

## Power politics

In the article *East side preservation inspiring* (Oct. 27), co-authors Rick Smith and Mario Reynolds present inaccurate information to justify their support of the provincial government's decision to rule out the shorter east side route for Manitoba Hydro's Bipole III transmission line.

In the Jan. 25 *Free Press*, Gerald Flood pointed out that a power line through the boreal forest would not disqualify the area for UNESCO World Heritage designation. Indeed, the east side road now under construction will have far greater environmental impact, but nobody seems concerned about that.

As for "exposing the land to ongoing threats from industrial activity," Bipole III will be a very high-voltage transmission line with no provision for access by potential local customers. Unlike the road, which is intended to connect the various communities of the area, the power line can be routed well away from communities, buildings and sites deemed worthy of preservation.

Manitobans should be able to have both an UNESCO World Heritage Site and an economical east side route for Bipole III.

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