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Mushkegowuk Council

land and resources department



Vol. 1, Issue 1

Community Land Use Planning Contacts

Attawapiskat - John B. Nakogee

Chapleau Cree - Marshall Tannahill

Fort Albany - Meshan Sutherland

Kashechewan - Edward Sutherland

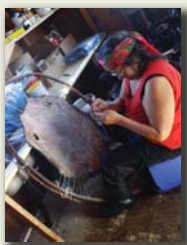
Missanabie Cree - Lori Rainville

Moose Cree - Lillian Trapper

Taykwa Tagamou - Bruce Archibald

Weenusk - Ivan D. Iserhoff

New Staff



Annie Metat

Land Use Planning
Facilitator



Barb Duffin

GIS Specialist

Land and Resources Staff
705-268-3594

Job Mollins Koene, Coordinator
land@mushkegowuk.ca

Marlene Innes, Information Mgmt
marleneinnes@mushkegowuk.ca

Barb Duffin, GIS Specialist
bduffin@mushkegowuk.ca

Annie Metat, Planning Facilitator
anniemetat@mushkegowuk.ca

From the Office of the Grand Chief

You would think that writing to 50 plus resource development companies that you know to have an interest in your territory would generate a lot of responses. But that was not the case.

A letter dated October 27/09, was sent out to resource developers that were known to have an interest in Mushkegowuk First Nation territories. In this letter resource developers were advised that consultation and accommodation was not enough and that consent was required before any activity could take place on our lands. Here is the exact wording in the letter:



Stan Louttit, Grand Chief

"to repeat, our view is that our consent to resource development and other development on our ancestral lands is required, and this is the case regardless of 'consultation accommodation' that may have occurred, regardless of provincial and federal government approvals and regardless of compliance with statutes such as the Mining Act."

In addition, the letter goes on to state that "revenue sharing" has to be part of the equation.

No more than 4 resource development companies responded. This was very disappointing. What about the other 50? Working with our legal advisor and the Chiefs, we have begun examining other options such as moratoriums. Certainly, a very strong message has to be sent out to government and the resource development sector. As well, it is incumbent upon leadership to send a very strong and united message to all that we will settle for no less than our requirement for CONSENT.

I am appreciative of the efforts of the Lands and Resource staff to implement this first ever newsletter on Lands and Resource issues. This will serve as an excellent communication tool to our people in the communities, First Nation leadership and staff. In the future, it is our hope that we can implement an overall Mushkegowuk newsletter that will be inclusive of all operations.

Meegwetch.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For information contact Marlene Innes: 705-268-3594

Chief's Meeting - June 14 & 15, Chapleau, ON

Paquatuskamik

Collective Land Use Planning In The Mushkegowuk Region

What is Land Use Planning?

Land Use Planning is the process of making choices about the future of the land. Those choices will help to answer some important questions:

- What will different areas be used for?
- Who will benefit from it?
- Where will land be protected for traditional uses?
- Where will Mushkegowuk collectively agree where mining or forestry will be allowed?
- Where will Mushkegowuk collectively agree where will roads go?

Land use planning needs to be based on the First Nations knowledge of the land and on any other information that will help the Omushkegowuk make wise choices for the future.

What is the Land Use Planning Process?

Omushkegowuk want to work together on making decisions about the land, but the decisions need to be made at the community level. The goal of the Mushkegowuk is to eventually produce one land use plan for the entire Mushkegowuk region rather than eight separate plans that may lead to tension between the Omushkegowuk.

What is GIS?

A GIS or Geographic Information System is a computer system that manages information about different places. It can produce maps and reports that will assist in the planning process.

Why are Omushkegowuk interviewing people about their use of the land?

Each First Nation will collect information from its members in their own ways. Some of this will involve meetings with elders and other community groups. It will also involve interviewing people to gather more specific information. This information will form the basis for making land use decisions by the community.

What will happen to the information collected?

The information will be collected by the community staff and entered into a GIS system maintained by Mushkegowuk Council. The information will be owned and managed by the individual First Nations and the First Nations will decide how to use it.

What is the role of Mushkegowuk Council in Land Use Planning?

Mushkegowuk Council will help to facilitate the collective approach to land use planning by providing expertise, maintaining GIS and information management systems, seeking out funding, and assisting the development of Paquatuskamik in what ever ways possible.

What is the role of the Ontario Government?

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is developing a "Far North Act" to manage land use planning in the Far North (the northern part of Mushkegowuk Territory). We will present more information on this act in a future newsletter. The Omushkegowuk are also negotiating for planning funding from the Province. In the end plans will need to be approved by both the First Nations and the Province for them to be effective.

The Mushkegowuk Council Lands and Resources Program is looking for the following positions:
(please contact us for full job descriptions):

Land Use Planning Specialist

The Planning Specialist will provide advice and guidance for all aspects of land use planning and develop supporting documents. As part of a team of regional staff and community coordinators, the Specialist will provide advice on planning process and strategies as well as prepare and deliver educational opportunities to First Nation staff and members.

This position will be based in Timmins or a Mushkegowuk First Nation.

Deadline for application: until filled.

Mid Canada Line Project Officer

The Project Officer will support First Nation involvement in all aspects of the remediation of the Mid-Canada Line sites, conduct reviews of past remediation efforts and make recommendations relating to the project, economic planning and environmental assessments. This is a one year contract with the possibility of renewal depending on funding.

The position could be located in Timmins, ON or Attawapiskat First Nation.

Deadline for application: 4:00pm on June 22, 2010.