



Keeyask Generation Project Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Monitoring Plan

Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Monitoring Report

ATK-2018-TCN



ABORIGINAL TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE MONITORING REPORT

TATASKWEYAK CREE NATION

REPORT #ATK-2018-TCN

KEEYASK GENERATION PROJECT

2017/2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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June 2018

This report should be cited as follows:

Tataskweyak Cree Nation. 2018. Keeyask Generation Project, Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Monitoring Report, 2017/2018 Annual Report #ATK-2018-TCN, June 2018.

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1.0 ABORIGINAL TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE MONITORING PROGRAM

ATK is described in the Cree Nation Partners' Environmental Evaluation Report for Keeyask as "knowledge that reflects our experience, understanding, wisdom, values, beliefs, norms and priorities governing our relationship with Mother Earth and all her beings, derived and developed through living in our homeland ecosystem since time immemorial. ATK is inexplicably linked to our culture and our worldview."

The Tataskweyak Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge monitoring program was put together to monitor the effects of the Keeyask Project. Early January 2018 was the start for Tataskweyak's Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge monitoring program. Tataskweyak hired two monitors, Jon Grieves and Doug Kitch, who took on the lead roles in the ATK monitoring program.



Photo 1: Jon Grieves and Doug Kitch, Tataskweyak's Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge monitors

In January 16, 2018, the monitors traveled Winnipeg to attend their first orientation with Hydro to go over the TCN Interim ATK monitoring proposal work plan and budget as per the contribution agreement between Tataskweyak Cree Nation and Manitoba Hydro. At the Hydro building in Thompson on January 25, 2018, the monitors were introduced to Hydro's (MAC) Monitoring Advisory Committee. At the MAC meeting, Doug and Jon had the chance to meet with other

monitors from the other nations part of the (KHLP) Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership. The following day the resource users and community members from the partnership the monitors met with (KCCC) Keeyask Caribou Coordination Committee and the (KMMC) Keeyask Moose Monitoring Committee.



Photo 2: ATK monitors attending MAC meeting

On Feb 26, 2018, one of the monitors attended a land-based healing workshop put together by the TCN Resource Group. The workshop had several community members attend that were split into brainstorming groups. These brainstorming groups shared ideas on how land-based healing can help the community. The groups focused on four spectrums of healing; Mental, Physical, Emotional, and Spiritual.

Going forward the monitors would like to engage the community in meetings/workshops to gather input from the members and find out what is important to them and what they would like to see in the ATK monitoring program. These meeting/workshops will also help to develop a greater understanding of the projects effects on both the physical and spiritual aspects of our traditional knowledge and lifestyle and to educate and strengthen the connection we have with both. The information gathered will help the ATK monitors come up with a mitigation plan to reduce the impact of the project on the environment.

Tataskweyak Cree Nation delivers a Traditional Lifestyles program in the community that focuses on hands on/land-based learning for both youth and adults. The program teaches them traditional knowledge and customs of our people. One of the monitors had the opportunity to attend a Traditional Knowledge workshop and learned that there is a growing interest within the community's youth; this is a very good sign of progress in the community's goal to pass down much valued traditional knowledge.

1.1 COMMUNITY TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES



Source: ATK program

Photo 3: Two young men competing in the community traditional activities



Source: ATK program

Photo 4: Bannock and Tea making competition judges



Source: ATK program

Photo 5: A young lady participating in the bannock and tea making competition



Source: ATK program

Photo 6: Community members dressing up as trappers for the Elders

1.2 C.S.C.M.E.C. ANNUAL FISHING DERBY

On April 1st and 2nd the monitors attended the Chief Sam Cook Mahamuwe Education Center Annual fishing derby put together by the local school.



Source: ATK program

Photo 7: C.S.C.M.E.C Annual Fishing Derby

1.2.1 PARTICIPANTS IN THE DERBY



Source: ATK program

Photo 8: Two young ones fishing with their uncle



Source: ATK program

Photo 9: Two best cousins



Source: ATK program

Photo 10: A young man tediously trying to place a frozen minnow on a hook



Source: ATK program

Photo 11: A group of kids thawing out in a warming hut complete with a wood stove along with a school faculty members

1.3 APRIL 10TH COMMUNITY MEETING

The monitors put together a community meeting on April 10th 2018, which included a heritage and ATK component. The community meeting/heritage workshop had several attendees, 12 of which were elders; the primary traditional knowledge holders. For the heritage portion of the gathering Keeyask Archeologist, Amber Flett, accompanied by a Hydro representative brought a map that displayed all the heritage sites, cabin sites, camp sites, grave and other heritage locations currently known to Hydro with the goal of ensuring no other locations were overlooked. In the near future the monitors will be putting together an Elders Committee, the elders will provide much needed advice on what the monitors are focusing on. From the meeting the monitors learned how much the Elders appreciate the ATK staff's efforts to involve them in these activities and how we are ensuring what we are learning can be transferred from generation to the next.



Source: ATK program

Photo 12: Attendees of the community meeting/heritage workshop

Together with the Keeyask Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan (AEMP), we will monitor the projects effects on the local sturgeon population and their habitat, also to locate future spawning areas suitable for future sustainability for the species. The monitors would like to meet with land resource users that would have input in this matter like fisherman and elders to gather more understanding on the condition of the current population as well as the condition of the population prior to the projects construction, input from the local environmental studies

personnel would also be an asset to our cause. We will be monitoring the effects on other species of fish in the area such as Jackfish (pike), Pickerel (walleye) and Whitefish.

TCN acquired a plane to assist the monitors in the implementation of modern day treaties and agreements set forth by the federal and Provincial government as well as the Hydro Corporation.



Photo 13: Plane used by TCN ATK monitors



Photo 14: Plane used by TCN ATK monitors

In the upcoming years, the monitors will continue their efforts in involving the community's Elders, Resource Users and Youth in ATK's activities to gain further insight and advice on how the program should proceed. The customs, practices and traditions that are integral to our distinctive culture are rooted in our relationship with the land, with aid from the elders the monitors can come up with ideas and plan accordingly. The elder's involvement will be an important motivator in the monitors efforts in preserving the knowledge and practises of our people for the generations to come. The ATK staff will utilize traditional knowledge and western science to plan and implement the ideas and activities the program has planned.