

Hydlo and FRIENDS unplugged



Land users share their thoughts about the EM1A/Sarcelle/Rupert project



Hydlo and Friends is a program broadcast by JBCCS. Its hosts, Luke and Réal, discuss various matters related to Hydro-Québec activities on Eeyou Istchee lands. Swapping their mike for a pen, they invite you to explore various aspects of the Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert project.

The EM1A/Sarcelle/Rupert project covers a vast territory extending over 350 km from north to south and from east to west. It impacts some 1000 km of waterways, affects 6 Cree communities and crosses 33 traplines. At the request of the Cree representatives from the HQ-Cree Monitoring Committee, HQ-SEBJ and the Niskamoon Corporation funded a conference, held on November 29 and 30, 2011, in Val-d'Or, which brought together the tallymen affected by the project.

The objective of the conference was to allow affected land users to share their experiences concerning the project. Many tallymen accepted the invitation, with over 70 participants (tallymen and guests) taking part in the two-day event.



James Shashawescum, tallyman from VC21, poses proudly in front of a map of his trapline.

On day 1 of the conference, participants attended one of two workshops. The first workshop was for land users from the instream flow section of the Rupert (Nemaska and Waskaganish). The second workshop brought together users of the increased flow section—the diversion bays, the Opinaca reservoir and Boyd and Sakami lakes (Mistissini, Eastmain, Wemindji and Chisasibi). Cree members of the Monitoring Committee, accompanied by Stella Jolly, Lloyd Mayappo and Merlin Whiskeychan, led discussions on a range of topics including fluctuating water levels, hunting and fishing in the project area by Crees and non-Crees, ice conditions and navigation, new access roads and mitigation measure contracts, all of which had been identified as major concerns.

On day 2 of the conference, workshop results were presented at a plenary session. Some tallymen took to the microphone to address some of the issues that are most important to them.



Merlin Whiskeychan and Ryan Erless from Waskaganish lead workshops on the instream flow section of the Rupert.



Overall, most considered the event to be positive. The discussions also allowed Cree members of the Monitoring Committee to gain a better understanding of land users' experiences with such a large-scale project. Participants expressed interest in having another conference in a few years.

For more information, scan this QR code.

