

Press Advisory

For Immediate Release

February 14, 2006

Canada/United States Water Conflicts Escalating...

The Red River Valley Water Supply Project, a \$500 million to \$2.3 billion water diversion proposal, is North Dakota's latest attempt to resurrect the ill-fated Garrison Diversion Project. The Garrison Diversion, first proposed in the 50's, would have transferred large amounts of water into the Hudson Bay Drainage Basin from the Missouri River Basin.

The International Joint Commission (IJC) studied the Garrison Diversion and in 1977 advised that it should not proceed unless and until the Governments of Canada and US agreed on proven mitigation to eliminate the risk of biota transfer and disease transfer or that those issues were no longer a concern.

To combat the piecemeal resurrection of the Garrison Diversion, the Council of Canadians, Friends of the Earth Canada and the Indigenous Environmental Network have joined forces to monitor and inform Canadian and US citizens on the potential devastating impacts that can occur should the project proceed to transfer water from the Missouri into the Red. This working group is calling on both governments to respect the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 and to respect Indigenous Nations Sovereignty including Tribal/First Nations Rights to water.

The group believes that North Dakota's water supply dilemma can be solved from within the Red River Basin. Options that include demand side management, water reuse, water recycling and conservation can help communities in the Red River Valley meet their future water needs.

The working group will be on tour in the region at the following locations:

Tuesday, February 14 7:00 pm. Winnipeg Millennium Library, Winnipeg, MB
Event: Public Forum at Carol Shields Library
Contact: Glen Koroluk 204-943-0318

Wednesday, February 15 1:00 pm. Black Building 402 – 118 Broadway, Fargo, ND
Event: Press Conference

Thursday, February 16 7:00 pm. Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN
Event: Public Forum at Crying Wolf Room, Hobson Memorial Union

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