



KINOSAOSIPI

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

NORWAY HOUSE CREE NATION

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October 25, 2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Re: Bill C-39 and a New Accord to Modernize the Northern Flood Agreement

Dear Prime Minister Carney:

Tansi. I write as Chief of Norway House Cree Nation (NHCN), ahead of the First Nations—First Ministers' Meeting, to place two things directly before you: our position on Bill C-39, and a path forward that can deliver what your government seeks for Northern Manitoba, on terms our people can accept.

Where this country's story began

Our place in this region is historic. The Cree people of Norway House are the original peoples of this region. Norway House was a central meeting place and the earliest trading hub, where our ancestors partnered with the Hudson's Bay Company and played a foundational role in the formation of what became Manitoba. It is also the very site where Treaty 5 was entered into. Our central role in this country's economy did not begin with Bill C-39. It is older than Canada and the Province itself.

What we have carried

For fifty years, our Nation has carried the cost of powering the Province of Manitoba. Lake Winnipeg Regulation, with its massive man-made channels and the Jenpeg Control Structure, operates on our lands and waters. Our people have paid for it every day since: in our lands and waters, in the fish and wildlife habitat our way of life depends on, and in our ability to exercise our Treaty and Section 35 Rights. These impacts are devastating, well documented, and ongoing within the Norway House Cree Nation Resource Management Area.

Canada, Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro made commitments to address those impacts. They are written in the Northern Flood Agreement and in our 1997 Master Implementation Agreement (MIA). Those commitments remain outstanding today.



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Why Bill C-39 cannot stand

Now Canada asks First Nations to accept faster approvals and new designations in our territories, through legislation written about our lands and waters without us at the table. Our members have lived with what development leaves behind when promises go unkept. They cannot be asked to place their confidence in new projects while the agreements already signed have not been honoured.

Norway House Cree Nation stands with First Nations across Canada in calling on your government to withdraw Bill C-39. No designation, fast-track approval or major project in our territory will proceed without NHCN's free, prior and informed consent. That consent does not rest on principle alone. It rests on our Treaty, our Section 35 Rights, the Northern Flood Agreement, the 1997 MIA, and our own laws. We are not against building. We are against being built over.

A better way to build

Our people have lived alongside major development for half a century, and we want prosperity for our members and for the North. So we bring Canada a better path: a new Accord among Canada, Manitoba, Manitoba Hydro and Norway House Cree Nation that honours, modernizes and builds upon the Northern Flood Agreement and the 1997 MIA. Nothing in it releases, replaces or diminishes any obligation owed to NHCN under those agreements, or any of our Treaty and Section 35 Rights.

The Accord would include:

- A 50-year Plan to address ongoing and legacy impacts in a structured, budgeted manner.
- Modern environmental management and mitigation, with NHCN's own Environment, Lands, Consultation and Resource Management Agency recognized as a partner in monitoring and review, and funded to modern environmental standards.
- Consultation protocols that follow the proposed NHCN Free, Prior and Informed Consent Laws, so that consent is secured Nation to Nation and in advance of decisions, with the capacity funding NHCN needs to complete its own technical reviews.
- A governing role for NHCN in development within our territory.
- Equity and shared benefit for NHCN, including revenue sharing and loan guarantees on projects in our territory such as hydro, roads and transmission. Shared benefit is part of accommodation, but it is never a substitute for consent.



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What this offers Canada

Your government seeks to build faster, and building faster depends on certainty. Unresolved rights issues are what cause delay. Resolving them is what gives Canada, Manitoba and investors the confidence to proceed. In our territory, the surest path to **certainty** runs through NHCN's consent. An Accord does not slow development. It makes development possible.

NHCN is not waiting. Our Council is advancing the NHCN Free, Prior and Informed Consent Laws and our Resource Management Area agency, which will set clear and predictable rules for how projects in our territory are considered. Without an Accord, NHCN will not consent to designations or fast-tracked projects in our territory, and we will protect our rights by every avenue available.

Where the work begins

Under the 1997 MIA, Canada, Manitoba, Manitoba Hydro and Norway House Cree Nation meet each year at the Annual Four-Party Meeting. That forum exists because of the commitments described above, and it is the right place to begin modernizing them. This year's meeting takes place on November 23, 2026.

I ask that you, or your designated minister, attend, and that Canada come prepared to appoint officials with a mandate to negotiate and fund the Accord, including the consultation process with our members.

Please confirm Canada's attendance, and the mandate of its officials, by November 13, 2026, through Christie Spencer, Chief of Staff to the Chief, at <mailto:cspencer@nhcn.ca>. More than a century and a half ago, at Norway House, our ancestors and the Crown entered into Treaty 5. Fifty years ago, our Nation was asked to carry the cost of Manitoba's power.

Today, Canada has a choice: to try to build over us once again, or to build with us on the foundation of promises kept. Norway House Cree Nation is ready to build. What we build from here will protect our lands and waters, create real generational prosperity for our Nation as a full equity and managing partner in the economy of the North, and secure the future we leave for our children and grandchildren. The choice is Canada's.



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Signed by:

Chief Season Roulette

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Chief Season Roulette
Norway House Cree Nation

CC: Premier Wab Kinew , Province of Manitoba
CC: National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak
CC: Grand Chief Kyra Wilson, AMC
CC: NHCN Council