



MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK

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Public Utilities Board
400 – 330 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0C4

April 19, 2021

Attention: Dr. Darren Christle, Secretary

Since 1988, the Manitoba Eco-Network (MbEN) has promoted positive environmental action by supporting people and groups in our community. MbEN has transitioned our programming to focus more on policy advocacy, engagement in consultation processes and developing capacity building tools that benefit the environmental non-profit sector and our member groups. We participated as a public presenter in the PUB's recent review of Efficiency Manitoba's three year plan. We applaud the investigations and reviews that the PUB undertakes to protect the public interest when it comes to setting utility rates, approving new hydroelectric and natural gas developments and ensuring effective energy efficiency programming is implemented.

We are writing to express our support for the Aboriginal Council of Manitoba, Consumers Association of Canada (Manitoba) and Manitoba Harvest's application (known as the "Consumers Coalition") requesting that a review of Manitoba Hydro rates is undertaken by the PUB.

As pointed out in the Coalition's application, a review of Manitoba Hydro rates is warranted due to improved understanding of cumulative impacts, Manitoba Hydro's change in strategic direction in the treatment of debts and assets when setting rates, and the role of new power sales that have brought in additional revenues. Additionally, with COVID19 and foreseeable legislative change to *The Manitoba Hydro Act* and *The Public Utilities Board Act*, it is important that vulnerable segments of society are not impacted by government-imposed rate changes in a negative way.

Manitobans rely on regular PUB rate reviews to ensure Manitoba Hydro meets its obligations to economically and efficiently supply power to all Manitobans. It is important that the PUB undertake the requested review and ensure the interests of all Manitobans remain protected.

We thank you for your consideration of this issue,

Glen Koroluk
Executive Director

cc. Damon Johnston, Gloria Desorcy, Meaghan Erbus