (1) by one (1). You've got reports
9 there. And if you have questions, stop me. So Weston
10 -- the Weston residence. This is Mr. Mouland's house.
11 I'll just summarize what we found in terms of envelope,
12 mechanicals, and base loads.
13 The attic in this -- in Mr. Mouland's
14 house was actually not too bad. It was at the
15 threshold of where we would probably recommend adding
16 insulation. If it was any more than R32, we probably
17 would have said, You know, it may not be worth your
18 investment. But in this case it became an upgrade
19 recommendation for us.
20 We drilled a little hole in the wall and
21 put a scope in, and we were able to find that
22 fortunately they already had some insulation in the
23 walls. There had been some type of retrofit that had
24 happened during the life of the house, and there was
25 R10 mineral fibre in the wall cavities.

1 The dug-out basement, or crawlspace, was
2 completely uninsulated. And dug-out basements are
3 quite common in older housing stock in -- in this
4 neighbourhood in the north end of Winnipeg. And
5 essentially it's -- it's really a crawlspace that's had
6 a swimming pool type of cavity carved out in the middle
7 of it to allow for mechanical equipment, laundry,
8 furnace, hot water tanks.
9 They tend to be problematic from an
10 upgrade perspective because they're often on wood or
11 substandard concrete footings. And because of the way
12 they're built with very shallow footings, they -- they
13 suffer a lot of stress from freeze/thaw cycles.
14 So in this case, Mr. Mouland's house was
15 -- the -- the crawlspace and dug-out part of the
16 basement was under significant jeopardy. Again I'm not
17 a home inspector or an engineer, but we have enough
18 experience to look at it and say, Something needs to be
19 done with this crawlspace because it's falling apart.
20 And even though we want to upgrade it, something needs
21 to be done with it first. Okay.
22 He had old -- older wood windows with
23 metal storms, and it was one of the leakiest houses
24 we've ever been in. Twenty-nine (29) air changes per
25 hour at 50 pascals. That's a technical way of

1 describing the air leakage. A typical new house in
2 Winnipeg would be between one point five (1.5) and two
3 (2) air changes per hour. Most older houses in this
4 neighbourhood would be ten (10) to fifteen (15) air
5 changes per hour.
6 So we are also to measure how big of a
7 hole they have in a -- in the house if we add together
8 all the little cracks and gaps. And they actually had
9 253 square inches, so that's like about a 1 foot by 2
10 foot hole year round in the house.
11 In terms of how is the house heated, the
12 house had a natural gas, a conventional natural gas
13 furnace installed. A number of years ago the homeowner
14 had it disconnected because he perceived that the cost
15 of -- of heating with the gas was more -- was higher
16 than electricity.
17 And when we visited the house, he's got
18 a number of electric heaters for -- electric heaters
19 like you would often buy at Canadian Tire, at different
20 hardware stores, plugged in around the house. There
21 were a number of long and fairly narrow, and some
22 already slightly charred, extension cords running
23 around the house. And Mr. Mouland told us that -- that
24 usually he was heating the room that we -- he was in at
25 the time, and often from what we could tell he was

1 keeping the room he was in and adjacent rooms at 10 to
2 15 degrees Celsius on the coldest days of the year.
3 Okay. There were a couple of space
4 heaters that were left on 24/7. They were on when we
5 were in the house in April, and they were on all the
6 time to keep the pipes and the water systems in the
7 basement from -- from freezing.
8 There's no ventilation in the house. Do
9 we need ventilation right now with 253 square inches of
10 leakage? No, but we collect information on that.
11 In terms of base loads, Mr. Mouland only
12 had a handful of lightbulbs in the house that he
13 informed us he used sparingly. There were very many
14 appliance loads except for two (2) very, very old, and
15 probably very, very inefficient fridges that were --
16 were in use.
17 Okay. So we collected all that
18 information and we built a Hot2000 file, and we looked
19 at some of things that we could do based on the
20 software and based on our -- our expertise as energy
21 advisors. And these are some of our recommendations
22 that we came up with.
23 Again, we can't speak to the eligibility
24 of Mr. Mouland for the Affordable Energy Program, but
25 once eligible and if participating in Manitoba Hydro's

1 Affordable Energy Program, obviously, we would
2 recommend insulating the crawlspace once it was
3 ungradable, or we were able to insulate it. And
4 typically the Affordable Energy Program would cover all
5 of the costs, provide a contractor and cover all the
6 cost of insulating that basement.
7 We would recommend fuel switching back
8 to a high efficiency natural gas furnace. The cost of
9 gas is very, very low compared to the cost of
10 electricity. And based on projections, even though
11 both are likely to go up, we understand that
12 electricity will -- may increase more than natural gas,
13 at least in the -- the short future.
14 So under the Affordable Energy Program,
15 he would be provided with a furnace if he was eligible
16 for nine fifty (9.50) a month over five (5) years, so
17 that would be about five hundred and seventy dollars
18 ($570) for a furnace that often costs four thousand
19 (4,000) to five thousand dollars ($5,000) to the public
20 in a private setting. Okay. And the cost of that
21 would almost certainly be covered by the energy savings
22 from switching from electricity to gas.
23 Okay. Obviously -- although the -- the
24 biggest envelope energy saving opportunity is the
25 crawlspace, something has to be done with it. This is

1 -- this is often the -- the challenge we have in older
2 housing stock is because we operate under 'house as a
3 system' and we want to do things that are common sense,
4 we want to make sure that we're not insulating a
5 component that's going to fail later, or we're going to
6 have problems later.
7 So Mr. Mouland would have to find other
8 programming -- provincially, federally, locally -- to
9 help assist with the renovation or the repairs of that
10 cra -- dug-out basement before he proceeds. There's
11 programs provincially like the Housing and Community --
12 the HRAP Program. It's under Manit -- the provincial
13 government's Housing and Community Development
14 Department, that provides some pretty -- pretty
15 significant for -- forgivable loans to homeowners for
16 major repairs.
17 So when we do energy evaluations and
18 visits to houses, we'll often make sure that homeowners
19 are aware of these types of programs and resources
20 available to them. We would recommend that the
21 homeowner replace his older fridge -- fridges with
22 Energy Star models, because there's very, very
23 significant electrical savings there. And after he
24 does all the upgrades, he's made his house tighter,
25 it's important to have some sort of ventilation system

1 in the house. And at the very least we would encourage
2 him to install a bathroom fan so when the house is
3 tighter, he's creating moisture, he's able to get that
4 moisture out before he can have problems with mould and
5 mildew.
6 Okay. So you'll see in the -- in the
7 reports we gave you when we rate -- when we -- when we
8 do that analysis on the house in Hot2000, it gives the
9 house an EnerGuide rating of sixty-two (62) with a
10 potential of going to seventy-five (75). The EnerGuide
11 rating scale right now goes from zero to one hundred
12 (100). Typical new houses actually, under today's
13 building code, seventy (70) -- seventy-six (76),
14 seventy-seven (77), up to seventy-nine (79), eighty
15 (80). Okay.
16 The modelling predicted an annual energy
17 bill of twenty-eight (28) -- twenty-eight hundred
18 dollars ($2,800) plus. And that's almost twice as much
19 of what he's actually paying right now. So the
20 question is: Is there something wrong with the model?
21 Is there something wrong with the modellers? What's
22 gone wrong here? How do we use this information.
23 And you remember, I told you before that
24 when we do an ERS evaluation we put that virtual family
25 in the house. And the big difference here is that we

1 don't have two (2) children and two (2) adults, and
2 we're not keeping the house at 21 degrees Celsius.
3 So Mr. Mouland, because of being careful
4 with his energy and the type of heating system he uses,
5 he's keeping the house at 10 to 15 degrees Celsius.
6 He's using very, very little hot water. He has no
7 laundry facilities in the house. So his energy bill
8 was actually sixteen hundred dollars ($1,600).
9 What we can do with the software that we
10 have, however, is take it out of the official EnerGuide
11 mode and change the standard operating conditions to
12 try to reconcile the energy model with what's actually
13 being spent or -- or consumed in the house.
14 And we did that. And we were able to --
15 some of it is a little bit of sleight of hand. But
16 with our experience and understanding how much hot
17 water, what his thermostat setting is like, et cetera,
18 we were able to reconcile it fairly well.
19 So what -- what we came up with is that
20 insulating that attic, insulating the crawlspace, doing
21 some significant air sealing, and doing the fuel
22 switching from electric to a high efficient gas
23 furnace, again, all of these things would be -- if --
24 if he's eligible, would be covered by the Affordable
25 Energy Program. He would save two (2) -- about two

1 hundred dollars ($200) year.

2 Maybe with -- if he's able to do a

3 fridge upgrade and some other changes and he lowers his

4 thermostat, which I expect he will, below 21 degrees

5 Celsius, he may save two hundred (200) to three hundred

6 dollars ($300) per year. He also transfers a lot of

7 his energy bill from being a hundred percent electric

8 to -- to a major portion being gas. And that may

9 provide him with additional security if there's ever

10 unexpected rate increases in either gas or electricity

11 in the future, okay, so it balances out the -- the

12 energy risk for him.

13 Speed up? Okay, sorry, guys. Okay, so

14 the -- sorry, do you have a question?

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: I do have a question.

16 In terms of the gas bill on the previous house, do you

17 now have some idea about that -- what happens to that?

18 MR. GIO ROBSON: Well, right now, the

19 gas bill is zero.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: If you switch from

21 electricity to gas heat, obviously there would be

22 impact to the gas bill, wouldn't there?

23 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yeah. So the

24 electrical portion would drop from sixteen hundred

25 (1,600) to five hundred (500), so he's saving -- so he

1 -- he would probably be -- his gas would be around the
2 eight hundred dollar ($800) per year range. I can
3 provide that later if you -- I'm sorry I -- I neglected
4 to include that, yeah.
5 Okay. So we went up to --
6 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: My understanding
7 was that the Chair shook his head to that being
8 provided, or would you like that provided at a later
9 date?
10 THE CHAIRPERSON: No, that's fine. I
11 get the -- I get the -- I understand what's going on
12 here in terms of the two hundred dollar ($200) saving
13 is the difference between the electricity bill and the
14 gas bill. So that works out to about two hundred
15 dollar ($200). Okay, I get it.
16 MR. GIO ROBSON: And I should also
17 point out that that two hundred dollar ($200) savings
18 is -- also allows -- that's running the house at 21
19 degrees Celsius comfortably and safely. So right now,
20 he's got -- he's actually got much lower energy bills
21 than we would normally expect for a house of this size
22 with one (1) person living in it. But because of the -
23 - the way he's running the house, with the 10 to 15
24 degrees Celsius and being very, very cautious, so he'll
25 be able to be comfortable and safe and save two hundred

1 (200) to three hundred dollars ($300) per year if he
2 does these upgrades, okay.
3 So Cross Lake, this is Mrs. Mason's
4 house. This was a 1998 house, and it was a typical --
5 I guess I can say that, typical CMHC design sponsored
6 home. It's actually very close to today's building
7 standards, codes -- energy standards from a code
8 perspective. It had R40 insulation in the attic, R20
9 in the walls. It had a pressure-treated wood
10 foundation and crawlspace that was about 4 or 5 feet
11 high. It -- with R20 in it.
12 It had fairly good windows. They're
13 triple-glaze wood frame windows. And it was very
14 tight. It was as tight as I would expect any new house
15 in -- in Winnipeg or Manitoba to be in today's
16 marketplace. There was an electric forced air furnace
17 and a heat recovery ventilator installed in the
18 crawlspace, and there is electric domestic hot water
19 tank on the main floor of the home.
20 And in terms of the base loads, there
21 was about a sixteen (16) year-old fridge that is
22 probably not too bad in terms of energy efficiency,
23 really high occupancy that I mentioned before, so a lot
24 of hot water use for showering, laundry, opening and
25 closing of -- of fridges, a lot higher electrical

1 loads, electronic gadgets, TVs, stuff like that being
2 used in the house, okay.
3 So because the house was built to
4 today's building code standards, there weren't a lot of
5 real energy upgrades that we could recommend. But one
6 (1) of the things that our energy advisor did discover
7 when he was in the house is he went into the -- into
8 the crawlspace, and that's where the -- unfortunately,
9 the heat recovery ventilator was installed. And I say,
10 "unfortunately," because heat recovery ventilators are
11 code now and we're installing them in hundreds and
12 thousands of houses, and they're really good sources of
13 -- of efficient ventilation for a house, but it's
14 really, really important that they're serviced, they're
15 maintained three (3) or four (4) times a year.
16 And after interviewing the homeowner, it
17 was clear that nobody had ever told her that, and she
18 actually didn't -- didn't know that it was there or
19 what it did. And as a consequence, we estimated that
20 it probably ran for about two (2) years after the house
21 was built, and there's been no effective ventilation in
22 the house for the last ten (10) years.
23 The consequence of that is that there's
24 already some quite severe structural damage. Our
25 energy advisor went into the crawlspace and pulled away

1 some insulation, and there was wet, damp, rotting
2 sheathing behind in that home.
3 So again, there aren't any real energy-
4 saving opportunities for this homeowner, but there are
5 certainly some things that our energy advisors would
6 have -- were able to recommend to -- to improve the
7 indoor air quality and the durability of that home.
8 Okay. Because of the high occupancy,
9 the domestic hot water is going to be a really good por
10 -- a big portion, so we would typically recommend the
11 water and energy-saving installs, so low-flow shower
12 heads, faucet aerators, and those are devices that are
13 provided through Manitoba Hydro.
14 The only other -- I mean, there --
15 there's two (2) things we can do when it comes to
16 heating and cooling loads in houses.
17 We can add major, major insulation to
18 houses, and right now with -- with fairly low
19 electrical costs compared to elsewhere in the
20 continent, it's hard to justify taking a -- a fifteen
21 (15) year old house and -- and taking all the siding
22 off and adding major, major insulation to it. It's a
23 really long return on investment.
24 In some cases, we're able to change the
25 -- the heating source to become a more efficient

1 heating source, and we know about geothermal or ground-
2 source heat pumps. They're very, very expensive and
3 can be problematic.
4 We don't have an option to -- to switch
5 to natural gas in this community. It's very, very
6 tight, so a wood stove is really problematic, because
7 it'd be more prone to combustion spillage and killing
8 people and dumping carbon monoxide into the air.
9 The only -- the only technology that we
10 feel is emerging and would be a -- an option for a
11 homeowner is what's called a cold climate air source
12 heat pump, and it's essentially like a -- a ground-
13 source heat pump or a geral -- geothermal system, but
14 instead of sucking air out of the ground, it sucks air
15 out of the -- out of the air. It's like an air
16 conditioner that works in reverse.
17 And there's some new technologies and
18 products that are quite established and reliable that
19 can actually do this at a really, really high
20 efficiency down to about -18 degrees Celsius or so. So
21 we feel that someday, that this might be an option for
22 -- for homeowners who have no oth -- option for --
23 other options for heating equipment, okay?
24 So the analysis, not much to report on
25 energy savings. The model predicted about three

1 thousand dollars ($3,000) a year energy use in this
2 house.
3 And if we get the HRV, heat recovery
4 ventilator, running properly and we insulate and air
5 seal a little bit more around the basement joist header
6 where all the rotting and air leakage was happening and
7 problems were occurring, the model predicted four
8 hundred dollars ($400) a year.
9 I would say, based on my experience,
10 we're add -- we're going to be adding a little bit of
11 ventilation to the house, so probably fixing the things
12 that we're recommending will have very, very little
13 effect on the annual operating costs of the house, but
14 it'll hopefully allow it to survive and -- and exist
15 for another twenty (20) to forty (40) to fifty (50)
16 years, and it'll ensure that children and occupants
17 don't get respiratory conditions because of high
18 humidity, mould, mildew, et cetera. Okay?
19 We did just -- I had mentioned the cold
20 climate air source heat pump. It's something those of
21 us in the industry are -- are fairly excited about as -
22 - as being a viable option one day for people with --
23 on electric heat. It -- it gives them an opportunity
24 to reduce electrical loads considerably.
25 So we just did -- we did a quick

1 analysis, a quick energy run on this, and we actually
2 saw that with a -- a cold climate air source heat pump
3 in this particular house, they could reduce their
4 heating loads by about 40 percent, and that would
5 represent an eight (8) or nine hundred dollar ($900)
6 savings annually for this homeowner.
7 Okay. Okay. So we'll get in our plane
8 and we'll fly all the way to Duck Bay. Oh, I'm sorry.
9 THE CHAIRPERSON: How much do those
10 type of heat pumps cost?
11 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yeah. So I'm -- I'm
12 not a -- I'm not a -- a contractor, and I -- we don't
13 perform this work. I have spoken to a number of
14 contractors about them who are currently installing
15 them, and it's different in a new installation versus a
16 retrofit application.
17 In a retrofit application, as long as
18 the duct work is sized and correctly installed,
19 probably around ten thousand dollars ($10,000). In a
20 new house, the incremental costs would be six (6) to
21 eight thousand dollars ($8,000), okay?
22 So they're about a -- a third (1/3) -- a
23 third (1/3) to a half of a -- a ground source heat pump
24 installed, and their efficiencies aren't as high but
25 the payback is probably shorter. Okay.

1 Any other questions? Okay. So we'll
2 get back in our plane then, up to Duck Bay. Am I okay
3 with time? So I'll -- I'll just take five (5) or ten
4 (10) minutes. I'm sorry, everyone.
5 So the Duck Bay residence. Again, it
6 was the 1970s house, about 1,400 plus square feet, a --
7 a couple of additions on it. There was R20 insulation
8 in the attic, which is considered low, and obviously,
9 that's one (1) of the things we recommended. The walls
10 were 2 x 4 with R12 bat insulation, recently re-sided.
11 The homeowner recently put brand new vinyl siding on
12 the house and replaced all the windows.
13 The in -- the crawl space is uninsulated
14 and unheated. It's also unprotected, so it's on fairly
15 wet ground. It's just bare -- bare soil, so if you
16 take the attic -- the -- the crawlspace hatch off, you
17 just see bare earth down, and that creates a bit of a
18 challenge that I'll address in a second.
19 And it was moderately leaky. It was
20 eight point six-nine (8.69) air changes per hour with a
21 hole in it of about 148 square inches, so about a 1
22 foot by 1 foot hole in the house.
23 The homeowner heats the house with two
24 (2) wood stoves. One's a fairly efficient, more modern
25 airtight wood stove, and the other one is a fairly

1 inefficient, probably 1970s era, probably original to
2 the house wood stove. No? Okay. It looked older, but
3 it wasn't brand new.
4 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: No. No.
5 MR. GIO ROBSON: Okay. And they were
6 using supplemental electric space heaters, and there is
7 also baseboards in the house that were used when they
8 had to bring the temperature up, or when they were away
9 from the house for long periods of time.
10 There's electric hot water tank in the
11 house, and there's no ventilation system currently.
12 There's two (2) large older chest freezers in the house
13 that are used for storage of -- of hunting -- hunting
14 game, et cetera, and extra food. There is a newer
15 fridge in the home, and there is modest lighting and
16 other electrical loads in the house. There are a
17 couple of -- at least a couple of vehicles that are
18 plugged in during the winter to -- to power the block
19 heaters. Okay?
20 So what were our recommendations,
21 opportunities, and challenges in Duck Bay, Mr.
22 Genaille's house? So the first thing was that -- I
23 said it wasn't very tight. It was actually fairly
24 leaky, but we did observe a number of indoor air
25 quality issues. There was a little bit of mould and

1 signs of high moisture and high humidity in the house,
2 which were what -- important to address, and that's
3 because that crawlspace was completely uncovered, and
4 it was a fair -- essentially wicking all the soil --
5 earth soil moisture up into the house year-round.
6 There were four (4) people living in the
7 house. There was no bathroom exhaust, so all the
8 cooking, heating, cleaning, bathing, all that moisture
9 stays in the house, and the dryer vent had been
10 disconnected at some point, so the dryer was dumping
11 continuous amounts of moisture into the house. So our
12 first -- our -- our first priority is obviously to
13 protect occupants and house, so that was the first
14 recommendation we made to the homeowner, was to try to
15 take care of those sources of moisture.
16 We assume -- we hope that Mr. Genaille
17 is -- would be eligible for the Affordable Ener --
18 Energy Program, and that program would -- if deemed
19 eligible, would pay for the insulation and upgrading of
20 the crawlspace, as long as it was in good physical
21 condition, and didn't have any other structural issues
22 that had to be dealt with.
23 Again, the Affordable Energy Program
24 would cover the insulation of the attic from R20 to
25 R50. Usually when we have a house this old, homeowner

1 tells us they're planning on upgrading the exterior
2 siding, we would say, Hey wait a minute, here's a
3 really big opportunity. Bef -- if you're going to do
4 that, you should add rigid foam insulation to the
5 exterior of your wall. That's going to save lots of
6 money.
7 By putting that foam on the outside of
8 the wall, it's also going to warm the interior surface
9 of your wall, and it's going to be less likely that
10 hot, humid air is going to get cool enough to condense
11 on it and cause mould and mildew. So some energy
12 upgrades, it turns out, are also really good for the
13 durability, health, and indoor air quality of a house.
14 And there are programs available in the
15 marketplace. Manitoba Hydro has a home insulation
16 program which provides rebates for rigid exterior
17 insulation, and they would cover anywhere from 50 to
18 80, 85 percent of the material cost, depending on the
19 type of material that's purchased.
20 Unfortunately the family had already
21 spent an amount of money to do all of these upgrades,
22 so we had list -- missed a little bit of opportunity.
23 A big cost of that upgrade is removing the siding and
24 putting new siding on. Okay?
25 We recommend trying to replace the two

1 (2) large freezers with ENERGY STAR freezers, with one
2 (1) that can -- maybe even instead of doing two (2)
3 moderate sized ones, trying to live with one (1) large
4 ENERGY STAR freezer. We recommended water and energy-
5 saving installs, showerheads, compact fluorescent light
6 bulbs, aerators, et cetera. I said before we wanted to
7 make sure that the dryer duct was connected to the
8 outdoors.
9 We would encourage homeowners, if there
10 was -- if they were upgrading their wood appliance, to
11 make sure they got an EPA certified wood stove. EPA
12 certified wood stoves are fairly efficient. Wood
13 technologies aren't any -- when you buy a gas -- a
14 high-efficiency gas furnace, they're in the range of 94
15 to 97, 98 percent efficient, and wood stove
16 technologies, it's hard to do much better than 75
17 percent efficient, okay? But we would recommend that
18 the homeowners try to upgrade to the highest efficiency
19 wood burning appliance, if they're upgrading their
20 appliance.
21 And because there's no ventilation in
22 the house, we're hopefully going to be making it
23 tighter. There's moisture loads, high -- higher
24 occupancy. We would recommend adding a balanced
25 mechanical ventilation system to maintain indoor air

1 quality.

2 We can't really just put a -- it's a

3 little bit risky putting exhaust fans in houses with

4 wood heat, because when those exhaust fans are pulling

5 air out, they could be pulling air down a chimney and

6 sucking carbon monoxide and combustion gases back into

7 the house, okay?

8 So just a quick analysis. We didn't

9 actually have to do any reconciliation in this house.

10 Just by -- by chance, the -- the model predicted pretty

11 much exactly what we saw in the utility bills that Mr.

12 Genaille provided us with in the information he gave us

13 on his -- his wood heating sources.

14 It's got a fairly low EnerGuide rating,

15 and that's because of the efficiency of the wood

16 heating equipment. Although it's a very cheap,

17 plentiful source of heat for them, wood typically gives

18 you a lower EnerGuide rating.

19 If they added that R2 inches or R10

20 rigid insulation to the outside of the house, they

21 could save 37 percent annually, or 37 percent energy

22 consumption, and that would -- with the cost of wood

23 right now, that would save them about a thousand

24 dollars a year, with about 60 percent of that being

25 electricity.

1 If they do the upgrades that we
2 recommended, the attic insulation, the crawlspace
3 insulation, the air sealing, they would save about 10
4 percent less. They would save about 27 percent
5 annually, and they would save in dollars amounts, seven
6 (7) to eight hundred dollars ($800) with, again, 60
7 percent of that being electricity.
8 But in addition to all of the important
9 energy saving and dollars savings, we would also make
10 some pretty big improvements in the indoor -- indoor
11 air quality and durability of the house.
12 Thank you. That's my long-winded
13 explanation of three (3) houses.
14
15 (BRIEF PAUSE)
16
17 DR. HUGH GRANT: Actually, is -- I had
18 this done to my house, like, twenty (20) years ago, and
19 I found it quite useful, so I like your idea of the
20 literacy -- energy literacy and stuff. And I guess
21 what surprised me, I didn't even know this existed now,
22 so.
23 When some of the people are commenting
24 on their high electricity bills, you're kind of going,
25 Well, come on, you've got an obligation to be an

1 informed consumer.

2 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yeah.

3 DR. HUGH GRANT: And so I went on

4 Hydro's page, and I could not find any link to this,

5 and so who -- where do most of your referrals come

6 from? Like, do you get many residential customers just

7 coming and say -- like, where did they hear about it?

8 Are they be referred by a contractor, or how does it

9 work?

10 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yeah. So a number of

11 different sources for people who will phone us for help

12 like this, for evaluations. I'm not a very good

13 marketer, and I have to admit that I and potentially

14 our industry privately have -- have failed at really

15 selling our services and products to homeowners. We've

16 often relied perhaps too heavily on some of the federal

17 programs that have been available to market our

18 services.

19 So calls -- I get calls from people who

20 are Googling and find our -- our very minor, simple

21 splash page, our web page. We're often referred

22 through contractors, but the vast majority right now of

23 our referrals actually come from Manitoba Hydro.

24 So homeowners will phone Manitoba Hydro,

25 and Manitoba Hydro will tell homeowners, These are the

1 companies who provide these services, and then they
2 phone all of us checking for prices and qualifications,
3 and they choose one (1) of us.
4 DR. HUGH GRANT: And -- and on -- so on
5 the topic, what does the -- what does it cost to --
6 like, a standard evaluation cost?
7 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yeah. So a standard -
8 - in the marketplace, the evalu -- the home visit, the
9 evaluation, the report, I think, among my competitors
10 were -- were fairly similar, around two hundred and
11 fifty dollars ($250).
12 DR. HUGH GRANT: And is -- is there any
13 effort on the part of either -- it's a Natural Resource
14 Canada program, is it? Is it Natural Resources?
15 MR. GIO ROBSON: Well, the -- that --
16 that particular -- the -- the EnerGuide -- the ERS, the
17 EnerGuide Rating Service is overseen by Natural
18 Resources Canada, and then there's service
19 organizations that deliver the service to homeowners.
20 DR. HUGH GRANT: But is there any
21 sense, then, that it's -- that two hundred and fifty
22 (250) fee is subsidized in any way? It's -- there's --
23 there's no programs to try to make it more affordable?
24 MR. GIO ROBSON: No. No, there aren't
25 currently any programs at all, no. Yeah, it's -- it's

1 set by the -- by the marketplace, by the -- by the
2 operators.
3 DR. HUGH GRANT: Thank you.
4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Are you in a position
5 to comment on the follow-up actions by the homeowners
6 that you inspect, or, you know, in -- in other words,
7 you've established ways for people to improve the --
8 their homes.
9 Are you in a position to comment on how
10 much action is taken by homeowners post the inspection?
11 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yeah. Yeah, I mean --
12 I mean, this is going to sound a bit like a marketing
13 pitch, but the -- the reactions are -- tend to be very
14 positive. It's -- a -- a lot of homeowners simply
15 don't know where to start when they call us, and that's
16 one (1) of the reasons they do call us.
17 And often, because we're able to give
18 them a clear road -- a -- a roadmap and tell them how
19 much their investment is going to save them, it becomes
20 easier for them to make decisions, and we're able to
21 provide them with resources on how to do things.
22 On the other side of the coin, we often
23 -- we also save people, often, from making bad energy
24 decisions. You know, an example would be homeowners
25 that have really poor performance in their house, and

1 they say, Well, I'm going to buy twenty thousand
2 dollars ($20,000) worth of new windows, when they have
3 an uninsulated basement or an old furnace, or an
4 uninsulated attic.
5 And we're able to show them, Wait a
6 minute, that's probably the last thing you should ever
7 do in your house. The energy payback is forty (40) to
8 fifty (50) years. You should be doing all of these
9 other things, and here's all these other wonderful
10 resources in the marketplace that can actually help you
11 do it for a very low cost.
12 THE CHAIRPERSON: I think that's all
13 the -- that's all the questions the panel has for now,
14 so I'd like to canvas the Intervenors to see if they
15 have any questions that they would like to address Mr.
16 Robson.
17 I'll start with Mr. Gange. Any
18 questions at all?
19 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: I'm sorry, Mr.
20 Chair, I'm just going to state that these -- these --
21 this cross-examination would be open also to the -- to
22 the panel members. Is that to the --
23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Well, I kind of
24 consider -- I mean, correct me if I'm wrong, I kind of
25 consider the -- the homeowners here as being

1 presenters, and then we've qualified Mr. Robson as an
2 expert witness, so on the issue of -- so I -- I would
3 think that typically, presenters aren't asked questions
4 by Intervenors, but expert witnesses are. Now, correct
5 me if I'm wrong here.
6 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: I -- I believe --
7 I'm sorry.
8 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: Mr. Chairman, these
9 witnesses, as I understand it, were actually sworn, so
10 if any of the Intervenors do have questions, that that
11 would be appropriate, and then I'll -- I suggest that
12 the panel leave it up to Ms. Menzies to intervene if
13 she things there's any inappropriate questions.
14 THE CHAIRPERSON: I thank you for that,
15 Mr. Hombach. So I'll canvass the Intervenors. Mr.
16 Gange...?
17 MR. WILLIAM GANGE: The -- the evidence
18 is quite self-evident to us. We don't have any
19 questions. Thank you.
20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Me. Hacault, s'il
21 vous plait.
22
23 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. ANTOINE HACAULT:
24 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: I have a couple
25 questions of -- of Mr. Robson. Through your inspection

1 programs, I don't know if it's helped give some insight
2 on a couple of issues with respect to what we're
3 referring to as 'demand-side management'.
4 First, sir, do you, based on your
5 experience, see some opportunities in the method of
6 communication with homeowners? And I'll break it down.
7 Firstly, how do we communicate with
8 people so that they understand what opportunities are
9 there, or have a better uptake on programs, just
10 focussing on the communication issue?
11 Is it actually doing a report like yours
12 that is the most effective communication, or an ad, or
13 -- can you comment on that?
14 MR. GIO ROBSON: Well, I can comment on
15 once we're in the home the -- the broader -- the
16 broader questionable marketing in getting consumers
17 interested, excited, engaged in energy efficiency,
18 whether it's with their existing house or a new house
19 is a -- a challenge those of us in the industry
20 struggle with every day.
21 And it's a challenge I'm -- you know,
22 I'm quite glad I only have to look at house-by-house
23 and I don't have to promote -- promote or do the --
24 sort of the -- the macro type promotion. But yeah, the
25 -- once -- once we're in the house, however, having

1 reports are helpful. Having a -- a human being in
2 front of you that's able to just very clearly point out
3 -- paint out to you, You need to do this, this, and
4 this, and this is the -- this is the order, and this is
5 why you need to do it, I feel that's even more
6 important, because, you know, often we have -- this is
7 a -- a fairly elaborate, fairly lengthy report.
8 And my experience is that not all, and
9 many homeowners don't read it as -- as carefully as we
10 hope or we would like, and maybe that's -- that's a
11 problem with the report. I think it's -- you know, the
12 -- the people at NRCan that create the report might do
13 a better job of doing something that's a little bit
14 more concise.
15 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: So do I take it
16 from your answer that you, on your personal experience,
17 base this belief that personal communication and
18 personal assistance is relatively effective as opposed
19 to other forms of general macro communications?
20 MR. GIO ROBSON: You know, I don't know
21 if I'm qualified to -- to answer that. I'm sorry.
22 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: That's all right.
23 Okay.
24 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yeah.
25 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: Now, with respect

1 to the uptake, you were here listening to some people,
2 and -- and you said you have the discussions with
3 people.
4 Are there any barriers that you
5 encounter as far as just like administrative
6 applications, or things like this, that people express
7 to you as a consultant?
8 For example, you've mentioned various
9 programs. Are the programs -- do people react and say,
10 Well, listen, I'm having trouble getting this, or --
11 this grant or this program. I'd really like
12 assistance.
13 Do you get any feedback when you're
14 doing the work as relates to actually implementing some
15 of the recommendations?
16 MR. GIO ROBSON: You know, I think --
17 again, I have -- I -- I don't know if I'm qualified.
18 My -- my experience is that, you know, once homeowners
19 are involved in a program, they're grateful, and they
20 reap the benefits of that program. In terms of -- I'm
21 wondering if you could -- if you could rephrase the
22 question, maybe?
23 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: We've heard that
24 you produce a report.
25 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yeah.

1 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: We've heard that
2 you have interaction with people leading to either
3 implementation of recommendations or not, and my
4 question to you was, In the interactions that you or
5 your company has with people --
6 MR. GIO ROBSON: M-hm.
7 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: -- once you've
8 had the report, are there any barriers or issues that
9 are raised by the consumers? And one (1) example might
10 be, Sure there's this nice program, but I can't find it
11 on the internet, or, you know, I -- I don't have the
12 application, or it's too difficult for me to do this.
13 I don't understand it. I -- I'm just giving that as
14 examples.
15 Do you get any kind of feedback on
16 possible barriers?
17 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yeah. I -- I would
18 say generally no, because by the time we're in the
19 house, all of those hurdles, if there are hurdles, have
20 already been -- have already been passed. So again,
21 the homeowner is already at the finish line, and
22 they're just excited that the energy advisor or the
23 professional is in the house, and is going to hopefully
24 guide them through some solutions.
25 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: Okay. Thank you

1 very much.

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Merci, Me. Hacault.

3 Mr. Orle, please?

4

5 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. GEORGE ORLE:

6 MR. GEORGE ORLE: Thank you, Mr.

7 Chairman. I'd like to preface my -- my questions,

8 first of all, with a thank you to the entire panel for

9 the information that they'd provided, and I'd also like

10 to indicate on the record a thank you to both the CAC

11 and the Manitoba Metis Federation. We were involved in

12 this prior to the scheduling, and all of the panels

13 being set, and they were kind enough to include two (2)

14 representatives from MKO communities to give -- as part

15 of the presentation. So on behalf of MKO, I -- I thank

16 them both for including our -- our members in the

17 panel.

18 The question I -- I have is to Mr.

19 Robson, and it's regards to, first of all, the -- the

20 comment in regards to the cost of having one (1) of

21 these energy ratings done. Is it -- would you be able

22 to break down the -- the number of your clients that

23 come from low-income families as opposed to middle-

24 income or high-income families?

25 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yeah. I would say

1 zero percent -- close to zero percent of the clients,
2 when we provide -- when we do an official energy
3 evaluation, come from a -- a lower-income family. And
4 that's because this is something we do.
5 I don't know if my competitors do this,
6 but when we receive a call from somebody, we'll
7 generally screen them to make sure that in fact this is
8 two hundred and fifty dollars ($250) that's well spent
9 and make sure that there aren't any other opportunities
10 for them that aren't going to cost them money.
11 So if we speak to somebody and we're
12 able to sense -- sense -- sensitively ascertain whether
13 they may be eligible for something like the Affordable
14 Energy Program, we'll generally suggest that, before
15 they proceed with us, that they look into the other
16 resources available because it wouldn't be fair for
17 them to pay us and then us to say: Oh, thanks for the
18 money. Here's your evaluation. By the way, you could
19 have done something similar for free.
20 MR. GEORGE ORLE: Yeah. Thank you.
21 And I'd -- I'd like to deal just quickly with the --
22 the report that you did for Ms. Mason, the Cross Lake
23 property.
24 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yeah.
25 MR. GEORGE ORLE: It would be fair to

1 say that the type of home that -- that you inspected
2 here is a standard sort of CMHC housing providing
3 through the Department for First Nations Communities?
4 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yes.
5 MR. GEORGE ORLE: Okay. And if -- if
6 those homes are built according to the standards
7 required, it'd be fair to say that, in terms of -- of
8 efficiency, there's not an awful lot more that you can
9 do to make this -- these homes more energy efficient to
10 save -- save on rates?
11 MR. GIO ROBSON: If -- if we -- so one
12 (1) of -- one (1) of the other activities that we
13 perform as a -- as a business is -- is helping
14 affordable housing agencies and -- and Manitoba
15 homebuilders with energy design.
16 So if -- if we were involved in -- if --
17 if we were asked to design -- help design a house for
18 First Nations or for a homeowner from ground up from an
19 energy perspective, we probably quite frankly wouldn't
20 build a house like the ones CMHC is -- is building.
21 There -- we would -- we would recommend a much more
22 advanced envelope and much more advanced types of -- of
23 heating and ventilation.
24 MR. GEORGE ORLE: Yeah. My -- my
25 clients would prefer that too, but we'll -- we'll deal

1 with what they actually have. But I'm correct in
2 saying that this type of home, there's very little
3 that's available right now to increase the energy
4 efficiency of this particular type of --
5 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yeah. Yeah. So now
6 that you're -- okay. Sorry. So now that the house is
7 already built, it's -- with today's energy rates, it's
8 hard -- when you're looking at a return on -- on
9 investment, it's hard to justify many upgrades in this
10 particular home.
11 There are small things we can do: base
12 loads, water reduction, light bulbs, fridges, stuff
13 like that. The only thing again that had a reasonable
14 return on investment for this particular house was
15 looking at a cold-climate air source heat pump, which
16 is a little bit newer in the market and not widely
17 available. And we would argue it's at its stage where
18 it -- it can be implemented. But other people might
19 argue that we need more time before they're launched.
20 MR. GEORGE ORLE: You anticipated my
21 next question, which is: This is not really a form of
22 heating that's -- that's widely accepted right now.
23 MR. GIO ROBSON: I -- I think it's -- I
24 think -- I'm not a -- I'm not an expert in this
25 particular. I know, being involved in the industry in

1 the field, that it's -- it's ready to flower, for lack
2 of a better word. But, no, right now it's not widely
3 available. It's not being sold, offered, installed by
4 any or many contractors.
5 MR. GEORGE ORLE: Okay. And was I
6 correct in -- in hearing that there's actually a
7 temperature range below which these are not really
8 effective as heating units?
9 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yeah. So what happens
10 is when -- when -- as the temperature drops, it takes
11 more and more energy to pull energy -- the heat out of
12 that air and transfer it to the house. So as it gets
13 colder and colder, the efficiency drops and drops and
14 drops till eventually it's just working like an
15 electric furnace. So electric back-up resistance heat
16 takes over.
17 So when it's, you know, a winter like
18 this last winter, the -- the annual performance would
19 be much lower than a typical winter where we have a
20 number of days that are at least above minus twenty
21 (20).
22 MR. GEORGE ORLE: Okay. Again, was I
23 correct in hearing -- I think you actually used a
24 temperature, something like eighteen (18) below or
25 whatever, that it -- it's no longer effective, or --

1 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yeah. Depending on
2 the manufacturer and the product, the one (1) -- the
3 one (1) product I am familiar with, any -- any colder
4 than minus eighteen (18), it's -- it's -- the house has
5 to rely substantially or 100 percent on electric
6 resistance heat, so --
7 MR. GEORGE ORLE: Okay.
8 MR. GIO ROBSON: -- baseboard, electric
9 furnace, et cetera.
10 MR. GEORGE ORLE: And other than that
11 cold-climate type of furnace, in a -- in a place like
12 Cross Lake, there isn't any opportunity for an
13 alternative fuel other than -- than wood if somebody
14 was prepared to go to a wood stove.
15 MR. GIO ROBSON: No. I mean, there's -
16 - there's other alternatives like propane and oil, but
17 they're all more expensive than electricity right now.
18 MR. GEORGE ORLE: Thank you very much,
19 Mr. Robson. Those are all my questions, Mr. Chair.
20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr. Orle.
21 Me. Monnin, any questions for this panel?
22 MR. CHRISTIAN MONNIN: Merci, M.
23 President. No, we have no questions. Thank you.
24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Me.
25 Monnin.

1 Ms. Boyd, any questions for this panel?
2 MS. MARLA BOYD: Yes, I do have
3 approximately thirty (30) minutes of questions. Would
4 you like me to begin now?
5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Ms. Saunders...?
6 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: My apologies,
7 Mr. Chair. If I could just add to the discussion here.
8 We do have some panellists who do have to travel and
9 who do have to check out at certain times.
10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay.
11 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: We could likely
12 make arrangements if -- if the preference is to proceed
13 and -- and go later than we had originally anticipated,
14 but if -- our preference would be maybe to proceed with
15 Hydro's questioning so that the panellists could be
16 dismissed. But if not, then -- if you would like to
17 proceed, maybe just a few moments to speak with some of
18 them to see if alternative arrangements could be made.
19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Well, my preference
20 would be to -- to allow the -- all the panellists to
21 participate if they can, so with that I -- I would be
22 inclined to go ahead, right, and do the full half hour
23 of questioning.
24 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: That's okay.
25 THE CHAIRPERSON: And that means

1 delaying lunch, but I want to hear from...

2

3 (BRIEF PAUSE)

4

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Hearing no objections

6 we're going to continue, and -- and take lunch later,

7 if that's okay, Mr. Hombach?

8 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: No objections. I

9 just wanted to extend the offer to Ms. Boyd to move to

10 one of the front desks if she would like the witnesses

11 to see her better.

12 MS. MARLA BOYD: Thanks. We can

13 certainly do that.

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. MARLA BOYD:

18 MS. MARLA BOYD: I think I'm on, yes?

19 Good morning, or almost good afternoon. I want to

20 begin with a few questions for you, Ms. Salamisan. And

21 unfortunately you now can't see me either.

22 Your home is in Winnipeg, is that right?

23 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: Yes.

24 MS. MARLA BOYD: And it's my

25 understanding that your home has a gas furnace and a

gas hot water tank.

Is that your understanding?

MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: No, electricity. I use electricity.

MS. MARLA BOYD: And you get a Manitoba Hydro bill that includes charges for natural gas. Is that right?

MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: I think so, yes.

MS. MARLA BOYD: So what do you understand the natural gas is used for in your home?

MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: I don't have the knowledge -- the technical knowledge about it, but I just am certain about the cost of my electric bill. But I really don't know what are the sources of my heater and electricity.

MS. MARLA BOYD: And the numbers that you shared with the panel about your Hydro bill is the total of your bill for both electricity and natural gas, correct?

MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: Yes.

MS. MARLA BOYD: Are you aware of Manitoba Hydro's equal payment plan?

MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: No. I'm paying the actual consumption that we have.

1 MS. MARLA BOYD: And do you prefer to
2 do that, by actual consumption, or are -- were you not
3 aware that there was a possibility to pay over equal
4 periods?
5 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: Actually I'm
6 not aware of the budget plan. I never heard about it.
7 So I really don't know, or any information about that.
8 Maybe I will get some information about. I will think
9 and plan for it.
10 MS. MARLA BOYD: Certainly. We'll be
11 happy to share that with you. Thank you.
12 MS. JACQUELINE SALAMISAN: Okay. Thank
13 you.
14 MS. MARLA BOYD: Mr. Genaille, you had
15 an energy audit done on your home?
16 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Yes.
17 MS. MARLA BOYD: And is that the first
18 time you've had an energy audit done?
19 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Yeah.
20 MS. MARLA BOYD: And why did you chose
21 to have that audit?
22 MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Just make our
23 house better and more energy efficient.
24 MS. MARLA BOYD: So do you intend to
25 undertake the improvements that were recommended to

you?

MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Yes.

MS. MARLA BOYD: Which ones are you planning to implement?

MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: I'll try to implement all of them, if -- if we can afford it.

MS. MARLA BOYD: And do you intend to use some of the Power Smart programs that are mentioned in the audit report, like the Home Insulation Program?

MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Yeah.

MS. MARLA BOYD: Have you ever contacted Manitoba Hydro in the past specifically to find out what you could do to increase the energy efficiency of your home?

MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: No.

(BRIEF PAUSE)

MS. MARLA BOYD: And you don't have low-flow shower heads in your home now?

MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: No.

MS. MARLA BOYD: That was one (1) of the things that was recommended to you?

MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Yeah.

MS. MARLA BOYD: And you intend to do

that?

MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Yes.

MS. MARLA BOYD: And the same with the -- the lighting, CFL or LED lights?

MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Yeah.

MS. MARLA BOYD: They're not there now?

MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: No.

MS. MARLA BOYD: You're not sure?

MR. RICHARD GENAILLE: Some -- some parts of our house we do, but not -- not all things. Some are the old fashioned. Some are the new.

MS. MARLA BOYD: Okay. Good. Thank you very much.

Ms. Mason, is the first energy audit that you've had undertaken?

MS. ALBERTINE MASON: Yes.

MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And why did you chose to have the audit?

MS. ALBERTINE MASON: Why did I choose to have the audit? Well, the CAC asked me to do it and I had no problem with them coming in the house, because I knew, my house, being fairly new, that there would be very little that can be done. Like, I knew my windows were good, the doors were good, and whatnot.

MS. MARLA BOYD: So what was

1 recommended in your audit was air sealing and
2 installing a heat recovery ventilator.
3 Is that right?
4 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: Yeah.
5 MS. MARLA BOYD: And are you planning
6 to do that work?
7 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: Yeah.
8 MS. MARLA BOYD: And we've heard the
9 explanation of the -- the heat recovery ventilator that
10 you had that wasn't working.
11 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: Yeah, I had no
12 idea about that one.
13 MS. MARLA BOYD: That it was there?
14 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: Yeah. Well, I
15 knew it was there. I thought it was the furnace.
16 That's what I thought it was. Like, I didn't know
17 nothing about it.
18 MS. MARLA BOYD: Mr. Robson's
19 presentation makes mention of you leaving wind --
20 windows open in the winter for ventilation. Is that
21 something that you do?
22 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: My son -- my --
23 me and my -- actually, it's me and my son. We -- we're
24 -- my -- my mom says -- used to say we had polar bear
25 skin, because actually, this room is too hot for me

1 right now. So we open it a little bit, and that's --
2 that's our fan for us in the winter.
3 MS. MARLA BOYD: I see. And you're
4 aware that that would increase your Hydro bills?
5 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: Yeah, but we
6 close the door and we isolate it to one (1) bedroom.
7 MS. MARLA BOYD: Okay. And --
8 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: And it's not
9 every day too.
10 MS. MARLA BOYD: Understood, yeah.
11 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: It's not all the
12 time. Yeah. It's just some days --
13 MS. MARLA BOYD: This room is too hot
14 for me right now, too.
15 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: Yeah. Yeah.
16 MS. MARLA BOYD: Do you have low-flow
17 showerheads in your house?
18 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: I don't think so.
19 MS. MARLA BOYD: And have you installed
20 any caulking or additional insulation in your house?
21 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: No. No.
22 MS. MARLA BOYD: Okay. Thank you very
23 much.
24 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: Okay.
25 MS. MARLA BOYD: Mr. Mouland, good

1 morning.
2 MR. DAVE MOULAND: Good morning, or
3 good afternoon.
4 MS. MARLA BOYD: Yes, good afternoon
5 now. Is this the first energy audit that you've had
6 undertaken in your home?
7 MR. DAVE MOULAND: Yes, it is.
8 MS. MARLA BOYD: And did you choose to
9 do this because CAC asked you, or did you choose --
10 MR. DAVE MOULAND: No. Well, CAC did
11 ask me as a participant on this panel.
12 MS. MARLA BOYD: And are you undertak -
13 - intending to undertake the improvements that were
14 recommended to you?
15 MR. DAVE MOULAND: I have to do some
16 investigating on it first, as it's going to be some
17 major work, apparently.
18 MS. MARLA BOYD: And one (1) of the
19 things that was suggested to you was switching to a
20 natural gas furnace?
21 MR. DAVE MOULAND: Right.
22 MS. MARLA BOYD: And is that something
23 that you would be prepared to consider?
24 MR. DAVE MOULAND: It depends on what
25 it's going to cost me and how it can be provided to me,

1 and another question I would have to check into first
2 is these upgrades to the house, what effect would it
3 have on property taxes and that kind of thing.
4 MS. MARLA BOYD: I see. And do you use
5 low-flow showerheads in your house?
6 MR. DAVE MOULAND: Yes, I do.
7 MS. MARLA BOYD: And how about the LED
8 or CFL light bulbs?
9 MR. DAVE MOULAND: No, I do not.
10 MS. MARLA BOYD: And how about -- have
11 you done any caulking or in -- insulation to reduce
12 your heat loss?
13 MR. DAVE MOULAND: No. No. And I've
14 only received this report in the past twenty-four (24)
15 hours, myself.
16 MS. MARLA BOYD: Okay. Thank you very
17 much.
18 MR. DAVE MOULAND: Thank you.
19 MS. MARLA BOYD: Mr. Robson, I have a
20 few questions for you. Would it be fair to say that
21 the houses that you assessed here were typical of the
22 housing stock that you see?
23 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yeah, for the
24 neighbourhood and communities therein, yeah, I would
25 say they are.

1 MS. MARLA BOYD: And two (2) of the
2 three (3) homes fall into what I described as the upper
3 portion of the efficiency range.
4 Is that also typical?
5
6 (BRIEF PAUSE)
7
8 MR. GIO ROBSON: No, we see a -- we see
9 a wide range. I mean, normally in the older
10 neighbourhoods we would see a lot of houses that are in
11 the zero to sixty (60) range. But for -- for the age
12 of the -- the house in Duck Bay and the house in Cross
13 Lake, sixty (60) -- sixties (60s) -- sixties (60s) to
14 seventies (70s) is quite typical, yeah, for 1970 plus
15 house -- housing.
16 MS. MARLA BOYD: So the improvements
17 that you recommend will move the houses up on this
18 scale, but they won't move any of them into what's
19 described as the most efficient category on the scale
20 there, correct?
21 MR. GIO ROBSON: No. No, that --
22 you're right. That's correct.
23 MS. MARLA BOYD: Are you able to speak
24 to the current levels of insulation for below grade,
25 above grade, and the attic in each of the houses that

1 were reviewed?
2 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yes.
3 MS. MARLA BOYD: Are they typical of
4 what you'd see?
5 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yes, I would say
6 typical, yeah. For -- for the age of house, what we've
7 found, there weren't -- there weren't any surprises.
8 MS. MARLA BOYD: And is it fair to say
9 that upgrading insulation would be a recommendation you
10 make fairly regularly?
11 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yeah, that's one (1)
12 of the most common recommendations we have. Whenever
13 there's an uninsulated component of the house, our
14 first recommendation is insulate it.
15 MS. MARLA BOYD: And is that because of
16 its cost efficiency?
17 MR. GIO ROBSON: Absolutely, yes.
18 MS. MARLA BOYD: You made mention of
19 performing energy audits in low-income homes, and I
20 wanted to just to clarify that you have participated in
21 the Manitoba Hydro Affordable Energy Program as an
22 auditor, correct?
23 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yes, that is correct,
24 yeah.
25 MS. MARLA BOYD: And would you agree

1 that your company would have done in the order of about
2 sixty-four hundred (6,400) home assessments on low-
3 income homes as part of that program?
4 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yes, that's correct,
5 yes.
6 MS. MARLA BOYD: Looking at your audit
7 experience overall and not just in the Affordable
8 Energy Program, are you aware of the percentage of
9 customers for whom you do audits that go on to make all
10 of the recommended improvements?
11 MR. GIO ROBSON: Under previous
12 EnerGuide for houses and eco energy programs, so these
13 are -- these are not including affordable energy type
14 programs, I believe that ranged anywhere from 50 to 60
15 percent.
16 MS. MARLA BOYD: And do you have an
17 indication of over what period of time those repairs
18 would be undertaken?
19 MR. GIO ROBSON: The time periods for
20 delivery of those programs, between an initial audit
21 and a follow-up audit to verify the upgrades that were
22 performed ranged -- homeowners had typically anywhere
23 from eighteen (18) months, but with -- with extensions
24 to programming, sometimes up to three (3) years to do
25 those upgrades.

1 MS. MARLA BOYD: Thank you. Could I
2 just have a minute, please?
3
4 (BRIEF PAUSE)
5
6 MS. MARLA BOYD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 We have no further questions.
8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Ms. Boyd.
9 Mr. Hombach...?
10
11 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SVEN HOMBACH:
12 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: I just have about a
13 minute with Mr. Robson, if that's acceptable to the
14 panel. Mr. Robson, looking at the energy guide
15 printouts that you have, I see that it's a zero to a
16 hundred scale, And if I heard you correctly, you said
17 code minimum is about sixty-seven (67) to seventy (70)?
18 MR. GIO ROBSON: No. A -- a typical --
19 a new house built to today's building codes, the
20 Manitoba building code standards, R50 attic, R20 walls,
21 'R' -- R20 basement, would -- would typically be
22 between seventy-six (76) and seventy-nine (79), eighty
23 (80), depending on the size and how many windows.
24 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: So --
25 MR. GIO ROBSON: That's a -- a typical

1 new house in -- in Manitoba.
2 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: So what's a hundred?
3 Is it LEED Gold or pass or fail standard, or what's
4 that based on?
5 MR. GIO ROBSON: Yeah. Well, a one
6 hundred (100) house would be a house that consumes no -
7 - no purchased energy throughout the year.
8 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: Okay. With respect
9 to older housing stock, what's the number 1 issue that
10 you see where there's room for improving energy
11 efficiency? Is it leaks or is it roof?
12 MR. GIO ROBSON: It -- it varies house
13 to house, but our -- on older housing stock, our first
14 recommendations are almost always insulate and air
15 seal, and it's never -- it's never insulate and don't
16 air seal, and if it's already insulated, it's air seal.
17 So it's a combination of those two (2) things.
18 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: And what about with
19 newer housing stock? If you could recommend any energy
20 improvements to go beyond code minimum, what's the
21 biggest bang for the buck that you see?
22 MR. GIO ROBSON: On new -- newer
23 housing?
24 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: On new houses.
25 MR. GIO ROBSON: Again, it depends on -

1 - depends on the house and the context and the
2 objectives of the homeowner. I mean, we have
3 homeowners who are willing to pay anything to get their
4 house close to net zero, or are just passionate about
5 their environmental footprint and are willing to pay
6 thirty thousand dollars ($30,000) to put in a
7 geothermal system.
8 There's no -- for newer housing,
9 although we are proponents of improved building codes
10 for wall, attic, and basement insulation and windows
11 for envelope, there aren't any real magic bullets that
12 we would recommend to most homeowners. There's things
13 that they can do from a lifestyle perspective, and
14 changing some of their base loads and the way they
15 consume electricity within the house, but there aren't
16 -- there aren't -- for a brand -- for a brand new
17 house, there's not a lot that we -- we would
18 necessarily recommend as a good return on investment
19 right now at current electricity and gas rates.
20 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: Okay. Thank you for
21 my time. Those are all my questions to you.
22 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Just briefly, I --
23 we may have some re-direct, thirty (30) seconds worth.
24 I'm just going to double check with my colleague.
25

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Thank you. Just
4 approximately a minute of re-direct. Is that
5 acceptable?

6

7 RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. MEGHAN MENZIES:
8 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Ms. Mason --
9 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: Yeah?
10 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: -- and I just want
11 to go in briefly about the ownership of your home.
12 So just to clarify, you -- you live in
13 Cross Lake?
14 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: Yes, I do.
15 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And -- and is your
16 home Band housing or is it personally owned?
17 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: It's CMHC.
18 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And so are you
19 aware of any kind of improvements that you're able to
20 make in Band housing?
21 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: Yes, I am. I've
22 gone to the -- I've actually gone to housing and I -- I
23 told them what repairs I needed in the house, and they
24 say, Yeah, we'll send someone. Yeah, we'll send
25 someone, and we'll tell CMHC, and then nobody ever

1 comes.

2 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And do you know if

3 you're able to do any improvements personally on -- on

4 your home?

5 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: Not really. I

6 don't see -- like, in what way?

7 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: For instance --

8 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: The shower

9 stalls? Yeah. Little minor things like that, yeah, I

10 can, but I thought you were talking about repairs like

11 what-not.

12 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: Yes. More major

13 improvements. Would you be able to do those personally

14 on -- on Band housing, or on -- on a CMHA (sic) home?

15 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: I'm not too sure.

16 They're -- they would depend what they are.

17 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And thank you, and

18 that's all I wanted to ask on that.

19 MS. ALBERTINE MASON: Okay.

20 MS. MEGHAN MENZIES: And that concludes

21 our re-direct.

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Ms. Boyd, anything?

23 No.

24 With that, I think we've completed the

25 proceedings for this morning. So on behalf of the

1 panel, I'd like to express my appreciation to Mr.
2 Mouland, Mrs. Mason, Mrs. Salamisan, Mr. Genaille, and
3 Mr. Settee. Thank you very much for coming here today.
4 I know this is -- can be an intimidating
5 process, so I -- I think you've all done very well
6 despite the many lawyers in the room and accountants
7 and so on. So thank you very much.
8 I -- I also want to thank you for
9 sharing your personal information with us and the
10 public. So, you know, a lot of personal information
11 was put on the table, and in some cases, you've opened
12 your home and allowed us to see the energy audits. So
13 thank you very much for agreeing to -- to be so open
14 about your homes and so on, so I think it's very much
15 appreciated.
16 And for those of you who are travelling,
17 I -- I wish you a safe trip home and you get back
18 safely -- safe and sound.
19 And I -- and, Mr. Robson, thank you very
20 much as well for sharing your extensive experience in -
21 - in this area, and for me, I've learned lots of new
22 things from you, so I thank you very much for -- for
23 sharing that information with us.
24 So with that, we'll adjourn the
25 proceedings. Oh, I'm sorry, we'll recess the proceed -

1 - proceedings for now so we can enjoy lunch, and Mr.
2 Hombach, I'm suggesting that we resume at -- at fifteen
3 (15) after 1:00. Is that --
4 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: If that's acceptable
5 to the Intervenors, it's certainly accepted of me.
6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. I'm not
7 hearing any objections, so we'll start up at -- again
8 at quarter after 1:00. Thank you.
9
10 (PANEL STAND DOWN)
11
12 --- Upon recessing at 12:41 p.m.
13 --- Upon resuming at 1:24 p.m.
14
15 THE CHAIRPERSON: I believe that
16 everyone is in position so that we can resume the
17 proceedings this afternoon, so I'll turn the microphone
18 over to you, Mr. Hombach.
19 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: Thank you, Mr.
20 Chairman, and good afternoon. This afternoon session
21 is reserved for the evidence of Mr. Harvey Stevens and
22 Dr. Wayne Simpson on behalf of CAC. Before we get
23 started, I am advised that My Friend opposite, Ms.
24 Boyd, has some Manitoba Hydro undertakings to speak to.
25 I would like to remind all of the

1 parties in the room that we have to complete the
2 evidence of these two (2) witnesses today. It's my
3 understanding that the panel is prepared to sit until
4 six o'clock if necessary, but it does mean that for
5 cross-examination purposes it may be necessary to
6 actually impose and enforce time limits. I will
7 canvass the lawyers during the break.
8 Mr. Chairman, I suggest we turn it over
9 to Ms. Boyd first to address the undertakings.
10 MS. MARLA BOYD: Thank you. I -- I
11 believe has been circulated to you Manitoba Hydro
12 Exhibit 104-4-2, which is the economic summary tables
13 for the Plan 2 Level 2 DSM
14
15 --- EXHIBIT NO. MH-104-4-2:
16 Economic summary tables for
17 Plan 2 Level 2 DSM
18
19 MS. MARLA BOYD: Also Manitoba Hydro
20 Exhibit 104-14-1, which is the economic summary tables
21 for the comparison of Plan 14 with the LCA load
22 reduction and Plan 17, the hypothetical LCA No New
23 Generation Case.
24
25 --- EXHIBIT NO. MH-104-14-1:

Economic summary tables for the comparison of Plan 14 with the LCA load reduction and Plan 17, the hypothetical LCA No New Generation Case

MS. MARLA BOYD: And the third item that was circulated is the supplemental report to the Power Smart Plan for 2014 to '17. This is the fifteen (15) year report from 2014 to 2029. And I believe it should be marked as Manitoba Hydro Exhibit 180, 180.

--- EXHIBIT NO. MH-180: Supplemental report to the Power Smart Plan for 2014 to '17, the fifteen (15) year report from 2014 to 2029

MR. KURT SIMONSEN: That's correct. Thank you.

MS. MARLA BOYD: Thank you.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Ms. Boyd. So I'll turn the microphone over to you, Mr. Williams. Good afternoon.

1 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Good afternoon.
2 And I know I have big shoes to fill after this morning.
3 Before we call upon Mr. Simonsen to swear in Dr.
4 Simpson and Mr. Stevens, there are some exhibits that I
5 wish to bring to your attention. And the first one we
6 did not provide a paper copy, Mr. Chair, members of the
7 panel. That would be CAC-33-1, which are the revised
8 curricula vitae of Dr. Gaudreau and Dr. Gunn.
9
10 --- EXHIBIT NO. CAC-33-1: Revised curricula vitae of
11 Dr. Gaudreau and Dr. Gunn
12
13 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: So, Mr. Chair,
14 that's not before you in a paper format. We just
15 thought we would save a couple trees. We have
16 distributed it electronically. In anticipation of the
17 direct evidence of Dr. Gaudreau and Dr. Gibson next
18 week, we have provided CAC Exhibit 57, which is an
19 excerpt of their sustainability criteria. And we'll be
20 asking your advisors to bring that back to your
21 attention next week.
22
23 --- EXHIBIT NO. CAC-57: Excerpts of Dr. Gaudreau
24 and Dr. Gibson
25 sustainability criteria

1 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: For today, you
2 should have -- the next exhibit should be CAC number
3 58, which is the paper copy of the PowerPoint
4 presentation of Mr. Stevens and -- and Dr. Simpson.
5
6 --- EXHIBIT NO. CAC-58: PowerPoint presentation of
7 Mr. Stevens and Dr. Simpson
8
9 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: CAC-59 is another
10 addition to the record from Dr. Simpson and Mr.
11 Stevens, and it -- it -- there are some small revisions
12 to their original evidence that -- that they have
13 corrected, and this provides the methodol -- or the --
14 the calculations behind that, so that we would ask be
15 marked as CAC-59.
16
17 --- EXHIBIT NO. CAC-59: Revisions to evidence of
18 Dr. Simpson and Mr. Stevens
19
20 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: In anticipation of
21 evidence on -- on Friday, we have also provided CAC-60,
22 which are some modest revisions to the evidence and
23 information responses of Mr. Harper.
24
25 --- EXHIBIT. NO. CAC-60: Revisions to the evidence

1 and information responses
2 of Mr. Harper
3
4 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: I think I have
5 correctly read all the notes that Ms. Fast provided me.
6 She'll correct me if I did not. Just before we
7 introduce Mr. Stevens and Mr. Harper, there's one other
8 matter I wish to bring to the panel's attention. And
9 that is on Friday we'll -- CAC (Manitoba) is greatly
10 honoured to -- to host a panel of -- of Northern First
11 Nations individuals, primarily Elders and traditional
12 land users.
13 And in anticipation of them -- them
14 coming, we would just note that the federal court has
15 had, over the last few years, modern guidelines put
16 into place in terms of how we should receive this type
17 of evidence. And we're going to take the liberty of --
18 of circulating the guidelines from the federal court,
19 in terms of how we can honourably and fairly receive
20 oral history and Elders' evidence. And -- and in
21 particular, Part 2 of those guidelines may be useful to
22 all of us.
23 You may see the room slightly rejigged
24 from what you would normally -- normally see. We're --
25 we're asking for the assistance of Board counsel in

1 that regard, so I was just bringing that to your
2 attention, as well.
3 And I would ask that -- I'd like to
4 introduce Mr. Harvey Stevens and Dr. Wayne Simpson.
5 And I'd ask that Dr. Simpson be sworn and Mr. Stevens
6 be affirmed.
7
8 CAC AFFORDABILITY PANEL:
9 WAYNE SIMPSON, Sworn (Qual.)
10 HARVEY STEVENS, Affirmed (Qual.)
11
12 QUALIFICATION OF WITNESSES:
13 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Thank you. Mr.
14 Stevens, I'll start with you. Would it be accurate to
15 say that you, along with Dr. Simpson, are responsible
16 for the report impact of increases in electricity rates
17 on low- and non-low-income households in Manitoba which
18 was filed in February of 2014 and marked as CAC Exhibit
19 31?
20 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes.
21 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And, Mr. Stevens,
22 you've provided a couple -- CAC Exhibit 59, which
23 provides a couple of modest corrections to the
24 elasticity calculated in that report?
25 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes, I did.

1 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And those would --
2 it would affect the tables appearing on pages 7 and 21?
3 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes, it would.
4 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And apart from
5 those amendments, is the -- is the information found in
6 your report accurate to the best of your knowledge and
7 ability?
8 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes, it is.
9 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And you, along
10 with Dr. Simpson, are also responsible for the
11 responses to Information Requests Manitoba Hydro to
12 CAC-39 through 42?
13 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes, I am.
14 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And to the best of
15 your knowledge, that material is accurate?
16 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes, it is.
17 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: You -- we do not
18 need to turn there, but your curriculum vitae can be
19 found in CAC Exhibit 34, and your biography appears in
20 CAC-35?
21 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes.
22 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Mr. Stevens, would
23 it be fair to say that you have expertise in the
24 design, implementation, and analysis of evaluations of
25 social programs?

1 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes, it would.
2 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And also, that you
3 have expertise in the analysis of cross-sectional and
4 longitudal -- tudinal data sets, both survey and
5 administrative?
6 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes, it would.
7 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And you have
8 expertise in the modelling of tax and transfer programs
9 using Statistics Canada data and software?
10 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes.
11 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And you have
12 expertise in the use of multiple regression analysis,
13 including ordinary least squares and Tobit, T-O-B-I-T,
14 regression?
15 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes, it would.
16 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Mr. Stevens, you
17 hold a master's degree in sociology with a
18 specialization in research methods?
19 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: I do.
20 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And in terms of
21 employment, you were a research sociologist with
22 Mincome Manitoba from 1973 through 1976?
23 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: I was.
24 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And you were a
25 research associate with the Social -- Social Planning

1 Council from 1976 through 1990?
2 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: I was.
3 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And from 1990
4 until 2009 you were a senior policy analyst with the
5 Province of Manitoba?
6 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: I was.
7 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And you currently
8 work as a private consultant?
9 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: I do.
10 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And among your
11 clients are Healthy Child Manitoba?
12 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes.
13 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Would it be
14 accurate to say that among your peer-reviewed
15 publications is the report 'Explaining Declining Social
16 Assistance Participation Rates: A Longitudinal
17 Analysis of Manitoba Administrative and Population
18 Data'?
19 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes.
20 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And that was
21 published in Canadian Public Policy in 2011?
22 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: It was.
23 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And you were co-
24 author of that report along with both Dr. Simpson and
25 Dr. Frankel?

1 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes, I was.
2 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And would it be
3 fair to say that you have had extensive experience
4 working with Statistics Canada surveys, such as the
5 labour force survey and survey of labour and income
6 dynamics?
7 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes, it would.
8 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And that would be
9 during your tenure as a senior policy analyst with the
10 Department of Family Services and Housing, Policy and
11 Planning Branch?
12 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes, and then
13 subsequently as a private consultant. I continued to
14 use those data sources.
15 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And during your
16 time as a senior policy analyst with Healthy Child
17 Manitoba, you were responsible for the evaluation and
18 assessment of provincial programs designated as early
19 childhood development centred?
20 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes, I was.
21 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Okay. I'm
22 thinking there were some eighteen (18) of those
23 programs?
24 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes.
25 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And in the course

1 of carrying out that evaluation, you would have made
2 extensive use of multi-variant statistical techniques?
3 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes, I did.
4 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And in the course
5 of your consulting work with Healthy Child Manitoba,
6 you undertook the design, implementation, and analysis
7 of a randomi -- randomized control trial evaluation of
8 an enriched child care program for families living in
9 public housing?
10 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes, I did.
11 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And for the
12 purpose of that analysis, you made extensive use of
13 regression analysis?
14 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: I did.
15 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And of course
16 those would not be the only projects in which you used
17 those techniques.
18 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: No, no. I've used
19 other -- I've been involved in other evaluation
20 projects since my retirement.
21 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And for the
22 purpose of your expert report in this proceeding, you
23 were required to identify and characterize different
24 analytical variables such as low-income status?
25 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes, I was.

1 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Could you, just by
2 way of example, explain how the analytical variable of
3 low-income status was developed for the purposes of
4 your report?
5 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Certainly. For
6 the purposes of the analysis presented today, I had to
7 take the -- the survey of household spending provides
8 information on household income. But for the purposes
9 of this analysis, I had to determine which households
10 fell into the low-income category as opposed to the
11 non-low-income category.
12 And in order to do that, I had to
13 compare household incomes with benchmarks or thresholds
14 provided by Statistics Canada which define, at the
15 household level, whether a household is in low income
16 or not. So it was a matter of creating a variable that
17 simply looked at -- compared the household income with
18 these low-income thresholds and determine whether the
19 income was below or above -- above those thresholds.
20 So that's an example of an analytical
21 variable where you take the raw data from the survey
22 and supplement it with other external information to
23 the survey in order to create an additional variable
24 which is then used in the analysis.
25 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Thank you. And

1 would it be fair to say that, in terms of the approach
2 to the calculation of the income or expenditure
3 elasticities of consumption items, Dr. Simpson played a
4 major role in -- in that approach?
5 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes, he did.
6 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: So, Dr. Simpson,
7 over to you.
8 You, along with Mr. Stevens, are
9 responsible for the report 'Impact of Increases in
10 Electricity Rates on Low- and Non-low-income Households
11 in Manitoba'?
12 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.
13 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And subject to the
14 corrections noted by Mr. Stevens earlier, it is
15 accurate to the best of your knowledge and ability?
16 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.
17 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And you joined
18 with Mr. Stevens in preparing the information responses
19 to Information Requests Manitoba Hydro/CAC-39 through
20 42?
21 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.
22 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And, sir, you have
23 expertise in labour economics, applied microeconomics,
24 applied econometrics, and economic and social policy
25 analysis?

1 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.
2 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: You have authored
3 or co-authored three (3) books and more than fifty (50)
4 peer-reviewed articles on these and related topics?
5 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.
6 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: You've been around
7 for a while, Dr. Simpson?
8 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.
9 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And can we define,
10 sir, microeconomics' to be the study of consumers,
11 producers, and other individuals in the marketplace?
12 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.
13 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And how many marks
14 would I get for that definition, Dr. Simpson? A 'C'?
15 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: If it was intended
16 to be brief, then that would probably be full marks.
17 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Okay. And income
18 or expenditure elasticity would be an important concept
19 within the field of microeconomics?
20 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes, at a basic
21 level, yes.
22 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And we can define
23 econometrics at a basic level to involve the use of
24 statistics and economic models to measure and assess
25 economic relationships?

1 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes, full marks.
2 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Thank you, sir.
3 And in terms of your education you hold both an MSC and
4 PhD from the economics from the London School of
5 Economics, sir?
6 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.
7 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And among your
8 employment activities, you served as an operations
9 analyst for the Bank of Canada?
10 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: That's correct.
11 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: You served as an
12 economist with Labour Canada?
13 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.
14 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: You served as an
15 economist for the Centre for the Study of Inflation and
16 Productivity for the Economic Council of Canada?
17 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.
18 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And you have
19 served as a professor at the University of Manitoba
20 since 1979?
21 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes, I've been
22 around a while, as you said.
23 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And over the
24 course of your academic tenure, I take it you've had
25 the opportunity to teach courses in relating to both

1 microeconomics and -- and econometrics, sir?
2 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: That's correct.
3 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: You served as head
4 of the Department of Economics from 1997 through 2008?
5 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.
6 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And in terms of
7 your regulatory expertise, sir, you have been qualified
8 as an expert in applied econometrics and applied
9 microeconomics before the Public Utilities Board on a
10 number of occasions?
11 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes, I have.
12 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And on behalf of
13 CAC (Manitoba), you provided expert evidence on matters
14 relating to risk analysis relating to Manitoba Public
15 Insurance on three (3) occasions?
16 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Right.
17 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And relying upon
18 your expertise in data analysis and applied
19 econometrics, you've provided both written and oral
20 expert evidence to the Public Utilities Board relating
21 to the socioeconomic profile of payday loan customers
22 on one (1) occasions -- with -- on one (1) occasion.
23 Would that be fair, sir?
24 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.
25 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: While you have not

1 appeared as an expert witness on matters relating to
2 Manitoba Hydro, would it be fair to say that you did
3 provide analytic assistance during the 2013/'14 General
4 Rate Application leading to Board Order 43/'13, with
5 regard to the load forecast?
6 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: That's right. Yes.
7 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And you also
8 provided analytic assistance during the 2010/'11 GRA
9 leading to Board Order 5/'12, with regard to the risk
10 analysis related to Manitoba Hydro?
11 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.
12 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Dr. Simpson, apart
13 from your academic work, and you're testimony before
14 the PUB, you've performed expert analysis for a number
15 of other organizations including Prairie Research
16 Associates?
17 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.
18 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And Human
19 Resources Development Canada?
20 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes, by various
21 names.
22 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And Statistics
23 Canada?
24 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.
25 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And the Economic

1 Council of Canada?

2 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.

3 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And Labour Canada?

4 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.

5 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And the Bank of

6 Canada?

7 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Correct.

8 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Finally, among

9 your many pub -- publications we would find the book

10 'Income Maintenance, Work Effort, and the Canadian

11 Mincome Experiment'?

12 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.

13 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: We would also find

14 among your many publications the -- the article, 'Exab'

15 -- 'Examining Evidence of Financial and Credit

16 Exclusion in Canada from 1995 through 2005'?

17 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.

18 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And we would also

19 find a microeconomic -- a microeconometric analysis of

20 Canadian Health Care utilization.

21 Would that be fair?

22 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.

23 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair, subject

24 to the guidance of the Board and the comments of other

25 parties, we'd ask that Mr. Stevens be qualified as an

1 expert in the design, implementation, and analysis of
2 evaluations of social programs; the analysis --
3 secondly, the analysis of cross-sectional and
4 longitudinal data sets, both survey and administrative;
5 third, data analysis using Statistics Canada data and
6 software; and finally, the use of multiple regression
7 analysis including ordinary least squares and Tobit
8 regression. And we'd ask that Dr. Simpson be qualified
9 as an expert in applied microeconomics and applied
10 econometrics.
11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr.
12 Williams. I'll canvass the Intervenors, starting with
13 you, Mr. Gange, please?
14 MR. WILLIAM GANGE: We have no
15 objections to the two (2) witnesses being qualified as
16 experts.
17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr. Gange.
18
19 Me. Hacault, s'il vous plait?
20 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: Oui, M.
21 President. We have no objection to these two (2)
22 witnesses being qualified in the areas of expertise
23 outlined by Mr. Williams.
24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you for that,
25 Me. Hacault.

1 Mr. Orle, please...?

2 MR. GEORGE ORLE: I have no objection

3 to the qualification of both witnesses as experts.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr. Orle.

5 I'm not sure that Ms. Saunders is here.

6 Me. Monnin, s'il vous plait?

7 MR. CHRISTIAN MONNIN: Merci, M.

8 President. We have no objections.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you for that.

10 Ms. Boyd, please...?

11 MS. MARLA BOYD: We have no objections.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you for that.

13 Me. Hombach...? Okay. I think that --

14 just -- just a second, please.

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: The panel agrees that

19 we'll accept both Dr. (sic) Stevens and Mr. -- Dr.

20 Simpson for -- for the areas of expertise that you've

21 outlined, Mr. Williams. So back to you for direct.

22

23 EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR. BYRON WILLIAMS:

24 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And it's -- just

25 to correct the record, it's Mr. Stevens, Mr. Chair.

1 And I'm going to invite Mr. Stevens and Dr. Simpson to
2 begin their presentation. And we would also on their
3 behalf invite the panel, if they have questions,
4 certainly to -- to ask them when they -- when the --
5 when the need strikes.
6 THE CHAIRPERSON: It never hurts to
7 call your parish priest archbishop.
8 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Archbishop Stevens
9 can proceed.
10 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Okay. I would
11 direct your attention to your computer screen that
12 should have our Power Point presentation on it.
13 Looking at slide 1, you can see that the primary
14 purpose of our presentation today is to show the impact
15 of the proposed electricity rate increase. Just ignore
16 that one (1) in brackets. That was intended as a
17 footnote that never appeared on the low-income
18 households of Manitoba.
19 And, so by way of presenting those
20 impacts this presentation will first show how the
21 spending patterns of low-income households compare to
22 nominal-income households, look at how the real
23 inflation-adjusted electricity rates vary between 2000
24 and 2013 in Manitoba, and by extension up to 2032 under
25 the proposed rate increases.

1 The analysis will then look at the
2 effect of the variations in those electricity rates on
3 the consumption patterns of Manitoba households between
4 the years 2000 and 2009; and then in light of those
5 effects, what the impact of the proposed 4 percent
6 annual increases in electricity rates between 2015 and
7 2032 will have on the low-income households in
8 Manitoba.
9 Turning to slide number 2, there were
10 several data sources that we used in carrying out this
11 analysis. The -- the primary one was the Statistics
12 Canada's annual surveys of household spending for 2000
13 to 2009. These individual household level data sets
14 reflect data -- or contain data on the spending
15 patterns in -- in total over that -- that ten (10) year
16 period of -- of over thirteen thousand (13,000)
17 Manitoba households, along with information on the
18 household income, its demographic composition, its
19 location in Winnipeg, non-Winnipeg, the type of
20 housing, et cetera.
21 In view of the fact that we've -- you've
22 -- the panel has had presentations from Northern
23 individuals living on reserves, it's probably worth
24 pointing out that this particular survey does not cover
25 anyone living on the Indian reserves in Manitoba. It's

1 a characteristic of both the survey and a number of
2 other surveys that Statistics Canada carries out on a
3 regular basis.
4 They do not survey the populations
5 living on the Indian reserves, nor in the armed forces
6 for a variety of reasons. So -- and that's probably an
7 important exclusion. So the findings that are
8 presented today have -- show no bearing on the
9 circumstances or what the behavioural responses of
10 people living on Indian reserves would be.
11 It's important to note, however, and I -
12 - I do document this on -- if you look to Table 4 in
13 Appendix 1 of our report, I do give a -- provide a
14 comparison of the -- the comparative income levels of -
15 - of individuals living on reserve and not on reserve.
16 And if you look at the percent of the population that's
17 in the lowest income decile, so if you divide the
18 entire population of -- of Canada up into ten (10)
19 equal levels of income, the lowest 10 percent of -- of
20 households in Canada, if you look at that group, 57
21 percent of the population living on reserve have
22 incomes in the bottom decile, compared to only 12
23 percent of all Manitobans.
24 So the on-reserved population in
25 Manitoba is substantially -- have substantially lower

1 incomes than the -- the rest of the population in
2 Manitoba.
3 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Mr. Stevens, if I
4 could just stop you there. Just in terms of the
5 reference, that would be in your pre-filed written
6 evidence, page 18, in the appendix, and it would be
7 Table 4 in the appendix?
8 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: That's correct.
9 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Okay.
10 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: That's correct.
11 So it's probably worth just giving that as a context so
12 that -- that our -- our presentation today only bears
13 on the -- the population living off reserve in
14 Manitoba.
15 The other thing to point out if -- item
16 2, the Statistics Canada low-income measure thresholds,
17 Statistics Canada currently supports three (3)
18 different measures of -- of low income in -- in Canada.
19 We chose the -- the measure called the LIM, the low
20 income measure, because that is a measure that's
21 applied to households as opposed to families. And
22 given that our unit of analysis in this study was the
23 household and not the family, it was for that reason
24 that we chose the LIM as the -- the measure of low
25 income status, to -- to be consistent with the -- the

1 unit of analysis in our -- in our study.
2 With respect to items 3 and 4, we used
3 the information provided by Manitoba, both in its
4 published historical residential electricity rate
5 schedule and then supplementary material that we had
6 requested of them, for the purpose of calculating the
7 annual price of electricity. This was -- and -- and
8 that methodology that we used to calculate that annual
9 price of elect -- electricity is -- is set out in
10 detail in Appendix 2 of our report.
11 So we -- we made it very clear in that
12 appendix the detailed calculations that we used to
13 calculate the -- the weighted average price of
14 electricity for Manitobans.
15 Turning to slide number 3. The -- yes.
16
17 (BRIEF PAUSE)
18
19 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: With respect to
20 the methodology of the study, we calculated several --
21 several key analytical variables. In -- in regression
22 analysis, one talks about a dependent and independent
23 variable. So the dependant variable is -- is the thing
24 that you're trying to explain. In this case, it was
25 household consumption; how much does the household

1 spend as a percent of its total consumption on the key
2 items of food, electricity, clothing, household
3 supplies, et cetera.
4 And so that -- we -- rather than -- than
5 looking at the actual price of electri -- of -- of
6 consumption, we chose to measure consumption on each of
7 those key consumer items as a percent of the total
8 amount of -- that it spent on -- on all consumption
9 items so that we -- we could see how the consumption
10 patterns of households changed in response to changes
11 in the price of electricity.
12 Another key variable in our analysis is
13 the -- what we call the household balance. And as you
14 can see from the slide, that's simply the -- the
15 difference between the households after-tax income and
16 its total consumption, divided by the total
17 consumptions, and we express it as a percent.
18 So if the household's after-tax income
19 was less than the total amount that it spent, then it
20 would be in a negative position. It would be in a
21 deficit position.
22 Conversely, if the household after-tax
23 income was more than the total amount that it spent on
24 all of its consumption items in the year, then it would
25 be in a surplus position. It would take on a positive

1 value, and again expressed as a percent of the total --
2 total consumption of the household.
3 Household low-income status, I've
4 already -- already referred to how that was measured.
5 We compared household income with the -- the low-income
6 measure thresholds and determined whether a household
7 was -- was below that threshold within one (1) and one
8 and a half (1 1/2) times the threshold which we've
9 called kind of the near low income or the near poor
10 group, and then whether household's income was more
11 than one and a half times (1 1/2) times -- times the
12 low -- the low-income threshold.
13 Again, a -- a key -- a key independent
14 variable in the analysis, one of the predictor
15 variables, was the average annual price of electricity.
16 And we expressed that as dollars per 100 kilowatt
17 hours, expressed again in 2009 dollars.
18 So we wanted to have electricity
19 measured in real terms to reflect the -- the effect of
20 -- of inflation. And we did so because our -- our key
21 dependent variables, the consumption as a percent of --
22 of total consumption, was effectively in real dollars
23 as well. So we wanted to keep the terms consistent.
24 And then we also used the aver -- annual
25 consumer price index of each consumption item, again

1 expressed in 2009 dollars.

2 The methodology that we used was

3 principally regression analysis, which basically takes

4 the observed correlation between our dependent variable

5 outcome variables, such as household balance, and --

6 and correlates that -- the correlation of that with the

7 predictor variables, such as the price of electricity

8 or -- or real household income. And it basically

9 identifies the importance of each of those predictor

10 variables in explaining the -- the level of -- of the

11 dependent variable or the outcome variable.

12 And the -- one of the -- the nice

13 features of regression analysis is it allows you to

14 effectively hold constant the -- the influences of

15 other variables so that you can look at just the net or

16 -- or net effect of -- of each of the indi --

17 individual regression -- or deep -- predictor variables

18 in -- in the -- in accounting for the -- the behaviour

19 or the level of -- of the outcome variable.

20 The -- just with respect to the

21 regression analysis, for all of the analyses that we

22 did of each of the individual con -- consumption items

23 and the household balance, for all them we controlled

24 for the same set of other independent variables, which

25 was the real value of household income, the household

1 size, the number of people comprising the household.
2 We -- we included a -- a variable
3 indicating what year the data represented, and that
4 would have been from 2000 to 2009; the tenure status of
5 the household, whether it owned or rented; and its
6 location in Manitoba, whether the household was in
7 Winnipeg or outside of Winnipeg. The survey of
8 household spending didn't allow for a finer
9 differentiation of location other than Winnipeg, non-
10 Winnipeg.
11 As you will see later in -- in our
12 presentation, we estimated two (2) models. In the
13 first model, we only control -- in addition to those
14 variables that I've mentioned, we only controlled for
15 the price of electricity. And that was our key
16 independent variable.
17 In Model B, we then also controlled for
18 the price of each of the consumption items itself. We
19 thought it was probably important to add that in as an
20 explanatory factor so that the -- the response of the
21 household to both changes in the price of electricity
22 and changes in the particu -- changes in the price of
23 the particular consumption item would be important in
24 explaining what proportion of total consumption that
25 particular consumption item comprised.

1 So that's -- that's the methodology of
2 the study.
3 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Mr. Stevens, just
4 in terms of the -- if we think of your pre-filed
5 written evidence, the analysis there would be based
6 upon Model A.
7 Is that right?
8 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes, that's
9 correct. And then Model B was -- was added subsequent
10 to the preparation of our written report.
11 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Thank you.
12 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: If we turn to
13 slide number 4, this presents a -- a descriptive
14 profile of how low income, near low income, higher
15 income households, what -- how they allocate their
16 consumption -- their total consumption across the --
17 the individual items making up their household budget.
18 So we have food purchased from stores,
19 electricity, healthcare, shelter -- just the principle
20 residence, excludes electricity, but includes the price
21 of heat, household operations, reading, tobacco,
22 alcohol, personal care, et cetera.
23 One thing just to note, I -- I didn't
24 include it in the slide, but the -- the individual
25 percentages within each of the three (3) columns, low

1 income, near low income, and higher income, don't add
2 up to 100 percent because we -- I didn't include all of
3 the items. For example, I excluded food purchased in
4 restaurants. I excluded shelter if you owned a
5 cottage, or another -- another residence. That's not
6 included in this.
7 But it is included in the -- in the --
8 the cost -- the value of the total consumption. And
9 then there was a residual category that covered other
10 things not in this list. So just -- just a -- a point
11 of information about the table. If someone adds up
12 those percentages, they won't come to 100 percent, but
13 that -- that was done intentionally to focus on the --
14 on the key items.
15 The -- and I'm going to just highlight
16 some of the key findings with respect to the -- to the
17 percentages. And -- and Dr. Simpson, I'm going to turn
18 to him afterwards, and he will talk to you about the
19 ela -- elasticity measure, which is in the final column
20 of this table.
21 The key pattern to note is that things
22 like food, electricity, healthcare, shelter, you'll see
23 that low-income households spend more on those items
24 than do the near low-income or the higher-income
25 households. So those items are more important and

1 consume -- take up a larger share of their -- their
2 budget the low -- among the low-income household than
3 the higher income households.
4 Specifically, if you look at shelter,
5 food, transportation, and household operations, for the
6 low-income household, they make up 63 percent of their
7 budget, whereas for the near low-income households,
8 they only comprise 61 percent, and for the higher-
9 income households, 58 percent.
10 So that -- that's one (1) pattern to
11 note in the -- in the data, that -- that for those
12 kinds of consumption items which we typically refer to
13 as necessities -- basic necessities, for the low-income
14 household, a larger share of their total budget goes to
15 -- to spending on those -- those items.
16 The other thing to note -- and
17 conversely, things like transportation -- where do we
18 have -- recreation, education, you can see that
19 particularly for transportation, it's the higher-income
20 household spends a -- a larger share of its budget on
21 those items than does the low-income household.
22 The other thing that I want to draw your
23 attention to also is then the household balance
24 variable. You can see that on average, low-income
25 households are in a deficit position. Their

1 consumption is actually 13 percent more than -- than
2 their after-tax income. They would be financing that
3 deficit either by drawing down savings, or -- or
4 borrowing.
5 By comparison, your near low-income
6 household, on average again, is running a slight
7 surplus, with the higher income households running a
8 substantial surplus in terms of their -- of their
9 consumption.
10 With that, I'll have Dr. Simpson talk
11 about the elasticity measure.
12
13 (BRIEF PAUSE)
14
15 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Is it on now? Now
16 it's on. Okay.
17 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Well done.
18 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Good start. Yeah,
19 the -- just a -- a point on what Harvey was saying.
20 The -- for example, simply adding up in my head the --
21 the low income, it's about 95 percent of all items are
22 --
23 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes.
24 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: -- there, so -- so
25 almost everything is there, but there's a 5 percent

1 residual. It's -- as you said, it's not included in
2 the table.
3 And the elasticity measure is kind of a
4 standard economist measure of the ways in which
5 consumption patterns change as incomes rise, and this
6 is one (1) of the things that we were principally
7 interested in, and -- and one (1) of the points we
8 wanted to make to the -- to the Board about the
9 behaviour of consumers in terms of electricity.
10 And essentially, what the elasticity
11 measure does is it measures for a 1 percent change in
12 expenditure, what is the percentage change in
13 consumption of -- in the consumption share of this
14 item? And you can see, for example, the bolded one is
15 electricity. It's only a .59 percent increase. This -
16 - the implication there is that is -- as incomes rise,
17 the share of electricity in the consumption basket gets
18 smaller and smaller. I don't think that's a surprise
19 to most people.
20 Electricity's what we would consider a
21 necessity for a variety of items. There's some
22 discretionary things in there, but if you look at the
23 pattern also bolded of the expenditures by low-income,
24 near low-income, and higher-income consumers, it goes
25 from 3.1 percent, down to 2.7 percent share, down to

1 2.1 percent share, so that's falling over time. The
2 elasticity measure reflects that.
3 For any of the items where the
4 elasticity measure's less than one (1), what economists
5 would call a necessity in -- in income or expenditure
6 elasticity terms, such as food purchased from stores,
7 shelter, household operations, reading, healthcare,
8 personal care, these are what we would say are
9 necessities, because as income rises, they become less
10 and less important in the consumers' spending pattern.
11 On the other hand, for the items where
12 the elasticity's greater than one (1), the -- these
13 become more and more important. And clothing,
14 interestingly, which is part of the Statistics Canada
15 set of items that it considers an important necessity
16 in defining low income cutoffs, it actually has an
17 elasticity of greater than one (1).
18 So as income rises, people spend more on
19 clothing, probably because they buy different kinds of
20 clothes, more -- different -- expenditures on the
21 quality rather than quantity.
22 But also household equipment,
23 recreation, transportation, and education are also
24 things that households spend more on as their incomes
25 rise.

1 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Turning to slide
2 number 5, this presents the results of the -- the
3 calculations that we -- we carried out in terms of what
4 the -- the average -- weighted average price of
5 electricity per 100 kilowatt hour was over the -- the
6 period for which we had information, from 2000 to 2013,
7 and that's the -- the solid blue line is -- is the
8 nominal rate. That was the price each year, as I
9 indicated earlier.
10 And -- and you can see the -- what is
11 that, a purple dotted line that extends out beyond the
12 -- the blue solid line. That's -- that shows the
13 projected increase in -- in nominal terms of -- of the
14 -- the price of electricity, given the 4 percent annual
15 increase projected by -- by Manitoba Hydro through to
16 2032.
17 And you can see that from 2015 to '32,
18 that would result in a -- a hundred percent increase in
19 nominal -- the nominal price of electricity, from eight
20 (8) to -- to sixteen dollars ($16) per 100 kilowatt
21 hours.
22 However, as -- as I indicated earlier,
23 we -- we've chosen to base our analysis on -- on the
24 real price of electricity measured in 2009 dollars, and
25 the -- the solid red line reflects that -- that

1 pattern.

2 So you can see that between 2000 and

3 2004, the -- the real price dropped somewhat, took a

4 slight rise in 2005, was fairly level to about 2008,

5 then increased up to 2010, again, a bit more in 2013 to

6 about -- 2013, it was about seven dollars and eight

7 cents ($7.08) per 100 kilowatt hours, again, measured

8 in 2009 dollars.

9 Projected increase at -- at a real

10 annual rate of 2 percent. The green dotted line shows

11 that increase, from about seven dollars and twenty-

12 three cents ($7.23) in 2015 to ten dollars and twelve

13 cents ($10.12) in 2032. That's assuming a -- a real

14 increase of 2 percent a year.

15 The -- I think that's --

16 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: If I can stop you

17 --

18 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes.

19 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: -- here for just a

20 second, am I right in suggesting to you that whether we

21 look in real or nominal terms, that the pattern of rate

22 increases from 2013 forward is quite a bit steeper than

23 it was between 2000 and 2009?

24 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: A cer -- it --

25 looking at the real rate increase, yes, that -- that

1 would be higher. That's about a 40 percent increase,
2 certainly a -- a larger increase than -- than observed
3 over the 2000 to 2013 period.
4 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And -- and if we
5 would just focus on that 2000 to 2009 period, that was
6 the focus of your -- your analysis.
7 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes. We only had
8 data from the survey of household spending for the
9 years 2000 through to 2009, include -- inclusively. So
10 --
11 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Okay.
12 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: -- we based our
13 real price of electricity on -- on that period of time.
14 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And let me play
15 devil's advocate for a moment. Is the variation in the
16 -- the real price between 2000 and 2009 robust enough
17 to draw inferences going forward, sir?
18 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes, it is,
19 because the actual -- in percentage terms, the real
20 price of electricity, if you take 2000 as -- as the --
21 as a base level, it both fell and rose by 5 percentage
22 points over that level.
23 So within the -- within that ten (10)
24 year period, we saw the real price of electricity
25 fluctuating between plus and minus 5 percent, which is

1 certainly a -- a broader interval than -- than the 2
2 percent projected real rate increases.
3 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.
4 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: If we turn to
5 slide number 6 then, this presents the -- the core of
6 our analysis. First of all, this is Model A, which I
7 indicated earlier only contains the price of
8 electricity, but doesn't include the -- the price of
9 each of the -- the consumption items, and so what this
10 ref -- so that -- that's a first thing to note.
11 Secondly, as I indicated earlier, each
12 of these coefficients that you see in the table, for
13 example, food purchased from stores for the low-end
14 group, minus.03 percentage change, that reflects the
15 results of one (1) regression analysis.
16 So in -- in effect, the -- the -- each
17 of these results re -- reflects the result of a -- of a
18 separate regression analysis in which we consistently
19 controlled for real household income, household size,
20 location in the province, tenure status, and year. And
21 then the key independent variable was the real price of
22 electricity measured in -- in 2009 dollars.
23 What this -- what we've done to -- to
24 arrive at these numbers is we've taken the results of
25 the regression analysis and we've estimated what the --

1 what the change in consumption would be, assuming that
2 the price of electricity only increased by 2 percentage
3 points.
4 So these results are derivations from
5 the results of the regression analysis. I'm not sure
6 how to explain that more simply, but -- but
7 essentially, they're -- they're the results of -- of
8 the regression analysis in which we re-estimated the
9 impact of -- of a -- of a 2 percent increase in -- in
10 the price of electricity on -- on the -- the
11 consumption patterns of households.
12 Just looking at the table, we can see
13 with the low-income household, every 2 percent increase
14 in the price of electricity results in a .05 percentage
15 increase in the share that electricity has of the -- of
16 the household budget. We see similar increases in
17 healthcare, in household operations, tobacco, and
18 alcohol is -- is a large increase, personal care,
19 household equipment, furnishings, recreation.
20 For the low-income household, those --
21 those consumption items increase their share of the
22 household budget in response to a 2 percent increase in
23 the -- the real price of electricity.
24 If you can compare -- and the household
25 balance shows a -- a .11 percentage point drop. So in

1 response to an increase -- a 2 percent increase in the
2 price of electricity, the household balance for the
3 low-income household actually becomes worse. A very
4 small amount, but -- but it's in a negative direction.
5 Compare that with a near low-income
6 household, its response is larger. You get a -- a --
7 an even larger decrease in -- in the household balance,
8 and by comparison, with a higher-income household, its
9 household balance actually improves.
10 The -- I'm not -- so the -- what -- what
11 this -- what this table reveals is -- is the way
12 households respond in terms of how they allocate their
13 spending across these consumption items. It's
14 basically what we've observed in the data. This is
15 what the data is telling us, that over that 2000 to
16 2009 period of time, in response to an increase in the
17 price of electricity, this is how households have
18 responded in terms of how they allocate their
19 consumption.
20 On some -- on some items, their response
21 is to increase their share. For other items, their
22 response is to decrease their share. I'm not sure I
23 can give you any definitive reason why a household
24 would choose to spend more on alcohol and tobacco if
25 they're low income, unless if they're higher income.

1 So it -- it -- I'm not sure that there's
2 economic theory that would -- would guide you in
3 explaining -- or ex -- explaining why -- why the
4 pattern is as it's observed, but what I can say is that
5 with the -- the regression models that we used in --
6 with these data, this is -- this is the results. It's
7 -- it's saying this is how households in Manitoba over
8 this ten (10) year period of time responded to -- to
9 the changes in the price in electricity.
10 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And, sir, just --
11 if I could stop you before you get to Model B, is this
12 a one (1) year response?
13 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes, it is. This
14 reflects a one (1) year change in -- in -- so if -- if
15 electricity increases by -- by 2 percent in a year,
16 this is the response.
17 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: It doesn't tell us
18 necessarily what would happen if you had fifteen (15)
19 years of rate increases at double the rate of
20 inflation?
21 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: No, it wouldn't.
22 It would probably provide a fairly realistic est --
23 estimate for -- for rate increases cumulative up to 6
24 or 8 percent, because I said earlier, the -- the -- we
25 -- we saw a -- a fluctuation in -- in the price of

1 electricity in our data set of plus or minus 5 percent.
2 I did -- so, yeah, it's -- it's -- the -
3 - the longer one goes out in terms of time period, the
4 more speculative your -- your estimates would be of
5 what the cumulative impact would -- would be for --
6 over the near term, I think you're -- the -- the
7 response would be fairly linear.
8 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Thank you.
9 THE CHAIRPERSON: The result for the --
10 the near -- near low income in relation to the other
11 two (2) is sort of outside the pattern of the other
12 data there. You know, there's sort of a progression --
13 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: M-hm.
14 THE CHAIRPERSON: -- as you go through
15 here, and they seem to all be related, except for
16 electricity and -- and food purchased from stores so --
17 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes.
18 THE CHAIRPERSON: -- is -- is that just
19 an anomaly, or?
20 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: I -- I don't know.
21 It -- it's -- yeah. There -- there are some anomalies
22 in the result. I...
23 If we turn to slide number 7, and this
24 is the -- the second model in which we then introduced
25 -- and again, this wasn't in our -- our original paper,

1 but in response to some of the -- the line of evidence
2 in -- in the panel hearings, we decided to re-estimate
3 our equations also including the -- the price of each
4 of the consumption items.
5 So with respect to foods purchased from
6 stores, our -- our regression model included both the
7 price of electricity and the -- the change in the real
8 price of food purchased from stores over that ten (10)
9 year time period, and you'll see some differences.
10 Now, if we -- see, in -- in Model A,
11 food shows a -- a decrease, a drop in response to a 2
12 percent increase in the price of electricity. Model A
13 shows a drop in food purchased from stores, whereas
14 Model B shows a -- a stronger increase.
15 And there are a few other differences in
16 -- in the household's response once one includes the --
17 the price of the -- the commodity itself, but
18 generally, a -- a thing to note about Model A and 'B'
19 is that the low-income household seems to show a -- a
20 stronger response to change -- a 2 percent increase in
21 the price of electricity than do the -- do the near
22 low-income and -- and higher-income households for most
23 of the -- for most of the items.
24 Food purchased from stores, you can see
25 the near low-income shows a strong negative response.

1 Healthcare a -- a bit stronger, but with most of the
2 others, the -- among the low-income household, their
3 response to the 2 percent increase in -- in electricity
4 is -- is substantially greater than -- than it is for
5 the -- for the near low-income and the higher-income
6 households.
7 Again, we see that in response to the 2
8 percent increase in -- the real price of electricity,
9 consumption of shelter declines in importance, as does
10 reading, as does transportation, education, whereas
11 other consumption items such as food purchased from
12 stores, tobacco, and alcohol. Again, a -- a mystery of
13 why -- why that response would be what it is, but it's
14 -- it's what we observed in the data.
15 Personal care, household equipment and
16 furnishings, recreation, their share of the -- the
17 household budget increases in response to the increase
18 in the price of electricity among the low-income, and
19 you see a different pattern of responses for the
20 higher-income households.
21 Most importantly, perhaps, is the -- the
22 household balance. In comparison with Model A, the --
23 one sees that when -- when one includes the -- the real
24 price of the other consumption items in the -- in the
25 household budget, the -- the response of the low-income

1 household is considerably greater in a negative
2 direction.
3 We see that their -- their household
4 balance declines by almost 3 percentage points in
5 response to a 2 percent increase in the price of
6 electricity. It's negative for the near low-income
7 household, and positive for the higher-income
8 household. So adding in the -- the effect of the price
9 in -- changes in the consumption items changes the --
10 the impact of the price of electricity considerably.
11 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Mr. -- Mr.
12 Stevens, just to remind ourselves about the methodology
13 for Model B, for that, both the price of elasticity --
14 electricity, excuse me, and the price of the commodity
15 being analyzed were the key independent variables?
16 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: That's correct.
17 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Okay.
18 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: That's correct.
19 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Thank you.
20 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: And turning to the
21 final -- final table in our presentation, then, are the
22 summary and conclusions. The -- the study that we
23 conducted shows that -- that electricity is a basic
24 necessity for low-income households in Manitoba
25 comprising a larger share of their total consumption

1 than for higher-income households in an elasticity of
2 less than one (1).
3 We've shown that real electricity rates
4 have varied in Manitoba between 2000 and 2013. First
5 falling up to 2004, remaining fairly flat for the next
6 three (3) years, and then rising above their 2000 level
7 to seven dollars and eight cents ($7.08) per hunrd --
8 100 kilowatt hour in -- by 2013. The proposed annual 2
9 percent real increases in rates, we'll see the price of
10 electricity rise to ten dollars and twelve cents
11 ($10.12) by 2032, again expressed in 2009 dollars.
12 We then looked at the impacts of those
13 changes in the real price of electricity on household
14 consumption patterns between 2000 and 2009, and we
15 found that electricity share of household consumption
16 increased.
17 Secondly, households shifted their
18 consumption away from some items and -- and towards
19 others, but consistently, the households over -- the
20 low-income household's overall -- all balance became
21 more negative, and conversely, the -- the household's
22 balance for the -- the higher-income households became
23 more positive.
24 So we've concluded that the proposed 2
25 percent real increase in electricity rates over the

1 2015 to '32 period will result in low-income households
2 spending more on electricity and facing even larger
3 operating deficits than they currently do.
4 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Thank you. Be --
5 before we turn you over to the -- the panel or others
6 for questions, Dr. Simpson, in terms of the overall
7 report and the robustness of the report, do you have
8 any comments that you -- you wish to add?
9 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: No. I think simply
10 that if we think of low-income households as the ones
11 who are -- the ones that are constrained in terms of
12 their budget, then it's not surprising that increases
13 in things that we think of as necessities and things
14 that make up a larger portion of their budget than
15 other -- other households are going to impact them, and
16 that's consistent with what the results show.
17 What is hard to entirely figure out is
18 how some of the other items are going to behave, but I
19 think, you know, the focus on electricity seems
20 consistent with what we would have expected.
21 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: We -- certainly,
22 that concludes the direct examination, and we're happy
23 to make the -- the witnesses available to questions
24 from the panel or -- or the cross-examination.
25 THE CHAIRPERSON: I have a question.

1 Just to clarify in my mind, the results that you
2 obtained regarding the price elasticity of electricity,
3 how does it compare to other published results for
4 price elasticity of electricity in other jurisdictions?
5 Are you in a position to comment about
6 published literature addressing the same topic?
7 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Price elasticity?
8 No.
9
10 CONTINUED BY MR. BYRON WILLIAMS:
11 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: So just -- just to
12 clarify -- and Dr. Simpson, this might help you.
13 You've had to explain this to me, as well.
14 You've certainly looked at ohm price
15 elasticity in other jurisdictions, but that is
16 analytically a little bit different from income or
17 expenditure elasticities?
18 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Well, it's a good
19 question, but it's not a question we looked at in this
20 study. I think the sense of the literature that I've
21 read is that there are better opportunities to observe
22 how consumers behave in terms of the response to the
23 price of electricity in other jurisdictions and in
24 Manitoba, and I think I've read similar reflections
25 from Manitoba Hydro as well, that they haven't -- they

1 haven't looked at this question.

2 Certainly, the survey of household

3 spending, the way we've done it, could produce some

4 sort of elasticity estimate. The variation in the real

5 price of elasticity in Manitoba in the past has been

6 relatively small, plus or minus 5 percent, that, you

7 know, the 2 percent increases projected in the NFAT

8 will quickly surpass all of -- all of that, take us out

9 of that range.

10 But there have been some substantial,

11 you know, price increases in other jurisdictions,

12 mostly -- mostly in the US. That's in terms of the

13 literature that I've read, and we'll talk about on

14 Friday.

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 DR. HUGH GRANT: Wayne, could I -- can

19 I just clarify though? And your initial report has no

20 price elasticities, because you don't have price data.

21 Is that correct? The original Model A, you don't have

22 any price interactions, and -- because I spent all last

23 night reading through --

24 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Well --

25 DR. HUGH GRANT: -- their price index,

so I want you to --

DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: -- we do for -- we do for electricity, which is the one we're concerned about. I'm not sure that there aren't peer-reviewed pieces that have done a better job in estimating the model and producing an identification strategy based on the particular changes in electricity prices that have occurred in other jurisdictions that wouldn't be academically, and I think practically, probably more respectable results.

But you could get a price elasticity estimate from what we've done. It's just that that wasn't the focus of our -- of our analysis.

DR. HUGH GRANT: Just -- just to be clear though, the elasticity you calculate isn't a -- it's an expenditure elasticity. It's neither an income elasticity nor a price elasticity --

DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: It's an expenditure share --

DR. HUGH GRANT: Right.

DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: -- elasticity here, not a -- not a quantity consumed, which would be the one you'd want for a -- to measure an elasticity. So, in fact, we'd have to -- no, I guess -- I guess I have to take that back.

1 I guess, in fact, we can't estimate a
2 respectable price -- own price elasticity estimate for
3 electricity because we'd need the actual amounts
4 consumed, the quantities, which would be measured in
5 other studies but in the survey of household spending
6 would only be in terms of expenditure shares, not in
7 terms of quantities, yeah. Thank you for that.
8 DR. HUGH GRANT: And part of my reason
9 for asking is after reading the initial report, I -- I
10 spent all last night pouring over the Manitoba CPI by
11 category going, Oh man, look what's -- you know. And,
12 so you do notice like during this period gasoline
13 prices like double and, so there's a lot of other
14 things kind of going on there.
15 But if I could just go back, and this is
16 purely academic, and -- and, Dr. Simpson, I have to
17 give an aside here that it's like the pot of gold
18 because we could talk about this academic stuff all day
19 long, and the people here have to stay and listen to
20 us. So it's just -- it -- you know, I'm -- I'm just in
21 bliss here, so. Not with discount rates later.
22 But just to go -- I was just clear --
23 unclear about this survey of how -- household spending.
24 And, so the one concern is you've got a category for
25 shelter and a category for electricity, and I just

1 wasn't sure given the way that's defined, if I'm a
2 renter, a low-income renter for example, how those
3 costs are getting picked up.
4 And, so when I -- when you're looking at
5 electricity prices going up, I wasn't quire sure what
6 the dynamic might be, or -- or if there was a
7 possibility for substituting maybe natural gas and
8 electric heat, and that sort of thing. Is there -- do
9 --
10 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: A couple of
11 comments. First of all, we made sure that the -- the
12 electricity is -- is a separate category within the
13 survey of household spending. So it says, How much did
14 -- it's an estimate of how much the household spent on
15 electricity, not how much they consumed. Just what was
16 the total -- what was their total expenditure on
17 electricity in that particular year?
18 DR. HUGH GRANT: Okay. So could I just
19 interrupt there? So if I was a renter and my utilities
20 were paid by the landlord --
21 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yeah.
22 DR. HUGH GRANT: -- would that be --
23 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: That would show up
24 as a zero value in the -- in the survey. Yeah, we --
25 we -- it was typical of this survey for -- that for a

1 number of the consumption items, like electricity, like
2 recreation, like transportation, in fact there were a
3 number of households that showed no -- no spending on
4 those items in the year.
5 So when we did the analysis, when --
6 when electricity was our -- our key independent
7 variable, we -- we restricted the sample just to those
8 observations where there was a -- where there was an
9 actual price for electricity. And in the other -- with
10 the other consumption items, that was the reason why we
11 used Tobit regression, because for things like, in
12 particular, education, so many of the -- the values
13 were zero so that we had to use a technique appropriate
14 for when a lot of -- a lot of the -- the observations
15 in your sample have this limiting value of zero.
16 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yeah. Just -- just
17 add to that, the -- the context was that there were a
18 lot of the cases, for example education, where a lot of
19 the zeros to us seemed plausible. In other words, we
20 didn't want to throw away data that -- that was
21 plausible because a lot of people don't spend the
22 additional money on education.
23 On -- in the case of electricity, we
24 don't think that's plausible. In other words, they --
25 it must be hidden in other costs, and we treated those

1 as missing. There's a variety of ways of treating
2 missing data, but one -- one way is -- most of them
3 come down to essentially the same thing, which is you
4 either drop it or bury it. And -- and as I've said, it
5 comes to much the same thing.
6 DR. HUGH GRANT: Another small question
7 I had -- I've got some bigger ones too. We could be
8 here till dinner. You seem to go out of your way not
9 to use the term 'income' or -- or 'after-tax income',
10 and you create this -- instead of saying, "savings,"
11 you create this financial balances category. Your
12 elasticity is sort of calculated on total consumption
13 as opposed to income.
14 Is there a reason why you did that? Is
15 there some obvious reason I didn't see?
16 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: I think that --
17 the thought was that consumption -- total consumption
18 better reflected lifetime earnings or a better measure
19 of -- of income or earnings than -- than did the -- the
20 household income variable.
21 DR. HUGH GRANT: Okay. Now, here's the
22 one -- I'm -- I wasn't quite sure how to read the
23 tables, but if -- on the first table in your PowerPoint
24 slides, if I can just draw an example --
25 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yeah.

1 DR. HUGH GRANT: -- electricity is --
2 for, say, high-income consumers, electricity is 2.1
3 percent of their consumption.
4 Is that correct?
5 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: M-hm.
6 DR. HUGH GRANT: And so then if you --
7 the next table it says that a 2 percent real increase
8 in electricity rates, if I looked at this high-income
9 electricity again, would be plus point zero-seven
10 (.07).
11 And is that -- that is a fraction of a -
12 - of a percent of total spending it would go up by?
13 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes. Yes. That's
14 -- that's the -- that's the effect that we're measuring
15 by how much did electricity share of the -- of the
16 total consumption change.
17 DR. HUGH GRANT: So it would go from,
18 say, two point one (2.1) to two point one-eight (2.18).
19 Is that --
20 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes. Yeah.
21 DR. HUGH GRANT: And so anyways, I was
22 just trying to make sense of --
23 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yep. Hugh, just
24 don't forget that the -- the income or expenditure
25 elasticities in the table you're referring to are just

1 crude or raw elasticities. That is to say, they aren't
2 adjusting for the other things that we're adjusting for
3 in the -- in the next table, which is we're adjusting
4 for -- for household size and prices and a var -- and a
5 time trend and a variety of other things.
6 DR. HUGH GRANT: Yeah, I just picked
7 that out --
8 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: So this is a more
9 descriptive and crude -- crude measure in that sense.
10 DR. HUGH GRANT: Yeah, well, I was -- I
11 was trying to use these numbers and try to construct a
12 story to make sense of why I'd start drinking and
13 smoking a lot if I was a low-income family, or -- there
14 were some other sort of odd ones that were -- anyway,
15 but back to this other one.
16 Would I be correct to say electricity is
17 a given good? Or -- so in other words you're saying
18 this is a 2 percent increase in electricity rates for
19 high-income people, their total expenditure would go up
20 -- actually, the quantity of electricity consumed would
21 increase, if I read your numbers right.
22 And so I'm just worried about some of
23 the robustness of this.
24 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Model A and 'B' --
25 DR. HUGH GRANT: And so --

1 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: -- we're saying
2 that the -- with Model B or Model A as with the 2
3 percent increase in the price of electricity, that this
4 share that electricity represents of their total
5 consumption does increase.
6 DR. HUGH GRANT: But it also increases
7 by more than the actual increase in the price. And so
8 you get a -- if I read it right, it goes from two point
9 one (2.1) to two point one-seven (2.17), which is more
10 than a 2 percent increase. So it's -- it's an inferior
11 good that's so --
12 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: I -- I'm not sure
13 what you're doing there, but I don't think you can
14 convert the share, as it's represented there, directly
15 into a quantity. So that --
16 DR. HUGH GRANT: You're say --
17 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: -- I'm not sure you
18 can compare that result in -- in the tables from Models
19 A and 'B' to the results on the -- on the expenditure
20 elasticities. They're not -- they're not -- they're
21 conveying a similar message, but they're not on the
22 same units or scales.
23 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: That's true.
24 DR. HUGH GRANT: Okay. Then I don't
25 know how to interpret the elasticity. So I -- I'm

1 reading it is that if electricity rates went up by 2
2 percent that the fraction of the high-income household
3 spending would go from two point one (2.1) to two point
4 one-seven (2.17). And as a percentage increase then,
5 that's actually more than --
6 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: So you're talking
7 about the elasticity estimate in the first table?
8 DR. HUGH GRANT: I'm talking about the
9 --
10 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Point -- point
11 five-nine (.59)?
12 DR. HUGH GRANT: No, I'm using the two
13 point one (2.1). High-income households spend two
14 point one (2.1) of their income --
15 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Right.
16 DR. HUGH GRANT: -- on electricity.
17 And then in the next table it says --
18 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: It -- it says this
19 is really -- the elasticity there is just saying that
20 if income goes up 10 percent, then consumption of
21 electricity goes up 6 percent.
22 DR. HUGH GRANT: No, I'm not using that
23 part. I'm just using the two point one (2.1) figure.
24 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: So you're --
25 DR. HUGH GRANT: I'm a high-income

1 family --

2 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yeah.

3 DR. HUGH GRANT: -- I -- I spend 2.1

4 percent of my income on electricity. Then rates go up

5 by 2 percent. And the next table is telling me that,

6 if I'm reading it right, and I'm not sure that I am,

7 that my -- as a high-income family, my consumption of

8 electricity goes up to 2.17 percent.

9 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Consumption share --

10 DR. HUGH GRANT: Share.

11 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: -- of total budget

12 --

13 DR. HUGH GRANT: Yeah.

14 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: -- of total

15 consumption.

16 DR. HUGH GRANT: Yeah, but it's -- it's

17 increasing at a greater percentage than the actual

18 increase in electricity rates. So in other words, I'm

19 -- it would imply that I'm actually going to consume

20 more electricity than I did before, which is -- I'm

21 sure there's a story to tell.

22 I mean, in any event, I -- I'm -- it --

23 it could well be I'm just reading the table

24 incorrectly, but the one thing I was worried about,

25 though, and I'm not sure -- you didn't mention about

1 trying to use this data from the last decade to
2 forecast what would happen in the event of -- and
3 that's what concerned me a little bit, because you're
4 using a -- a time per -- you know, a relatively short
5 time period when electricity prices moved by only plus
6 or minus 5 to 6 percent, right?
7 And so, for example, suppose we were
8 calculating a price elasticity or income elasticity,
9 and we think of -- you're -- you're measuring the
10 elasticity at a very particular point along a demand
11 curve or along an Engel's curve.
12 And as we know, if you -- you then
13 change the time period to thirty-four (34) years, and
14 look at price increases in the range -- sorry,
15 seventeen (17) years, and price increases in the range
16 of 34 percent, those sorts of elasticity estimates just
17 aren't valid to project them that far out.
18 Is -- would -- am I wrong on that?
19 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Well, I -- I think
20 you're -- you're making a good point, but it also
21 illustrates the point that -- that the -- there's two
22 (2) different things going on here. One (1) of them is
23 the income or expenditure elasticity estimate, which is
24 across the broad range of incomes of Manitoba
25 households.

1 That is probably not going to change all
2 that much over time. There may be greater inequality,
3 there may be less inequality, but that variation is
4 going to be pretty wide. That is wide.
5 On the other hand, the Models A and 'B'
6 are relying in particular on the variation in real
7 prices, which, you're right, is relatively small, and
8 that was why I said that there are probably a number of
9 other jurisdictions where there have been more dramatic
10 changes in prices in short periods of time where there
11 probably are better what economists would call
12 identification strategies -- strategies for seeing how
13 consumers react.
14 In the long term, we think that
15 consumers will react to prices once they begin to see
16 them accumulate, but obviously, relatively small real
17 price changes in electricity over a short period of
18 time may not be that apparent to consumers who, let's
19 face it, by and large, probably don't pay a lot of
20 attention until it really starts to hit them over the
21 head or somebody else says, Hey, did you notice that?
22 DR. HUGH GRANT: So these -- but -- so
23 when elasticity is specific to a -- I'm going to say a
24 point on a demand curve as well as the time frame for
25 analysis, would that be correct?

1 I guess I'm just saying, if this had
2 been -- suppose you were looking at gasoline prices and
3 people's behaviour over the last decade, and prices
4 went up and prices went down, and I didn't do anything
5 about my gas-guzzling car.
6 But now you tell me that over the next
7 seventeen (17) years, gas pli -- gasoline prices are
8 going to increase quite steadily, now I go, Time to get
9 rid of my car. So that my behaviour is going to be
10 quite different than this past experience would
11 suggest. Is that okay?
12 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.
13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Similar question, but
14 I would expect -- intuitively, I would expect that as
15 rates increase, the elasticity would vary, likely would
16 -- the effect would be increased as rates go up. But
17 at -- at some point, the elasticity would start
18 decreasing, wouldn't it, because you have to spend
19 money to -- to get electricity to heat your home?
20 You -- I mean, you can't -- this --
21 there comes a point where you can't respond to an
22 increase in rates, and you have to -- and you basically
23 have to accept the rate that's -- that you're being
24 asked to pay, right? I mean...
25 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yeah. A good point

1 here is that a lot of models con -- models of
2 consumption behaviour introduce adding up constraints,
3 which say that, you know, these things have to add up
4 to a certain amount so that as -- as prices change over
5 time, consumption has to -- has to add up to 100
6 percent.
7 But I think you're also making the point
8 that, as you get further -- closer and closer to a
9 hundred percent for one (1) item, consumers are going
10 to have to make some sort of decision on that item, and
11 we don't really reflect that here.
12 As Harvey said earlier, probably the
13 best estimates of the effects are for the relatively
14 short term, but I think the direction of the effects,
15 both in terms of the income elasticity, which says that
16 the low-income households spend more on electricity as
17 a percentage share, and the -- the regression results,
18 which say that if you increase electricity prices, low-
19 income households will spend more, they have a higher
20 share of electricity in their expenditure, are -- are
21 both consistent with -- with what we would expect to
22 observe without drawing direct comparability from two
23 (2) different estimates.
24 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair, if --
25 if I might, feel free to ask these questions of this

1 panel. I just note that when Dr. Gotham appears with
2 our panel on -- on Friday, he may have some interesting
3 insights on the same issue.
4 DR. HUGH GRANT: I hate to give up this
5 opportunity. I guess what struck me was actually how
6 small the total expenditure on electricity was, but I
7 guess I shouldn't have been, knowing what Manitoba
8 Hydro's revenue is from residential sales.
9 But would I be correct, though, that 2
10 percent on something that's 3 percent of your budget
11 isn't a huge -- a 2 percent increase on something
12 that's 3 percent of your budget isn't a huge impact on
13 your overall income? I'm not trying to trivialize some
14 of the evidence we heard, you know, earlier today,
15 which was quite significant, but it's not a big change
16 in your overall income. Would that be correct?
17 Now, I -- I granted that, compounded
18 over seventeen (17) years, I think, the way I calculate
19 it, it's about a 1 point -- 1.4 percent decrease in
20 your real income, but not -- were you surprised that it
21 wasn't of a greater magnitude?
22 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: I -- personally,
23 when I -- I don't have the background in -- in this
24 whole subject matter area to have -- have a -- a
25 context for assessing whether it was small or -- or

1 large.

2 DR. HUGH GRANT: I guess I just --

3 sorry, I don't want to belabour this, but the first

4 table I thought was, you know, quite interesting, and I

5 was just surprised to see that people spend more on

6 alcohol and tobacco than they do on electricity.

7 You know, it was -- I guess that's what

8 kind of --

9 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: M-hm.

10 DR. HUGH GRANT: -- struck me in terms

11 of the -- the magnitude of spending and the allocation

12 of spending.

13 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Oh, I -- well, one

14 (1) thing is that the tobacco and alcohol includes

15 fairly significance in taxes, which have been going up

16 fairly dramatically.

17 DR. HUGH GRANT: Can I ask if you spend

18 more on... I'm just -- I'm just trying to draw upon my

19 handful of friends that I have, and, you know, -- I'll

20 -- I'll leave it at that.

21 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: I won't comment.

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I think

23 that's all the questions the panel has for now, so I'll

24 turn the microphone over to -- to you, Mr. Gange.

25

1 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. WILLIAM GANGE:
2 MR. WILLIAM GANGE: Thank you. Dr.
3 Simpson, I think you may have answered this question in
4 -- in one (1) of your last answers to Dr. Grant, but
5 the -- the elasticity's -- did I hear you say they're
6 intended to be short-term? You're not -- you're not
7 attempting to do a long-term analysis of the
8 elasticities.
9 Is that correct, sir?
10 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Well, the only
11 elasticities actually estimated is the ones in the
12 first table, which are related to income.
13 MR. WILLIAM GANGE: Yes.
14 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: And I would think
15 that those are reflective of what you would consider
16 long-term elasticities. That is to say that they
17 probably reflect income patterns that have endured over
18 a fairly long period of time, and the resulting
19 consumption patterns would give an indication of how
20 households have spent in the past, and -- and how they
21 would likely spend in the future with comparable
22 distribution of income across households in Manitoba.
23 MR. WILLIAM GANGE: Okay. I must have
24 misunderstood one (1) of those answers. But -- and on
25 that elasticity question, is the elasticity that you've

1 listed on -- on the first table on page 4, so the one
2 that's on the screen, is that the same -- the -- the
3 elasticity is the same? It applies low income, near
4 low income, and higher income?
5 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: This -- this is an
6 elasticity that is calculated across the income scale,
7 and basically says that as you go up the income scale,
8 the -- a 10 percent increase in income, on average,
9 just corresponds to only a 6 percent increase in
10 electricity expenditure.
11 And that's reflected -- because it's
12 less than 10 percent, that's reflected in the declining
13 share of electricity in household expenditure as you go
14 from one (1) group, the low income, to the near-low
15 income, to the higher income. So that's what that's
16 describing.
17 MR. WILLIAM GANGE: Okay.
18 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: There are some
19 other areas where there are -- obviously are non-
20 linearities that are confounding that, but in the
21 electricity it seems quite clear. You move to higher
22 income across the -- moving from -- reading from left
23 to right across the bolded electricity row, you move to
24 lower expenditures in electricity because the
25 elasticity is -- is below one (1).

1 MR. WILLIAM GANGE: Okay. Thank you.
2 If we could go to CAC Exhibit 54. That was this
3 morning.
4
5 (BRIEF PAUSE)
6
7 MR. WILLIAM GANGE: So, Mr. Stevens and
8 -- and Dr. Simpson, I -- I'm not sure if, during your
9 review, you reviewed the different development plans
10 that had been put forward by Manitoba Hydro.
11 Had -- had you done that?
12 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: No, we didn't.
13 For the purpose of this analysis we...
14 MR. WILLIAM GANGE: Okay. This was --
15 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: I could say that I
16 have before -- purpose will be revealed on Friday, if
17 they haven't been already.
18 MR. WILLIAM GANGE: Okay. Thank you.
19 Then -- then, Dr. Simpson, maybe I'll -- I'll address
20 these to you. This Exhibit 54 was presented this
21 morning by CAC, and it talks about the projected annual
22 bills based on the original filing. And there was
23 commentary about the different impacts, and some of
24 them increase quicker at the start, and some of them
25 have a -- have a sharper increase near the -- the end

1 of this chart.
2 But with respect to your report, does
3 your report have any -- does -- does it have
4 implications with respect to the choices between the
5 development plans in -- in terms of which development
6 plan is -- is potentially preferable?
7 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Our -- our report
8 says that plans which generate a higher -- higher rate
9 increases, especially in the short term I suppose, if
10 you want to read the estimates as applying more
11 strongly at the short term, would have more detrimental
12 impacts on lower income families than higher income
13 families. I could say a lot of other things that I'm
14 probably going to say on Friday, but --
15 MR. WILLIAM GANGE: Okay.
16 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: -- I'll just leave
17 it at that.
18 MR. WILLIAM GANGE: Okay. If you look
19 at the column that's 2024/2025 we see that the -- the
20 projected annual bills in that column are fourteen
21 forty-nine (1,449), fourteen forty-eight (1,448),
22 fourteen sixty (1,460), and fifteen thirty-one (1,531).
23 So by my math there's -- with respect to these four (4)
24 plans, the swing is less than a hundred dollars on an
25 annual basis.

1 You'd agree with that, sir?
2 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.
3 MR. WILLIAM GANGE: Is that -- is that
4 swing of a hundred dollars on an annual basis
5 significant in any way?
6 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: That was the
7 average consumer, and part of the point of our
8 presentation is to -- is to say that low income
9 consumers in proportionate terms will be impacted more
10 than higher income consumers, so they're all conflated
11 in this -- in these numbers.
12 MR. WILLIAM GANGE: Yes.
13 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: So that really is
14 one of the -- is the major objective of the report that
15 we presented.
16 MR. WILLIAM GANGE: But in terms of --
17 of what we've discussed about elasticities, and if the
18 difference for a low income family is -- is less than a
19 hundred dollars in this category, doesn't that fall
20 within the elasticity factor?
21 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Well, this speaks
22 to the impact on rates of four (4) different plans,
23 four (4) different development plans. I think with the
24 original NFAT data, not -- not revised numbers from --
25 from --

1 MR. WILLIAM GANGE: Yes, you're right,
2 sirs.
3 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: -- it's only the
4 original data, and there are some significant
5 revisions. And it says that out ten (10) years or so
6 the -- the increases for Plan 14 are more than any of
7 the others, but not a whole lot more.
8 And the implication of that for the
9 average household is that it -- there isn't a whole lot
10 in it, but they would probably prefer less to more, and
11 that the impact is -- from our results, the impact is
12 larger for low -- in -- in proportionate terms, to
13 their budget for low-income households than high-income
14 households, so they would more strongly feel that way.
15 MR. WILLIAM GANGE: And if -- let's
16 take it for granted that the impact is going to be
17 greater on low-income families. Do you have any
18 recommendations as to mitigation steps that might be
19 taken for low-income families to -- to deal with this?
20 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Well, I do social
21 policy, so there's -- for example, in -- in British
22 Columbia and Ontario, when the provincial sales tax was
23 rolled into the federal GST as a harmonized sales tax,
24 and subsequently turned back into a provincial sales
25 tax in British Columbia because of the recall

1 legislation, what was done based on the argument that
2 this would hurt low-income consumers more than high-
3 income consumers was there was a -- a distribution of a
4 transitional HST credit that was -- to low-income
5 consumers based on income, much the way we transfer
6 income for the guaranteed income supplement to seniors
7 based on income. We transfer it to families with
8 children. We have a national child benefits that's
9 also conditional on income.
10 So those kinds of plans could be
11 developed to offset the impacts on low-income
12 households, or they could be rolled into other programs
13 which transfer income to -- to low-income households
14 for -- for other purposes.
15 MR. WILLIAM GANGE: And -- and this may
16 be beyond your expertise, sir, but I'm going to venture
17 onto this ice no matter now thin, and that is:
18 In -- in your studies and -- and your
19 analysis of these -- of -- of energy issues, sir, have
20 you considered the -- the concept of -- of conservation
21 rates where a lower rate is provided for the initial
22 block of energy, so that those people that don't use as
23 much energy end up paying less for that initial block
24 of energy?
25 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yeah, the block --

1 block pricing.

2 MR. WILLIAM GANGE: Yes, sir.

3 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: I think you could

4 play around with block pricing and those kinds of

5 pricing strategies and it might, on balance, help low-

6 income households.

7 But if your real concern is about low-

8 income households, most of the work I've done suggests

9 that you should con -- do the transfers on the basis --

10 condition them on income, not on prices, because

11 there's going to be a lot of spillover there in

12 unintended ways to other consumers who don't have low

13 incomes.

14 MR. WILLIAM GANGE: Thank you, sir.

15 Those are my questions.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: But I want to get to

17 the point that Mr. Gange was getting at initially. 20

18 -- 2024/'25, you know, the difference between the top -

19 - the -- the highest rate increase versus the lowest

20 increase is virtually, you know, less than a hundred

21 dollars. So I guess the differentiation in response

22 from consumers to that variation is virtually nil. I

23 mean, what's more important is the scale of the

24 increase for all of these plans over time rather than

25 the -- attempting to differentiate the rate increases

1 amongst plans at that time frame.

2 I mean, there would be virtually no --

3 no response from consumers relative to Plan 1 to Plan

4 14 at that time frame. Am I wrong there? I mean, a

5 hundred dollar difference is not going to change

6 consumption patterns a great deal. It's going to --

7 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: All we're basically

8 saying is the basis of -- of the report we've done, it

9 would probably change low income household's response

10 more than other income household's response, which I

11 don't think is surprising, because they're the most

12 income constrained.

13 I guess the other two (2) issues are --

14 I think there are new figures which -- which will yield

15 different mean outcomes for the different plans. And

16 thirdly, there are some questions about the variation

17 and possible outcomes of the different plans which, you

18 know, will have implications for -- probably feed into

19 rates. And so this one (1) number may not reflect the

20 amount of potential variability in rates and that would

21 probably -- again, would impact low income families

22 more than others.

23 In other words, if -- if one (1) of the

24 -- the plans had a much higher degree of volatility

25 around the number then -- and you really ended up with

1 a -- with a bad outcome, then -- then you would hurt
2 low income households the most.
3 DR. HUGH GRANT: Can I just pick up on
4 the one (1) thing you said in that context? So and I -
5 - did I hear you correctly to say if affordability of
6 electricity was our mai -- you know, was the focus of
7 concern, that the best way to address it would be
8 through some sort of say income tax based subsidy as
9 opposed to keeping rates lower than they otherwise
10 might be?
11 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Well, we're getting
12 into the whole idea of means tested, you know, negative
13 income tax, guaranteed annual income issues that --
14 that I've done a lot of work on with Derek Hum. And
15 most of that work and what most economists think about
16 these problems is that if you're concerned about the
17 hardships associated with poverty, with -- in
18 households with low income, that direct transfers are a
19 much wider way of dealing with that then trying to
20 fiddle around with prices which may have all sorts of
21 unintended consequences.
22 So, you know, it's -- it's a first best
23 target as opposed to a -- a second best target. And
24 the social policy literature is filled with all sorts
25 of -- of second best targets justified on the basis of

1 transferring income to low income households that have
2 turned out to be relatively ineffective. We could talk
3 about that all day.
4 DR. HUGH GRANT: Well, why don't we
5 then?
6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Me. Hacault, have you
7 got a lot of questions for these wit -- for these
8 witnesses? Because, you know, maybe we'll take a
9 coffee --
10 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: Probably five (5)
11 to ten (10) minutes.
12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Well, let's do them
13 now then.
14
15 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. ANTOINE HACAULT:
16 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: Now, I'm looking
17 at slide 4 of your presentation, gentlemen. And the
18 data that you've looked at under low income shows a 3.1
19 percent of the income being used for electricity,
20 correct? We've heard a couple presentations this
21 morning and -- and they may not be representative of
22 that data point, but I recall Ms. Hartley, for example,
23 who had to leave a bit early, saying that she had total
24 pension and other income of about twelve hundred
25 dollars ($1,200) a month, but her budget was about two

1 hundred and forty dollars ($240) per month in
2 electricity. That's closer to 20 percent if my math
3 is correct.
4 Does this study help us understand the
5 impact on a person like Ms. Hartley and the decisions
6 she might have to make on other household necessities?
7
8 (BRIEF PAUSE)
9
10 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Certainly the data
11 set that we looked at, yeah, her -- she would probably
12 be an extreme in terms of the -- the pattern. I mean,
13 her consumption level is obviously much higher than the
14 average observed even among low income households.
15 MS. MARILYN KAPITANY: Can I just make
16 the point here that it says shelter includes heat. And
17 most of the people we heard from this morning heat with
18 electricity.
19 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Right.
20 MS. MARILYN KAPITANY: So I'm not sure
21 you're picking up the effect that Me. Hacault is
22 speaking to.
23 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yeah. Well, I
24 think there's a point here, which is that when we've
25 categorized low income households there's -- like all

1 micro-data there's what we call a lot of heterogeneity.
2 That is to say there are some households in here that
3 Harvey's characterized as -- as outliers, and what
4 you've hit upon is a person who uses electricity to
5 heat their home and maybe for a variety of other
6 persons that -- or some other purposes we don't -- we
7 don't know about.
8 And that is not -- that is a long way
9 from the average. I mean, the average person here
10 spending 3.1 percent is not using electricity to heat
11 their home in Manitoba in the winter.
12
13 CONTINUED BY MR. ANTOINE HACAULT:
14 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: But you
15 acknowledge there is that sector of the population that
16 does exist in rural Manitoba? I don't have to go very
17 far. I'm not going to give evidence, but I was born
18 and raised close to Swan Lake Indian Reserve and also a
19 small town called Mariapolis, and those towns -- there
20 are -- would be towns like that in -- in rural Manitoba
21 that would be affected differently than this subdata
22 that you've picked up, correct?
23 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes.
24 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: And if I look at
25 slide 4, is -- when I see the minus 13 percent...

1 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Sorry, I was just
2 going to add to that. One thing that's not recorded in
3 the results -- I don't know if -- did you put in a --
4 is there a regression appendix that lists it where we
5 picked up the Winnipeg versus non Winnipeg number? And
6 I haven't looked at that number in a long while, but
7 that might give you some idea of the differential
8 effect that you're -- you're talking about.
9 Another thing is, of course, we didn't
10 but one could pick up the differential effect of style
11 of home -- of heat -- home heating, if one had that
12 data, and I don't know -- I can't remember if the
13 survey of household spending has that or not. But, in
14 any case, that wasn't part of our analysis.
15 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: But this analysis
16 does, if I understand it correctly, if I'm looking at
17 slide 4, it's pretty consistent with the testimony that
18 we heard this morning that low income and near-low
19 income people will have very difficult decisions to
20 make with budgets, because in the low income category
21 they're already overspending when you look at their
22 after tax income.
23 Is that fair?
24 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.
25 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes, that's

1 certainly one of the -- the household balance variable
2 clearly shows that. Yeah.
3 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: And if we move to
4 slide 6, one (1) of the themes that's talked about this
5 morning by certain pers -- people presenting, if I look
6 at the top column, is they may be making some decisions
7 with respect to some of their basic food purchases.
8 Am I reading this table correctly, as --
9 that if there's the 2 percent increase, and that's just
10 the one (1) year, it directionally seems to suggest
11 that people will have challenges in how much they spend
12 in food -- food purchased from stores? They'd be -- be
13 making decisions which would be counterintuitive, that
14 they don't have as much to spend?
15 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: That's certainly
16 what slide number 6 shows but slide -- slide 7 --
17 appeared on the screen, reverses that. You can see
18 that with the 2 percent increase in electricity, if you
19 include the change in the price of food there --
20 there's an increase in their consumption on food.
21 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: For the low
22 income --
23 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: For the low income
24 person. So the -- the two (2) models give different
25 results for the -- for the low income household.

1 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: And --

2 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: But certainly in

3 Model B they -- they reduce consumption in other areas

4 like shelter, and clothing, transportation. So those

5 are the shifts that -- in Model B that the -- the low

6 income household makes.

7 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: And both on this

8 slide 6 and slide 7, if we look at the education for

9 low income -- so if we flip back to slide 6, please,

10 Diana. In both indi -- both cases the low income

11 people appear to have less money or -- to spend on --

12 is this -- am I correct in saying post-secondary

13 education, or private education?

14 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: The -- within the

15 survey of household spending, education includes books

16 and supplies that the household would have to spend

17 that, you know, aren't included in the school, but also

18 includes tuition fees, which would probably be typical

19 of a higher income household.

20 And there were lots of households in the

21 sample that had no spending on education. Of -- of all

22 of the consumption items, education had the largest

23 percent of observations where there was no -- no

24 spending recorded on that particular item.

25 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: So if we're

1 looking at a macro level of effects of increase of
2 price in electricity rates, if -- does this analysis
3 show that perhaps the low income people might have less
4 to spend on education?
5 And if education's an important part of
6 a balancing act, that you're taking away by electricity
7 some of the positive education which might help them
8 get out of poverty?
9 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yeah, I think --
10 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes, yes.
11 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: -- that's a
12 reasonable conclusion to draw.
13 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.
14 MR. ANTOINE HACAULT: Thank you. Those
15 are all my questions.
16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Me.
17 Hacault. I think we should take ten (10) minutes for a
18 break.
19
20 --- Upon recessing at 3:10 p.m.
21 --- Upon resuming at 3:24 p.m.
22
23 THE CHAIRPERSON: I believe that most
24 people are in position, so I will turn the microphone
25 over to you, Mr. Orle. Please?

1 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. GEORGE ORLE:

2 MR. GEORGE ORLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3 Mr. Stevens, Dr. Simpson, I'm over here. I'll just --

4 I'll wave so you know where the voice is coming from.

5 My name is George Orle. I represent MKO, an

6 organization representing thirty (30) First Nations in

7 Northern Manitoba.

8 And I'm -- I'd like to just go to your

9 original report, which is CAC-31, Exhibit 31, at page

10 18. And I think they've got it on the screen for you,

11 so that you don't have a scramble about.

12 My first question is: Just in the --

13 the terminology used in Table number 4, would it be

14 correct that your wording of the -- the second part of

15 that first column, second lowest, does that correspond

16 to -- in your slide number 4 and 5, to the near-low

17 income category?

18 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: It -- it might.

19 Yeah, it's -- it's difficult to say because the -- the

20 low income thresholds are really a function of family

21 size as well as income, so I'm not sure what kind of an

22 overlap there would be.

23 But certainly the lowest income decile

24 would -- would cover most of what we've called the low

25 income near -- there would be a fair amount of overlap

1 between the two (2), but it wouldn't be a perfect
2 correspondence just because of the difference in the
3 way low income is measured.
4 MR. GEORGE ORLE: Okay. And -- but the
5 -- the one above it, the lowest, that -- that's
6 consistent with what you're using for the category of
7 low income on your slides?
8 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Well, I would
9 think that most people in the lowest income decile
10 would be considered -- would -- would fall into the low
11 income category in -- in slide number 4.
12 MR. GEORGE ORLE: Okay. In the -- on
13 the right-hand side of Table number 4, "Total on
14 Reserve Aboriginals," and you have that set out as a
15 percentage of 56.8 percent.
16 And those would be ones designated in
17 the lowest income category?
18 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: That's right.
19 MR. GEORGE ORLE: Okay. And I believe
20 that at the very beginning of your presentation you --
21 you made some qualification as to what parts of your
22 report actually apply to on reserve residents?
23 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: None of the
24 information that we provided from the survey of
25 household spending applies to on reserve Aboriginals.

1 MR. GEORGE ORLE: It doesn't apply or
2 you don't have the information?
3 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: It does not apply.
4 They were -- they were never included by Statistics
5 Canada in those surveys.
6 MR. GEORGE ORLE: Okay. The category
7 of, "Winnipeg Aboriginals," which you have at 24.2
8 percent, under the lowest category, would they fall
9 within the parameters of your survey?
10 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes, they would
11 have been included in that survey.
12 MR. GEORGE ORLE: Okay. And do you
13 have any reason to believe that the -- the spending
14 patterns of the Winnipeg Aboriginals would be that much
15 different than on reserve Aboriginals?
16 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Oh, I would think
17 so because one (1) of the key differences is that
18 Aboriginals living off reserve pay for shelter. And
19 most Aboriginals living on reserve, it's my
20 understanding, don't pay for shelter. I mean, their --
21 their housing -- their housing is free. They -- they
22 will pay for utilities, but they don't pay rent or --
23 or mortgage payments.
24 So that -- that's a big difference
25 between the two (2) populations, and it's one (1) of

1 the major reasons why low income isn't measured on
2 reserve because you have things like shelter that --
3 for which the -- the household doesn't pay an actual
4 rent or -- or mortgage payment.
5 MR. GEORGE ORLE: Well, they -- they
6 pay in a way. It's a communal form of ownership.
7 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: M-hm.
8 MR. GEORGE ORLE: So it's not that you
9 can break it down to -- to an actual house. But there
10 is a cost. There is a cost for shelter in a First
11 Nations's community.
12 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: M-hm.
13 MR. GEORGE ORLE: And the -- as far as
14 you know, the electrical costs are borne primarily by
15 the resident as opposed to the community?
16 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: I don't know that
17 information. That's outside my scope of knowledge.
18 MR. GEORGE ORLE: All right. So when -
19 - I was curious why -- why you would include the -- the
20 table and the -- the low-income categories for on
21 reserve Aboriginals if nothing in your report is
22 applicable to them.
23 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: This was written
24 as a context piece about the low-income population in
25 Manitoba. And because the -- the typical Statistics

1 Canada surveys don't include the on reserve population,
2 I wanted to go to other income sour -- information
3 sources like the National Household Survey just to --
4 to provide some context for the income circumstances of
5 -- of people living on reserve.
6 MR. GEORGE ORLE: Okay.
7 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: The point I was
8 trying to make is that the on reserve population has --
9 has much lower incomes than -- than do the -- the off
10 reserve population. That -- that certainly, you know,
11 our -- our findings with respect to the behaviour of
12 low-income households, you would -- you would find far
13 more of them living on reserve than off reserve --
14 MR. GEORGE ORLE: Okay.
15 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: -- a large
16 proportion of the population on reserve being low
17 income.
18 MR. GEORGE ORLE: Okay. The
19 communities that I'm representing are all serviced by
20 Hydro. There is no gas. Other than some wood stove
21 use, electricity is the primary source of -- of heat,
22 light, whatever.
23 Would your first part of the summary
24 regarding electricity being a basic necessity for low-
25 income households apply just in general to -- to these

1 communities of what you know right now? You would
2 still be prepared to call it a basic necessity?
3 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes.
4 MR. GEORGE ORLE: Okay. And to the
5 extent that it does form a portion of their overall
6 expenses, a rise in excess of the cost of living would
7 have an effect upon the proportion of their electrical
8 cost to other necessities.
9 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: I -- I would think
10 that they would -- certainly, as -- as prices increase,
11 they would -- they would respond, I'm thinking, in --
12 in a somewhat similar fashion to other low-income
13 households.
14 MR. GEORGE ORLE: Okay. Thank you.
15 Those are all the questions I have gentlemen. Thank
16 you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: I'm wondering if I
18 could intervene at this point. I -- I wanted to make a
19 point with respect to Mr. Gange's questioning of Dr.
20 Simpson regarding how to respond to price increases of
21 electricity for low-income households. And we had
22 talked about the merits of -- of changing the price of
23 electricity versus income supports.
24 I just wanted to make the further
25 observation that, in general terms, any measures that

1 can reduce a low-income household's expenditure on
2 electricity would -- would serve the same person --
3 purpose. And in that regard, the demand-side
4 management programs that were targeted to low-income
5 households would have the desired effect of -- of
6 making them less -- less vulnerable to price increases
7 of electricity. It would cushion that impact by
8 allowing them to -- to reduce their consumption of
9 electricity, just as an additional measure that could
10 be looked at to -- to address the -- the impact that
11 we've observed of increases in the price of electricity
12 on low income households.
13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you for that.
14 Unfortunately Mr. Gange is not here at the moment, so
15 he'll have to rely on the transcript to inform himself
16 about what you just said. So with that, I'll turn the
17 microphone over to Me. Monnin. If you have any
18 questions?
19 MR. CHRISTIAN MONNIN: Merci, Mr.
20 President. We have no questions. Thank you.
21 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: Mr. Chairman --
22 THE CHAIRPERSON: I'm sorry, I missed --
23 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: -- I don't think Ms.
24 Saunders had an opportunity --
25 THE CHAIRPERSON: I'm sorry, Ms.

1 Saunders I -- I apologize. I missed you.

2

3 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS:

4 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Thank you,

5 Mr. Chair. Doctors. (sic), I just have a few short

6 questions. Jessica Saunders. I represent the Manitoba

7 Metis Federation.

8 My Friend, Mr. Orle, asked you some

9 questions regarding Aboriginal peoples. And if we

10 could just go back to CAC Exhibit 31, page 18. So can

11 you confirm whether the Statistics Canada national

12 house -- household survey data that you relied on here

13 for the category, Winnipeg Aboriginals, do you know if

14 there was any distinction made between Metis and First

15 Nation in that category when the reference

16 'Aboriginals' is used for Winnipeg Aboriginals?

17 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: That publication -

18 - yes, it did have a break out by Metis, non-status

19 Indians, registered Indians. I didn't -- obviously I

20 didn't reflect that -- that distinction in this table.

21 So -- but Winnipeg Aboriginals would include all

22 Aboriginals, including Metis, yes.

23 MS. JESSICA SAUNDERS: Thank you very

24 much. Those are all my questions.

25 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yeah.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Ms.
2 Saunders. With that, Ms. Boyd, please.
3
4 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. MARLA BOYD:
5 MS. MARLA BOYD: Thank you. Good
6 afternoon, gentlemen. I just have a very few questions
7 for you, but first off, do I understand correctly that
8 your analysis excludes the impact of DSM on household
9 consumption?
10 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes, it does.
11 MS. MARLA BOYD: And it also assumes no
12 changes in consumption patterns over the seventeen (17)
13 years you considered, correct?
14 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: No. We -- we
15 didn't -- yeah, we -- we had no -- we had no way of
16 understanding what those changes would be. So the
17 analysis was based on the observed behaviour of
18 households in that 2000 to 2009 period.
19 MS. MARLA BOYD: The purpose of your
20 evidence was not to compare the impacts on low-income
21 customers of rate increases resulted from the Preferred
22 Development Plan as compared to rate impacts of
23 alternatives.
24 Is that right?
25 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: That's correct.

1 MS. MARLA BOYD: And can I ask you to
2 confirm that -- ideally, that no relative price changes
3 in all items other than electricity would make it
4 easier to isolate the impacts of the electric price
5 changes in your analysis.
6 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: The -- the sort of
7 thought experiment, because afer all these are thought
8 experiments based on data, that is going on here is to
9 say -- when you talk about real prices, like the real
10 price of electricity, what you're saying is that if we
11 think the consumer price index is going to go up 2
12 percent a year that's the all items index.
13 So we're thinking that other prices,
14 everything other than electricity, goes up 2 percent a
15 year, but electricity goes up 4 percent a year, which
16 is what the projection is in the NFAT, then what is the
17 impact on households in terms of consumption pattern.
18 So that is -- is the -- the thought
19 experiment that's going on based upon the projections
20 both, I guess, Bank of Canada on the 2 percent
21 inflation and Hydro on the 4 percent price of
22 electricity. We're not saying a lot about other
23 prices, but implicitly we're saying that if -- if all
24 items are going up 2 percent, all items are going up 2
25 percent. We're not differentiating amongst those

1 items.

2 MS. MARLA BOYD: And my suggestion was

3 that if everything else stayed constant it would be

4 easier to see the impacts of electric price changes.

5 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: That's right. And

6 that's one of the reasons why the -- the Model B

7 includes both the price of electricity and the price of

8 other items to see what has happened in the past in

9 that regard.

10 MS. MARLA BOYD: And during the period

11 2000 to 2009 when you looked at that data, you can

12 confirm that some of the other variables, such as

13 natural gas, cigarette taxes, or gasoline, showed what

14 could be described as fairly erratic movements over

15 that period?

16 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes. Yes, they

17 certainly did.

18 MS. MARLA BOYD: And that would to the

19 challenges of doing regression analysis, true?

20 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes, but that was

21 the reason why we also went to Model B is to in --

22 incorporate the -- the effect of those price changes on

23 -- on the consumption patters.

24 MS. MARLA BOYD: And when we look at

25 the out --

1 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Just to add to
2 that, in principle from -- from an econometric
3 standpoint, the wider variability isn't a bad thing.
4 And as I said earlier, probably the -- the most
5 respected, if not possibly the most reliable estimates,
6 for example, of price elasticity, have been cases where
7 there was a fairly dramatic change in prices and we
8 observed what consumers do.
9 Because if the price changes are small
10 then it's -- it's harder to see exactly what's
11 happening, because often you can't get the consumer's
12 attention on those matters.
13
14 (BRIEF PAUSE)
15
16 MS. MARLA BOYD: Do you draw a
17 distinction in that between erratic price changes where
18 the -- for example, the cigarette taxes went up and
19 then went back down, or natural gas prices spiked up
20 and then went back down, as compared to a large
21 increase over time, a more gradual curve that's larger
22 in -- in total?
23 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: I -- I think you'd
24 probably more consistently observe behaviour with the -
25 - the latter scenario than the former. I -- I take

1 your point of erratic. I interpret it as simply
2 volatile.
3 But there would be a distinction between
4 what consumers would do in the short-term and the long-
5 term. And if prices shot up in one (1) period and then
6 dropped in the next period, it's quite conceivable that
7 that would have less affect then if they -- they
8 gradually increased over time the way electricity
9 prices are projected to do.
10 MS. MARLA BOYD: And if we could just
11 turn up slide 7 of your presentation for a moment.
12 This is the output of your Model B, as I understand it.
13 Looking at the household balance at the bottom, does it
14 -- would you agree that it's somewhat unusual that you
15 would see that the higher income customers would appear
16 to have an increase in their household balance as a
17 result of a 2 percent increase in electricity prices?
18 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: I'd have to look
19 at Model A, which I've lost on my screen here.
20 MS. MARLA BOYD: It's on slide 6 on the
21 screen. Yeah.
22 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: My one (1) comment
23 would be the -- the results are consistent. I mean,
24 you see the same sign, an increase for -- for higher
25 income households in terms of -- of household balance

1 than in -- in both models when you do and don't control
2 for the -- the prices of the -- the other commodities
3 in the -- in the household basket.
4 My general comment would be that -- that
5 higher income households, you know, have -- have
6 greater flexibility in terms of how they allocate
7 consumption than -- than do the lower income
8 households. And that may well explain the -- the
9 difference in the signs that -- that higher income
10 households are able to improve their household balance
11 even in the face of higher electricity prices in the
12 lower income households.
13 MS. MARLA BOYD: That's not an expected
14 result in your model, is it, a positive result there?
15 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: I didn't have any
16 expectations.
17 MS. MARLA BOYD: So it would be for
18 customers who don't fall into the low or near-low
19 income customers? Good news that Hydro was to increase
20 their rates by 2 percent, because their household
21 balance would go up?
22 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: I -- I guess the
23 interpretation is that the higher income households
24 would -- who don't spend as much as a share in
25 electricity anyway would -- would save more. Yeah,

1 it's a slightly -- I mean, data's always messy and --
2 and that result is -- is a bit surprising in the sense
3 that you'd -- I would have predicted it to be zero, not
4 positive, but I don't know that I would have predicted
5 it to be negative.
6
7 (BRIEF PAUSE)
8
9 MS. MARLA BOYD: Thank you, gentlemen.
10 Those are our questions.
11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Ms. Boyd.
12 Mr. Hombach, please?
13
14 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SVEN HOMBACH:
15 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: Thank you. Could we
16 put slide 8 from your presentation up on the screen,
17 please.
18 You reached the conclusion that
19 electricity is a basic necessity for low-income
20 households in Manitoba. Is it fair to say that
21 electricity would be a necessity for households of any
22 income in Manitoba?
23 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: From one (1) --
24 from one (1) point of view, yes. It -- it's something
25 that one cannot do without. I think if we -- if we

1 look at the concept of elasticity, it's -- what that's
2 telling us, it's more of a basic necessity for the low
3 -income household than it is for the -- for the non-low
4 income household.
5 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: And can you explain
6 how you reached that conclusion, that it's more of a
7 basic necessity for low-income households? Are you
8 basing that on the percentage of the annual budget?
9 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yeah, we're basing
10 it on the elasticity measure. It's the behaviour of
11 the -- the low -- it's -- it's the behaviour of
12 households as their income varies to -- to how they
13 increase or -- their -- their spending on electricity.
14 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: But you're --
15 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: There's two (2)
16 things going on here. One (1) is the base -- the
17 notion that everyone needs electricity and will have it
18 in their household. And that was one (1) of the
19 reasons why when households reported no spenditure
20 (sic) on electricity we treat it as missing data. But
21 -- in other words, it was buried somewhere.
22 But on the other hand, there's the
23 notation of necessity that -- necessities that comes
24 out of the literature, the standard principles of
25 economics discussion of income expenditure

1 elasticities, which says that, if the income or
2 expenditure elasticity is less than one (1), then as
3 incomes go up people spend less and less on this item
4 because it was a necessity to begin with, so they spent
5 more of it at the initial stages at the lower incomes.
6 That -- that's -- so those are two (2)
7 kind of different -- somewhat different concepts of
8 using the -- the same word.
9 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: And appreciating
10 that there are several economists on the Board,
11 unfortunately, I myself are not one (1) of them, when
12 you're talking about inelasticity or necessities are
13 you making the assumption that whenever the elasticity
14 is less than one (1) you're dealing with an inelastic
15 good?
16 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: An incoming elastic
17 good, which is colloquially called a necessity.
18 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: Right. Let's go to
19 slide 4 of your presentation. You reached the
20 conclusion that for electricity you're dealing with an
21 elasticity of point five nine (.59), and I'm curious as
22 to where that number comes from, specifically. Is that
23 Canada-wide data or is it specific Manitoba data?
24 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: We calculated this
25 on the survey of household spending data for that ten

1 (10) year period.

2 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: In Manitoba?

3 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: In Manitoba, yes.

4 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: So you're not in a

5 position to advise whether that elasticity would change

6 at higher prices? Like let's say if you compared a

7 jurisdiction that had rates that are twice the rates

8 Manitoba currently has which does exist in Canada, you

9 can't speak to what the electric -- the elasticity

10 points would be at that price range?

11 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: We think it'd be

12 less than one (1) because we think elect --

13 electricity's a necessity, good, but the number will

14 likely vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. How

15 much? We don't -- we don't know.

16 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: Okay. And the

17 number that we see on the slide, the point five nine

18 (.59), that's across the range of incomes, is it not?

19 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes, it is.

20 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: Okay. Did you break

21 it down at all into elasticity to be expected for low

22 income households as opposed to higher income

23 households?

24 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: No, we didn't

25 because, you know, typically, the elasticity measure,

1 to do -- to calculate that properly, you need -- you
2 need the full range of incomes. So if we confined it
3 just to the low income portion you'd have a very
4 restricted range of incomes against which to -- to look
5 at the changes in the expenditure on -- on electricity.
6 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: All right. If we
7 look on the same slide at the bottom, you indicate that
8 low income households are carrying a deficit of 13
9 percent. We all know that deficits are not sustainable
10 in the long-run.
11 Can you speak to the time period that
12 households generally are low income? Does it encompass
13 people -- or households that are permanently stuck in
14 the low income phase, or are you assuming that this is
15 a temporary phase?
16 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: I don't know what
17 the data -- a couple of things. First of all, the --
18 the data that we had was only -- was cross-sectional,
19 so this doesn't track the same household over a period
20 of time. So the data set that we used for this
21 analysis doesn't allow us to determine the duration of
22 -- of low-income spells.
23 But comparable data from the survey of
24 labour income dynamic shows that the majority of -- of
25 families and households experience spells of poverty

1 lasting two (2) years, three (3) years at most.
2 There's a very small proportion of households and
3 families that -- that are in a low income position for
4 multiple years of time.
5 So the -- typically the spells of low
6 income are -- are fairly short, two (2) or -- two (2) -
7 - household debts low income in -- in any period of
8 time would experience that condition for on average a
9 couple of years. I'm going from memory now. I -- I'd
10 have to go back to those -- those reports to -- to
11 confirm those numbers.
12 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: To be clear, when
13 you're referring to low income in your presentation
14 you're using a LIM?
15 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes.
16 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: Okay. This Board in
17 the past has on several occasions received evidence
18 that was based on LICO. Can you please provide a brief
19 description to the panel on what the key distinctions
20 are between the LIM test and the LICO test?
21 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Certainly. With
22 the LICO, it's -- it's a rather convoluted process for
23 determining that, but essentially Statistics Canada
24 determines -- I forget the most recent numbers -- that
25 the average Canadian family, and they -- they use

1 what's called an economic family as their -- their
2 definition, the typical family spends 42 percent of its
3 aft -- after tax income on the bas -- basic necessities
4 of food, clothing, and shelter.
5 So some forty (40) years ago when this
6 measure was first created, they arbitrarily decided to
7 say that if a household was spending 20 percent more of
8 its budget than that average. So in this case it was
9 spending 62 percent or more of its total income on
10 basic necessities. It was then deemed to be low
11 income. And then it looked at the -- the level of
12 income at which the household would be spending that 62
13 percent, and they defined that as -- as the -- the LICO
14 threshold.
15 The -- by comparison, the LIM measures
16 is much simpler. It simply takes the median income of
17 all families in Canada, or in this case households, and
18 it says if -- the median being that point -- that level
19 of income at which half the population has less than
20 that and half has more, and it says if you -- if your
21 income is one half (1/2) of the median then you're
22 deemed to be low income.
23 So it's strictly an income measure. The
24 LIM doesn't have any reference to the cost of
25 purchasing basic necessities. It's a comp -- what --

1 it's what we call a completely relative measure.
2 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: Is Manitoba a
3 jurisdiction with the cost of living lower than the
4 average in Canada, or higher? Do you know?
5 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: It -- it is
6 certainly a shelter. It's -- it's lower, yes.
7 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: In your view, would
8 that affect the benefits of using this test at all if
9 the test is developed based on Canada-wide standards,
10 but you're looking at a specific jurisdiction with a
11 lower cost of living?
12 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Well, I was just
13 going to say that that would apply to both measures.
14 The LICO doesn't have a regional component. It's based
15 on family size and size of the community. And so
16 Winnipeg gets lumped in with Vancouver and Toronto,
17 which is one of the problems of it which carries over
18 into the LIM, as well.
19 The market basket measure that the
20 federal government has produced that Harvey has written
21 on elsewhere is the only one that deals with that --
22 with that issue. But it -- it would be more difficult
23 to incorporate that in this type of analysis.
24 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: In conducting the
25 analysis that you conducted, is it fair to say that one

1 (1) of the most difficult aspect is to distinguish
2 between causation and correlation?
3 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: That's -- that's
4 always difficult. Unless you do a randomized
5 experiment, you -- you know, that's probably the only
6 research method that's capable of identifying
7 causation: whether a particular factor causes something
8 or not.
9 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: Okay.
10
11 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Cross-sectional
12 analyses rely on, you know, the observed correlations,
13 and the -- the effect of -- of different factors on
14 those observed correlations.
15 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Just -- I could
16 add. This -- this is always a big issue in
17 interpreting empirical research, and it's gotten a lot
18 more attention in recent years from economists. And
19 that's why, when I was talking earlier, for example,
20 about measuring price elasticities, I said that there
21 are probably better places in Manitoba to gauge
22 consumer responses because we have situations where we
23 have often what is referred to as a natural experiment
24 where, for one (1) reason or another, there have been
25 fairly large and unanticipated changes in prices that

1 have been documented where they've measured consumer
2 responses of the sort that we haven't had as much of in
3 Manitoba as elsewhere.
4 And for that reason, what I call the
5 identification strategy is much stronger in those
6 contexts than -- than in this one. And that -- and
7 that speaks to this -- this issue as well.
8 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: I'd like to explore
9 that issue a bit further. Let's go to page 6 of your
10 presentation. That's Model A. And one of the things
11 that struck me is that whereas you have a half percent
12 increase in the budget spent on electricity, this model
13 shows let's say an almost tenfold increase for tobacco
14 and alcohol.
15 And seeing that there are numerous
16 categories that are either going up or down, are you
17 confident that you can actually attribute these changes
18 to a change in electricity? Or is this the classic
19 correlation versus causation problem, where you can't
20 really tell which factors have what type of effect?
21
22 (BRIEF PAUSE)
23
24 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: One of the things
25 we did in part to questions from the -- in the IRs was

1 to expand the analysis to Model B to see essentially
2 whether some of the results were robust. This is one
3 of the ways of trying to check to see whether the
4 results are -- are susceptible to other specifications.
5 In that case, we would have added
6 tobacco and alcohol. And without from memory
7 remembering what that result is, I'm not sure if it --
8 if it carries over to Model B or not.
9 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Looking at Model
10 B, your coefficient for tobacco and alcohol for low
11 income is about the same. It's point four-eight (.48).
12 It's differ -- it's different for the near low income;
13 it's positive. It's negative for the higher income,
14 slight -- slightly smaller.
15 So there is some variation in the
16 results across the three (3) levels of -- of household
17 income on that particular consumption item.
18 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: And correct me if
19 I'm wrong, but in Model A you did not assume that the
20 prices for the other non-electricity goods remain
21 constant, did you?
22 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: We didn't specific
23 -- we didn't explicitly control for them. They were
24 one of the variables that we didn't control for in the
25 analysis.

1 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: But based on the
2 model, are you in a position to actually determine how
3 much the prices for those other goods went up or down?
4 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: We looked at the
5 behaviour of the Consumer Price Index in establishing
6 the change in the prices of those other commodities.
7 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Just to add to
8 that, if -- if -- we did include a trend variable. So
9 if there was a trend to the price, say, of tobacco and
10 alcohol, which probably was not the case because it's a
11 -- it's a budgetary item and it -- it's erratic, I
12 guess, then we would have picked that up.
13 But to the extent that the variations
14 are A) different from a trend, and B) different from
15 the price of electricity which itself is moving in a --
16 a more consistent fashion than a -- than erratic, I
17 guess, then we wouldn't pick those up.
18 So that's what Model B picks up. And if
19 -- if, you know, these thing -- if -- if the price of
20 the item like tobacco and alcohol is actually
21 correlated with -- with the price of electricity, then
22 you would notice some differences.
23 Now, the fact that it remains much the
24 same suggests to me that it -- it isn't correlated with
25 -- with the price of electricity. And so the Model B

1 results suggest that the Model A results are fairly
2 robust in that respect.
3 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: If you're assuming a
4 fixed budget for a -- a household of any income, then
5 an increase or decrease in the price of any of the
6 categories would presumably have a spillover effect on
7 other categories.
8 Would it not?
9 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes.
10 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: The price increase
11 or price decrease assumptions for Model A, do you have
12 those data readily available?
13 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: The price increase
14 or price decrease consump --
15 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: Well, you told me
16 you did not control for those variables, but -- but do
17 you have underlying data that shows that this model,
18 let's say, assumes a -- a 10 percent price increase or
19 decrease in the cost of household operations?
20 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: We did calculate
21 those amounts. No, they're not -- they're not included
22 in the material that --
23 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: Okay.
24 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: -- that you have
25 before you.

1 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: If they are readily
2 available I'd like to ask you to provide those by way
3 of undertaking.
4 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: M-hm.
5 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: Alternatively, if
6 they're not readily available I'd ask you or your
7 lawyer just to advise us accordingly.
8 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: No, they are
9 readily available.
10 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And just, Mr.
11 Hombach, if you could repeat it and would you like it
12 for both -- just repeat the undertaking so that we
13 can...
14 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: To -- to anticipate
15 the -- the second part of your question, I would like
16 it for Model B as well. Thank you, Mr. Williams.
17 I'm seeking -- I'm -- I am seeking an
18 undertaking for the witnesses to provide the underlying
19 price increase or price decrease assumptions for each
20 of the categories shown on slides 6 and 7 of the
21 presentation.
22 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: We can accept that
23 undertaking.
24 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes. Yes.
25

1 --- UNDERTAKING NO. 118: CAC panel to provide the
2 underlying price increase
3 or price decrease
4 assumptions for each of the
5 categories shown on slides
6 6 and 7 of the presentation
7
8 CONTINUED BY MR. SVEN HOMBACH:
9 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: On Model A I see two
10 (2) categories. I see electricity and shelter. And it
11 indicates that shelter excludes electricity.
12 Do you know if Model A includes the cost
13 of electric space heat or electric water heat under the
14 cost of electricity?
15 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: It's my
16 understanding from the survey of household spending
17 that electricity -- the -- the expenditures on
18 electricity are inclusive of -- of all expenditures
19 made by the household. So if there was electric
20 heating in the household that the -- the cost of
21 electricity in the survey of household spendings would
22 include that amount.
23 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: All right. And the
24 reason I'm asking you, sir, is because if we -- if we
25 look at slide 4, that has a description of the

1 categories. It indicates that shelter includes heat.
2 And I assume that means in this slide
3 the cost of the shelter includes electric heat?
4 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: I'm -- I would
5 have to go back to the survey of household spending and
6 -- and read the details on that. It was my
7 understanding that in excluding electricity it would
8 exclude heat by electricity.
9 So at this point my understanding is
10 that in -- heat would -- would not be heat from
11 electricity. But I -- I can confirm that. I will go
12 back to the -- the details in the survey of household
13 spending to -- to confirm that information.
14 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: By way of
15 undertaking Mr. Stevens will return to the survey of
16 household spending and -- and clarify whether the
17 shelter definition would capture some homes heated by
18 electricity.
19 Is that satisfactory?
20 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: It is. Thank you,
21 Mr. Williams.
22
23 --- UNDERTAKING NO. 119: CAC panel to return to the
24 survey of household
25 spending and clarify

whether the shelter definition would capture some homes heated by electricity

CONTINUED BY MR. SVEN HOMBACH:

MR. SVEN HOMBACH: Are you prepared to accept that the total electric space heat penetration in Manitoba is about 36.3 percent?

MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes.

MR. SVEN HOMBACH: And for the record, that number comes from Manitoba Hydro's 2013 Load Forecast.

To followup on a point made by one (1) of the Board members, a household that uses electric space heat and/or electric water heat presumably would be more affected by electricity price changes than a household that relies on gas?

MR. HARVEY STEVENS: It certainly would comprise a larger proportion of their -- their budget, the amount that they spend on electricity.

MR. SVEN HOMBACH: The two (2) models that you used, Models A and B, do they make it possible to distinguish between households that use electric heat and households that do not?

1 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: No, they don't.
2 We didn't include that information in the modelling.
3
4 (BRIEF PAUSE)
5
6 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: If we could go to
7 page 23 of your report for a moment, please.
8
9 (BRIEF PAUSE)
10
11 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: I was a bit
12 surprised to see, because that preceded my time in
13 Manitoba, that back in 1997 the cost of electricity
14 actually appeared to be higher than it currently is.
15 Is that just a typo in the table that
16 we're looking at or is that your actual understanding?
17 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: That was my
18 understanding. I would have taken that directly from
19 the -- that report on the -- the website.
20 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: That might have
21 been before uniform rates were implemented in Manitoba.
22 I shouldn't be testifying, but I'm...
23
24 CONTINUED BY MR. SVEN HOMBACH:
25 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: Could you just

1 confirm, please, whether you had an opportunity to look
2 at the percentages -- the budget percentage that
3 electricity formed for low income households back under
4 the 1997 scenario? Have you gone back in time at all?
5 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: I'm sorry, could
6 you -- I was looking at something else. Could you
7 repeat the question.
8 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: I could. And I will
9 try to do a better job. Have you gone back in time at
10 all and looked at the time period when prices actually
11 were higher than they are today to determine what
12 percentage of the budget electricity formed back in
13 1997?
14 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: No, we didn't.
15 But we had access primarily to information only from
16 2000 to 2009 for our analysis.
17 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: There was some
18 discussion today about gradual long-term price
19 increases compared to short-term increases.
20 And in your view, would it make it
21 easier for low income households to adjust to gradual
22 price increases over a longer period of time or would
23 it, ultimately, be more beneficial to have a more
24 sudden increase that may lead to a behavioural change
25 and to a reduction in consumption?

1 And if that is a can of worms you're not
2 prepared to open, please let me know.
3 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Sorry, you'll have
4 to repeat the question if -- I -- I was listening but
5 not listening, if you know what I mean.
6 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: There was some
7 discussion about whether it would be easier for low
8 income households to adjust to a gradual lower level
9 increase in electricity prices versus a more sudden
10 increase.
11 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: M-hm.
12 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: And the term for the
13 sudden increases that the Board has used in the past is
14 'rate shock'. I think that -- that's a term that CAC
15 has used, as well.
16 In your view, is it ultimately easier
17 for low income households to adjust to gradual, slow
18 increases or to adjust to a more sudden increase that
19 might lead to a change in behaviour due to rate shock?
20 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: If the witnesses
21 feel competent to answer this question, they're
22 certainly open. I -- I do believe that Dr. Higgin, who
23 is coming later in the hearing, and -- and also Mr.
24 Dunsky, might be better able to speak to it. But if it
25 is within the witnesses' expertise, I'm -- I'm not

1 going to prevent them from -- from answering.
2 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: That's fair, Mr.
3 Williams. Thank you.
4 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: No, it's certainly
5 not within my -- my expertise to -- to respond to that
6 question.
7 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Well, the only
8 observation I'd make on that is that, you know, there
9 are benefits to increases later for consumers than to
10 increases now, so gradual increases versus a sharp
11 increase at the end of the period, but, of course,
12 you'd prefer the -- the gradual increases.
13 On the other hand, if the sharp increase
14 was now and sustained over time versus gradual
15 increases over time, then obviously you'd prefer the --
16 the gradual increases.
17 So it would depend on when -- you know,
18 when the sharp increase occurred. If it occurred
19 immediately, then you -- you'd be better off with a
20 gradual increase. If it occurred at the end, then
21 you'd be better off with it.
22 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: Thank you both --
23 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: -- perhaps the
24 only other comment I would -- would venture, and with
25 the caveat that this is not an area that I -- that I've

1 studied, but if -- if you're wanting behavioural change
2 to a price increase, then it's important to have in
3 place mechanisms for people to be able to make that
4 change.
5 You know, it -- it's far easier to get
6 the behavioural change you want if -- if there are a
7 set of -- of factors or circumstances that allow people
8 to make the behavioural change you're -- you're looking
9 for in the face of -- of a price increase.
10 If you increase the price of transit
11 fair by a shocking amount but not provide easier access
12 to transit, then it's going to be far more difficult to
13 see people respond accordingly than if, at the same
14 time, you -- you make the availability of -- of the
15 good that you want more accessible. That would be a
16 general comment that I would have in response to that
17 question.
18 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: If I can paraphrase
19 that answer, you're saying consumers are paying bills,
20 they're not paying rates?
21 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Paying bills,
22 not...
23 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: I -- I think he's
24 just alluding to the fact that the consumers -- if
25 they're paying the bill now, then -- then they see the

1 problem, but the question is, do they have it out -- do
2 they see an out? In other words, is there an avenue in
3 which they can manage the -- the rate shock, or the
4 gradual increases? I think that was the point he was
5 making.
6 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yeah.
7 MR. SVEN HOMBACH: I thank you both for
8 your time. Those are all my questions.
9 THE CHAIRPERSON: I think that's all
10 the questions we have for today. I want to thank --
11 Mr. Williams, please?
12 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: I have a couple
13 questions of redirect, a -- a couple following up some
14 questions of Mr. Gange, and then one (1) perhaps
15 following up a question of yourself, Mr. Chairman.
16
17 RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. BYRON WILLIAMS:
18 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: I'm not going to
19 pull it up quite yet, Diana, but I am going to want to
20 refer to CAC Exhibit 54, not quite yet though, which
21 Mr. Gange referred to, but could we pull up slide 4 of
22 CAC Exhibit 58 for a moment?
23 This can go to -- to you, Mr. -- Dr.
24 Simpson, or -- or Mr. Stevens, but your observations
25 kind of -- for the low-income household balance was

1 that it was already in a fairly precarious position of
2 minus 13 percent. Would that be fair?
3 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes.
4 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And if we go to
5 slide 7, under Model B, am I correct in suggesting that
6 the impact of a 2 percent real increase in electricity
7 rates in that particular year would be a further
8 deterioration in the -- the household balance of
9 somewhere between -2 and -3 percent?
10 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: The -- that's what
11 the slide shows, yes.
12 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Now, if we -- we
13 could turn to CAC Exhibit 54 for a moment, please? And
14 Dr. Simpson, you see in 2013/'14, we're starting with a
15 base in this analysis of a -- a thousand dollars
16 ($1,000) a year in -- in projected annual bills, is
17 that right?
18 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.
19 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And if we move out
20 to the year Mr. Gange referred you to of 2024/'25, and
21 we recognize that this doesn't take into account the
22 deterioration in Hydro's capital expenditures, but
23 you'll see over that time period, I'll suggest to you a
24 real increase of prices under any of the plans of
25 somewhere between 45 and 53 percent. Is that right,

1 sir?

2 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: A nominal increase,

3 yes.

4 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Okay.

5 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Right.

6 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Sorry, and I used

7 the word 'real', and I apologize for that.

8 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: It's a real number,

9 but it's not a --

10 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Fair enough.

11 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: -- relative number.

12 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And I thank you

13 for that. Taking to -- into account the preexisting

14 deficit for the low-income, taking into account the

15 deterioration in just one (1) year under Model B of

16 minus 2.88 percent.

17 Would you characterize nominal increases

18 of between 45 and 53 percent as trivial?

19 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: No. I think these

20 are significant amounts for -- for families to handle,

21 and especially low-income families. I -- I tried to

22 emphasize that -- that that was really the purpose of

23 our report was that -- that, you know, you have to look

24 differentially at this and say that, Yeah, this is the

25 number across the board, but it's -- it's going to be

1 considerably worse for low-income families.
2 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And just one (1)
3 follow-up to a question from My Learned Friend, Mr.
4 Hombach. There was some discussion, Dr. Simpson, about
5 correlation versus causation.
6 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: Yes.
7 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Based upon your
8 review of your -- your analysis, are -- are you
9 confident that the adverse results you're showing with
10 regard to increases in -- in electricity rates are
11 statistically significant?
12 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: They are
13 statistically significant. They are the best we can do
14 with the data available, and they are robust to the --
15 to the kinds of statistical specifications that we
16 used.
17 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And we'll -- we'll
18 take a question from Mr. Orle and note that one (1) of
19 the significant limitations of your analysis are -- are
20 that you were not able to look at the situation on
21 reserve where populations are disproportionately low
22 income.
23 Would that be fair?
24 MR. HARVEY STEVENS: Yes, it would.
25 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: And finally, a que

1 -- going back to one (1) of the very first questions of
2 the Chair, and I should have asked this right at the --
3 the start, Dr. Simpson, in -- in words that even I can
4 under -- understand, can you express a little bit of
5 the distinction you destraw -- you draw between
6 expenditure, elasticity, and own-price elasticity?
7 DR. WAYNE SIMPSON: The expenditure
8 indi -- income elasticity looks at changes in the
9 consumption patterns of households as incomes increase.
10 You could think of it as the same household as it gets
11 richer maybe over the life cycle, but typically, it's
12 done across households with -- that have different
13 incomes, whereas an own-price elasticity is a measure
14 of how consumers will respond if prices rise, income
15 held constant -- that is to say, for the average
16 consumer with the average amount of income,
17 essentially.
18 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Thank you. If --
19 I'll just -- give me one (1) second to confer with my
20 client.
21
22 (BRIEF PAUSE)
23
24 MR. BYRON WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr.
25 Chair. I have no further questions.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Ms. Boyd, do you wish
2 to ask any questions based on we just -- just the
3 questions from Mr. Williams?
4 MS. MARLA BOYD: No, thank you. We
5 have nothing further.
6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you very
7 much. I -- I believe that completes the proceedings
8 for today, so I -- I'd like to thank you -- you, Mr.
9 Stevens, Dr. Simpson. Thank you very much for the work
10 you've performed, and thank you for appearing here
11 today and sharing your insights with respect to the
12 work you've completed. So thank you very much.
13 And before we adjourn for the day, I
14 guess remind everyone that we're scheduled -- some of
15 us are scheduled to be back here at 9:00 -- at nine
16 o'clock -- nine o'clock tomorrow morning, and I think
17 that completes the proceedings for today.
18 So I wish everybody a good evening, and
19 we'll see -- those of us who are coming back tomorrow
20 morning, we'll you again tomorrow morning.
21
22 (BRIEF PAUSE)
23
24 THE CHAIRPERSON: I just want to remind
25 -- for the record, I want to remind everyone that we

have a presentation scheduled tomorrow morning at 8:45, so back here at 8:45 tomorrow morning for the presentation, those of us who need to be here.

(PANEL STANDS DOWN)

--- Upon adjourning at 4:18 p.m.

Certified correct,

_____

Cheryl Lavigne, Ms.

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$1,000 7651:3 7663:20 7912:16

$1,200 7868:25

$1,600 7741:8

$10,000 7749:19

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$100 7714:23

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$2,800 7740:18

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$3,000 7748:1

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