

Vern Anderson
Vice-President
Association for Displaced Residents of South Indian Lake
c/o 1520-444 St. Mary Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R3C 3T1

June 22, 2004

Dawn Mikkelson
Aquaries Media Corporation
500 N. Robert Street
Suite 207
St. Paul, Minnesota
55101

Dear Ms. Mikkelson:

I am Vern Anderson, Nelson House Cree Indian Band Member, Vice-President South for the Association for the Displaced Residents of South Indian Lake and former resident of South Indian Lake, Manitoba, Canada. On behalf of our Association I am pleased to convey our strong support for your documentary film on the impacts of hydro development on the aboriginal (Indian) people of northern Manitoba. Our Association represents over 400 people and their families who were displaced by the flooding and relocation of the community of South Indian Lake by Manitoba Hydro in the 1970's as part of the massive Churchill-Nelson River Hydro Dam Project. Many of us suffered economic, social, psychological and emotional losses/damages as our once vibrant self sufficient community of South Indian Lake was virtually destroyed for the generation of hydro electric power mainly for export to the United States. Since 1993 we have been fighting Manitoba Hydro and the Governments of Manitoba and Canada for fair and just treatment and compensation under the Northern Flood Agreement Treaty. Many members of our Association, including me have immediate and close family who are still trying to live in the environmental and socio-economic mess that was created by Manitoba Hydro. The refusal of Manitoba Hydro and the government to deal with these issues and problems has exacerbated the pain and suffering of our people.

We are pleased that your film will include footage, visits and interviews with those currently residing in South Indian Lake and with members of our Association who have been displaced from our ancestral home. Many members of our Association would like to participate in the film and tell their stories of how past hydro development has affected them and their families. We strongly support your film as an important educational tool for the public and children, both aboriginal and non-aboriginal. The true legacy of hydro development in northern Manitoba is one not only of "cheap" electricity but also one of devastation, misery and heartbreak for the northern Cree. It is hoped that your film will show this side of the issue which is being downplayed and, some say, covered up, by Manitoba Hydro and the Government of Manitoba.

At South Indian Lake you will be able to capture that the environmental devastation created by the Churchill-Nelson River Hydro Project is in fact worsening. This is caused by ongoing severe fluctuating water levels as Southern Indian Lake is used a major water storage reservoir by Manitoba Hydro. Many feel that South Indian Lake was, and continues to be, the community most negatively impacted by hydro dam development in northern Manitoba. We are hoping that your film will help us to get the truth told and action from Manitoba Hydro and the Government of Manitoba to deal with the environmental and socio-economic problems they have brought upon the people of South Indian Lake and other communities in northern Manitoba. We also appreciate that your film will also show the strength, resilience and courage of those who are trying to cope with what has been done, and is being done, to them and their communities.

I look forward to meeting you this summer and assisting in making your film project a success.

Yours truly,



Vern Anderson
Association for Displaced Residents of South Indian Lake