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Harvesting the Wind – A Canadian First Nations Perspective

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From before the time of written history, Canadian First Nations have maintained a tradition of self-sufficiency in food, energy, and culture. That self-sufficiency was a requirement for survival during the time before European and Global technologies began to influence the peoples of Canada. In this new Global era, the need for sustainability has not decreased, but rather become even more important. We all need to respect Mother Earth. Since 2007, the T'Sou-ke First Nation has been one of the leaders among aboriginal peoples in Canada in establishing a sustainable community which draws on renewable natural sources to provide for our energy needs.

Harvesting the energy of the wind by means of Airborne Wind Energy Systems - like kites - is especially important to isolated remote First Nations Communities in Canada. Community power needs are often small enough that kite systems represent an economically viable means of displacing the diesel generation that currently is the only solution available during the Canadian winter.

The T'Sou-ke First Nation is already well experienced in

renewable energy projects, including the use of solar, and storage. This paper explores both the extent of the need within remote Canadian First Nations and Aboriginal Communities, and the potential economic and community benefits of deploying a kite/storage/diesel hybrid system.

Over 100,000 people in Canada depend on Diesel generation as their primary source of electricity. Even without any Feed in Tariff, or other incentive programs, the displacement of diesel generates over \$0.50 per kWh, so that payback periods of less than 2 years are provable. Airborne wind offers almost the only renewable alternative that is useful during the winter in the North of Canada, and the T'Sou-ke First Nations is developing a program for the demonstration of this technology during the winter of 2015/16.

The economic, social, and ecological benefits, and the nature of the Canadian opportunity for airborne wind as the only renewable solution for remote First Nations communities will be fully disclosed.