

**Date Submitted:** December 13, 2019

**Proceeding name:** BC Hydro F2020-F2021 Revenue Requirements

**Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party:** No

**Name (first and last):** Bonita Danes

**City:** [REDACTED]

**Province:** British Columbia

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Phone number:** [REDACTED]

**Comment:**

Gitanmaax is a First Nations Community located in central Interior BC. Our on reserve population is 775 and off reserve members are 1500 and reside in various towns and cities - in the Province of BC. The community of Gitanmaax has 233 homes on reserve - of which 78 are Elders or Seniors and an additional 100 homes with members on income assistance. As an Elected Gitanmaax Band Council representative - I would like to express our OPPOSITION to the rate increases proposed for this year and the next few years. While the BC Hydro rates have increased a total of 26.94% over the last six years - the cost of living rates for income assistance have remained the same for several years. Shelter Rates for Income assistance recipients remained the same for the past 20 years. If a person's Shelter rate is exceeded for rent, hydro and basic telephone - any \$ amount over the maximum comes off their Basic Support (which is meant for food and clothing. For Pensioners - their income is limited and although they get small increments each year of 1% - it is hardly enough to keep paying increasing hydro bills each year. The increasing homelessness of our First Nations - is in part attributed to the high rent and hydro. People can not afford to rent and live in a home or apartment due to the high rates imposed. With the minimum wage increases - that is still not enough for some families to manage their hydro and pay rent. This further contributes to the overcrowding in homes and the violence that can erupt as a result of overcrowding. It seems Canadians being homeless is the NEW Norm for our nations. Please see the attached document. There is other issues named it may not be relevant to this Letter of comment. if that is the case please disregard the section entitled Additional Items of Concern. Thank you.