

Winnipeg River Echo
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The Editor;

The article on Bipoleiii was on the mark relative to the NDP intransigence regarding the logical routing along the east side of Lake Winnipeg, and instead favouring the west side. It is one of the worst cases of "eco-politics" I've seen in Manitoba, and as you stated, the economic costs of their folly will be felt forever by all Manitobans, no matter where they reside.

This is a debate that may well bring the NDP down, when a majority of voters find out the real facts behind their decision. As friends of international enviro-groups (very similar politics), they have used their threats to go legal on them as one justification for their action, were they to dare and opt for the east side. Sounds like extortion to me! And, where do outsiders have justification to meddle in our affairs? They seem to think they have supra-national powers over any issue they deem not to be in their politically-correct environmental interests.

If we are to be so fortunate as to turf the NDP next election, I'd hope the next government calls their bluff, and goes east side. You are correct in stating the east side residents need a stake in the project, whether it be roads, employment, or some form of co-ownership, but it must be more than just "promises". Anything substantive must be concrete (like the dams), and lasting, so east-siders will truly be partners in the final solution.

As for the so-called "intact boreal forest", an all-weather road connecting many land-locked communities is on the board as we speak, and some logging has occurred by native communities in the past. To put it in perspective, if you lay a human hair on a satellite photograph of the east side, that is the amount of area that will be used by the transmission line. For any interested persons, a coalition has been formed to inform anyone of all aspects of the debate, with excellent information on their website. Please feel free to access it at <mailto:join@bipoleiiicoalition.ca>. No cost, just a forum to explore, contribute, and better understand the issues involved.

Laird Crawford, Pine Falls.