

PREPARING FOR A BRUSHING CONTRACT

In each community the vegetation and brush continually grows in the powerline right-of-way and needs to be cut down (called “brushing”) to protect the powerlines. Every 6-8 years there is an opportunity for your band to hire local workers for a brushing contract with Hydro One Remotes.

Here is how it works:

1. **Hydro One talks to Chief & Council and lets them know that there is a Brushing Contract opportunity coming soon.**
2. **Hydro One sends a Forestry Crew to walk the powerline right-of-way** to figure out the type of brush and how much needs to be cut. This is called Teching (*pronounced “tecking”*).
3. **Your community identifies a Brushing Crew** of 3-10 community members who are interested to cut brush.
4. **Hydro One’s Forestry Crew comes to your community to cut down the danger trees** (trees that may be touching the powerline). Local crews **do not** cut down danger trees.
5. **Hydro One representatives, including the Forestry Services Contract Monitor, meet with Chief & Council and review the local brushing contract**, show maps of where brushing needs to happen, and answer any questions about the Brushing Contract.
6. **The Hydro One Forestry Services Contract Monitor** is the one who will be taking care of the project for your community. He/she will come to your community and **give a 2 hour Brushing Orientation Presentation** to the local crew you have assembled and spend some time outside showing what needs to be done.
7. **Once the contracts are signed, insurance information is received, needed equipment is received, and a Purchase Order (PO) sent to you from Hydro One for the contract, your Brushing Crew starts cutting.** *Note all equipment is supplied by your community.*
8. **Once your crew is finished, contact the Contract Monitor**, who will then visit to check over the work. If you have any questions on anything at anytime, phone the Contract Monitor.
9. **After the work is verified, Hydro One will then pay your community the total amount of the contract.**



Equipment your community will need

Before the contract starts, your band may need to purchase some equipment. You can budget for this from the money you will receive from the Brushing Contract.

TOOLS: Brush saws & Chainsaws

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (called “PPE”) required for EACH WORKER:

- Work gloves
- Hard hat
- Chainsaw protective pants or chaps if operating a chainsaw
- Ear protection (“Ear defenders”) if operating a chainsaw
- Safety glasses
- Steel-toed safety boots

The Brushing Contract

For the contract, you will need:

1. **WSIB:** Either a Workplace Safety Insurance Board (WSIB) certificate, or a signature that your community is WSIB Exempt (most communities do this option).
2. **Liability Insurance Certificate (2 million):** Have your insurance provider email you an insurance form that you can email to us that identifies Hydro One Networks Inc as additionally insured.
3. **Signatures from Chief and Council**

Did you know that trees account for more than 30% of power outages in Ontario?

We will also ask you to sign a Band Council Resolution (BCR) in support of the contract and sign a Health and Safety Questionnaire when we come for the first visit.

Figuring out how much to pay your workers

Hydro One is paying your Band, and your Band is then paying the workers: you decide the method and amount you would like to pay. One popular way to pay workers is by the kilometer – this gives workers incentive to work effectively. Here is an example:

<u>Units (of work):</u>	<u>Item (Lot Price)</u>		<u>Rate</u>
Quantity			
Light Brush	\$2000/KM	3.3KM	\$ 6600.00
Medium Brush	\$2500/KM	0.6KM	\$ 1500.00
Heavy Brush	\$3000/KM	1.0KM	\$ 3000.00
Cut Tree Removals	\$7.50/brushed Tree	16 removals	\$ 120.00
Sub Total			\$ 11220.00
10% Band Admin			\$ 1122.00

There is 4.9 km to be brushed, and a total budget of \$12342.

Total Contract Price \$ 12342.00

\$1122 is set aside for administrative expenses, and let's say you spend \$1700 on equipment, leaving \$9520. The crew could be paid \$9520 / 4.9km = \$1942.85/km. If it is a crew of 5 people, you could pay each worker \$1942.85 / 5 people = \$388 for each kilometer that each person completes, or you could choose an easy number like \$300-350/km per person.

* Note: "Cut Tree Removals" means to clear the brush left behind when Hydro One cuts down the danger trees.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Do our workers need to have chainsaw certification? **NO – It is up to your community to evaluate the skill of your workers.**
2. Does our crew need steel-toed boots, gloves, hard hats, safety glasses, etc. for all workers? **YES**
3. Do we need to have WSIB coverage? **NO – many communities sign that they are WSIB exempt.**
4. Does Hydro One provide our crew safety supplies and other equipment? **No, all safety equipment and brushing equipment is to be provided by the band.**
5. Where should our band order safety supplies and equipment from? **Safety supplies are readily available from multiple reputable suppliers in the region. If you have trouble finding the appropriate safety supplies, please let us know.**
6. Will you provide our community a map to help us track what areas have been completed? **YES**
7. Do the maps you provide us show the areas of where the brush is heavy, medium and light? **NO**
8. What do we do if we have a question about anything? **Phone the Contract Monitor – he/she will give you their cell number.**