



## Keeyask Generation Project Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Monitoring Plan

# Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Monitoring Report ATK-2020-TCN



# **ABORIGINAL TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE MONITORING REPORT**

**TATASKWEYAK CREE NATION**

REPORT #ATK-2020-TCN

**KEYYASK GENERATION PROJECT**

**2019/2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

Prepared by

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 living in our Homeland ecosystem since time immemorial. ATK is inextricably 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 an introduction to GIS and reading satellite imagery. Joseph Harvey, Jonathon Kitchokeesik Sr, Clinton Brightnose, Mike Moose, Melvin Cook Jr, Douglas Kitchokeesik, Robert Spence, Randy Beardy, Jonathon Kitchokeesik Jr, and Quentin Harvey participated in the workshop.



**Photo 1:** Left to right: Robert Spence, Douglas Kitchokeesik, Melvin Cook Jr, Jonathon Kitchokeesik 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  $1920 \pm 30$  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 Kitchkeesik, Elders - Lazarus Kitchkeesik, William Kitchkeesik, John George Garson, Members - Illa Garson, Capelia Garson, Lazarus Mayhem, Sara Mayhem, Aliyah Spence, Janessa Kitchkeesik, 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**