



WESTERN CANADA
**WILDERNESS
COMMITTEE**

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June 2, 2011

An open letter addressed to Hugh McFadyen, Leader of the PC Party of Manitoba

Dear Mr. McFadyen:

Please consider this letter a formal request to publicly explain your claims about the ecological impact of running Bipole III down either the west or east side of Manitoba.

As the largest wilderness protection citizen group in Canada and in Manitoba, we would like to have the facts about Bipole III made public so that they may be scrutinized, substantiated and endorsed. This will allow all Manitobans to personally make factual and informed decisions about this important project. I would like to address three separate claims you made last week, in addition to a claim from earlier this year.

You presented a leaked hydro engineers' report to the Manitoba Legislature on May 26, 2011, which states that there is "no environmental difference" between an east-side or west-side routing of Bipole III. According to the Winnipeg Free Press on May 26, you reiterated this statement, which leads people to believe you agree with it. It would be invaluable to Manitobans to know whether or not you feel that there is any environmental and ecological difference between routing the hydro line to the east or west. It would be tremendously beneficial for Manitobans if you would present the facts that support such a claim, as after I reviewed the report, I found no citations and no discussions of environmental impact to substantiate this statement in the report you tabled.

The Winnipeg Free Press reported you as saying the east-side route is "cleaner" on May 26, 2011. This has the allusion that, ecologically, the east side route is a better choice. If that is your position, please present the facts which indicate that this is the case.

On May 28, 2011, the same paper reported you as saying: "The west-side line goes through the heart of the boreal as well." Please clarify what, in your statement, the Heart of the Boreal is, as this comment may be confusing to some. I personally delivered a map entitled the Heart of the Boreal to you last summer, so I know you have seen a map of what is considered the Heart of the Boreal, the greatest intact forest left on earth. The western route will not bisect this intact forest. Again, an explanation will greatly benefit Manitobans.

In a recent The Drum / The First Perspectives letter, you stated that the western route would run across or adjacent to seven protected areas. Oddly enough, this is the exact same letter that Gerald Hawranik sent to the Winnipeg River Echo on the topic of BiPole III last fall. Please have whoever is writing yours and Mr. Hawranik's letters explain whether the western route is, in fact crossing any protected areas (which would be illegal) or whether they are running adjacent to

(i.e. avoiding protected areas), which seems like an acceptable thing to do. If it is the latter then I believe you should explain whether you feel that this statement is misleading, and perhaps doing a disservice to Manitobans by confusing the issue. I know last year you repeatedly insisted to me in person that the western route was going to cross Riding Mountain National Park, which would also be illegal and was also not true. Perhaps whoever is writing your letters for you is wrong in this case as well.

To reiterate, Manitobans need and deserve the facts about Bipole III. Anything less, like confusing or misleading the discussions of it, is a great disservice to Manitobans.

Sincerely,

Eric Reder
Manitoba Campaign Director
The Wilderness Committee