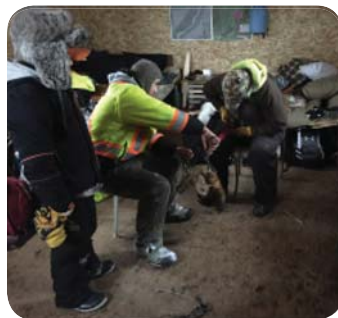




## Keeyask Generation Project Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Monitoring Plan

# Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Monitoring Report

ATK-2019-FLCN



# **KEEYASK GENERATION PROJECT**

**FOX LAKE CREE NATION**

REPORT #ATK-2019-FLCN

**ABORIGINAL TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE MONITORING  
2018/2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

Prepared by  
Fox Lake Cree Nation



June 2019

This report should be cited as follows:

Fox Lake Cree Nation. 2019. Keeyask Generation Project, Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Monitoring Report, 2018/2019 Annual Report #ATK-2019-FLCN, June 2019.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|            |  |          |
|------------|--|----------|
| <b>1.0</b> | <b>FOX LAKE CREE NATION IMPACT ASSESSMENT UNIT .....</b> | <b>1</b> |
| 1.1        | KEEYASK SITE MONITORING AND VISITS .....                 | 4        |
| 1.2        | AT A GLANCE – EVENTS/ACTIVITIES .....                    | 5        |
| 1.3        | PLANNED ONGOING EVENTS/ACTIVITIES .....                  | 8        |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>YEAR IN REVIEW .....</b>                              | <b>9</b> |
| 2.1        | MERCURY AND HUMAN HEALTH .....                           | 9        |
| 2.2        | MERCURY AND HUMAN HEALTH KIDS WORKSHOP.....              | 9        |

# LIST OF PHOTOS

|           |   |    |
|-----------|---|----|
| Photo 1:  | Ceremony .....                                  | 2  |
| Photo 2:  | Caribou Harvesting .....                        | 3  |
| Photo 3:  | Environment Inspection .....                    | 4  |
| Photo 4:  | Trapping program .....                          | 6  |
| Photo 5:  | School Tour .....                               | 7  |
| Photo 6:  | Sturgeon harvesting .....                       | 8  |
| Photo 7:  | Mercury and Human Health Kids Workshop .....    | 10 |
| Photo 8:  | Mercury and Human Health Kids Workshop .....    | 11 |
| Photo 9:  | “Know your Number”: Mercury Hair Sampling ..... | 13 |
| Photo 10: | Hair Sampling Team: Golder and FLCN Staff ..... | 14 |
| Photo 11: | “Know Your Number” Participation Prizes .....   | 15 |

# 1.0 FOX LAKE CREE NATION IMPACT ASSESSMENT UNIT

The Fox Lake Cree Nation (FLCN) Impact Assessment Unit (IAU) consists of Environment Monitors who have been monitoring the Keeyask Project footprint: FLCN Traditional Territory and surrounding areas related to the project. These areas have been monitored since the beginning of construction and will be monitored post construction.

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

- Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) from FLCN Elders, Resource Users, Harvesters, and Youth relating to the Land, Water, Animals, and Spirituality.

The IAU participates in gatherings facilitated by various resources. Collaborate information with resources for community information sessions, Home visits with Elders, Harvesting, School Visits, and participate in ceremony. Knowledge gained is shared with our membership.





Photo 1: Ceremony



**Photo 2: Caribou Harvesting**

- FLCN concerns and questions relating to the project are addressed.
- Provide employment opportunities for FLCN members: utilizing their expertise of the land, water, and ATK of FLCN Traditional Territory/ Keeyask project footprint.
- Information is shared with FLCN membership via Facebook FLCN page, Fox Lake Environmental page, memos and information sessions – Community Update/MAC Open House
- Obtain material regarding protection and preventative measures from resources: Manitoba Sustainable Development.
- Work with Manitoba Hydro Environmental Inspectors, researchers, persons related to the project. Communicate with the Senior Environmental Assessment Officer for clarification on update and relay concerns.

FLCN IAU, are members of various committees relating to the project:

- Monitoring Advisory Committee (MAC),



- Keeyask Caribou Coordination Committee (KCCC),
- Kischi Sipi Namao Committee (KSNC),
- Construction Advisory Committee (CAC), and
- Mercury and Human Health Implementation Group (MHHIG).

## 1.1 KEYYASK SITE MONITORING AND VISITS

Environmental inspections are planned and carried out with the Environment Inspectors. Communication is between FLCN and Manitoba Hydro Environment is open and accommodates requests.



**Photo 3: Environment Inspection**

## 1.2 AT A GLANCE – EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

- Monitoring Fox Lake Cree Nations Traditional Territory
- Environment Inspections with Manitoba Hydro
- Re-vegetation workshop with Manitoba Hydro and FLCN Resources and members
- Budget/Work plan meeting with Manitoba Hydro
- Worker/Family Survey interviews with FLCN members in Fox Lake, Gillam, and Keeyask
- Professional Development: CPR First Aid, WHMIS/MSDS, Bear Awareness, Chainsaw certification, Field Level Hazardous Assessment, Fall Rescue, PAL and GPS.
- MAC, KCCC, KSNC, CAC, KSN Collaborative, Deer Island planning, Summer Program, Community Impact meetings. KHLP Board presentation
- Participated in Cultural Camp – Goose Harvesting
- IAU Staff meetings / Implementation Staff Meetings
- Networking with resources within FLCN Implementations and Future Development office.
- Fieldwork – WRCS Consultants, North South Consultants, Intergroup Consultants, MB Important Bird Areas
- Participated in the Deer Island Gathering
- Sturgeon Fingerling Stocking/Release
- Trapping Program (Year 2)



**Photo 4: Trapping program**

- Moose Workshop – Nature United
- School Visits



**Photo 5: School Tour**

- Open House – Gillam School
- Tele-conference meetings with KCN, regarding collaborative monitoring
- Atkok Collaborative Workshop
- Promoting “Respectful Harvesting” – posters
- Boat patrol safety
- MHHIG workshops: hair sampling, information sessions





Photo 6: Sturgeon harvesting

## 1.3 PLANNED ONGOING EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

- Summer Program
- Sturgeon Hatchery tour
- Keeyask Site tours
- Harvesting: Berries, Medicines
- Harvesting for Elders/members/community freezer: Walleye, pike, white fish, sturgeon, ducks, geese, moose and caribou.
- Monitoring
- Community Canoe Trips

## **2.0 YEAR IN REVIEW**

Joanne Lavallee, IAU Assistant Coordinator/Mercury Community Coordinator

### **2.1 MERCURY AND HUMAN HEALTH**

In order for the Keeyask Project to go forward many protection plans are needed during the construction phase to complete the project as environmentally safe as they can. The Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership (KHLP) started a committee the Mercury and Human Health Implementation Group (MHHIG). They then created the role of the Mercury Community Coordinator (MCC) to oversee the implementation of the Mercury and Human Health Risk Management Plan. The MCC organizes and promotes community-based workshops and education sessions regarding Mercury and fish in Keeyask footprint. Part of the job is completing hair sampling and food surveys with the members of Fox Lake Cree Nation.

### **2.2 MERCURY AND HUMAN HEALTH KIDS WORKSHOP**

During the Spring Cultural Camp, the MCC held a workshop aimed at the children and youth of Fox Lake Cree Nation. In order to build a better understanding of fish and mercury the communication products (a poster, placemat and fish tape) were used to offer basic facts about Mercury & Human Health. It was easier to quiz the kids with some common questions listed on the poster and the fish tape served as useful tool to explain safe consumption of three predatory fresh water fish within the Stephens Lake. We also had a coloring contest and the winners were awarded various prizes as well as other participants for their efforts. There was also a little Mercury activity booklet which shared the MCC's contact information, a word search puzzle, the coloring activity and a fish batter recipe. Overall, the workshop was a success; we all had fun coloring, as well as asking and answering questions.



Photo 7: Mercury and Human Health Kids Workshop





**Photo 8: Mercury and Human Health Kids Workshop**

### **Hair Sampling and Food Survey**

Members from Fox Lake Cree Nation who are active within the Mercury and Human Health Implementation Group (MHHIG) underwent training with the Hair monitoring consultant by the name of Andrea Amendola of Golder Associates. This service offers free confidential hair mercury sampling to partner First Nation community members to help them know their number. The initiative is known as “Know Your Number” and helps you learn your mercury level to make your own decision about fish consumption and how to stay within safe limits.



- As part of the effort FLCN had a two-day session with community members who consume fish throughout the seasons to test their hair for mercury. Samples are then sent to the lab to be tested and members are expected to get results within six weeks.
- When Fox Lake Cree Nation held the service, members were greeted with a brief info session and pamphlet. During the first day we had 13 members show up; nine people completed both a hair sample and food survey. One person could not provide a hair sample due to no parental signature and one person couldn't do one due to length.
- On the second day we had 18 members show up all together, nine people completed a hair sample, and 11 people completed the food survey. A few minors were without parent consent and one person could not provide a hair sample due to length.
- If you are a resource user or eating fresh water fish such as Walleye, Pike and White fish throughout the seasons it is important to have your hair sampled during peak fishing seasons. Fox Lake will be hosting another Mercury Hair Sample and food survey service in the fall for both communities.



**Photo 9: "Know your Number": Mercury Hair Sampling**



**Photo 10: Hair Sampling Team: Golder and FLCN Staff**



Photo 11: "Know Your Number" Participation Prizes