



## TURTLE ISLAND PRODUCTIONS

James M. Fortier • Writer/Producer/Director/DP

Turtle Island Productions has been tapped by Aquaries Media of Minneapolis to co-produce the independent documentary **Green Green Water**. TIP owner James M. Fortier (Métis-Ojibway) will also provide Director of Photography services and will come equipped with a complete [Panasonic AG DVX-100A](#) camera package. Aquaries Media Producer/Director Dawn Mikkleson initially approached Fortier because of his extensive background working in American Indian and First Nation communities as well as his abilities as an award-winning filmmaker and DP.

**Green Green Water** is about power. In a time when battles over energy consumption get fierce and rolling blackouts happen with more frequency, American consumers demand environmentally friendly or "green" energy. But what makes energy "green"? Xcel Energy, a U.S. based utilities company says they have the answer: hydroelectric dams in northern Manitoba run by Manitoba Hydro. The problem: This type of "green" energy (as opposed to solar or wind power) comes with a controversial history. Many Cree say that Manitoba Hydro has not kept its promises, misleading Aboriginal leaders, and irreversibly ending a way of life for thousands of Cree people. Manitoba Hydro states that "local people were advised about the potential effects of the project and consulted about the mitigation measures required . . . while the standards for community consultation and involvement then in place are not the same as today, those standards of the time were met or exceeded".

Filmmaker Dawn Mikkleson, journeys to the subzero forests of northern Manitoba to witness firsthand the impact of her electricity-dependent life. There she is introduced to the people of the Pimicikamak and Nisichawayasihk Cree Nations who share their struggle to survive after their communities were flooded by large-scale hydroelectric dams owned by Manitoba Hydro. Now the Nisichawayasihk Cree are being asked to join Manitoba Hydro in a new dam project, which some say is the start of an effort to double Manitoba Hydro's current dam capacity. Leaders of the Nisichawayasihk Cree support this expansion and hope that potential profits from this dam will help stimulate their economy. Yet other members of this same band of Cree feel backed into a corner by big business. Some believe this choice is between financial survival and the preservation of what remains of their pristine wilderness and traditional way of life. The stories of these Cree communities are interwoven with interviews with the top executives of Manitoba Hydro and Xcel Energy.

Fortier and Mikkleson recently completed a 10 day shoot on location in three Northern Manitoba Cree communities, including Nelson House and South Indian Lake (Nisichawayasihk Cree), and Cross Lake (Pimicikamak Cree), as well as in Winnipeg, Manitoba. For more information visit [www.greengreenwater.com](http://www.greengreenwater.com).

To view frame grabs from this recent shoot using the Panasonic DVX-100A shooting in 24p visit <http://www.turtle-island.com/home/currentproductions.html>.