

Coalition of Environmental, Grass Roots and Indigenous Watch Dogs Allege Environmental Racism, Inadequate Environmental Assessment and Public Input in Recent Environment Act License Issued to Canadian Premium Sands for Solar Glass Plant in Selkirk

**Manitoba Eco-Network
Camp Morning Star
Our Line in the Sand
Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition**

(Winnipeg - June 5, 2023) The Manitoba Eco-Network and other groups including Camp Morning Star, Our Line in the Sand and Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition are calling on the Minister of Climate and Environment, Kevin Klein for suspension of the Environment Act License issued to Canadian Premium Sands (CPS) for their Solar Glass Plant in Selkirk until certain conditions are met.

Why? Despite concerns raised by the Eco-Network, other members of the public, and even members of the Technical Advisory Committee (provincial government staff), Licence No. 3401 will allow for the construction of a multi-million-dollar solar glass manufacturing facility in Selkirk and a mine near Hollow Water First Nation, without knowing a number of important impacts on human health and the environment. The Director of Environmental Approvals, announced the issuance of the license on the same day as announcing that there would be no public hearing on this project, clearly shortcutting any opportunity for real input from the public.

"Manitoba's licensing regime lacks legitimacy! It continues to push through mining projects without adequately assessing environmental risks and providing for thorough public input. Our regulatory body is compromised by political interference." Says Tangi Bell, President, Our Line in the Sand.

MJ McCarron of Camp Morning Star says, "The Manitoba government calls this meaningful consultation. I call this exploitation with Manitoba's blessing."

"Health and safety risk to numerous First Nations communities, potential contamination to the watersheds including Lake Winnipeg, large hauling trucks causing safety concerns for the northern communities and cottage country commuters, as well as wear and tear to our roads and highways on the busy east side of Lake Winnipeg are all good reasons to take a step back, appeal this license and complete an honest and thorough environmental review of the impact beyond the walls of the proposed plant" explains Shawn Kettner of the Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition.

"The licence should be suspended until community concerns and information gaps are meaningfully addressed by Canadian Premium Sands" concludes Glen Koroluk, Executive Director of the Manitoba Eco-Network.

These groups have officially appealed the issuance of the Environment Act License until certain conditions have been met.