

***Comments by the Hon. Gary Filmon, former Progressive Conservative Premier of Manitoba on Manitoba Hydro's risky \$34 billion plan:***

*"I can't understand why the Government is afraid to have an objective, independent review of Manitoba Hydro's 'decade of investment'. At \$34 billion, this proposal represents by far the largest commitment made by a Crown Corporation in the province's history.*

*Given that Hydro is proposing to make this massive capital investment primarily for commercial gain and not for the imminent needs of the Manitoba ratepayers, it must be regarded as a risk investment and not a necessity for the system. Under these circumstances, the proposal demands the most open, thorough review possible, by a panel of experts familiar with all aspects of the utility's business and the competitive market into which Hydro proposes to sell.*

*If the proposal is sound, it will be supported by the expert review and the Government will have the support and credibility it needs to proceed with this massive undertaking."*