



# WUSKWATIM IMPLEMENTATION NEWS

December 2011

## Final Wuskwatim Investment Decision Review Moved To Early 2012

### Additional Time Allows for Further Review

The December 2010 edition of Wuskwatim Implementation News indicated a final round of meet and greets for NCN Citizens would be held in late October 2011 to advise Citizens on NCN's final investment decision. This decision is to be based on updated project cost information, the in-service date and export-market conditions for hydroelectricity. Those meetings have now been moved into the new year with specific dates still to be determined.

The schedule presented to NCN Citizens in late 2010 indicated a January/February 2012 in-service date. That date has since moved back to spring 2012, requiring a shift in consultation dates.

### NCN Evaluates Investment Decision

"Given the uncertainty in global financial markets and the greater likelihood of the U.S. and possibly Canada experiencing a double-dip recession, NCN is taking the opportunity to conduct a third-party evaluation of our investment decision before moving forward," NCN's Wuskwatim Portfolio Holder and Councillor Marcel Moody said.

"This evaluation will take some additional time. Many things have changed since construction started, so we need to be as certain as possible our investment decision maximizes benefits and minimizes risks to our Citizens and First Nation."

NCN Citizens will be notified of revised dates for the final round of meet and greet consultations as soon as they are known.



*Turbine parts awaiting assembly in powerhouse.*



*More workers with specialized skills are on site to complete complex electrical and mechanical installations.*



*Construction of the Wuskwatim generating station nears final stages.*





*Generator installations continue and when operational will produce a total of 200 megawatts of power.*



*(Above and Below) Downstream cofferdam removal following completion of main dam.*



## Construction Moves Into the Home Stretch

Over the past several months, construction of Wuskwatim's last major project components moved significantly towards completion and the first generator is projected to go on line in March 2012.

### **Final Concrete Placed in September**

As of December 2010, 98 percent of all concrete was in place, with only small pours required since then to complete the powerhouse (240 cubic metres), tailrace (135 cubic metres) and miscellaneous structures (911 cubic metres). As of August 31, 2011, concrete pours for all structures were complete with a total of 120,336 cubic metres in place.

### **River Diversions Ended**

The Stage II diversion has been a key activity allowing the generating station structures and the main dam to be constructed on dry land on the floor of the Burntwood River. With completion of the powerhouse and main dam, the diversion was no longer needed. River water began filling the tailrace channel below the powerhouse on August 4 and the powerhouse intake channel above the structure on August 24. The Stage II

upstream powerhouse cofferdam was opened September 7 to fill the area above the main dam. The general contractor then removed the upstream cofferdam and downstream portion of the cofferdam.

In October, the forebay above the generating station was allowed to rise to its normal operating elevation of 234.0 metres from its construction level of 226.6 metres. The rise was spread over two weeks to allow the completed concrete structures and main dam to be monitored.

The final earthworks activity will be the removal of the rock plug at the upstream end of the Wuskwatim Falls channel in 2012 following confirmation the concrete and earth-fill structures are performing satisfactorily.

### **Main Dam Completed and Operating**

Before last winter, construction activities on the main dam were suspended and a layer of sand was placed on top of the structure to prevent the impervious clay core from freezing. The contractor resumed construction in mid-May 2011 by first removing the sand layer and completing required material testing and conditioning. The first of two



*The final earthworks activity will be the removal of the rock plug at the upstream end of the Wuskwatim Falls channel.*

phases of instrument installation began at the end of May with crews placing hydraulic, vibrating-wire and fibre-optic monitoring devices within the dam. Once in place, the contractor resumed the placement of impervious, granular and rock fill materials up to elevation 230.0 metres. The second and final instrument installations were completed by late July. Following that, construction continued to raise the dam to its final design elevation of 236.6 metres, which was completed September 15. A total of 145,000 cubic metres of fill materials were used.

### **Turbines and Generators Being Installed**

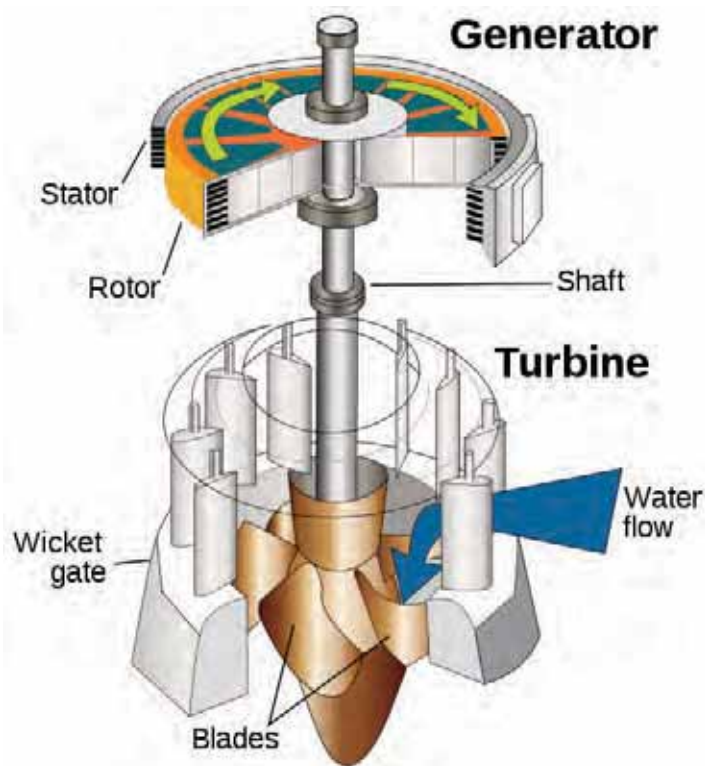
Wuskwatim has three turbine generators that will produce a total of 200 megawatts of power. Installation of Unit 1 will be completed first followed by units 3 and 2.

By October 2010, turbine contractor Andritz Hydro had installed the parts of the turbines embedded in the concrete structure, and since then has been focused on installing non-embedded parts.

By early summer 2011, the last of three stators was complete and components for turbine Unit 1 were in place, with a rotation test (without water) successfully completed in July to check for alignment.

Factory acceptance tests for Unit 2's turbine components were completed in China at the beginning of June 2011 with delivery, assembly and installation of its non-embedded parts starting in August. Several of the larger stationary Unit 3 turbine components have been installed and aligned with runner assembly and rotor assembly underway in the service bay.

By late summer two rotors were completely built and installed in Units 1 and 3 and construction of Unit 2's rotor started in mid October for completion by the end of December. Assembly of Unit 2's runner started in early September and was completed and installed in November. Installation of non-embedded turbine components for Unit 1 is 99 percent



complete. For Unit 3, about 85 percent of its larger stationary turbine components have been installed with successful alignment completed in later October, with installation of components for Units 2 about 35 percent complete.

### **Structures Excavation**

Final rock excavation for the tailrace and intake channel is complete. Remaining falls channel improvement is scheduled for 2012.

### **Electrical and Mechanical System Installations Continue**

At the beginning of the year, the electrical and mechanical contractor was continuing installations of cable tray, exposed piping and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) components in the service bay and miscellaneous electrical works in the spillway area.

By April, systems required for water-up were the priority along with work

preparing for energizing the collector-line and commissioning the first turbine/generator.

By September, the contractor was focused on systems required for commissioning milestones for the 230kV power system and Unit 1 generator.

Two 125-volt direct-current battery banks have been installed, along with their associated chargers, inverters and distribution equipment with a significant amount of related cabling now complete and commissioning activities started.

Manitoba Hydro's Communication Department is fully engaged in outfitting the communications room.

Fire alarm installation continues and the mechanical trades have put a major focus on the completion of the air, water, and fire standpipe systems. Cleaning and testing activities for the piping systems will commence over the next few weeks.





Construction camp is accommodating fewer workers as project nears completion.



Construction and commissioning of the Wuskwatim Switching Station was completed this summer.

Fire prevention and suppression in the plant is an important function with a number of fire alarm devices installed throughout the service bay mezzanine floor. A major focus was completing the fire standpipe system with cleaning and testing of the piping systems beginning late in the year. Installation of the air-handling units was on-going and ventilation systems above the generators started in the fall.

Testing and commissioning of several systems has begun and is expected to ramp-up in the coming months.

#### Construction Camp Decommissioning has Begun

The main construction camp has been operating since 2008 and has provided single-room bunkhouse accommodations for over 700 workers during project construction along with a wide range of amenities. With construction activity peaking in 2009 and 2010 and declining this year as the project moves to completion, decommissioning of some bunkhouses has begun. Once the project is complete, most of the camp will be decommissioned and removed, except for facilities required to house operational staff.

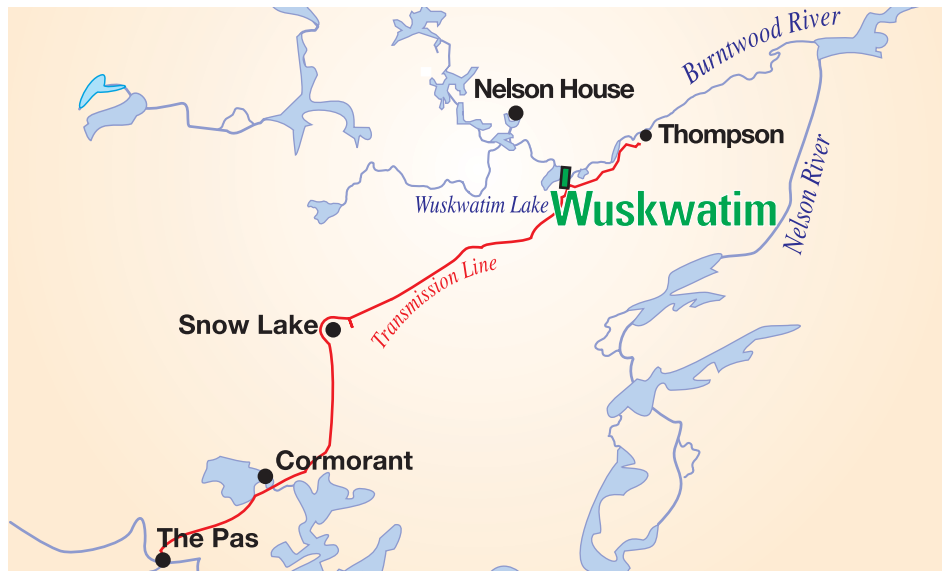
#### Transmission Project Wrapped Up This Fall

Even though the transmission project is not part of NCN's investment, it is crucial for moving Wuskwatim power to market.

Commissioning of the Wuskwatim transmission lines to Herblet Lake, and Birchtree was completed early in the year with the Herblet Lake to Ralls Island line commissioned in July. The final link involved installing collector lines from the Wuskwatim Generating Station to the Wuskwatim Switching Station, which was completed by late summer with final commissioning to occur once the station is operating.

At the beginning of the year, control buildings at Birchtree and Wuskwatim switching stations were in place with installation of electrical apparatus almost complete at Thompson Birchtree Station, Wuskwatim Switching Station, and Ralls Island Station. Commissioning activities were also underway at Thompson Birchtree Station and Wuskwatim Switching Station, which were completed this summer.

By late summer, all Wuskwatim Transmission Complex projects were in service except for the final commissioning of the connector lines between the Wuskwatim Generating Station and the Wuskwatim Switching Station.



## Total NCN Wuskwatim Jobs Increase Over Past Year

As of August 2011, the total number of NCN Citizens who have had jobs on the project stood at 336 – a four percent increase in the total since November 2010.

35 NCN Citizens were working on site in July, with 17 in catering and 11 on HADD (Harmful Alteration, Disruption or Destruction) projects. About five each were working in security, Wuskwatim construction, turbine and generator installation, and cross-cultural programs.

With the Wuskwatim Project nearing completion, a total of 530 workers were on site in July, much less than at the same time in earlier years when considerable construction and concrete work were still underway.

The composition of the workforce has also changed with a higher proportion requiring specialized skills related to final turbine, generator, and electrical and mechanical installations needed to make the generating station operational.

## Total Indirect Employment Opportunities Increase

In the past year the total number of individual NCN Citizens who have benefited from indirect employment opportunities over the life of the Wuskwatim Project has grown from 229 to 268, an increase of 17 percent. Most of these Citizens have been hired for 393 part-time, casual and temporary jobs. This is up 23 percent from 319 casual positions that had been created as of last December.

### Implementation Office Now Employs 17 People

The Wuskwatim Implementation Office itself has a full-time staff of 17, comprised of regular and contract staff hired for specific projects. This represents a net increase of four since last December. The loss of two positions attached to the expired PDA review process was offset by five new term positions to conduct the Community Skills Survey that is now underway.



*NCN Elders hired for traditional ceremonies benefit from indirect employment opportunities.*



### Congratulations to Rick Linklater

Manitoba Hydro recently hired NCN Citizen Rick Linklater as an Operating/Mechanical Technician Trainee within the Wuskwatim Construction Department. Before this appointment Rick was with NCN Human Resources. Congratulations Rick!

## Three NCN Citizens Join Hydro's Northern Aboriginal Pre-placement Program

Three NCN Citizens – Leslee Joos, Desmond Colombe and Rikki Linklater – are participating in Manitoba Hydro's Northern Aboriginal Pre-placement Program that will potentially lead to permanent positions with the Crown Corporation. They joined the 10-month training program in September 2011.

### Program Targets Two Job Categories

The program is focused on two job categories: Power Electrician Trainee and Power Supply Worker Trainee.

Power Electrician Trainees participate in a four-year apprenticeship program that includes on-the-job training, competency-based trade schools and formal classes at Red River College. They will be stationed at various locations throughout the Province.

Power Supply Worker Trainees participate in a six-year training program that includes all training for the Power Electrician/Mechanical Journeyman Program. In addition, they develop skills and techniques to control and regulate all operating elements used to generate and convert electrical energy in a power system. Successful candidates receive dual certification as a Power Electrician/Mechanical Journeyman and Station Operator.

### Grade 12 Education Needed to Qualify

To qualify for the pre-placement program, candidates must:

- Have a minimum Grade 12 diploma with at least one of the following: English 40 (301 or 300 English) or Mathematics 40S (Applied or Pre-Calculus; or 300 Math) or Physics 40S (300 Physics)
- Have a mechanical aptitude to satisfy all requirements of the position
- Be capable of communicating effectively, both orally and in writing
- Be physically capable of performing all duties of the position
- Have the ability to work harmoniously with other employees
- Be capable of obtaining a Manitoba Driver's Licence.

Before their acceptance into the program, Leslee and Desmond were employed on the Wuskwatim Project.

"These are some of the types of jobs in Hydro's overall workforce we are striving to obtain through the Operational Employment provisions that are part of the Wuskwatim Project Development Agreement," Wuskwatim Portfolio Holder Marcel Moody said. "The Aboriginal Pre-placement Program is ideal in helping our Citizens prepare for these responsible positions."

"These three Citizens are leading the way to regular employment opportunities within Manitoba Hydro operations, and we congratulate them."

*"These are some of the types of jobs in Hydro's overall workforce we are striving to obtain through the Operational Employment provisions."*



*Electrical and mechanical installations include heating, ventilation and air conditioning.*



## Operational Employment Community Skills Survey Underway

In late May, the Wuskwatim Implementation Office hired six contract staff to conduct the long-awaited skills survey among our Citizens. This is a crucial part of the operational employment provisions of the Wuskwatim Project Development Agreement (PDA) designed to help find employment opportunities for NCN Citizens within the larger Hydro corporation.

### Survey to Provide Overview of Community Skills and Strengths

The project was originally expected to take about six months but based on the number of interviews completed so far it may have to be extended. The surveyors are interviewing working-age NCN Citizens ranging in age from their teens to mid 40s in their homes. Besides personal and family information, the survey is gathering information on educational levels, current and past

employment histories, job satisfaction, attitudes to working, interest in training, willingness to travel or relocate for work or education, and health or other barriers to training or employment.

### All Working-age NCN Citizens Urged to Participate

"This is a comprehensive survey and we urge all NCN Citizens age 15 to 45 to participate, even if they currently have a job or don't want to work for Hydro," Wuskwatim Implementation Manager Norman Linklater said. "The survey will give us a broad snapshot of community skills, capabilities, strengths and weaknesses. It will help us identify potential gaps in community education and training programs that we can use to strengthen our competitive advantage in helping Citizens prepare for and find work either at Hydro or elsewhere. This information is vital to the future success of our First Nation."

### Benefiting the Future of NCN

Surveyors have noted that because Citizens were recently surveyed for the 2011 census, there's been some resistance to this survey because they feel they've just been through this process.

"Don't let your participation in the census stop you from taking part in this. The information you provide could benefit you in the future or our First Nation as a whole," Norman said.

Survey information will be entered into an electronic database to assist with analysis. Individual survey information will be kept strictly confidential and used only by authorized personnel if the individual has expressed an interest in training or employment opportunities. Information from the surveys will be combined anonymously to create statistical profiles on NCN's Citizens to identify trends and areas that need attention.



Operational Employment Survey interviewers Curtis Lobster, Henry Wood, Jeremiah Spence, Shawna Linklater and Donna Moore-Linklater with Tasha Moodie (center), prize winner for participating in survey.



Operational employment within the larger Hydro corporation may be available to qualified NCN Citizens.

## NCN Workers Are an Important Part of the Team Installing Wuskwatim Turbines and Generators



*NCN Citizens and Andritz Hydro apprentices (l-r) Jack Spence, Othmar Joos, Chris Olszoweic, Larry Tait Jr. in front of a Wuskwatim turbine the company is in charge of installing.*

Four NCN Citizens: Chris Olszoweic, Jack Spence, Othmar Joos and Larry Tait Jr. have been hired within the past year as apprentices with Andritz Hydro, the Wuskwatim contractor responsible for installing the three turbines and generators in the Wuskwatim powerhouse. Both Chris and Jack are third-year apprentice electricians and Othmar and Larry are first-year apprentice millwrights. All are part of Andritz's ground-breaking Aboriginal Careers Program.

Andritz Hydro's Director of Project Management, Rob Murray, believes in building capacity in the North. He launched the Aboriginal Careers Program to focus on, not just providing jobs, but setting participants on a career path in the hydropower industry.

### **NCN Apprentices Piloted Aboriginal Careers Program**

NCN's four apprentices have helped Andritz pilot its Aboriginal Careers Program for developing a recruitment approach that works. Rob used a very personal process for hiring by talking to each candidate directly after they'd expressed interest in the program but before they submitted a formal application. After determining they'd make a good fit, he had them apply through the job referral service. The program's success with these four NCN Citizens has prompted Andritz to expand the program, which is beginning to recruit more apprentices with priority given to NCN Citizens.

"We have a great team of apprentices from NCN who are making an important contribution to the installation of the turbines and generators at Wuskwatim,"

Rob says. "We all get a sense of satisfaction when we look at the on-the-job program. Andritz gets the benefit of the hard work that the guys put into their job everyday.

The guys are getting the benefit of a great learning environment and they are gaining useful skills and experience. It is all part of a successful project and we are delivering on our commitments to Manitoba Hydro. Everybody wins."

### **Site Manager Pleased with Performance**

Andritz Hydro's Wuskwatim Site Manager, John Joseph Ferrara, who directly supervises the NCN apprentices, is equally enthusiastic in praising their work.

"We have found the NCN apprentices to be eager to learn, hard working and valuable assets to the team," John says. "They have displayed a professional demeanour coupled with an outstanding team spirit, and enthusiastically embrace the technical challenges presented by the nature of the work.

"They have also been keen to accept and acknowledge their responsibilities for completing their tasks on time with the goal of maintaining the overall site schedule. We look forward to working with NCN trade workers on future endeavours."



## Andritz Hydro Participants Find Rewards in Program

Four NCN participants are finding work with Andritz very rewarding in advancing their knowledge, skills and careers.

### Larry Tait Jr.: "Rewarding"

"Every day is a rewarding learning experience," Larry Tait says. "My fellow staff members and employees on and off site are very helpful – every single employee has a task to do from the welders, electricians, pipefitters, engineers, teamsters, labourers, safety representative, site supervisor, foreman from each trade – oh yeah, I almost forgot to mention the millwrights."



Larry Tait Jr.



Chris Olszoweic

### Chris Olszoweic: "Company Wants Me to be Successful"

"It is a first time for me to work in an industrial job site and live in a work camp," says Chris Olszoweic, who was hired in August. "It's good for me to be making such a competitive wage and to get the opportunity to work with journeyman electricians who have been in the trade for years and having them help me in my training. Also, I have been learning professionalism from people who want me to have a successful apprenticeship and a career in the trade."

### Othmar Joos: "Paving the Way for My Future"

Before joining Andritz, Othmar Joos began work on Wuskwatim in October 2007 as a rock truck driver, then took a labourer position with Sodexo where he was promoted to lead hand supervising other employees.

"Opportunities have been few and far between in the past here in the north," he says. "With the big hydroelectric boom here in Manitoba, working for Andritz Hydro is giving me the chance to learn the technical skills which are essential to take full advantage of these opportunities in paving the way for my future."



Othmar Joos



Jack Spence

### Jack Spence: "Preparing for a Long-term Career in Powerhouse Construction"

"I enjoy working at the job site because it is my first time working on a hydro generation station," says Jack Spence, who also joined Andritz in August. "I have a few years experience working in industrial electrical but I am still learning a lot from my journeymen. The pay is really good, too. I am making twice what I was making working in residential construction. I still have to go back to school, but am looking forward to continuing and learning the theory behind the applications. I can see working with companies like Andritz Hydro as a career, and hope to remain a valuable apprentice and eventually journeyman electrician, in the powerhouse construction business."

### Proud to be Part of the Project

Perhaps Chris Olszoweic sums up the experience best when he says: "The hydro dam is such an awesome project in size and scale with so many different companies and workers putting in a lot of time and labour. To be involved with a project that will have such a huge impact in the long run for my community of Nelson House is also going to be a significant part of my electrical apprenticeship and career. When the dam begins to operate, generating and sending electricity down those transmission lines, it will be a proud moment for me knowing I had been part of it."

*Andritz Hydro, based in Vienna, Austria, is the global leader in the design and supply of hydroelectric turbines, generators and related auxiliary equipment with operations in 120 countries. In 2007, Andritz Hydro acquired GE Hydro's Canadian operations and currently employs 250 in Canada.*

*Part of AOL's mandate is to allocate profits to scholarships for NCN Citizens studying environmental sciences at a post secondary institution.*



*Shoreline debris is removed to reduce floating materials on waterways.*

## Aski'otutoskeo Ltd. has a Second Successful Year

### AOL Looks to Expand Services

NCN's environmental monitoring company Aski'Otutoskeo Ltd. (AOL), enjoyed a second successful year in delivering services to Manitoba Hydro and its other environmental monitoring contractors on the Wuskwatim Project. Some service contracts with Manitoba Hydro extend to 2014.

AOL worked on 10 contracts this year and provided logistical support, equipment and field assistants to several environmental consulting firms with a range of specialties and responsibilities including:

- **Ecostem** – responsible for Wuskwatim shoreline wetland monitoring
- **Environnement Illimité Inc.** – responsible for the greenhouse-gas monitoring
- **InterGroup Consultants Ltd.** – responsible for project-impact survey on Thompson and Nelson House businesses during peak construction
- **Native Plant Solutions** – responsible for Wuskwatim shoreline re-establishment project
- **North/ South Consultants Inc.** – aquatic environment specialists responsible for Coordinated Aquatic

Monitoring Program (CAMP) population studies, Threepoint Lake and Mynarski Lake monitoring studies

- **Robbin B. Sotir & Associates, Inc.** – responsible for HADD (Harmful Alteration, Disruption or Destruction) projects
- **Stantec** – responsible for bird surveys
- **Wildlife Resource Consulting Services MB Inc. (WRCS)** – responsible for aquatic fur bearer studies, ground surveys, baseline aquatic furbearer mercury-level monitoring in the Wuskwatim Lake area, aerial caribou/ moose surveys and greenhouse gas monitoring.

Native Plant Solutions (NPS), a Winnipeg-based company affiliated with Ducks Unlimited, was a new client AOL secured this year. NPS was hired to undertake ecosystem and habitat restoration and reclamation work related to the Wuskwatim Project. AOL provided labour to undertake site work.

In addition to providing services to project consultants, AOL contracted directly with WPLP, Manitoba Hydro and the General Civil Contractor to provide equipment and personnel to undertake soil bioengineering, shoreline stabilization with live native vegetation, white spruce and balsam fir



*AOL worker spreads wood chips near shoreline.*





*Bioremediation activities underway at Site 5 on Wuskwatim Lake to stabilize shoreline from erosion.*



*Grade 12 graduate Craig Swanson receives \$1,000 scholarship*

regeneration in decommissioned borrow pits, and human-remains discovery using archaeological support.

### **35 NCN Citizens Employed This Season**

During the 2011 field season, AOL employed 35 NCN Citizens for seasonal work to conduct fish habitat compensation (HADD – Harmful Alteration, Disruption or Destruction) and soil bioengineering work, which involves planting areas subject to erosion with native plant species that will grow and assist with shoreline stabilization.

Shoreline stabilization sites on Wuskwatim Lake were identified through consultation with Manitoba Hydro and Robbin B. Sotir & Associates, Inc., a soil bioengineering consulting firm from Atlanta Georgia. Work on the project continued from the 2010 field season. AOL worked closely with Alton Simms and Robbin Sotir to complete three bioengineering sites in 2010 and 2011.

“HADD and bioengineering projects require a learning curve to determine which techniques perform best in different situations. Once work at the sites is complete, they will be monitored in future years to determine success,” said Mark Linklater, Environmental Socio-Economic Coordinator.

### **AOL Coordinates Forebay Clearing**

O.N.E., the general civil contractor for Wuskwatim, hired AOL this season to conduct a three-phase project to clear vegetation and remove debris in the limited forebay area above the dam to be flooded for generating station operations. The purpose was to avoid stands of dead trees along flooded shorelines and ensure as little floating material as possible would appear in the forebay after water levels reached operating levels.

Phase 1 involved completely clearing an island in the forebay, followed by Phase 2 that involved clearing portions of the north and south shorelines. Both took place before water levels rose. Phase 3 took place once the forebay was flooded to capture any remaining debris.

AOL hired 20 NCN resource users and Citizens to undertake the work over six weeks. Once the forebay was flooded 10 of the workers were rehired to net floating debris with boats.

The need to capture floating debris will continue into the future, and with the general civil contractor demobilizing as construction winds up, Manitoba Hydro will take over those contracts.

### **AOL Awards First Scholarship**

Part of AOL’s mandate is to allocate profits to scholarships for NCN Citizens studying environmental sciences at a post secondary institution. The purpose is to encourage NCN Citizens to pursue environmental-sciences degrees who could eventually become AOL employees. This would allow the company to offer a full package of services, including Western scientific monitoring activities, which AOL currently does not provide.

NCN Citizen and Grade 12 graduate Craig Swanson was the first recipient of the \$1,000 scholarship and is currently enrolled in the transition year program at ATEC.

### **AOL Coordinates Fall Monitoring Open House**

AOL coordinated the annual Monitoring open house held November 15 this year. The open house was held at OK School and involved Manitoba Hydro representatives and NCN Elders and youth who were part of the Ethnisewin tours. About 120 NCN Citizens attended including students, Elders and community Members.



Participants in the July 2011 Ethinesewin tour.



Participants in the October 2011 Ethinesewin tour.

## Ethinesewin Tours Continue

Aski'Otutoskeo again coordinated two Ethinesewin inspection tours in 2011 as part of the traditional knowledge provision of the Wuskwatim Project. Each 10-day tour takes place in two parts over two weeks. The tours are similar from season to season and year-to-year to monitor specific locations in the Wuskwatim area. Another important purpose is to team NCN Elders and youth to encourage the transfer of traditional knowledge to the next generation.

### Diversifying Elders Participation a Goal

Participants vary between tours, with a core of Elders who have taken part almost every year since the program began in 2007. AOL wants to broaden Elder participation to ensure new participants make up half of each tour – especially Elders who lived at Wuskwatim Village and can tell how the area has changed since they lived there. Varying participants also ensures broader sharing and transfer of knowledge to maintain continuity from one tour to the next.

### Stream Crossing Erosion Identified as Concern

The 2011 early tour took place over two weeks July 25-29 and August 2-6, 2011 and was split between inspections of stream crossings along the Wuskwatim access road and sites around Wuskwatim Lake and along the Burntwood River. Elders identified several areas where erosion was occurring at stream crossings and these areas were flagged for repairs following the tour.

Key participants included:

- Elders: Louie Bighetty, Sam Dysart, Nelson Hart, Jimmy Hunter-Spence, Dorothy Linklater, John Solomon Spence, Matthew Wood

- Youth: Anna Baker, Preston Linklater, Tyler Linklater, Douglas Spence
- Field Technicians: Brian Hartie, Dwight Linklater, Max Spence
- Cooks: Christina Spence, Cynthia Spence.

### Fall Tour First to Use Wuskwatim Village Since Restoration Complete

The fall tour took place October 14-21, about a month later than the previous year. It used Wuskwatim Village as its base of operation – the first group to use the site since the octagon was completed this year. Some support staff were sent in advance to prepare the village for the larger group. Fall tour participants included:

- Elders: Louie Bighetty, Sam Dysart, Jimmy Hunter-Spence, Arthur Wood, Matthew Wood
- Youth: Jonathan Brightnose, Monica Linklater, Tyler Linklater, Edward Spence, Leah Spence, Crystal McDonald
- Tech: Leo Spence, Max Spence
- Cooks Clifford Spence, Daniel Spence (assistant).

### Tour Cut Short by Inclement Weather

The fall tour followed a similar itinerary as the early tour. One task was to examine traditional medicine sites to determine potential for transplanting to other locations. Because of inclement weather, the group was unable to complete all tasks including a re-inspection of erosion sites at stream crossings along the road to assess the success of remediation work since the early tour.



Elders pass on traditional knowledge of the land to NCN youth.



## Wuskwatim Village Improvements Complete

The Wuskwatim Village project continued this construction season with the goal of completing the octagon that will be used as a central gathering place and for ceremonial purposes. A call for tenders was issued in the spring with four contractors initially showing interest, but three withdrew. Local NCN contractor Ted Linklater was hired to complete the project.

### **Exterior and Interior Now Complete**

Work on the octagon began this season with levelling and reblocking the structure's foundation, which had settled around the perimeter.

*"The long-term vision is to eventually electrify the camp with a transmission line from Wuskwatim..."*

At the end of the 2010 construction season, the structure itself was left as a closed-in unfinished shell consisting of a metal roof and simulated log siding milled in Cranberry Portage. The unfinished siding had weathered since installation and needed to be completely sanded and stained.

On the inside, work involved installing wiring, insulation, wood wall coverings and flooring.

"The Elders' committee overseeing the project were very pleased with the quality of the work," Wuskwatim Implementation Manager, Norman Linklater said.

### **Heating System Still to be Decided**

A decision on how to heat the building has not been made, but options include electric heat or propane.

"Wood heat poses a fire hazard considering the wood panelling inside," Norman said. "If the camp were to be electrified in future with a transmission line from Wuskwatim, electric heat is a

possibility. Even without that, electric generators can be used," he said.

Even though the building has been constructed as a four-season building, winter use is not considered a priority since access to the village across the lake in winter is dangerous.

As of April 2011, \$233,000 of the total \$281,000 allocation (including \$156,000 reallocated from the closure of Safety Trail #3) for Wuskwatim Village improvements had been spent. Last year, the Implementation Office applied for funding through the CAP process and received an additional \$25,000 for Village improvements, and that money is available if needed.

### **Ethinesewin Tour Group First to Use Facility**

Following completion of the octagon, the first users of the village were the members of the fall Ethinesewin tour that is part of the Wuskwatim monitoring program.



Construction of Wuskwatim Village and the octagon building is now complete.



*Wesahkechak's Footprints are now visible from Footprint Lake.*

## Wesahkechak's Footprints Installed In New Location Overlooking Footprint Lake

Plans to find a permanent home for the legendary Wesahkechak's Footprints near their original location came to fruition this summer with their installation by Alpha Masonry on a vertical rock outcrop overlooking Footprint Lake.

The installation, which cost over \$61,000, required using stone-coring equipment to remove the footprints from a stone pedestal where they had been temporarily installed following removal in 1977 from their original location before flooding by the Churchill River Diversion. Holes of the same diameter were cored into the rock face where the footprints were installed. The operation required transporting the coring equipment in two large aluminium boats from Nelson House along with a floating dock to provide a work platform below the installation site.

### Installation Location Changed

The final installation varied from original plans, which called for installation on a horizontal rock surface at the site, based on the assumption that this approach was the only option possible. However, when Alpha indicated a vertical installation could be done, the committee in charge of the footprints project chose that approach.

"The vertical location offers the advantage of being visible from the lake without having to land and walk to the site," Wuskwatim Implementation Manager, Norman Linklater said.

Original plans also called for an interpretative feature at the site with

information panels, but in the end, the Elders' committee responsible for the project elected to keep the installation simple and plans to locate the interpretative feature in Nelson House at a site just below the Nursing Station. While a site plan has not yet been finalized, one idea under consideration is to build an open-sided gazebo-like structure to shelter the interpretation features. Winnipeg architect Don Courtnage had prepared a preliminary design for a structure at the footprints site.

### Interpretation Feature to be Decided

"Since a preliminary design has already been prepared, perhaps it can be adapted for the new location," Norman said. "NCN archaeologist Eva Linklater is currently working on content for information panels."

Total expenses on the project to date including research, consultation, planning, and installation amount to almost \$220,000, leaving about \$80,000 from the original \$300,000 budget comprised of \$200,000 from Manitoba Hydro and \$100,000 from WPLP. Potential exists for an additional \$100,000 from NCN sources if needed but that is subject to community approval and not guaranteed.

The Elders's committee Chief and Council created to oversee the project is led by Councillor D'Arcy Linklater and includes Elders Madeline Spence, Jimmy D. Spence, Harry Spence, and Jimmy Hunter- Spence, with Susan Kobliski serving as advisor and Alvin Yetman representing the Wuskwatim Implementation Office.



*The Wesahkechak's Footprints are inset into the natural rock.*



## Wuskwatim Generating Station Site Tours Offered to NCN Citizens

The Wuskwatim Implementation Office has been operating site tours periodically since the spring in response to NCN Citizens' interest in visiting the Wuskwatim hydroelectric station site. Up to early September, seven tours have been organized for 150 NCN Citizens. The Wuskwatim Power Limited Partnership has provided resources to ensure transportation is available for those wishing to participate and most tours use the Implementation Office bus.

Tours started with about 45 grade six students and teachers from O.K. School (the largest group to date).

### **Tours Include Construction Camp and Generating Station**

The first tour started with a visit to the Wuskwatim camp facilities including the

camp kitchen and the recreation centre. NCN Citizen Gord Dumas, a Manitoba Hydro employee working on the project at the time, gave a presentation. The tour continued on to the Wuskwatim Generating Station site with explanations given about how electricity is made from the flowing water and how it is sent by wire to homes. The tour concluded at the Wuskwatim Cultural Centre where a ceremony and smudge were held that brought together the cultural teachings of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation with the technical components of this project.

The remaining six tours included 45 NCN Government Office staff, 16 high-school students, and 69 NCN Citizens.

### **Tours Still Available**

Depending on interest and demand, Wuskwatim site tours are available every two weeks. Any NCN Citizens interested in joining a tour should call the Wuskwatim Implementation Office at 484-2414 to sign up and find out when the next tours are available.



## Golf Tournament Supports Bursaries

The third and final Wuskwatim Golf Classic was held in August at the Thompson Country Club with 76 golfers participating. The tournament was started in 2009 by John Markowsky, the former Resident Manager on the project, with the intent of raising money for the Wuskwatim Scholarship Fund to benefit NCN post-secondary students. Over its three years, the tournament raised a total of \$40,000, starting with \$10,000 in 2009 and \$15,000 each in 2010 and 2011. Proceeds from the sale of Wuskwatim-branded merchandise also go the scholarship fund.

The Wuskwatim Scholarship Fund awards a \$500 Wuskwatim Project Ethinesewin Kuskitamasowin Bursary (meaning "Having earned knowledge") annually to one male and one female Grade 12 graduate who have demonstrated exemplary academic achievement and a strong commitment to learning, sharing and preserving the culture and traditions of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation people.

Bursaries were awarded for the first time in 2010 to Kendall Spence and Nadine McDonald with 2011 bursaries awarded to Cody Wood and Kayla Brightnose. Students selected for the bursaries were planning to attend a post-secondary institution in the year following high-school graduation.



*Cody Wood Receives scholarship.*

## Cree Translations Of WPLP Year In Review Now Available

For the third year, the Wuskwatim Implementation Office has prepared a Cree audio summary of the Wuskwatim Power Limited Partnership's Year In Review. It is available on a CD that will play in any CD player or with computer audio software.

The Implementation Office's resident translator Henry Wood coordinated the translation with his team consisting of Sam Dysart and Alex Linklater. He also recorded the audio translation.

Copies of the CD are available at the Implementation Office.

A translation of the companion 2010-11 Monitoring Overview is still being prepared.



*WPLP board includes NCN's Marcel Moody and Jimmy Hunter-Spence.*

## WPLP Annual Meeting Held

The fifth annual meeting of the Wuskwatim Power Limited Partnership is scheduled to be held in January 2012. WPLP board members, including NCN representative Marcel Moody and Jimmy Hunter-Spence as well as Chief and Council are expected to attend.





## John Markowsky: 1947-2011

### NCN and Manitoba Hydro Lose a Good Friend

John Markowsky, Manitoba Hydro's former Resident Manager for the Wuskwatim Generating Station until stepping aside in July 2010 for health reasons, passed away August 9 at age 64 after a long battle with cancer. In his extensive relationship with the Wuskwatim Project, he had developed a genuine love, respect and concern for the Nisichawayasihk people. He also developed a close friendship with Councillor Marcel Moody and asked Marcel to speak at his memorial service.

#### A Colleague and a Friend

"I met and got to know John during our negotiation process that led to the construction of the Wuskwatim Project and we became really good friends," Marcel said. "Even though we didn't see eye-to-eye on a number of issues during the negotiation process, we had a lot of respect for each other and that enabled us to move forward together as colleagues and ultimately as friends. We shared a lot together, including an interest in each other's families. John for example would take time out of his busy schedule to see my twin girls play hockey in Thompson and we would often talk about his son, who was also playing hockey.

"Sometimes I think people with similar personalities connect. That was the way it was with John and me. We wanted the best for our families and the best for those who we represented in the very important project we were working on. "The only regret he expressed to me was that he would not be able to finish the project and be with us to celebrate as we begin to see the hopes and dreams of our people becoming a reality. But that



was so typical of John; he wasn't worried about himself, instead he was thinking about us and our future," Marcel said.

#### NCN Honours John Markowsky with Cultural Ceremony

Susan Kobliski, NCN's cultural coordinator on the project opened the memorial service with a smudging and drum ceremony over John's ashes.

John had worked as a civil engineer and project manager for Manitoba Hydro for just over 25 years, but also had international hydro-project experience in Lesotho, India, Singapore, Indonesia and Vietnam. John was a devoted family man survived by his wife, three children and two grandchildren. He was an avid sportsman and outdoorsman with a love of music.



NCN Councillor Marcel Moody

*"I met and got to know John during our negotiation process that led to the construction of the Wuskwatim Project and we became really good friends,"*



WUSKWATIM  
IMPLEMENTATION  
news



**O**n behalf of the Wuskwatim  
Power Limited Partnership

board and my colleagues with the  
Power Supply division of Manitoba Hydro,  
I'm pleased to extend best wishes to all  
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Citizens  
for a happy holiday season and a healthy,  
successful 2012 – a historic year that will  
see the completion of the Wuskwatim  
Hydroelectric Generating Station.

## Greetings



**Best wishes,**

**Ken R. F. Adams, P. Eng.**

*Chair of the general partner of  
Wuskwatim Power Limited Partnership  
and Senior Vice-president Power  
Supply, Manitoba Hydro*

 **Manitoba  
Hydro**



# Peace

Joy

## and Happiness

Epakosithimoahk – Kita – Metho –  
Makosikisikunsiik, Akwa Kiati – Oski –  
Askiwauk – Kitamiskamik, Piatakithimowin –  
Mena – Mithitamowin.

Eatmiskatikwow Konikanimiawok  
Okimakan Akwa Othusowethiniwok

Wishing you a joyous  
holiday season and a  
New Year filled with peace  
and happiness.

Best wishes from Nisichawayasihk Cree  
Nation Chief and Council.

Left to right: Councillors Shirley Linklater,  
Marcel Moody, D'Arcy Linklater, Chief  
Jerry Primrose, Councillors Patrick  
Linklater, Ron Spence and Joe Moose.



#### **NCN Portfolio Holder**

Councillor Marcel Moody

#### **Staff**

Norman Linklater, *Wuskwatim Implementation Manager*

Alvin Yetman, *Associate Implementation Coordinator*

Mark Linklater, *Environmental Socio-economic Coordinator*

Lawrence Dysart, *Environmental and Socio-economic Assistant Coordinator*

Charlie Joe Hart, *Employee Liaison Officer*

Susan Kobliski, *Cultural Coordinator*

Jacqueline Spence, *Site Counsellor*

Patricia Spence, *Site Counsellor*

Darcy Linklater Jr., *Contract/ Finance Administrator*

Crystal Linklater, *Finance Administrative Assistant*

Maryann Brightnose, *Finance Administrative Assistant*

Eva Linklater, *Archaeologist*

Shawna Linklater, *Community Employment Coordinator*

Curtis Lobster, *Employment Advisor*

Donna Moore-Linklater, *Employment Advisor*

Jeremiah Spence, *Employment Advisor*

Henry Wood, *Employment Advisor*



**Wuskwatim Implementation Manager**

**Norman Linklater and his staff extend best wishes to all NCN Citizens for a safe and happy holiday season.**

**For more information please contact:**



Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

**Wuskwatim Implementation Office**

Ensuring the Future of Our Children & Our Children's Children...



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