



January 12, 2018

## **Wood poles to be replaced in Whiteshell Provincial Park** *Work will improve reliability and safety*

WINNIPEG — Manitoba Hydro will replace a number of older wood poles in the Falcon Lake, Caddy Lake, West Hawk Lake, Star Lake and Brereton Lake areas starting this month to improve the delivery of electricity to its customers.

The work will start the week of January 22, 2018 and be carried out during the winter months over the next two years. Approximately 400 poles will be replaced.

All activities will be in strict compliance of Manitoba Sustainable Development regulations and work permits. Staff may have to enter cottage lots to access to poles. Some pole replacement work may require tree trimming.

Motorists are advised to decrease their speed when encountering Manitoba Hydro vehicles stopped alongside roadways as workers are present.

The project is part of Manitoba Hydro's annual pole testing, inspection and maintenance program in which wood poles that have reached their end-of-life are replaced.

Wood poles are degraded due to natural decomposition, insect or woodpecker activity and by damage caused by winds, storms and vehicle collisions. Many of the poles to be replaced were first installed during electrification in the 1950s.

Manitoba Hydro's mandate is to provide safe and reliable energy to its customers in a safe and responsible manner. The maintenance of our electrical distribution power lines is a key component in meeting this mandate.

The Crown utility operates more than 68,000 kilometres of electrical distribution power lines in Whiteshell Provincial Park. These power lines serve homes, cottages and businesses.

The areas for pole to be replaced include:

- North Side of Brereton Lake off Highway 307 and 309
- Star Lake Beach Area
- South of Star Lake West of PR 301
- South of West Hawk Lake off Highway 44
- Area around Falcon Lake
- South of Caddy Lake along PR312 and along PR44 North between West Hawk Lake and Star Lake

Please contact Manitoba Hydro in Winnipeg at 204-480-5900 or toll-free at 1-888-624-9376 or email Corporate Communications at [PublicAffairs@hydro.mb.ca](mailto:PublicAffairs@hydro.mb.ca) for further information.

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If you see a tree in contact with a power line

- Call us at 204-480-5900 in Winnipeg or 1-888-624-9376 outside Winnipeg, or contact the police immediately.
- A tree touching a power line can be energized; stay away from it and from anything the line may be touching.
- Never attempt to remove tree limbs from power lines as power lines knocked down by a broken tree branch may still carry an electrical charge.
- Many outages caused by trees could be prevented by ensuring you do not plant your trees too close to power lines. See Right Tree—Right Place on our website at [www.hydro.mb.ca/environment/right\\_tree\\_right\\_place.shtml](http://www.hydro.mb.ca/environment/right_tree_right_place.shtml) for more information.