



Climate Change Workshop
January 23, 2003
Little Black River First Nation Community Hall

Hosted By Manitoba Model Forest





Climate Change Workshop Hosted By Model Forest Association

In Attendance

Myrtle Abraham
 William Beaulieu
 Carla Bird
 Christina Bird
 Kevin Bir
 Randie Bird Sr.
 Stuart Bird
 Warren Bradfield
 Gerald Brahniuk
 Paul Chief
 Dennis Depape
 Jennifer Duggan
 Jennifer Duggan
 Harry Halkett
 Irene Hanuta
 Irwin Harry
 Crystal Hart
 Jack Johnson

Stan Kaczanowski
 Chris Laslant
 Mike Martel
 Greg McKinnon
 Ernest McPherson
 Lawrence Menow
 Evelyn Moneas
 John R. Moneas
 Vanessa Pruden
 Orton Ramsey
 Garry Raven
 Wilson Scott
 Carl Smith
 Pamela Spence
 Doug Starr
 Stanley Thickfoot
 Mike Waldrom
 Bryon Yusishen

Opening Prayer Ernest McPherson
 Welcoming Remarks Gerald Harry
 Chairperson Dennis Depape

Climate Change Workshop

After the opening prayer was said by Ernest McPherson, Elder from Little Black River, Dennis Depape started the session off with a few comments. He then introduced Carl Smith from Brokenhead First Nation and Jennifer Duggan of Climate Change Connection. Carl thanked all for attending and proceeded to introduce a small but very impressive list of representatives from around the area.

In attendance were representatives from as far away as Prince Albert, Saskatchewan and Edmonton, Alberta. Also introduced and welcomed were representatives from Hollow Water, Brokenhead, and Little Black River First Nations, Department of Agriculture, Canadian Forest Service, Manitoba Conservation and Tembec.

It was readily apparent right from the start of the meeting that the level of concern for our environment and climate change ran very high among those attending. Dennis asked everyone to think about their experiences with climate change and to be prepared to share some of those with the group later on in the day.

Jennifer, whose job it is to make people aware of climate change and the problems associated with it, was then called upon to do a tremendously well-accepted presentation. The facts and figures Jennifer presented really helped point out the problems associated with global warming (climate change). Jennifer made a comment that seemed to be very disconcerting to those present when she mentioned that everything she

will talk about today *is destined to happen*. That is unless we do something about the climate change that is currently taking place.

In explaining that the climate affects just about everything, Jennifer pointed out that in general, the world is hotter than it used to be. The warmest year ever recorded so far was 1998. The average temperature of the last ice age was just 5 degrees lower than it is now.

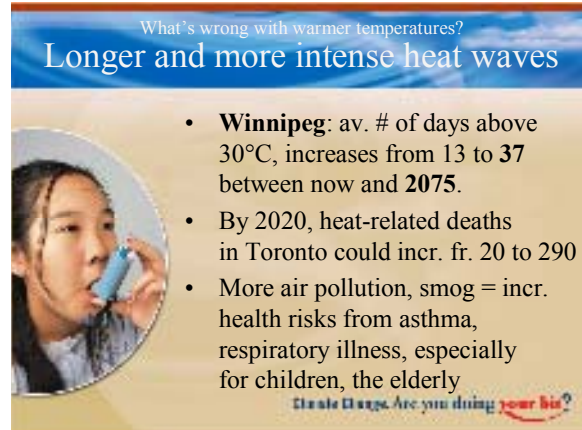


She explained that greenhouse gasses such as carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide (connected with agriculture) and methane are abundant in greater quantities than ever before. The causes, she said, are increased green house gas emissions and land use changes, including deforestation throughout the world.

“Not everyplace will warm up in the same way”, she explained. “Northern Manitoba will feel the effects of climate change first. We already know that polar bears are finding it more difficult to find food than before and are becoming endangered”.

Human activities contribute to Climate Change!

- Deforestation means less oxygen being created and less Carbon Dioxide being stored by the forests.
- 23% of the world's oxygen is created by the Boreal Forests. Massive deforestation is having a major impact on the climate.
- This deforestation and resulting climate change will also impact on employment in the lumber, fishing, hunting and other related industries.
- Transportation issues such as increased numbers of automobiles, are creating more and more carbon dioxide and other emissions.
- Industry is producing more and more green house gasses.



What's wrong with warmer temperatures?
Longer and more intense heat waves

- **Winnipeg:** av. # of days above 30°C, increases from 13 to 37 between now and 2075.
- By 2020, heat-related deaths in Toronto could incr. fr. 20 to 290
- More air pollution, smog = incr. health risks from asthma, respiratory illness, especially for children, the elderly

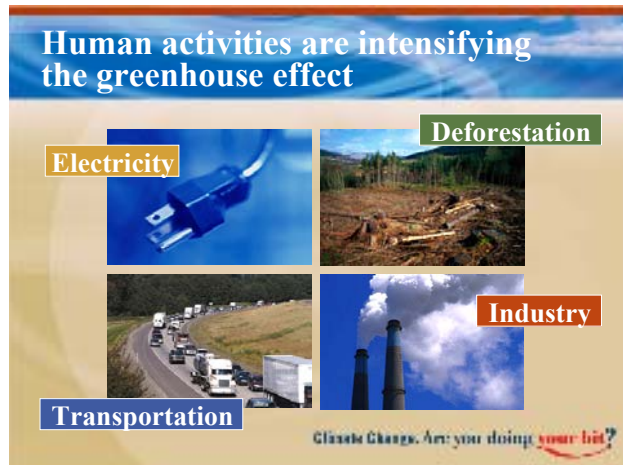
Climate Change. Are you doing your bit?

What's wrong with warmer temperatures?

...Jennifer asked and in addition to polling the audience for answers, she provided more facts and figures herself.

For instance, with warmer temperatures we will also see:

- the diminishing of the glaciers
- changes in sea and ocean levels (the Great Lakes are expected to lower by 1 meter in the next 100 years)
- droughts in some areas and floods in other areas
- sea level will rise
- an increase in insect populations making life more difficult for the larger animals such as deer, elk and moose



Human activities are intensifying the greenhouse effect

Electricity

Deforestation

Transportation

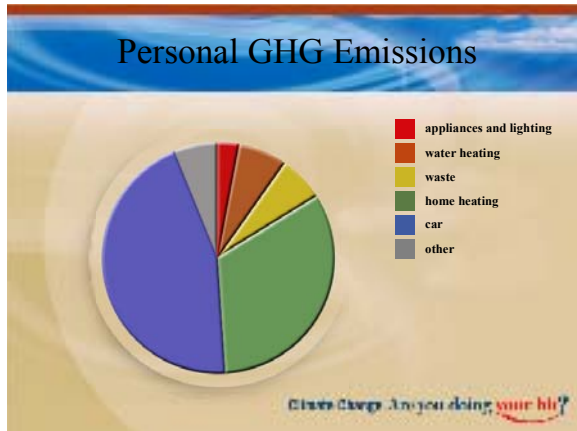
Industry

Climate Change. Are you doing your bit?

Manitoba, by using hydro electricity produces a lot less greenhouse gas than other means of generating energy such as burning coal.

What can we do?

The effects of climate change are cascading and will have an effect on just about everything in some way.



Some of the ways we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) are:

- Limit the use of cars; automobiles are responsible for almost half of personal green house gas emissions; walk more, car pool, etc.
- Reduce the idling time of cars
- Control over heating the house and hot water, etc. in the home
- Consider the use of hybrid vehicles in the future

**Actions by individuals
 account for 28% of GHG
 emissions each year -
 equal to six tonnes per year**

Jennifer's presentation was certainly an eye-opener for some of us and was well received by all. After fielding some questions from those present, Carl Smith presented Jennifer with a small token of appreciation for her presentation.

What did other people have to say?

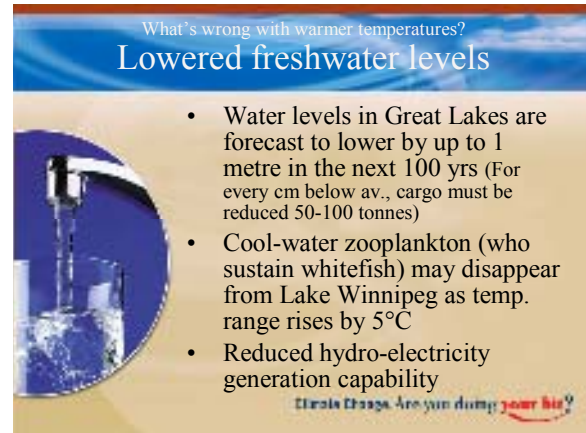
Other guests, in particular the elders present, were asked for and given opportunity to express their thoughts, questions and suggestions in terms of what we can do about climate change. Some of the comments expressed are summarized as follows:

- "People today depend on too many luxury items based on what advertising tells us we need"
- "Included in these *luxury* items is milk; we are the only mammals on earth that drink milk after nine months!"
- "The problem with natives today is that we depend on society to tell us what we need"
- "Statistics that say that 28% of GHG are human produced is wrong, those statistics are based on those who live in the cities and not by those who live out in the community and live off the land"
- "In the northern communities before roads were constructed, we didn't have any dependency on INAC. There was no diabetes and today we have 75% of the communities have diabetes"
- "When *progress* comes to a community it tends to lead to a drop in cultural activities and environmental awareness"
- "One elder once said, "be careful of what you accept from people because one day our lake will die." One of the downfalls of our communities is we no longer listen to our elders, who have

predicted many of the problems that we face today”

- “I recommend more meetings because the people making the presentations are all scientists and professionals whose technical knowledge is way above those they are presenting to. It takes time to translate to those who do not understand.”
- “The elders said that the white man will ruin our world and kill our forests. I feel that I have come here for nothing because nothing is being done to improve (the situation). I go into the bush and see the woodcutters destroying the bush and making a big mess. If we don’t do something now, we will all soon go to the spirit world.”

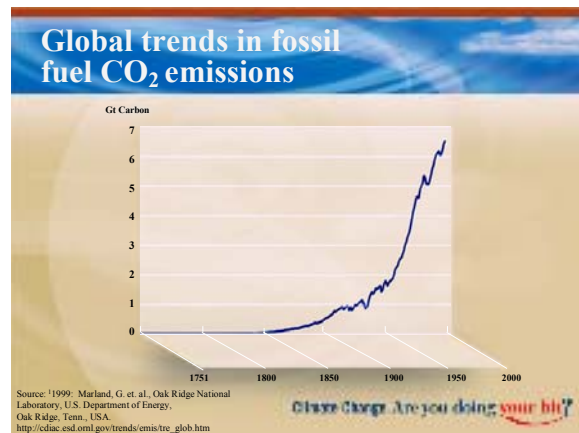
bury a truck. To its top! The most apparent changes we see here in the north because of our seasonal changes. We need to start changing things and start soon!”



What's wrong with warmer temperatures?
Lowered freshwater levels

- Water levels in Great Lakes are forecast to lower by up to 1 metre in the next 100 yrs (For every cm below av., cargo must be reduced 50-100 tonnes)
- Cool-water zooplankton (who sustain whitefish) may disappear from Lake Winnipeg as temp. range rises by 5°C
- Reduced hydro-electricity generation capability

Climate Change: Are you doing your bit?



- Question to Tembec Representative - “How much emissions are generated from the mill because the smoke stack emissions can be seen for miles?”
- Answer from Tembec Representative - “The mills emissions are a combination of steam, dust and coal burning. Within the past 10 to 20 years the use of coal burning has been reduced by about 40%.”
- “The temperatures are changing. This is only our second week of cold weather. That is unnatural for our area (East shore of Lake Winnipeg) when it should be very cold continuously!”
- “The floods in 1996 and 1997 were some of the strange happenings as a result of climate change.”
- “The animals are the indicators of climate changes. Those who know the animals well can see the changes the animals make that are a result of the weather. If we can learn from the elders,
- “Within the last 5 years in Saskatchewan, there have been considerable changes such as more tornados and down bursts. These changes are now becoming more apparent.”
- “In 1980 the snow was so deep we used to have contests to see who could bury themselves the best. That was how much snow there was 20 years ago. Ten years ago there were snow drifts that could

the habits of the animals, then we can have a better idea of the weather predictions.”

Provide an election service here in the community because many people, young people don't have the opportunity to travel.

AS CLIMATE CHANGES: IMPACTS

- Temp. increases may change the **range and growth patterns** of boreal, with implications for wildlife, hunters, forest industry, tourism ... everybody!!!
- The southern margin of the boreal forest will likely shift 150 - 200 km to the north

Stennes, B., E. Krcmar-Nozic and G.C. van Kooten. 1998. Climate Change and Forestry: What Policy for Canada? Forest Economics and Policy Analysis Research Unit, University of British Columbia. Vancouver, B.C. 13pp.

- “People here are trying to fix the problem of climate change. We have lost respect for Mother Earth and are destroying Mother Earth. There is always someone else with a higher knowledge. Why are we no longer listening to that higher? Earthquakes are occurring throughout the world and that is caused by people. We are blocking rivers and streams, the blood of Mother Earth.”

“Focus on the traditional values and not the perceived needs”

- “Europeans arrived here almost 500 years ago and today Canada is almost dead, polluted and getting worse. They say we, the Anishinabe people have to change to better the community and world. We have been here for thousands of years and there was never a problem until the Europeans came. They say we have to change. Our people have changed as much as the climate. Our young people no longer respect their

parents and there are no morals being passed on to the young. We have to make everything as simple as it can be so everyone can understand. The professionals try to make themselves better. But we need more action and less talk of how to improve”

- “We need to educate the whole community and the students at the schools because there are not many who know what is going on because they are not involved. More people should be involved and then more people will be aware. My grandfather was once talking about these things, the changes. We need to inform as much as possible about the changes and what can be done. Everything is getting sick, the plants, animals and even the people.”
- “Most of us don't realize what we are doing but we are polluting the air when we use gas. I am learning of all these things that pollute the air. In New York there is so much pollution that some animals are growing legs or have six legs. We never had a problem like that before, when I was young. Now everything is changed, different and they tell me it's polluted.

AS CLIMATE CHANGES: IMPACTS

- As carbon dioxide levels double in the atmosphere, the seasonal severity rating (SSR) for forest fires are expected to increase by 40%.
- Loss of waterfowl habitat due to drying up of lakes and sloughs.
- Less habitat for threatened species like the woodland caribou and the grey fox.

Before breaking for lunch, Dennis once again reminded each person to come up with one idea that we as individuals or communities can implement to deal with climate change.



After lunch the elders present were asked to provide us with their input regarding climate change. The summary of their presentations follows:

FOREST RESOURCES & MANITOBANS

- Over 3300 Manitobans are directly employed by the forestry industry in logging and pulp production

[Middlebro, B. 2001. Directory of Primary Wood Using Industries in Manitoba. Canadian Forest Services, Natural Resources Canada.]

- At least 7000 others work in related fields, benefiting indirectly from the harvest of Manitoba's forests.

Christian Bird (Elder – Little Black River)

I noticed a lot of changes when the dams were placed on the rivers. I believe that forest harvesting is ruining everything. We once lived with the trees but now they are gone. My elder is now 108 years old because he doesn't eat anything from the stores. We are meeting here today because of climate changes. The sun is coming

down. Soon the ground will be so dry that nothing will grow. They are destroying everything; we should respect every little tree. When we see a little tree we should put tobacco to help that tree grow with prayer. The Europeans came and destroyed everything and yet they blame us for everything. They used to tell us to even spit on a paper (chewing tobacco), not on the ground. That is how much they try to control us today.

Elder Ernest McPherson - LBR First Nation

There have been lots of changes in my lifetime as well. There were once lots of berries all around to support us. The rivers are not able to grow on their own now, they are controlled by dams. We must respect the waters and land. Even the fish and sturgeon are dying out because we make too many changes to our environment. We try to make things better for ourselves. Everyone talks about making changes. Everything that is destroyed is morally wrong.

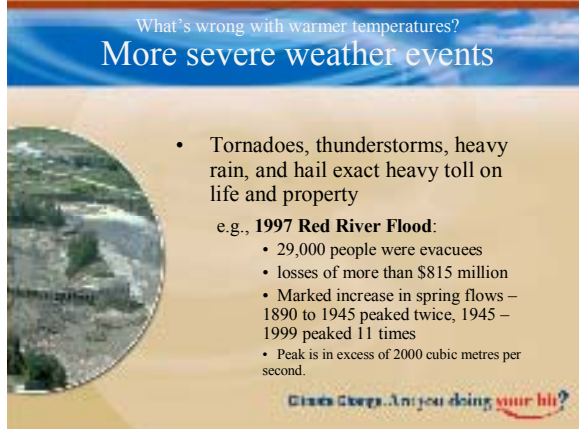
Wilson Scott – Hole River First Nation

After listening to the talk about climate change reminds me of listening to my grandfather talking about what has changed. I ask the Creator why with human experience, why everything is being destroyed. The rich people, the companies usually use machines. Our governments are too greedy to stop them. We have the best bluffs because the rest have already been cut. They are gone but what can we do? We have the Assembly of Chiefs in Manitoba and one National Chief but they are all young people and I don't know what has happened. It is now much, much warmer. I hear that our government (INAC) are getting courts and making agreements with Indian people. My grandfather was there when he was young and they mentioned everything that was in the treaties. The meeting was at

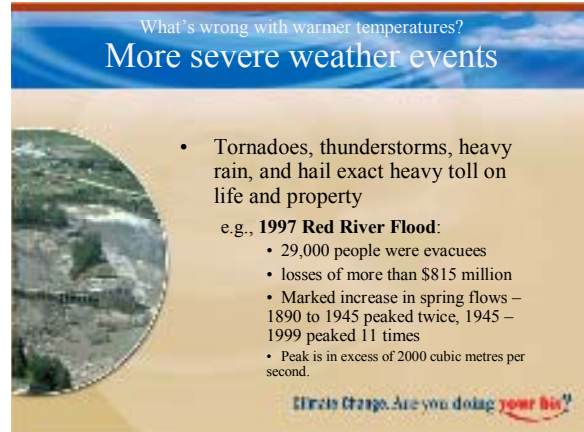
the “Stone House” as it was called in 1872. Now all the agreements are broken. There are too many small communities. They used to show all financial reports and they used to talk about this.

We grow quiet. Our leaders are quiet. Our Chief went to Geneva but we should meet together at an assembly before such things could be taken. We should talk about everything, fishing, trapping. I have been fishing for over 60 years with the same permit. I try to talk to the young people but no one really listens, the world is sick. People have changed, everything has changed and I don’t know what would happen. Today on the TV I even heard two buffalo talking and there was even a ground hog talking.

Gifts were presented to Christian Bird and Ernest McPherson.



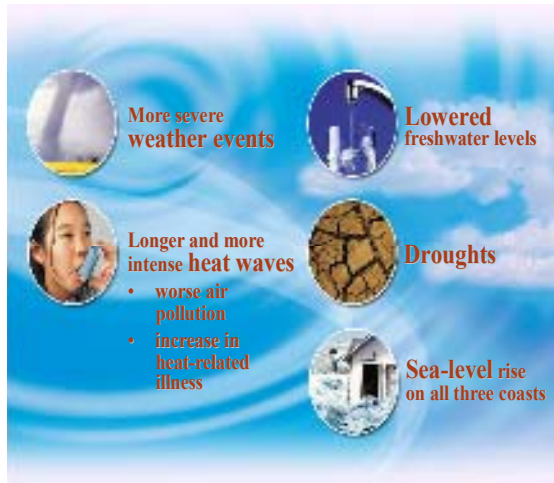
Everything is gone after the forest has been harvested. Soon Lake Winnipeg will be closed for fishing. What will happen to me, a trapper and fisherman?"



Ideas presented to deal with climate change:

- Save all the paper and the tin cans in the house that can be recycled
- Car pool
- Plant seeds
- reduce electricity use at home and work
- Prevent forest fires
- Use smoke stacks that are designed to save people
- Ask our creator for help
- Walk to work
- Recycle
- Work with one another to make improvements and make industries more accountable
- Community awareness can be encouraged. Community Elders want to be involved more and we should be able to involve the youth as well. We should get the youth involved more! We need to get out to the schools and the communities to open the eyes to what is happening out there
- Show appreciation for the gifts of Mother Earth

- Education, getting together to share ideas and take what is learned to different communities to let it grow and build
- The children should be involved because they will see the changes more and have to live with them
- “We need to bring the scientists to the communities for these meetings because they are the people who the governments listen to and may have a better chance to convince the governments to make changes



These ideas can start right away if there was front money for gas to transport recycled goods to the recycling industries.

The Elders need a program where they can get involved because they want to get involved and should

- Collection service for recycled materials
- There is a grant program from Manitoba Model Forest called Community Development Fund which can be used to help promote forest management or prevention of pollution



Closing comments:

Rene Barker and Jennifer can get together to make presentations in schools. Students that are interested in learning how to make this presentation can also obtain the materials and do so. They can tour and present to other schools as young people will better relate to their peers.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm. With a closing prayer.

“Always look for something that can be done”







