Keeyask Generation Project

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Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Monitoring Report ATK-2020-TCN







KEEYASK

Manitoba Conservation and Climate Client File 5550.00 Manitoba Environment Act Licence No. 3107

THE INCOMENT

2019-2020

ABORIGINAL TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE MONITORING REPORT

TATASKWEYAK CREE NATION

REPORT #ATK-2020-TCN

KEEYASK GENERATION PROJECT

2019/2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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Tataskweyak Cree Nation

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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 and duties of everyday life and priorities governing our relationship with Mother Earth and all her beings, derived and developed through lining 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 Project.

Some of the key activities carried out from the monitoring program include the following.

1.1 GPS MAPPING/SATELLITE IMAGERY WORKSHOP

ATK monitors held a GPS workshop in the community at the Tataskweyak Resources Stewardship Centre (TRSC) to provide training to ATK staff and resource users on how to use GPS equipment and provide and introduction to GIS and reading satellite imagery. Joseph Harvey, Jonathon Kitchekeesik Sr, Clinton Brightnose, Mike Moose, Melvin Cook Jr, Douglas Kitchekeesik, Robert Spence, Randy Beardy, Jonathon Kitchekeesik Jr, and Quentin Harvey participated in the workshop.



Photo 1: Left to right: Robert Spence, Douglas Kitchekeesik, Melvin Cook Jr, Jonathon Kitchekeesik Jr, Clinton Brightnose





Photo 2: Learning how to properly use a GPS during the GPS and Mapping Workshop

1.2 CLARK LAKE SEARCH FOR REMAINS

In 2016 human remains were found along the north shore of Clark Lake, Manitoba. Manitoba's Historic Resources Branch (HRB) visited the site and collected the partial remains of a single individual. At the request of TCN, the remains were radiocarbon dated to 1920 ± 30 BP (*ca.* 2,000 years ago). In 2018, Amber Flett, on behalf of TCN conducted an examination of the shoreline and found additional skeletal elements. In 2019, InterGroup Consultants (InterGroup) recovered a possible human finger bone on the shoreline. Due to erosion and the threat to cabins, a section of the shoreline was considered for protection. In August, 2019, prior to the placement of riprap, a final search for additional human remains was conducted. This investigation included the use of an aqua dam and dewatering. The ATK monitors participated in the Clark Lake camp area search for human remains. HRB staff, Suyoko Tsukamoto and Perry Blomquist, and Intergroup's archaeologist Amber Flett were on site to determine where and if anymore remains were in the selected area of interest. Elder Lazarus Kitchekeesik was on site to advise crews. The investigation resulted in the recovery of a couple additional elements. Shoreline remediation took place in February, 2020.





Photo 3: Archaeologists going over plan for required setup of aqua dam sections





Photo 4: MH Boat Patrol crew help to bring sandbags needed for the aqua dam to Clark Lake site



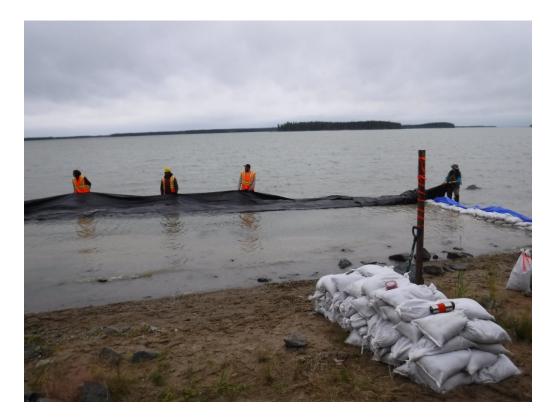


Photo 5: Setup of the aqua dam



Photo 6: First section drained and being searched





Photo 7: Many pieces of bones being found mostly animal

1.3 DOCUMENTING HISTORICAL LAND USE – RECLUSE LAKE

In September 2019, InterGroup Consultants Ltd (InterGroup) was invited by TCN to aid in the documentation of the Recluse Lake Settlement and immediate area. The area was visited by Douglas Kitchekeesik, Elders - Lazarus Kitchekeesik, William Kitchekeesik, John George Garson, Members - Illa Garson, Capelia Garson, Lazarus Mayhem, Sara Mayhem, Aliyah Spence, Janessa Kitchekeesik, Crystal Flett and son; Boat Drivers -Patrick Garson, Isaiah Wastesicoot, Noah Harvey, Eric Beardy; Cooks - Billy Moose, Mary Audy. Additional TCN members were flown in daily to visit the newly built Recluse camp. Intergroup's archaeologist Daniel Szot assisted in documenting and registering six archaeological sites including: three historic burials at one location, two late historic sites, two Pre-European Contact archeological sites, and the wreckage of a 1930s Fairchild FC2W2.





Photo 8: View of Recluse Lake Camp with newly built cabins up on the left



Photo 9: ATK monitor Quentin Harvey marking location of burial site at the camp site





Photo 10: Isaiah Kitchekeesik, Janessa Kitchekeesik, Patrick Garson, and Douglas Kitchekeesik outside of Patrick's old school





Photo 11: Roasting up some moose meat



Photo 12: Noah Harvey and Eric Beardy checking the fishing net





Photo 13: Crystal Flett and son learning to check a fishing net



Photo 14: Evenings spent by the fire





Photo 15: Old axe head and pad lock found



Photo 16: Ladies cleaning fish



1.4 MAC TRIP TO GULL LAKE

In September there was a field trip planned to take a boat ride from Split Lake to Gull Lake with all MAC members. MH Boat patrol crew were on hand to help out along with a couple other boats to carry members on the trip. Jonathon Kitchekeesik Sr. led the way stopping and explaining significant areas along the river.



Photo 17: Pre-meeting before the Gull Lake trip





Photo 18: Waiting for the boats to arrive



Photo 19: Jonathon Kitchekeesik Sr. explaining significant areas along the river



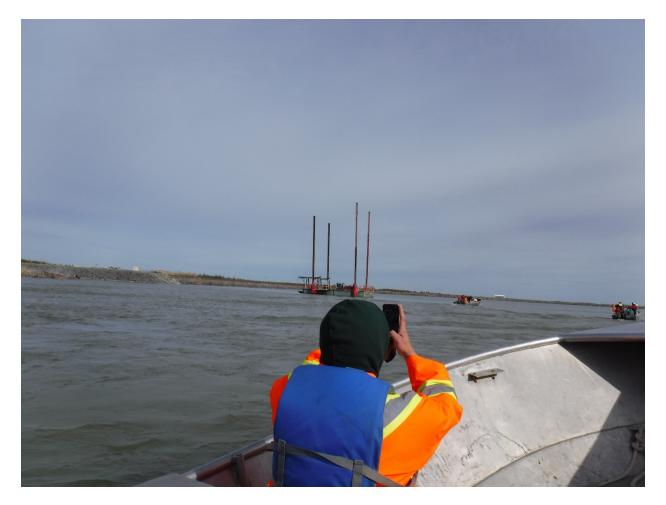


Photo 20: At Gull Lake with view of the Keeyask Spillway in background

1.5 COMMUNITY FEAST

In October the community ATK staff participated in preparing food for the community feast. Every year the community celebrates the successful fall hunt. Food is donated from members and other organizations. The feast is one of the traditions carried out each year and is put on together as a community.





Photo 21: Moose meat being cooked





Photo 22: Blessing of the food

1.6 TRADITIONAL LIFESTYLES TRAPPING PROGRAM

ATK staff member Douglas Kitchekeesik and Jonathon Kitchekeesik Jr. provided trapper training for a few TCN members. Members were supplied with tools and material needed for their trapping season. The trainees were taught how to trap marten, beaver, and prepare the fur for auction. Net setting an important part of the trapper season. The group gathered and learned skinning their catches.





Photo 23: Meeting to explain trapping program





Photo 24: Learning how to trap beaver





Photo 25: Learning how to set a fishing net





Photo 26: Good catch!



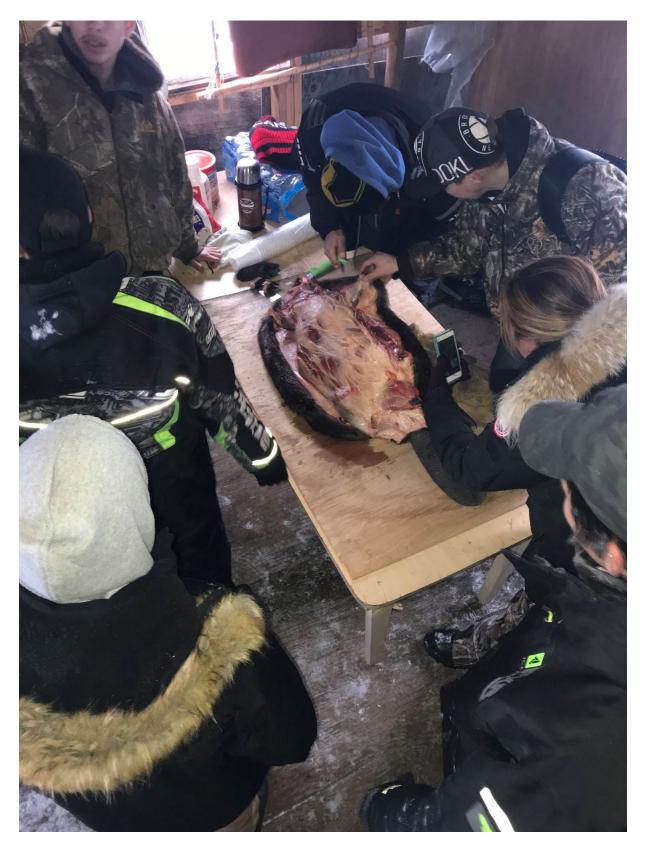


Photo 27: The group learning how to skin a beaver



1.7 WATER-UP AND IMPOUNDMENT MONITORING

ATK staff started with a crew of four to monitor the effects of water-up and impoundment on the Nelson River. Winter impoundment was decided instead of Fall. ATK started to monitor along the Nelson River from Split Lake making their way to Gull Lake. To do this, a trail had to be made going along the south side of the river as it was all grown out. It was a lot of work and time consuming. Caribou were also monitored.



Photo 28: Melvin Cook Jr. at Clark Lake showing how far he could've made it





Photo 29: Douglas Kitchekeesik in a helicopter with WRCS staff looking for caribou in the area



Photo 30: Ice jam at the mouth of Gull Lake





Photo 31: Monitoring ice conditions at Birthday Rapids

