

AGA Year in Review Report April 1, 2019 – October 2020

| Name of PCMNO Councilor | Region | Date |
|-------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|
| Theresa Stenlund | One | October 25 th , 2020 |

Introductory Message about the Work within the Region

Region One represents four communities in Northwestern Ontario (Kenora, Dryden, Atikokan and Fort Frances) within the territory of Treaty 3 and including with north east corner outside of the Treaty 3 area.

Northwestern Ontario is a hub for both the mining and forestry industries. As such, there is a significant amount of mining and forestry activity in the Region. Over the past few years there has also been heightened activity in energy sector development as well as the initiation of important projects such as the highway twinning between Kenora and the Manitoba border. In addition, the Township of Ignace in northwestern Ontario is one of the remaining two potential storage site for spent nuclear fuel. All of these activities, coupled with the work associated with sub-table to the Framework Agreement’s Negotiation Process in relation to the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community and the Treaty 3 Halfbreed adhesion for advancing reconciliation with the Northwestern Ontario Métis communities, makes Region One a very active and busy region for engagement with industry, government and other proponents.

Much has been achieved since the 2019 Annual General Assembly. Region One is currently engaged in negotiations with the MNO regarding the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community Regional Implementation Agreement and Workplan, ensuring that the rights and interests of the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community are not forgotten.

For additional activities being conducted in Region one please refer to the last page of this report - **Other Comments – Ongoing Activities in Region 1.**

Highlight of Key Achievements

- Negotiated funding to further the work associated with the development of a potential Northwestern Ontario Child & Family Services Agency with the focus on Prevention Services.
- Region One leadership, with the support of their municipal partners assisted Métis citizens with the necessities of life when they were evacuated from Red Lake due to Forest Fires in August 2020.
- Negotiated funding to advance the Treaty 3 Halfbreed adhesion Claim at the Framework Agreement sub-table.
- Successful in negotiating research funding with Canada to assist in moving the Treaty 3 claim forward.
- Family Day Community Event held in partnership with the MMF on the Dawson Trail re-enactment and Celebration of the Manitoba 150 (150 years since Manitoba became Canada’s fifth province, the only province to enter Confederation under Indigenous leadership)
- Participated as a Métis Infinity Trust Board Member – until June 2020 – Chair of the MNO assumed this role.
- Negotiated the Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement (MGRSA) Implementation Agreement with the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community (NWOMC) with the MNO this past June 2019.

Projects Undertaken /Partnerships / Other Committee Participation

Northwestern Ontario Métis Community Child and Family Services

- The Métis Citizens from the four communities of NWO Region 1, (Atikokan, Fort Frances, Dryden and Kenora) have embarked on a journey to build and deliver distinct Métis services for the children, youth and families of our area.
- The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) has been working with Indigenous partners as they develop their own distinct child, youth and family services models, systems and / or laws. The NWOMC, Region 1, with MNO support has demonstrated initiative and leadership in working with the MCCSS. To help with the development of an Agency Model to deliver Child and Family services to Region One citizens, various service models have been explored with mainstream, First Nations and Métis Agencies from Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia along with research and consultation with a variety of partners.
- More specifically, over the past year, a meeting with the Presidents of our four communities has taken place and three rounds of community consultation meetings with the four NWO Métis communities have been conducted to determine how our Region can develop an Agency Model and services conducive to Métis children, youth and families in the North Western Ontario Region. Direction from the community consultations has led us to take a phased approach, and begin with a focus on Prevention work with children and families which may be followed by the development of Protection services. Further outreach and updates will continue as we move forward and another round of community consultations are planned for the spring of 2021.

Resource Consultations

Note: Minor or one-off consultation engagements have not been listed in the briefing below.

Mining

Agnico Eagle – Hammond Reef Project

- The Hammond Reef Project is a proposed gold mine located approximately thirty (30) kilometres (km.) north of Atikokan, Ontario.
- Agnico Eagle's Environmental Assessment has been approved at both the federal and provincial level.
- The LRC Branch Consultation Assessment Coordinator is working to schedule a meeting with Agnico Eagle to discuss the project and implementing the Shared Interest Agreement that it has in place with the MNO.

Treasury Metals – Goliath Gold Project

- The Goliath Gold Project is a proposed gold mine near Dryden.
- The federal EA was approved in August 2019.
- Will begin IBA negotiations with Treasury Metals once the Prefeasibility Study (PFS) is complete. Treasury Metals has informed the MNO that the release of the PFS will be delayed due to COVID-19.
- Treasury Metals has also acquired the Goldlund Property, an early exploration site located near the Goliath Gold Project. Treasury Metals may consider co-developing this project alongside the Goliath Project.
- The MNO R1CC last met with Treasury Metals on 29 June 2020 and will be meeting again sometime in October or November 2020 for an update.

First Mining – Springpole Project

- Springpole is a proposed gold mine in the Red Lake area that is working on a federal and provincial environmental assessment.
- A draft Consultation Agreement has been tabled with First Mining but not secured. Negotiations continue to take place.
- A rights assertion letter was sent to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) on 15 May 2020.
- The MNO R1CC last met with representatives from First Mining Gold on 21 May 2020 to review the project. An update meeting is expected to take place in the coming months.
- First Mining Gold will be releasing their final Terms of Reference for the provincial EA for review in August 2020. The MNO has retained a consultant to review the document and will be submitting comments to MECP in October 2020.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) – Steep Rock Rehabilitation Project

- The Steep Rock site, located approximately three (3) km. north of Atikokan, is an abandoned mining site initially developed in 1943, now owned by the province.
- President Marlene Davidson is representing the R1CC at meetings of the Steep Rock Advisory Panel.
- LRC Branch is working on developing a Consultation Agreement to enable further engagement on the project.

Ambershaw Metallics Inc. – Bending Lake Iron Ore Deposit

- The proposed project is located southwest of Ignace near Highway 622 and is an open pit iron ore mine. The project is going through a federal environmental assessment.
- Tabled a Consultation Agreement with Ambershaw in April 2020 and is awaiting feedback.
- In May 2020, Ambershaw indicated that because of the current situation with COVID-19, they are not ready to proceed with their engagement schedule at this time. They also noted that they would be seeking a one-year extension to complete their EA though this request has not been formally made to IAAC.
- IAAC and the MNO will be meeting in the coming weeks to discuss consultation on the Project.

New Gold – Rainy River Gold Mine

- New Gold owns and operates the Rainy River gold mine (“the Project”) located 65km northwest of Fort Frances. The mine began operating in 2017.
- The MNO participates in the Joint Implementation Committee (JIC) and the Environmental Monitoring Board (EMB) for the Project. The mandate of the JIC is to provide a collaborative forum for the MNO and New Gold to discuss environmental aspects of the Project, hiring, training and contracting opportunities, and general issues of concern. I hold the JIC seat for the MNO and an LRC staff liaises with New Gold and participates on the environment committee. The EMB consists of representatives from various communities who discuss aspects of environmental monitoring for the Project and provide recommendations to New Gold for further testing, studies or research for example.

Transmission Lines

Hydro One Networks Inc. (HONI) – Waasigan Transmission Line

- The Hydro One Northwest Bulk Transmission Line Project is a proposed double-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) line between Lakehead Transmission Station (TS) within the Municipality of Shuniah and Mackenzie TS within the Township of Atikokan and a new single-circuit 230 kV line from Mackenzie TS to the Dryden TS.
- The Region 1 and Region 2 Consultation Committees have a signed internal agreement stipulating how the RCCs will engage in consultation on the project.
- Hydro One released their draft Terms of Reference for the environmental assessment on 8 June, 2020 for MNO’s review and comment.
- Following Hydro One’s release of their draft Terms of Reference, the MNO’s consultants at MNP conducted a review of the document and provided their findings to the MNO in a 7 July, 2020 meeting.
- On 22 July, 2020, the MNO and RCC members from Regions 1 and 2 held a meeting with Hydro One

during which an open discussion was had regarding comments and questions about the draft Terms of Reference.

- On 10 August, 2020, MNP shared a presentation on their review of the draft Terms of Reference, including comments on behalf of the MNO, during a meeting with MNO staff, RCC members and Hydro One.
- Hydro One is expected to release their final Terms of Reference document in mid-late October.
- Community Information Sessions were planned for April 2020 but have been delayed due to COVID-19. These sessions are now scheduled to take place during the last week of October and first week of November.
- In discussions about potential economic/business opportunities from the project with HONI.

Wataynikaneyap (“Watay”) Power – New Transmission Line to Pickle Lake

- Wataynikaneyap Power is a transmission company owned by twenty-four First Nations who have a majority partnership in the new Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line to Pickle Lake.
- The MNO in Region 1 engaged in consultations on the Project in from 2017 - 2019, when the Project was approved by the government. Construction on the Project is now underway.
- The MNO worked to minimize potential impacts to Métis harvesters and MNO Citizens during construction and operation of the Project.
- MNO Citizens in Region 1 are invited to reach out to LRC staff with any questions or concerns regarding the project and its construction.

Nuclear Power and Radioactive Waste Management

At this time we have agreed to learn more about this potential project and have not indicated a position on this project.

Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) – Adaptive Phased Management (APM) Project – General Relationship Agreement (GRA)

- The General Relationship Agreement (GRA) between the NWMO and MNO for activities in all of MNO’s regions is due to expire in August 2020.
- Transportation of Used Nuclear Fuel Sessions are planned to be held in regions 1-9 in late summer/fall 2020, depending on public health recommendations.
- Due to the postponement of deliverables, the GRA is likely to have its end date postponed to the end of 2020 or beginning of 2021.
- A new GRA will be negotiated when the existing GRA is due to expire.

Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) – Adaptive Phased Management (APM) Project – Region 1 Community Wellbeing Agreement

- A Region 1 Community Wellbeing Agreement was signed December 16, 2019.
- The consulting firm MNP has been retained to complete the Community Wellbeing Study, however this has been postponed due to COVID-19.

Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) – Adaptive Phased Management (APM) Project – Region 1 Engagement Agreement

- A Region 1 TKLUS Agreement was signed January 28, 2020.
- MNP has been retained to complete the TKLUS with interviews starting in August 2020
- The R1CC met with NWMO eight times over the past year for consultation purposes, including for update meetings and a tour of the borehole area.
- The R1CC has engaged a negotiations team to assist in developing a ‘willing host agreement’ with the NWMO. This team met on 29 April 2020.

Aggregates

Wasaw Aggregates – MacDonald Road

- The MacDonald Road aggregate pit is a proposed development which covers 22.3 hectares of land.
- The R1CC met with Wasaw and their consultants on 16 April, 2019.
- Wasaw is not willing to provide the funding required for a community workshop to discuss MNO citizens' concerns with the proposed project.
- LRC Branch sent a letter to MNRF regarding the inadequate consultation with the MNO on this project.

Fisheries Initiatives

MNRF Fisheries Management Plan – Lake of the Woods

- The MNO in Region 1 is in discussion with MNRF to determine MNO participation in the development of a Fisheries Management Plan for the Lake of the Woods.
- One Community Information Session was held in Kenora in early 2020 to hear about the planning process from MNRF. The MNO will submit requests for further engagement to MNRF.

Forestry

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) – Forest Management Plans

- Ontario's Crown Forest is divided into 39 Forests, also known as Forest Management Units (FMUs), and each FMU is required to prepare a 10-year forest management plan(FMP).
- The preparation of the 10-year forest management commences 3 years prior to its implementation.
- Preparation of the forest management plans requires consultation with the MNO. Consultation on each plan involves meetings and document reviews.

2020-2030 FMP

- LRC Branch identified 5 Forest Management Plans that were scheduled for implementation in April 2020.
- 2021-2031 FMP
- LRC Branch identified 5 Forest Management Plans that are scheduled for implementation in April 2021.

2022-2032 FMP

- LRC Branch identified 3 Forest Management Plans that are scheduled for implementation in April 2022.

Region 1 Forestry Workshop–February 2020

- A meeting was held to identify Region 1's objectives related to forest management planning and engagement with the forestry industry.

Forestry Survey – June 2020

- In addition to processing forestry notifications, reviewing the planning documents and setting up meetings, LRC Branch also developed a province-wide forestry survey to collect information about land use in Crown forests.
- The information collected will help assist in the forest management planning process as MNRF invites Métis communities to submit documentation outlining their values, demographics, and concerns for consideration in the final plan.

Forestry-Related Policy Reviews

- February 2020– MNO consulted and commented on the proposed changes to the Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994
- March 2020– MNO consulted and commented on the proposed Ontario Forest Sector Strategy.

Federal Climate Change and Guardians Programs

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern

Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) – Métis Nation of Ontario Community-Based Environmental Monitoring Program

LRC has applied for and received funds from ECCC and CIRNAC to support the development of a community-based environmental and climate change monitoring pilot program.

- The LRC Branch met with the R1CC and R1 knowledge holders and youth on February 22, 2020 for a regional engagement session focused on developing the program.
- LRC Branch staff are currently assessing the information gathered at these engagement sessions to propose a program for 'on the land' environmental monitoring by MNO citizens.
- A follow up meeting is being planned for October 28th, 2020.

Other Initiatives

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) - Lake of the Woods Water Quality Engagement

- The purpose of ECCC's 2016-2020 Lake of the Woods Science Plan is to conduct research and monitoring on algae and nutrients in the Lake of the Woods watershed.
- The MNO has received funding to enable Region 1 to host a Community Information Session with MNO citizens to learn more about the research and future plans for Lake of the Woods.

Mercury Contamination in English and Wabigoon Rivers

- In December 2019, a letter was sent to the Federal Minister of Health, the Honourable Patty Hajdu, with a meeting request to discuss potential health impacts to Métis citizens resulting from the mercury contamination in the English and Wabigoon Rivers. The MNO received a response from Hon. Minister Hajdu and, following a delay due to COVID-19, is now working to set up a meeting with staff from the Public Health Agency of Canada to determine potential next steps.
- In October 2020, a letter was sent to the English-Wabigoon River Remediation Board with a request for the MNO to obtain Participant Status for future board meetings. The purpose of the Remediation Board provides direction on the use of funds set aside in a trust for the purposes of remediating the English and Wabigoon Rivers of mercury contamination.

Other Comments – Ongoing Activities in Region 1

- Development of education materials to tell the story of the Half breed adhesion to Treaty Three (brochure, historical atlas/book and video)
- Continued relationship with the Métis National Council
- Continued maintenance of the Region One Business Directory directing potential business contracts and RFP's to registered Métis Businesses in Region One.
- Participation at the Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement (MGRSA) Negotiating Table.
- Establishment of a Regional corporation as a temporary measure in the implementation of a regional governance structure for the NWOMC until full self-government is achieved.
- Continued engagement with both the federal and provincial governments to educate and provide information about the Halfbreed Adhesion and the Métis in Region One.
- Engagement with Region One citizens re status of the Treaty 3 Halfbreed adhesion negotiations in January 2021.
- Engagement with Region One citizens regarding the Region One Implementation Agreement and Workplan planned for the 2021-22 fiscal year.
- Negotiate a Northwestern Ontario Métis Community/Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) Memorandum of Cooperation.
- Engagement with the MNO regarding the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community Regional Implementation Agreement and Workplan to ensure sufficient capacity is provided for engagement with region one citizens, the hiring of regional staff and to begin building a regional government for the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community.

- Engagement with the MNO regarding the Interim Fiscal Financing Agreement to ensure that the rights and interests of the NWOMC are acknowledged within the agreement and to ensure that Region One will have adequate support and capacity to move forward with regional self-government.