



## Minister of Finance

Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro  
Minister responsible for Manitoba Public Service

Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8 CANADA

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Ben Graham  
Chair  
Manitoba Hydro-Electric Board

Dear Ben Graham:

Manitoba Hydro is our province's crown jewel. It is the source of our Manitoba advantage – a low-carbon energy economy that keeps energy costs affordable for families and provides thousands of good jobs across the province. In order to continue building this advantage Manitoba Hydro must always be kept public and never privatized.

Ultimately, our Crown corporations belong to the people of Manitoba. Therefore our government has a great responsibility to be prudent with finances, transparent with process and accountable for the decisions made at Manitoba Hydro. We have a responsibility to support Hydro workers and ensure good working conditions for the Hydro workforce.

In this era of reconciliation, our new government is setting a clear mandate to reset the relationship between Manitoba Hydro and Indigenous communities by rescinding the former government's directive to prevent Indigenous nations from engaging directly with Manitoba Hydro. It is the clear expectation of our government that not only will Manitoba Hydro consult with Indigenous communities but partner with them to advance economic reconciliation so that all Manitobans can benefit from our Crown corporation.

Your goal is to provide the oversight, vision and sound fiscal stewardship to harness the untapped potential of Manitoba Hydro so we can keep rates low for families, support our province's economic development potential, advance Indigenous reconciliation and move Manitoba into a clean energy future.

As the Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro, I am mandating your board to do the following:

- Ensure the long-term affordability of Manitoba Hydro rates and reliability of service for the people of Manitoba by being careful stewards of Manitoba Hydro's finances.
- Develop a plan to freeze Hydro-Electric rates for one year for families and businesses in a manner that is approved by the Public Utilities Board and consistent with the responsible management of Manitoba Hydro finances.
- Develop a plan to align Manitoba Hydro with our government's clean energy targets of a net-zero energy grid by 2035 and a roadmap to a carbon-neutral economy by 2050.
- Examine options for increasing low-carbon energy generation and storage, including wind and solar, to grow Manitoba's electrical supply to meet energy transition and clean grid requirements without the need for new natural gas plants.
- Explore next steps toward a hydrogen industry including a strategy to generate hydrogen during off-peak to use during peak hours.
- Work with Efficiency Manitoba to advance geothermal home energy retrofits and other energy efficiency initiatives that can free up electricity to be devoted to other uses in Manitoba.
- Support options for expanding the electric vehicle-charging network in Manitoba.
- Advance Indigenous reconciliation, with a next step of establishing an Indigenous Advisory Circle that reports to the Manitoba Hydro-Electric Board with representatives from First Nations, Métis and Inuit nations and that includes membership from Manitoba Hydro-affected communities.
- Review spending by executives at the corporation to ensure sound financial management.
- Respect the Manitoba Hydro workers who work hard every day to keep the lights on and our homes heated with reliable service, including by ensuring they receive fair wages, which are consistent with a fiscal approach, which is responsible to all Manitoba ratepayers.
- Support our Province's overall economic development goals.

In order to accomplish this mandate your oversight of Manitoba Hydro must ensure the Corporation's senior executives are people who can collaborate with Indigenous communities, will keep rates low, support workers, share a commitment to Manitoba's social fabric and will never privatize our Crown corporation.

I know you and your colleagues on the Board share our commitment to low rates, good jobs and low-carbon energy. The work that lies ahead of you will not be easy, but our government has great trust in your ability to make Manitoba Hydro a leader in the clean energy economy. Your work will be key to keeping costs low for families and businesses in a time of high inflation and creating good Manitoba jobs for Manitobans today and tomorrow.

On behalf of the Manitoba government, thank you for taking on this role. It is my commitment to meet with you regularly to ensure we are providing strong management and oversight of our most important Crown corporation—Manitoba Hydro. Your leadership and your Board's oversight will make life better for Manitobans.

Respectfully,

Original signed by:

Adrien Sala  
Minister responsible for  
Manitoba Hydro