

Headline: Canada's largest mural being created in northern Manitoba

Author: Spirit Way Inc.

Subtitle: The only mural of a Robert Bateman work of art

Sponsored by [Manitoba Hydro](#), the mural is a reproduction of the Robert Bateman "wolf sketch" that was drawn in 1990. The wolf, which looks mysteriously over the landscape, is expected to become a major tourist attraction in northern Manitoba.

[Manitoba Hydro's](#) sponsorship of the Bateman wolf mural reflects the Crown Corporation's presence in and its commitment to this northern Manitoba community. The theme of the wolf sketch is *"eye to eye with respect"*. This theme reflects Manitoba Hydro's commitment to the north and to the people who live there, says Bob Brennan, President & CEO of Manitoba Hydro.

"Northern Manitoba rivers are the main source of the water power that we harness and distribute as electricity to Manitobans, and to our export customers," Brennan says. "We have immense respect for the environment, and are committed to the responsible use of its resources. We are also committed to ensuring the aboriginal community will be fairly represented in all of our future northern developments."

The Bateman wolf mural is being painted by Charles Johnston, C5 Artworks. Johnston is a world-class muralist who has won the Winnipeg Mural of the Year Award for three consecutive years. He projected a high resolution scanned image onto the wall of the Highland Tower to ensure the mural was an exact reproduction of Bateman's work of art.

The Bateman mural is the first of several attractions being planned for a Spirit Walkway project in Thompson. When completed, the project will include 18 points of interest, each featuring a unique asset of this northern Manitoba city. Other points of interest along the Spirit Walkway will include Canada's largest rock face sculpture, and attractions that highlight aboriginal art and culture.

"The Spirit Way" walkway is a project developed by Spirit Way Inc, a non profit community group who want to showcase Thompson as a world class tourist destination. In addition to having the only Robert Bateman mural in the world, the Spirit Way Committee is promoting Thompson as a world class centre for mining, winter weather testing, boreal forest research and aboriginal art.

The City of Thompson, which was founded as a mining town by Inco Limited in 1956, will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2006. It is expected the majority of the Spirit Walkway project will be complete in time for the 50th anniversary celebrations next summer.

For more information about the 10-storey Bateman mural, or the other points of interest along the Spirit Walkway, please check out www.thompson.ca.