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February 7, 2014

Public Interest Law Centre  
300-287 Broadway Ave.,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C 0R9

Att: Byron Williams,  
Director.

**Re: Socio-Economic Evidence of Consumers' Association of Canada (Manitoba)  
(CAC MB)**

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CAC MB has filed, on January 28, 2014, a proposal to present written evidence in the NFAT Review hearing in respect of..."the socio-economic impacts and benefits of the [Manitoba Hydro Preferred Development] Plan and alternatives to Northern and Aboriginal communities." CAC MB expressed concern with respect to the record in the NFAT on these socio-economic issues and submitted there were deficiencies that should be addressed to enable the Board to make informed recommendations to the Province.

CAC MB proposes two panels to present evidence on these socio-economic issues – one of consultants and the other of harvesters or Elders. CAC MB intends to present this evidence in a 'balanced way' in order to address alleged shortcomings in the current record.

Manitoba Hydro (MH) opposed CAC MB's proposal in its January 31, 2014 communication to the Board. A major concern of MH is that CAC MB would be presenting the same witnesses to speak on the same subjects that were in evidence at the Clean Environment Commission in the proceeding reviewing the Keeyask Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

In CAC MB's February 5, 2014 response to MH's opposition, CAC MB clarified that it does not intend the proposed socio-economic evidence to repeat or repackage the core evidence from the EIS proceeding. CAC MB states that it will focus the proposed socio-economic evidence on the mandate of the Board pursuant to the Terms of Reference.

The Board has considered and defined the term 'socio-economic' in Order 92/13 as follows:

*A critical analysis of the macro environmental impacts and benefits of Manitoba Hydro's Preferred Development Plan and alternative Plans. Specifically this refers to the collective macro-economic consequences of changes to air, land, water, flora and fauna, including the potential significance of these changes, their equitable distribution within and between present and future generations.*

Predicated on CAC MB's intention to bring unique socio-economic evidence to the NFAT, which evidence is focussed on the implications of the Hydro Plan for both Northern and aboriginal communities, the Board will approve CAC MB's proposal as filed. This includes the two panels of witnesses and an expectation that the evidence of the panel of harvesters or Elders will be completed in half a day. The timelines for the testing of the evidence through Information Requests will be as proposed by CAC MB. The approved budgets for the consultants' panel total is \$65,250.00. The approved budgets for the five traditional land users and Elders total \$17,280.00.

The Board notes that due to the ambitious hearing schedule time limits will likely be imposed on all witnesses/panels presenting evidence, including the evidence presented pursuant to this proposal.

Yours truly,

*"ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:"*

Kurt Simonsen, P.Eng  
Associate Secretary

cc. Counsel for MH, Interveners, IECs and PUB  
Counsel to Tataskweyak Cree Nation, War Lake First Nation, Fox Lake Cree Nation,  
and York Factory First Nation.