



Keeyask Generation Project Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Monitoring Plan

Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Monitoring Report

ATK-2018-FLCN



KEEYASK GENERATION PROJECT

FOX LAKE CREE NATION

REPORT #ATK-2018-FLCN

ABORIGINAL TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE MONITORING

2017/2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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1.0 FOX LAKE CREE NATION IMPACT ASSESSMENT UNIT

The Fox Lake Cree Nation (FLCN) Impact Assessment Unit (IAU) consists of Environmental Monitors that have been monitoring the Keeyask Project footprint, which includes Fox Lake Cree Nations Traditional Territory, Keeyask Site/Main Camp, South Access Road, Keeyask Transmission Lines; areas in and around the project. These areas have been monitored since the beginning of construction and will be monitored post construction.

The IAU undertake the following activities as outlined in the monitoring plan:

- Traditional teachings from FLCN Elders, Resource Users, Harvesters, and Youth relating to the land, water, animals, & spirituality. Information shared is implemented in our monitoring activities;
- Monitor and report on the presence/absence of wildlife, rare/traditional/native plant sightings, activity in the area, concerns from FLCN, seasonal event (hunting, fishing, harvesting and ceremonial activities) and heritage/cultural sites;
- Provided employment opportunities for FLCN members: utilized their expertise of the land, water and traditional knowledge in FLCN Traditional Territory/Keeyask Project area;
- Report information regarding monitoring to FLCN: Community Update(s), information sessions and FLCN Facebook/Environmental page(s);
- Report any protection and prevention measure to the proper resources: Sustainable Development;
- Assist by locating and identifying environmentally sensitive sites. Educating and involving FLCN members on restoration measure taken: Heritage sites: settlements, graves and artifacts;
- Work with MB Hydro Environmental Inspectors, researchers, with persons related to the Project and report to the Senior Environmental Assessment Officer.

2.0 COMMITTEE UPDATES

FLCN IAU staff sits on the following committees relating to the project: Monitoring Advisory Committee (MAC), Keeyask Caribou Coordination Sub-committee (KCCC), Kischi Sipi Namao Committee (KSNC), Construction Advisory Committee (CAC), Mercury Human Health Implementation Committee (MHHIC) and the Community Impact Group. Information gathered at these meetings are relayed to FLCN members as an update.

2.1 CONSTRUCTION MONITORING

Inspections are done regularly; monitor scheduled construction, and planning ahead with MB Hydro to be involved as much as possible. Planning our monitoring schedule the IAU refer to the MB Hydro Northern Capital Projects – Construction Activity Report.

The FLCN IAU took part in a few Planned Environmental Field Activities in the Keeyask Project Area throughout 2017/2018, shadowed the Keeyask Environment Inspectors on their weekly inspections and networking with other departments within Fox Lake to share information relating to the project.

2.2 BIRD COLLISION MONITORING SURVEY

Wildlife Resource Consulting Services (WRCS) MB Inc. – “The objective of the study is to assess the effectiveness of bird diverters. Placed on sky-wires to improve visibility of the wires to birds and to minimize potential bird-wire collisions.” TCN and War Lake partners assisted with the survey.



Photo 1: Participating in a bird collision monitoring survey

2.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

The IAU team was invited to take part in an archaeological excavation with Tataskweyak Cree Nation on August 14-17, 2017. It is great to see that our history is being preserved and documented we are glad to be a part of it and get to see firsthand what it takes to do an archeological survey and the findings that come with it. Each of us had a 1m by 1m grid section to sift through by trowel to see if any findings were present. After this step, we proceeded to dig farther down to the sandy layer where artifacts were uncovered. It was decided that the hard pack clay would be as far as we would dig. Artifacts found were glass, ceramic, beads, metal tools, squared iron nails, pipe stems, pipe bowl, there also were animal bones, fish bones were among the findings. After the site was completed the earth was put back where it came from a tobacco offering is made and a prayer & thanks were given. This gave us a good understanding of signs to look for in the future, while out on the land. This may lead to unearthing more history and finding areas of interest in our own traditional territory. This place named Kapowinik (Hunter's) Bay is just a sliver of what is left to be discovered out there.



Photo 2: FLCN IAU assisting an archaeological excavation at the historic fur trade post near Kapowinik Bay



Photo 3: Sediment sampling as part of the Sediment Management Plan (SMP) – Keeyask/Gull

2.4 VEGETATION SURVEY MONITORING

On August 3-5, 2017, the IAU team had the pleasure of being a part of Vegetation Monitoring and got to go out and experience what rare plants was all about. There are a few rare plants that Environmental Consults check up on in our Traditional Territory.

As shown in the picture is the Pitcher Plant that was used many years ago in our Traditional territory. It was also used for Medicine use way back then, to clean out the body.



Photo 4: Pitcher Plant

2.5 KEEYASK STURGEON CEREMONY

The IAU staff attended their first Sturgeon Ceremony at Keeyask on August 5, 2017. The ceremony was performed by a traditional elder who shared his knowledge about the origins of sturgeon, followed by a sharing circle and smudge. We then celebrated sturgeon back to the river by producing a traditional medicine that was released into the river. We were grateful to be a part of this ceremony and it showed those who were involved has respect for our water born ancestors.



Photo 5: IAU staff at the Keeyask Sturgeon Ceremony



Photo 6: Drumming Ceremony at the Sturgeon Ceremony

2.6 STURGEON RELEASE – KEEYASK

On October 5th, 2017, 250 Birthday Rapids Sturgeon yearlings were released at the Stephen's Lake boat launch at the Keeyask site. Grand Rapids Hatchery staff, MB Hydro boat patrol crew and staff members from Employment Retention Services (ERS) attended. ERS gifted offerings of tobacco to release into the river, along with our own personal prayers for the sturgeon's safe journey back into the river.



Photo 7: Joanne Lavallee assisting at the Keeyask Sturgeon release

2.7 NATIVE PLANT SOLUTIONS ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

On September 21st, the IAU team assisted Native Plant solutions on the north side of the South Access Road. We assisted with monitoring the growth of wetland seeds and plants that were planted last fall. We noticed a lot of the new vegetation that had been planted was grazed by Geese, confirmed by goose droppings located in the area. We were situated along the ditch where we also helped throw 'Cat tail' seed and hedgeweed seed; the seeds were acquired from previous plants that were in the area prior to construction. Native Plant Solutions was very knowledgeable and happy to share information regarding various types of wetland plants.

2.8 MAC OPEN HOUSE* – GILLAM SCHOOL

*A collaboration of FLCN Implementation and Future Development departments: Job Referral Services, Operational Jobs & Impact Assessment Unit. This Open House was a unique event, which held an abundance of information: FLCN Elders, Gillam School students, MAC, BBE, NMS, AHC, WPEM, Keeyask Site Reps, Sodexo, Apprenticeship Manitoba.



Photo 8: MAC Open House – Gillam School



Photo 9: MAC Open House – Gillam School