

## **Pimicikamak Okimawin**

### How Grant Funding Works

#### **Purpose of this Paper**

Grant funding is a common way for governments to cover costs of work on shared objectives. Details can vary. Manitoba Hydro is providing grant funding to Pimicikamak. This paper explains how this grant funding works.

#### **Background**

Manitoba Hydro is funding Pimicikamak Okimawin's part in joint program development and implementation. For generations mistrust has grown amidst a deeply troubled relationship. Today they are both seeking to establish a new and respectful relationship, working together to build a sustainable basis for Manitoba Hydro's presence in Pimicikamak territory. To succeed, they must work to stop the trauma that Manitoba Hydro's operations inflict on the Pimicikamak people and its land.

In the past Manitoba Hydro provided funds based on the Government of Canada's band model. This funding model was itself a source of national trauma as it ignored Pimicikamak's right of self-determination. It was dictatorial rather than collaborative.

For two years the parties have discussed reform of funding as a necessary step toward a new relationship. In 2015 Manitoba Hydro (with the Government of Manitoba) provided a draft discussion paper (DDP) on funding. In January of 2016 Pimicikamak responded, suggesting grant funding.

In May 2017 Manitoba Hydro advised Pimicikamak that it would adopt grant funding. This is a fundamental shift in favour of survival for both parties.

#### **Plans**

Pimicikamak's strategic national policy is: Heal the land; heal the people; heal the nation. Based on consultation with its citizens, Pimicikamak plans ways to implement this policy.

Pimicikamak "community planning" is based on Article 16 of the Northern Flood Agreement. The planning "community" involved is Pimicikamak citizens. The planning area is Pimicikamak traditional territory. Initially the planning is short term and program-oriented but will become longer term and more comprehensive as planning capacity grows.

Pimicikamak and Manitoba Hydro cooperate in jointly planning and implementing programs with a focus on reducing national trauma. This planning is based on Schedule E of the Northern Flood Agreement. At present, plans take the form of programs to be implemented by one or the other or both parties, with participation of the Government of Manitoba in some programs.

#### **What Is Grant Funding?**

Grant funding is money that is provided from time to time for specified purposes.

Manitoba Hydro provides funds by way of grants pursuant to an understanding with Pimicikamak that it will use grant funds for the specified purposes – and not for other purposes.

Manitoba Hydro provides funds to Pimicikamak for its role in planning and related processes.

Manitoba Hydro also provides funds to Pimicikamak for its role in implementing planned programs. Manitoba Hydro specifies which programs it is funding.

Pimicikamak expects Manitoba Hydro to fund all practical programs for reducing national trauma. This is a matter of both corporate responsibility and corporate self-interest. Manitoba Hydro is responsible for its funding decisions.

### **Grant Funding Principles**

The basic principles behind grant funding to Pimicikamak are:

- Planning uses a rational, professional, fact-based approach.
- Manitoba Hydro's funding decisions are reported to Pimicikamak citizens.
- Manitoba Hydro trusts Pimicikamak to use the grant funds for only specified purposes and to use them as wisely as it can.
- Pimicikamak is responsible for ensuring that grant funds are used only for purposes specified by Manitoba Hydro.
- Pimicikamak is responsible for using grant funds for specified purposes in the most timely and effective way.
- Pimicikamak reports on its use of grant funds to its citizens through its public Transparency Project. Pimicikamak's accounts are subject to annual public audit.
- Pimicikamak works with Manitoba Hydro but does not account to Manitoba Hydro for its use of grant funds.
- Pimicikamak keeps grant funds in a separate trust account.
- Pimicikamak will not overdraw the fund account. It relies on Manitoba Hydro to replenish the fund and will stop all funded activity before the fund runs out.
- Manitoba Hydro is likely to replenish the fund only if it sees that this is leading to a respectful relationship with Pimicikamak and a sustainable presence in Pimicikamak territory.

### **Grant Funding Operations**

Each plan proposed by Pimicikamak outlines what is to be done, who will do it, when it will be done and what it is expected to cost.

Pimicikamak consults with Manitoba Hydro to review progress of ongoing programs, to revise plans and to plan new programs.

Pimicikamak reviews and may revise budgets from time to time.

Pimicikamak consults with Manitoba Hydro about changes to budgets. Manitoba Hydro asks questions, makes suggestions, raises concerns or offers help, but does not determine Pimicikamak's estimates.

## **Program Management**

The plan for a program says how it will be managed and by whom.

Where Manitoba Hydro manages a program, it uses its own funds and is responsible for that program, in consultation with Pimicikamak.

Where Pimicikamak manages a program it uses grant funds and is responsible for that program, in consultation with Manitoba Hydro.

A program may involve joint management; if so the management roles and responsibilities are specified in the program plan.

Unless otherwise specified, the Executive Council Member responsible for Lands, Resources and the NFA is responsible for programs or aspects of programs managed by Pimicikamak.

## **Financial Accountability**

The Secretary to the Management Board is responsible for ensuring transparency and accountability to the citizens of the Nation in accordance with Pimicikamak's 2003 National Policy on Financial Administration.

The Secretary to the Management Board oversees provision of training for the Management Board and for Pimicikamak financial staff.

The Transparency Project provides timely information on how public funds are used, including grant funds.

Misuse of public funds amounts to stealing from all citizens of the Nation.

Any person who misuses public funds will be required to repay them. (For example, to get travel funding for a meeting and then not attend the meeting without good reason is misuse of public funds.)

Well-informed Pimicikamak citizens are the best guardians of Pimicikamak funds.

8 June 2017