



## Keeyask Generation Project Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Monitoring Plan

### *Askiy Nanakacihetakewin* Stewardship Program Report

ATK-2018-YFFN



# **KEEYASK GENERATION PROJECT**

**YORK FACTORY FIRST NATION**

REPORT #ATK-2018-YFFN

***ASKIY NANAKACIHTAKEWIN* STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

**2017/2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

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# 1.0 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Askiy Nanakacihtakewin (AN) means, “to watch out for and take care of the lands, waters, wildlife, plants, and people of the land”. YFFN has chosen the term “stewardship” for its “monitoring” program, as this word is better aligned with *Ininiw* perspectives on caring for *Askiy*. The program is designed to incorporate traditional science and *Ininiw kiskenihtamowin* (ATK), with cultural, educational, and traditional elements in understanding the effects of the Keeyask Project on YFFN’s members and their traditional lands.

In 2017/18, the program had two permanent staff members - the YFFN Stewardship Coordinator and Stewardship Assistant - and a contracted Monitoring Support Worker.

## 2.0 STEERING COMMITTEE

Program staff meet regularly with the Askiy Nanakacihetakewin Steering Committee, a group of elders, resource users, Resource Management Board members, Band and Implementation staff who offer guidance to the program and ensure linkages with other First Nation programs and activities.

### 2.1 KEEYASK COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Program staff represent YFFN on a number of Keeyask committees and working groups. Each of these groups acts as a forum to share community perspectives and work for better inclusion of Ininiw knowledge and values in the Keeyask project.

- Keeyask Monitoring Advisory Committee (MAC)
- Keeyask Caribou Coordinating Committee (KCCC)
- Construction Advisory Committee (CAC)
- YFFN Steering Group for the Keeyask Socio-Economic Monitoring Program (SEMP)

## 3.0 TOPICS OF FOCUS

Priority topics for the Steering Committee and staff over the past year have been:

- **ATK in Keeyask monitoring and management** - YFFN continues to work to build the role of ATK and find meaningful ways to reflect Ininiw culture and knowledge in the Keeyask Project. This has been a regular topic of discussion at Keeyask MAC meetings and bilateral meetings with Manitoba Hydro staff.
- **Caribou mapping and knowledge sharing** - YFFN recognizes the wealth of knowledge held by Indigenous resource users in northeastern Manitoba and is looking to bring that knowledge into discussions about project effects and regional caribou management. For several years, YFFN's AN program has been mapping caribou observations with YFFN resource users to create a record of what they are seeing on the land over the course of the winter. YFFN has shared its mapping template with other communities in the hopes of recording accounts from more harvesters over a broader area. YFFN is also looking to expand current Keeyask Caribou Coordination Committee discussions to include voices of knowledge holders from other Indigenous communities in the region, who observe and rely on the same herds that use the Keeyask area.
- **Drug and alcohol use and sexual exploitation** – YFFN is working to address a number of social problems in the community that have been amplified by the presence of the Keeyask project. AN staff are working with KHLP Board members, Implementation staff, and Manitoba Hydro personnel to discuss a community-based response to these community health issues.
- **Regional Cumulative Effects Assessment (RCEA)**– The AN Steering Committee took part in YFFN's review of the Regional Cumulative Effects Assessment undertaken by Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro. As the regional hydroelectric system sets the context for Keeyask effects and monitoring, the review was identified as a priority for the committee. YFFN's written comments and a transcript of a community meeting on the RCEA are available on the website of Manitoba's Clean Environment Commission at [cecmanitoba.ca](http://cecmanitoba.ca).



## 4.0 EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Program staff planned and participated in the following events and activities between April 2017 and March 2018:

- Gathering with traditional knowledge keepers and scientists at Turtle Lodge in Sagkeeng
- Reviewing and holding a community meeting on the Regional Cumulative Effects Assessment
- Releasing sturgeon fingerlings at Orr Creek
- Hosting two language workshops - exploring the spiritual/cultural framework of *Ininimowin* as a basis for YFFN stewardship
- Sharing information at a YFFN Internal team meeting on Keeyask Implementation
- Meeting with the province-wide Coordinated Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP)
- Reviewing climate change predictions for YFFN traditional lands
- Attending the Hudson Bay Summit gathering in Montreal
- Mapping annual caribou observations with YFFN resource users
- Hosting a four-day ATK winter camp for elders, youth, and resource users focused harvesting, preparing and sharing traditional foods



**Photo 1:** Youth practice preparing fish at YFFN ATK winter camp



**Photo 2: YFFN ATK winter camp Elders and youth participants**