

# KI TA SKI NAW

*Our Land*



## COMMUNITY ACTION PACKAGE

Attending Conferences or Rallies for a cause that is important to you often leaves you feeling inspired and ready to take action.

For more copies email [info@hydroimpacted.ca](mailto:info@hydroimpacted.ca)



## WANI SKATAN

AN ALLIANCE OF HYDRO IMPACTED COMMUNITIES



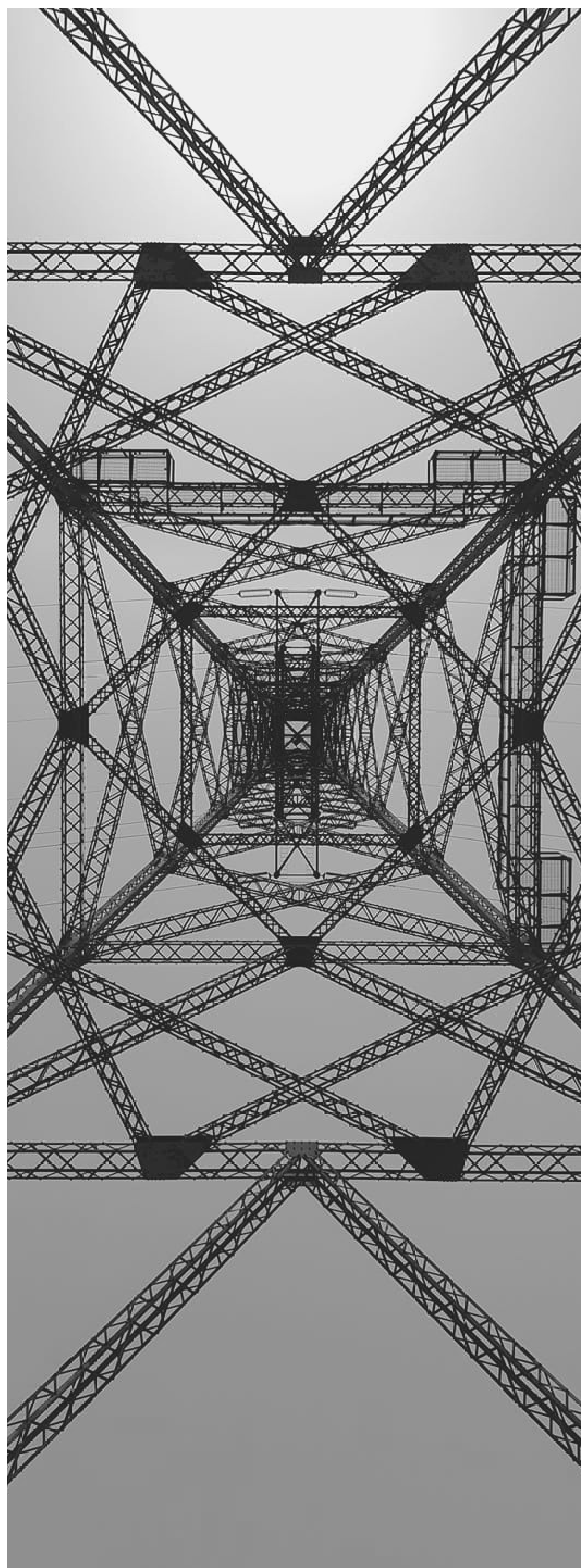


## COMMUNITY ACTION PACKAGE

Attending Conferences or Rallies for a cause that is important to you often leaves you feeling inspired and ready to take action. With gathered new resources and connections, you might be feeling like you want to continue this work in your own community. Figuring where to start or how to begin can often seem intimidating. This package is meant to make it easier to begin channeling your energy into a cause, and provide you with some tools and ideas to get you started.

## SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Do you have a special area of expertise? Would you like to be a resource to other researchers, students, or communities? Let us know what you do well and we'll add your name on the website as a resource. Our hope is to allow people the opportunity to contact experts in a variety of fields and locations. Your expertise could be a valuable asset at the annual Gathering or future workshops.







# HOW TO TAKE ACTION WITH WA NI SKA TAN

## HOST A WORLD WATER DAY RALLY ON MARCH 22

Manitoba is fortunate to have so many amazing rivers and lakes, including its border to the Hudson Bay. However, our territory is also home to a hydropower system that produces electricity at very high social and environmental costs that include dying lakes, polluted waterways, contaminated fish, and eroded shorelines by unnatural water level fluctuations.

Our World Water Day event is organized as a **Provincial Day of Action held on March 22nd partnered with the Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition (MEJC)**. Wa Ni Ska Tan developed resources including a toolkit, staff supports, media tools and event promotional materials in an effort to encourage and support hydro impacted communities to host their own events within their traditional territories with a central focus on the importance of respecting water, as well including the social, cultural, economic, and environmental impacts caused by hydropower in our province.

The toolkit gives communities the opportunity to frame the events based on their own priorities and community based solutions that respected their community's diverse perspectives on hydropower development, while still addressing the social, economic, and environmental impacts linked to disrespecting water.

Sign up as a community host for March 22nd 2020 by emailing [sadie@hydroimpacted.ca](mailto:sadie@hydroimpacted.ca) and **receive the free toolkit on How to Host a World Water Day event!**

## SIGN UP TO RECEIVE OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS

Every month we send out an e newsletter directly to your email that provides updates on some of the events, research, projects, and other ways to get involved. These newsletters are a way for us to easily connect with you, and provide any important updates. To sign up for our e newsletter, send an email to [info@hydroimpacted.ca](mailto:info@hydroimpacted.ca) and include your name and that you would like to be added to our e newsletter list.

Do you live somewhere with limited access to internet but still want to stay informed? We've got you covered. **Every 3 months we send out a printed version** of our e newsletters, with full length articles, research updates and a detailed list of upcoming events. Sign up by phoning us or letting us know at an event were at, and providing your name and address to be added to our contact list.

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## HOST A LAND BASED YOUTH CAMP



Guided by Indigenous cultures and knowledge, youth (age 16-24) learn about environmental science through land-based teachings at our **Kis Kin Ha Ma Ki Win Youth Camps!** Youth learn from Elders, environmental scientists, and Indigenous scholars in a hands-on and applied way, that provide exciting opportunities to increase youth's awareness and skills about science and the natural world.

When planning these two or five-day land-based science camps, we work with educational leaders, teachers, harvesters, and elders to identify local priorities that target the impacts on the environment while focusing on the community's needs. These camps are available to be run from May-August.

One-day workshops are also available, and can be held at any time during the year upon request. These workshops will focus on the identified priorities by the community. Examples of topics we can provide workshops on include:

- Total Environment
- Water
- Plants
- Fish and Wildlife
- Humans Relationship to the Environment

More information on the camps and one day workshops, and how to host one in your community can be found at [landbasedlearning.ca](http://landbasedlearning.ca) or by contacting us by email at [info@landlearning.ca](mailto:info@landlearning.ca) or by telephone at 204-474-9316

## WRITE A FUNDING PROPOSAL FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS



Community funding is for communities and non-profit partners of the Alliance. Community project funding can support a variety of community priorities including, but not limited to: **research, land-based activities, community events, documentation, education, policy, and evaluation work.**

Please note that core operational expenses and land-based camps are not eligible for community funding. Proposals are accepted on an ongoing basis and will be reviewed by the steering committee within 6 weeks of submission. Proposals will be assessed based on the relevancy of the project to the strategic direction of the Alliance. We encourage viewing [www.hydroimpacted.ca](http://www.hydroimpacted.ca) for our up to date research priorities.

**Funding Range: \$5,000 – \$30,000**

For the Funding Proposal Checklist, please see the attached at the end of this document.

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# HOW TO TAKE ACTION IN YOUR COMMUNITY:



Every community has a set of needs and issues that need to be addressed, either through campaigning for public awareness, petitioning to levels of government, to foster support for a new initiative, or to bring about social, environmental, and socio-economic justice. As an organizer for any type of action, you are the main point of contact for and between the community, your target audience, the media and social media, law enforcement, and government officials.

**We have a short list of starting ideas and encourage you to choose an action whether it's here or not that suits you best!**

## 1. MEET AT A COMMON COMMUNITY SPACE.

Have a few speakers talk about the issues or challenges you would like to address with the opportunity for community members to share and present their ideas of possible solutions. It's important to find speakers whom are experts in fields to help cover areas that might potentially have been otherwise missed or overlooked in the past. Have representation of youth, women, two-spirit, and elders reflected into the event to ensure the space is welcoming and safe for others to share their ideas.

## 2. ORGANIZE A MARCH OR RALLY

March to a specific location to gain exposure and awareness to the issue, while addressing the focus of who is responsible for bringing forth justice, or who is responsible for the issue, or concentrating on those most affected by the issue. The march can also be an opportunity to petition, hand out information, and gain attention from media outlets, allow for community members to air out their grievances in a proactive space surrounded by others who relate.

## 3. ART BUILDS

Art builds are stand alone events done by sign-up or drop-in style that provides a great opportunity to build momentum for a larger event or leading up to a march by using the power of art to create eye catching posters, signs, art installations, screen printing t-shirts/swag, and large banners. You can also have an event that focuses on art, without making it in preparation for a future event, unlike the art build. This can be a great way for people to connect, learn and make art just for fun!



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## 4. GALLERY SHOWCASE

Putting on a Gallery Showcase can be a great opportunity for a film-screening of a documentary, slideshow of photos, musicians performing, background audio of interviews in an adjacent room, paintings or sculptures for memorials or of people who were interviewed or involved in the situation. This is important in building community and strengthening relationships and can be treated as bridging the gaps between diverse groups of people who may not all be at the same place.

## 5. REACH OUT TO GOVERNMENT

Visit your MLA's, MP's, Chief and Council, or City/Municipal councillor's office and make a few statements or speeches outside the building. This is a great opportunity to deliver petitions, postcards (free to mail to federal government) or letters of support/opposition. Providing a press release/media release to media outlets that outlines the reasons for why you are there, and a list of what the community wants to get done, and would give you a broad audience without the need to have a lot of people physically in attendance. Bring speakers who are well-versed or first-hand experienced experts on the issues to provide insights and legitimate considerations to officials targeted.

## 6. MAKE SPACE FOR HEALING

It is a good rule of thumb to acknowledge the traditional territory the action is taking place, as well as the lands that are affected if it's in a separate location. Some communities are diverse in culture, religion, spirituality, and it's good to consider that some people will need support in very emotional spaces. Providing smudge, candles, feather fans, drums, rattles, holy water, etc. allows for people to feel welcome and supported during difficult times. It's also good to consider having an elder provide an opening prayer or share a few words of their perspective. Singers and drummers could be incorporated as the event begins, during the break, or to conclude the action or event. Some actions could take more than one day, such as a weekend gathering or extended camp, therefore it would be good to consider providing spaces for daily pipe ceremonies, water ceremonies, and sweat ceremonies.

## 7. ORGANIZE A DIRECT ACTION OR SIT-IN.

This can be done a number of ways, however it's vitally important to gather consent between all participants ensuring they're confident enough to trust each other in executing the action including themselves. It's also encouraged that people are fully aware and understand the legal ramifications of civil disobedience as a direct action. It's also important to ensure the safety of all participants and to not indirectly cause harm to others, therefore a non-violent direct action approach is highly recommended.

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# HOW TO TAKE ACTION IN YOUR COMMUNITY:



Now that you have an idea of some of the many different types of events you might consider hosting, before choosing one you might want to consider asking yourself a few questions about your event.

## 1. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR EVENT?

Have a few speakers talk about the issues or challenges you would like to address with the opportunity for community members to share and present their ideas of possible solutions. Some of the speakers could be experts in fields that would help cover areas that would have potentially otherwise missed or overlooked. Have representation of youth, women, two-spirit, and elders reflected into the event to ensure the space is welcoming and safe for others to share their ideas.

## 2. WILL THERE BE ANY COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR EVENT?

If so, how do you plan to pay for this? Is there a way that you can minimize or eliminate these costs?

## 3. IS THERE ANYONE YOU CAN REACH OUT TO TO HELP YOU PUT ON YOUR EVENT?

It's never a bad idea to have someone to bounce ideas off of, or to help you figure out something of the logistics. Having a second person helping you out can sometimes help you see the details from another perspective, which could prove helpful throughout the planning process.

## 4. DO YOU NEED ANY PERMITS FOR YOUR EVENT?

Educate yourself on some of the bylaws in your area, especially if you are hosting a march or rally. If you need permits, you might need to have the assistance of a third party organization to assist you in getting these permits. Some of the organizations listed at the bottom of this document might be able to assist or provide advice with this process.

## 5. ARE THERE ANY RESOURCES YOU WANT TO PROVIDE PEOPLE WITH WHO ATTENDED THE EVENT?

Will you be providing information verbally or through handouts? Where can people go for more information after the event? What should people do after the event, if anything at all? Are you going to start a petition for your cause? If so, how do you intend to circulate this at the event and would this make sense for your event?

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# HOW TO LET OTHER PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT YOUR ACTION:



Now that you have chosen an event that best suits the needs of your cause and community, you need to get the word out to ensure people will come to your event. Depending on the type of the event, you may wish to promote it in various ways to gather different crowds. Here are some ways you might want to use to let others know about your event.

## 1. MAKE AN EVENT PAGE ON FACEBOOK AND INVITE PEOPLE WHO YOU THINK WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THIS EVENT.

If the event is intended to be a public event where that you hope to gather a large crowd to, like a rally, a march, or visiting a local government office, you may wish to reach out to other organizations to share your event on their social media as well. You can find a list of organizations who might be willing to help you out with this further in this document.

## 2. MEDIA ADVISORY AND PRESS RELEASES ARE A GREAT WAY TO GET THE PRESS TO YOUR EVENT, AND GAIN SOME ATTENTION AFTER THE EVENT IS OVER.

Depending on the type and size of your event, this might be something you wish to do. If you choose to send out a media release, be prepared to have at least one or two people designated to be media spokespersons. These people will be the primary contacts for the media and general public that come out to your action. They should be ready to explain what you're doing, why you're here and articulate your concerns. We have a media release template you can use and adapt for your action. Email or fax your media advisory a week or so in advance and a press release the day before or the morning of your event to local newspapers and radio stations in your area.

## 3. POSTERS AND PAMPHLETS ARE A GREAT WAY TO LET OTHERS KNOW ABOUT YOUR EVENT.

Although they are not free since they must be printed, they a way to reach out to people who may not be reachable by the internet for your event. Hanging up posters around your community in places like schools, grocery stores and restaurants as well as outside, are a great way to reach out to people. A great website that has many templates, is free to use, and makes poster making very simple is [canva.com](https://www.canva.com). Make sure you include the event information, as well as a contact phone number or email so people who are interested can gather more information on the event or let you know if they are coming.

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## 4. SOCIAL MEDIA CAN BE A GREAT WAY TO LET OTHER PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT YOUR EVENT.

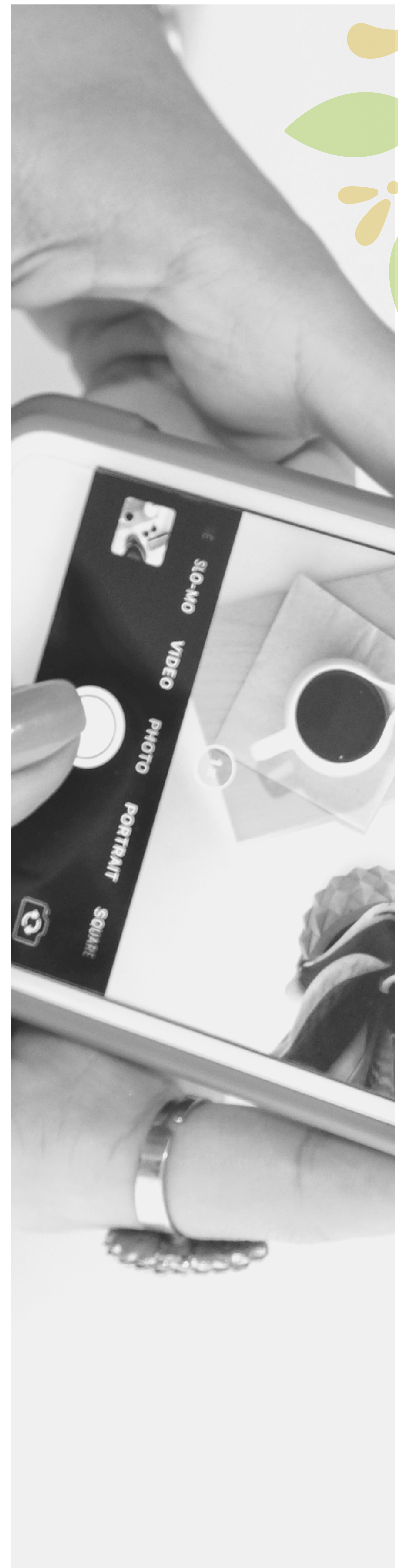
Aside from making an event page, you can also share information, news articles and graphics about your event. Hashtags are a great way to gain attraction to your event. You can also use hashtags for other things related to your event to attract people. For example, if your event focuses on the impacts of hydro power some hashtags you might use are: #RenewableEnergy #Hydro #Energy #HydroImpacted #GreenEnergy... Etc

## EVENT DEBRIEF AND EVALUATION:



*Congratulations, you hosted an event! Depending on the type of event you held, you may want to have a formal or informal event debrief. This can be done in many different ways.*

*Taking a few moments with yourself to reflect might be all you need, however it can also be useful to take some time with a few other people who attended or assisted you with the event and talk about how it went.*









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# HOW TO WRITE A PETITION TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



Petitions are a great way to draw attention to an issue of concern, and request that the government either take some form of action, or refrain from taking some form of action. Petitioners can get their petition read in the House of Commons by a Member of Parliament, an effective way to bring awareness and action to their concerns. There are a few rules surrounding petitions, and what is accepted to be submitted to be read in the House of Commons.

## 1. PETITION GUIDELINES

- A petition must be addressed to one of the following:
  - “the House of Commons” or “the House of Commons in Parliament assembled”;
  - “the Government of Canada”;
  - a Minister of the Crown; or
  - a Member of the House of Commons.
- A petition must include and clearly state the request, which must not be phrased as a demand.
- The petition should then outline the issue in a few sentences in the body.
- The petition must be provided on paper ranging from size 5.5 X 8.5 to 11 X 17 paper. Papers any smaller than 5.5 X 8.5, and any larger than 11 X 17 will not be accepted. Words must also be typed or neatly printed, and no words may be crossed out in the petition.
- The petition must contain a minimum of 25 signatures and valid addresses. Anyone who signs the petition must be a permanent resident of Canada. Persons of any age are allowed to sign the petition. Signatures and addresses must be the original ones provided, and cannot be manipulated or rewritten by anyone. Every printed name in the petition must have an associated signature and address with it

## 2. DRAFT PETITIONS:

If you wish to create a petition to be presented at the House of Commons, you should first submit a draft of the petition (without signatures) to a Member of Parliament to see if it is correctly worded and to determine if the Member will agree to present it once all signatures have been gathered.



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## 3. PRESENTATIONS

Once the petition has been signed and sent to the Member who is going to present it, the Member must also ensure it is acceptable content, and submit it to the Clerk of Petitions for review. If it does not meet requirements, the Member will receive the petition back, with an explanation as to why it does not meet the review.

Once it is accepted, and your member has agreed to present it, they can go ahead with the presentation in the House of Commons. The day that it is presented, it will appear in the Journals. Once presented, the government is required to provide a response within 45 days, and a copy of this response will be provided to the Member who presented the petition. It is important to note that the end of Parliament, in which a general election is called and occurs, ends any requirement for the government to respond to your petition. It may be best to wait until after an election to have your petition read.

For an **example petition, please see page 13** of this document. For up to date information on petitions, and an example petition, check out the following website:

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Home/AboutContent?guide=PIPaperGuide>

# HOW TO WRITE A PETITION TO THE MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



## 1. FORM AND FORMAT

A specific format must be followed in preparing a petition. A petition consists of three basic components: the "address", the "body" and the "request". The form of a petition may be: handwritten; typewritten; or printed. In particular, the following should be carefully noted.

- petitions must be addressed, "To the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba", and these words are to appear as the beginning line of the petition;
- the "body" should consist of paragraph(s) (worded in the third party), briefly summarizing the problem or grievance and any necessary background information as are necessary for the petition;
- the "request", is the remedy or action sought by the petitioners. A simple declaration, address of thanks or listing of grievances is unacceptable.

Whatever form is utilized, it must be free from erasures, insertions or deletions. There may be no attachments to the petition, whether in the shape of a letter, affidavit or any other document. Information contained in any such document, which a petitioner(s) desires be made known, should be contained in the "body".

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## 2. CONTENT

Of more significance however, is the content of the information and action sought. A petition may not contain any impertinent or improper material. In particular, a petition may not:

- use disrespectful language, contain any disrespect to the Queen or offensive imputations to the Legislative Assembly, the Courts or any other constituted authority;
- express any opinion regarding the House, the Government or positions taken by MLAs;
- contain statements which constitute charges of a strong nature against a Minister or any senior official;
- deal with a matter over which the Legislative Assembly has no jurisdiction;
- consider matters that have been delegated to another body by the Legislative Assembly;
- or under any circumstances, call for the direct expenditure of money.

To avoid confusion in determining whether a petition may be unacceptable for any of the above reasons, the "body" and "request" should be worded as concisely and clearly as possible.

## 3. EXECUTION

Finally, the petition must be signed properly. A minimum of 15 signatures is required for the completion of the petition. The following is a list of acceptable criteria's:

- all names and addresses must be legible;
- if more than one page is required for signatures of petitioners, the subject matter of the petition must be indicated on each page;
- the reverse side of petitions can be used for signatures, provided that the action the Legislative Assembly is being asked to take or not take appears on the top of the reverse side of the page.
- check marks, ditto marks or similar wording are acceptable for address designations;

As to the signatures themselves, they must be original and not copied, pasted or otherwise transferred, and no one person may sign on behalf of another or on behalf of a group.

## 4. PRESENTATIONS

Citizens may not petition the House directly – their petition must be presented by an MLA. The MLA designated to present the petition to the Legislative Assembly must sign at the top corner of the front page and not as an additional petition signature.

**Referenced from the Manitoba Government website here:**

**[https://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/business/petition\\_guidelines.html](https://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/business/petition_guidelines.html)**

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# ORGANIZATIONS WITH ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR SUPPORT:



## **CANADIAN CENTRE FOR POLICY ALTERNATIVES**

ccpamb@policyalternatives.ca or  
molly@policyalternatives.ca  
Karen Schlichting at 204-927-3200  
Molly McCracken at 204-927-3202

## **CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES**

earth@cier.mb.ca  
1-204-956-0660

## **INDIGENOUS CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK**

indigenousclimateaction@gmail.com  
1-780-777-5104 (Eriel Deranger, ED)

## **LAKE WINNIPEG INDIGENOUS COLLECTIVE**

jasmine@lwic.org  
1-204-956-0436

## **MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK**

info@mbeconetwork.org  
1-204-947-6511

## **MANITOBA ENERGY JUSTICE COALITION**

info@mbenergyjustice.org

## **MANITOBA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

hrc@gov.mb.ca  
1-204-945-3007

## **SOLIDARITY WINNIPEG**

info@solidaritywinnipeg.ca

## **WILDERNESS COMMITTEE - MANITOBA OFFICE**

contactmb@wildernesscommittee.org  
1-204-942-9292

## **COUNCIL OF CANADIANS**

canadianswinnipeg@gmail.com  
1-204-803-5416



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# FUNDING PROPOSAL CHECKLIST:



Community funding is for communities and non-profit partners of the Alliance. Please note that core operational expenses and land-based camps are not eligible for community funding.

## FUNDING RANGE: \$5,000 – \$30,000

Proposals should be 2-4 pages and include the following headings:

1. Organization/Background;
2. Project Description/Rationale;
3. Partners;
4. Expected Outcomes/Goals;
5. Timeline; &
6. Budget.

## ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND

- Mandate/Vision/Objectives of your organization
- Who is involved?
- Are there specific projects or accomplishments relevant to the work of the Wa Ni Ska Tan?
- Are you a partner of Wa Ni Ska Tan and/or have you participated in any Wa Ni Ska Tan meetings or events?

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION/RATIONALE

- Brief summary of the project
- Relevant to the mission & objectives of the Wa Ni Ska Tan
- Benefits the community in some way & aligns with community's priorities and needs
- Includes realistic tangible outcomes that demonstrates enduring value
- Involves more than one community
- Organization is involved and contributes to Wa Ni Ska Tan

## PARTNERS

- Who is involved in this project (other organizations, communities, individuals)?
  - Does your project provide opportunities for students and/or community youth?
  - What are their capacities in supporting the project?
  - Are your partners from hydro-affected communities?
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# FUNDING PROPOSAL CHECKLIST:



## EXPECTED OUTCOMES/GOALS

- What do you expect this project to achieve?
- What benefits will the communities involved receive?
- How will the outcomes of this project be seen and/or felt in the community?
- How will you report your results back to the community and Wa Ni Ska Tan?

## TIMELINE

- Identify the main steps and activities required to accomplish this project.
- How long will the project take? Was it broken down into Funding Phases?
- What are the start and end dates?

## BUDGET

- Please indicate the cost of services and expenses associated with your project.
- How much money are you requesting from Wa Ni Ska Tan?
- Do you have other confirmed or unconfirmed funding support (financial or in-kind)?

