

BACKGROUND: TURNING THE PAGE FACT CHECK

1. The MMF Fully Participated in the Bipole III Hearings

The Clean Environment Commission held public hearings on the Bipole III project from October 1, 2012 to March 14, 2013. The MMF fully and extensively participated in those hearings, including by: attending these hearings, providing evidence and presentations about impacts of the project on the rights of the Manitoba Métis Community, and questioning the witnesses put forward by Manitoba Hydro about the project. Throughout this participation, the MMF was clear that Manitoba must address the impacts of Bipole III on Métis rights. Copies of the MMF's submissions, as well as the transcripts demonstrating the MMF's participation are available on the [Clean Environment Commission website](#)

2. *Turning the Page* did not Restrict the MMF's Participation in the Bipole III Hearings In Any Way

The *Turning the Page* Agreement was signed between the MMF, Manitoba, and Manitoba Hydro in 2014 after the Bipole III hearings and review process had concluded, and even after the license decision for Bipole III had been made by Manitoba. A link to the timeline for these events is in the press release. It is absurd for Premier Pallister to suggest that an agreement which did not even exist yet could have in any way "restricted" or "shut out" the MMF's participation in the review of Bipole III.

3. *Turning the Page* was intended to Advance Reconciliation and set out a process for how to address outstanding impacts of Bipole III and other projects on Métis rights.

The *Turning the Page* Agreement is reconciliation in action. This is clearly set out on the first page: "The Parties wish to build a forward-looking, productive and non-adversarial working relationship." It was meant to "turn the page" on the past relationship between the MMF, Manitoba, and Manitoba Hydro: one that had been extremely challenging and often adversarial when it came to Métis consultation and accommodation issues.

In the Clean Environment Commission Report on Bipole III [link: http://www.cecmanitoba.ca/resource/hearings/36/FINAL%20WEB%20Bipole%20III%20Transmission%20Project_WEB3.pdf], the province's own Commission criticized the past consultation and engagement processes of Manitoba Hydro, the Crown Corporation: "It seems clear that consultation with Aboriginal communities...needs to be modernized ...As Manitoba Hydro modernizes its approach to Aboriginal consultation, it will need a different approach for working with the MMF – a province-wide collective entity representing Métis across Manitoba."

The *Turning the Page* Agreement clarifies the roles and responsibilities of Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro when it comes to consultation and engagement with the MMF. It is a vital part of modernizing consultation and responding to the Commission's criticisms of past approaches.

The *Turning the Page* agreement also flows from the fact that there were unaddressed impacts on Métis rights, stemming from the project, that were not resolved at the time Manitoba made its decision to issue the license for Bipole III. Manitoba had not fulfilled its duty to consult and accommodate the Manitoba Métis Community about the project. Through the agreement, the MMF's appeals of the license decisions was exchanged for the commitments and processes set out in the agreement.

Turning the Page outlines how the MMF and Manitoba Hydro could address outstanding impacts of Bipole III, and other projects, on Métis rights. It does this by providing the commitments and forward-looking processes for how the MMF and Manitoba Hydro would collaboratively work together to address outstanding impacts of existing and future projects. *Turning the Page* provided clear processes that supported the MMF's participation, and that, if followed and fulfilled, could resolve these outstanding issues about unaddressed impacts of Bipole III and other projects.

4. *Turning the Page* did not—and does not--prevent or restrict the MMF's ability to participate in the review of any project, in any way.

Article 3.1.3 of the *Turning the Page* Agreement is clear. The agreement does not prevent the MMF in any way from:

- “participating in regulatory proceedings or reviews related to Existing Developments and Operations or Future Developments”
- “applying for and accessing additional funding from third party commissions, agencies or boards to support the MMF’s participation in proceedings relating to Existing Developments and Operations or Future Developments”
- “making submissions to commissions, agencies, boards or government in relation to Existing Developments and Operations or Future Developments on environmental and regulatory issues.”

As these sections make clear, the *Turning the Page* Agreement explicitly acknowledges and even outlines support for how the MMF is to participate in the review of future projects.

For more information, please visit: http://www.mmf.mb.ca/mmf_mbhydro.php