



**Conservation**

Parks and Natural Areas Branch  
Box 50 - 200 Saulteaux Crescent  
Winnipeg MB R3J 3W3

September 3, 2009

Dave Senkow  
President – North Nopiming Electrical Project Incorporated  
317 Milford Street  
Winnipeg MB R2L 1Z5

Dear Mr. Senkow:

I acknowledge receipt of your “Guideline for Controlling Light Pollution” document which had been sent to our office by Diane Nixon on September 18, 2009. As light pollution is a problem most are not aware of; your progressive actions to address this problem are much appreciated.

The guidelines are suitably comprehensive and address many aspects of light pollution as it pertains to cottages. I understand that the guidelines will be included in your mailout to all cottagers at Long Lake and Beresford along with the work timelines for the electrical service project. I also understand NNEPI will ensure that the Guidelines are placed as an agenda item at its Annual General Meetings so that the members will be reminded each year of NNEPI’s commitment to address light pollution. In doing so NNEPI will satisfy the condition of approval respecting light pollution.

As mentioned in your previous letter, I acknowledge that NNEPI cannot warrant the Guidelines for Controlling Light Pollution will be adhered to by individual leaseholders. However, by informing and reminding cottagers of the guidelines I hope they will be encouraged to take a proactive approach in mitigating light pollution. I also hope that this may inspire the members to move the guidelines onto the agendas of their respective cottaging associations.

Thank you again for your cooperation throughout this process. I am pleased that NNEPI will be taking these steps to make Long and Beresford Lakes the first cottage subdivisions in Manitoba Parks working to avoid light pollution.

Yours truly,

Barry Bentham  
Director of Parks and Natural Areas

c.c. Sue Atkin  
Ken Schykulski

# **GUIDELINE FOR CONTROLLING LIGHT POLLUTION**

## **What is light pollution?**

Light pollution is excessive or intrusive artificial light.

## **Sources of light pollution:**

A light fixture will deliver light where it is needed, but will potentially also give other areas of unwanted, and wasted, light:

- Spill light - falls outside the area where it is needed, it can be avoided by pointing the light in the right direction.
- Upward light - this is wasted light shining above a light fitting; it is entirely avoidable by the correct use of the proper light fitting. Direct the light downwards wherever possible (this can also reduce glare).
- Direct glare - is from seeing the bright filament of an unshielded light; troublesome and dangerous unshielded bright lighting. Direct glare is more wasted light and can be a major problem especially for boaters at night.

## **Why control light pollution?**

To preserve the nature of the surroundings and experience at the lake. Animals, birds, aquatic creatures and some plants and trees may be affected negatively by excessive artificial light.

Observing the stars and the Northern Lights are far richer experiences when the "sky glow" (such as can be seen over large urban centres) isn't present. Other park users must be respected and light should not intrude on their experience of the night sky.

## **DEVELOPING YOUR OUTDOOR LIGHTING PLAN:**

1. The main reason for outdoor lighting is safety. As per the National Building Code, there shall be an exterior fixture at every entrance and all stairways shall be adequately lit. Your contractor will know the electrical and building codes which apply to your dwelling. First, identify where, as well as when, lighting is needed for safety reasons. Then, confine and minimize lighting to the extent necessary to meet safety purposes by using the correct fixtures and bulbs with the appropriate wattage. The easiest way to minimize light pollution is to turn off lights when they are not needed.
2. Minimize the upward light which contributes to sky glow. Control the direction and spread of light by choosing the correct type of light fixtures. Lights need to have shades or be designed so as not allow light to travel upwards from the fixture. "Full Cut Off" (fixtures that do not allow any light to be emitted above the fixture) are the best choice. These fixtures control glare by limiting the light output at 10 degrees below the horizontal, to less than 10% of the light output in lumens. Your lighting

salesperson can show you products which control the upwards travel of light.

3. Do not install yard lights except bollard-type or solar garden-type lights. Rather than leaving lights on for extended periods of time, install motion sensors or timers so lights are on only when needed.
4. Limit light crossing property lines. Keep light from spilling across the property lines by limiting the height of fixtures. Fixtures should not be mounted higher than the height of adjacent structures. Your local lighting sales representatives can assist you in selecting unobtrusive fixtures.
5. Do not install fixtures so that they shine onto the lakeshore or water.
6. Eliminate direct glare by using fixtures that are properly shaded to hide the filament from the eye.
7. Do not shine lights directly at your cottage as the light will reflect off the surface of the exterior and cause unnecessary glow on the lake.