

Letter of the day: Bad decision mirrored

By: **Staff Writer**

Posted: 18/11/2010 1:00 AM

Re: *Chiefs push for road in north* (Nov. 16). The key to development for remote communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg was lost when the decision was made to route the Bipole III line on the west side.

If Manitoba Hydro had decided to build the line down the east side, the cost savings in construction and power evaporation from the lines could have paid for an east side road. And these savings over the years could have paid for sewer and water development and other infrastructure needs. Now our communities are left to cry out for government help for many years to come.

The decision to build a road from Island Lake to Norway House mirrors the west side line decision -- it's the long way around to Winnipeg. A good road down the east side from Island Lake would provide the quickest route to Winnipeg. It would be only a 5.5-hour drive instead of 15 hours through Norway House.

In 1999, there was a report on sustainable development. This was supposed to steer development in a sustainable manner to gain the greatest benefits from large-scale projects. Where is that report and those principles in this whole mess?

I may be a lone wolf on this east side issue, but I believe we are witnessing one of the biggest mistakes in this province's history. All Manitobans will pay for it for many years to come, especially our people on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

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