



TERRITORIAL PLANNING UNIT NEWSLETTER

2023

WORD FROM OUR DEPARTMENT

The TPU team has had yet another busy year! From launching two major online resources, the Geoportal and Nibi Portal, to celebrating the 150th anniversary of Treaty #3 with the Nation, we've been honoured to continue carrying out the work we do. We want to thank all of those who joined us for gatherings, workshops, and engagement sessions, and look forward to what the next year will bring.

Please read our TPU newsletter to learn more about what we have been doing.

The Territorial Planning Unit still has open positions, including internships. If you or anyone you know is interested in joining our team please reach out to us!

Open Positions:

TPU Administrative Support
Geographic Information Systems Intern
TPU Regulatory Manager



Please help us in welcoming our new TPU Staff:

Marney Ritchot - Junior Policy Analyst
Kieran Davis - Emergency Management Coordinator
Ellen Andrews - Communications Specialist

MEET MARNEY!



Hello! My name is Marney Ritchot and I am a new Junior Policy Analyst with the Territorial Planning Unit of Grand Council Treaty #3. My education and passions reside in Natural Resources and being able to share the outdoors with my young nieces and nephew. I graduated with Honours from the Natural Resources Management Technology program from The University Collage of the North in The Pas, MB. I have had the opportunity to build a wide range of technical skills including collecting water velocities in remote locations, coordinating water quality programs across Northern Manitoba, hazardous material remediation, fish & wildlife management particularly with bears of all ages, and protecting waterways from sedimentation just to name a few! I am thankful for training opportunities that I have participated in that have helped me develop into a resourceful outdoors person. I hold experience and knowledge in aviation egress, ice rescue training, summer and winter survival skills, firearm and swift water safety practices. I'm happy I made the move to northwestern Ontario and can continue to explore and learn about the boreal landscape of Treaty #3. As a Junior Policy Analyst I will be supporting the TPU's review of policy, environmental assessment and initiatives and to provide comment as it relates to the exercise of Anishinaabe Governance and Jurisdiction."



MEET ELLEN!



Ellen is excited to be joining the Territorial Planning Unit as a Communications Specialist, where she can work towards extending and strengthening the reach of ongoing work across the Nation. With her educational background in Cultural Studies and Aboriginal Community Advocacy, she is passionate about participating in conversations and initiatives that center Indigenous knowledge in the political, environmental, and social landscape. Since graduating in 2019, she has had the opportunity to work and travel around Treaty #3 territory and her homelands within the Robinson Superior Treaty area, collaborating with many inspiring individuals on projects that support community-led decision making and change. Prior to stepping onboard with Grand Council Treaty #3, Ellen worked with a local consulting company based in Thunder Bay, where she was the lead engagement facilitator for Traditional Knowledge gathering. The connections that she found in this work are carried with her in everything she does, along with the knowledge, stories, and advice she received from Elders and Knowledge Keepers. Communications work is important to her because, if done thoughtfully, it can inspire and empower different people to consider their own place within an area of concern.

Ellen lives in Thunder Bay, and when not working, can be found in her garden growing flowers and food. Her other passions include visual and graphic arts, fashion, and dance, and her favourite place to be in the world is at the end of her dock.

MEET KIERAN!



Kieran Davis is the Emergency Management Coordinator and has a background in wildland and structural firefighting along with working in Emergency Management related to evacuations, water crisis', community mental health crisis', flooding and power outages. Kieran has spent a summer firefighting with the MNRF and is a volunteer firefighter with his community fire department in Lac Seul.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Emergency Management team worked closely with Treaty #3 communities and regional partners to provide assistance during the few emergencies that occurred throughout spring-fall 2023. Partnerships were enhanced as we recognized the importance and value of sharing knowledge, resources, and support teams. We continue to offer our support to ensure emergency plans are up to date: Master Emergency Response, Pandemic, Flood, Fire Plans, and HIRA's.

As summer 2023 comes to an end, the Emergency Management team has been working collaboratively to ensure all deployable devices are ready for re-deployment. Deployable devices available: air purifiers, generators, water pumps & hoses, log splitters, suppression tools etc.

As part of the TPU Emergency Management's outreach initiative, the team has developed an information brochure targeted to emergency management coordinators and personnel. This brochure includes emergency preparedness tips, definitions, and an overview of resources available through Grand Council Treaty #3.

The Emergency Management team recently met with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Indigenous Relations and Partnerships team. Both parties continue to collaborate on training opportunities for Treaty #3 communities and identify supports required so that all interested communities can participate in these initiatives. The team also worked on various awareness and education campaigns, including:

TEST YOUR SMOKE ALARM

Test your Smoke Alarm Day:
September 28th 2023

This was Ontario's first Test Your Smoke Alarm Day! Last year there were 133 fire fatalities in the province – the most in 20 years. As part of Test Your Smoke Alarm Day, all Ontarians were encouraged to continue learning more about smoke alarms, fire safety, and home fire escape planning, which can save the lives of you and your loved ones.

For more information, visit
www.TestYourSmokeAlarmDay.ca



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK - OCTOBER 8 - 14, 2023

The Emergency Management team's goal for this week was to raise awareness and help protect homes and families. We put together a colouring contest with fire prevention tips for Treaty #3 members for a chance to win 1 of 20 gift cards. The draws took place on Monday October 16th 2023. Please contact Kieran Davis at Kieran.davis@treaty3.ca for more information about other events.



TRAPPING NEWS

GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #3 " Wanii'igewin " TRAPPING CENTRE

Presently; Treaty 3 is in year 5 of the Trapping Harmonization Agreement, which will expire on March 31, 2024.

The primary objective of this Agreement is to harmonize the administration of trapping and furbearer management between Ministry of Northern Development Mines Natural Resources and Forestry (MNDMNRF) and the Trapping Centre and Treaty 3 Trappers.



CANADA ONTARIO RESOURCE AGREEMENT (CORDA)

The Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement is an agreement between Canada, Ontario and First Nations' members in Ontario.

The agreement promotes resource and economic development initiatives of First Nations' members by providing financial assistance to develop and utilize renewable natural resources.

2024-25 Applications for this funding should be available on our website as of August 2023. The deadline for CORDA applications is usually the first Monday in October, but in good news, the 2023 deadline date has been extended to Monday, November 6th.

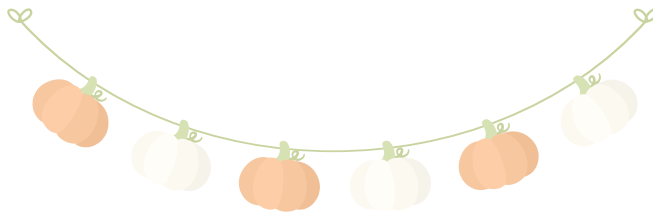
If you have any questions regarding the CORDA, THA agreement or Trapping within Treaty 3, you can contact:

**Dave Lindsay Trapping Director
Grand Council Treaty 3
dave.lindsay@treaty3.ca
(807) 548-4214 ext. 203 or Toll Free - 1 800-665-3384
Contactable on my cell - (807) 464-0018**



TREATY #3 GUARDIANS

The TPU has started with the community outreach process for the creation of a Treaty #3 Guardians Program. Regional engagement sessions were held in Kenora and Dryden with a third session planned for Fort Frances. Engagement sessions focus on community input for the planning and development of long-term monitoring, culture revitalization, and compliance of Manito Aki Inakonigewin under the Guardians Program. Over the fall, the TPU will create a “what we heard” report from feedback and will use the report to further engage with Treaty #3 at the community level and to develop an online Guardians survey. If you are interested in having a Treaty #3 Guardians planning session held with your community please contact Chris Herc at [**chris.herc@treaty3.ca**](mailto:chris.herc@treaty3.ca)



TREATY #3 MONITORING INITIATIVES

Over the summer the TPU continued to engage with Treaty #3 communities to host environmental monitoring capacity building workshops where community members discussed environmental issues for their community, selected priority monitoring locations for water quality, and hands on learning for water quality monitoring. TPU staff further worked with communities to take youth out on the water to collect baseline water quality data at priority locations. For added capacity building the TPU in partnership with the IISD-ELA held a 4-day environmental capacity building workshop at the ELA field camp for Treaty #3 members and TPU staff. If you would like your community to participate in Community Based Monitoring activities please contact Laine Fyke at [**laine.fyke@treaty3.ca**](mailto:laine.fyke@treaty3.ca)

During the summer and continuing into the fall TPU staff began early detection monitoring and mapping for invasive species in Treaty #3. Specifically, the TPU has been working to collect water samples for Zebra Mussel presence testing from each Treaty #3 community and other major public boat launch and docking area in Treaty #3; mapping presence of invasive Phragmites and collecting leave samples for DNA confirmation, and mapping roadside growing locations for Purple Loosestrife. To report invasive species sighting in Treaty #3 or to learn more about how you can participate in invasive species monitoring please contact Michaela Novak at [**Michaela.novak@treaty3.ca**](mailto:Michaela.novak@treaty3.ca)

COLLABORATION IN THE BUSH

The Collaboration in the Bush project is being undertaken by Grand Council Treaty #3 to develop an increased understanding of how Treaty #3 First Nations view the forest sector and their current and potential involvement in it. The project aims to gain insights into the barriers to participation and engagement in the forest sector for all 28 Treaty #3 First Nations and is designed to address a need to establish jurisdiction and derive social/cultural, environmental, and economic benefits from forestry activities while maintaining community values.

Phases 1 and 2 of the project have been carried out concurrently, which involved interviews and community meetings. There have been 16 interviews with 13 Treaty #3 First Nations and 7 community meetings. Interviews and community meetings have provided mixed opinions about the forest sector. Interviews often viewed forestry in a positive light, but participants still had comments about the need to improve the methods used in forestry, more relationship building, and a greater need for alignment between forestry practices and other uses of the land such as hunting, fishing, collecting medicines, and others. Community meetings provided differing opinions with most attendees having concerns about forestry activity in their traditional territory and wanting more control and say in the process.

The project team plans to continue to engage with all First Nations in the Treaty #3 area with the goal of interviewing at least one representative from each community and hosting the community meetings by mid-February 2023. Once interviews and community meetings have concluded, the project team will further analyze the information collected to find key themes that could support a forest sector strategy and toolkits. These themes will become part of recurring focus groups with representatives from Treaty #3 First Nations in Phase 3 of this project.



TREATY #3 CLIMATE STRATEGY

Human-caused climate change is posing new challenges that effect the way of life of all Anishinaabeg in Treaty #3. On the one hand, increased precipitation and rising temperatures have already impacted fish, wildlife, and plant populations as well as community infrastructure.

This will only intensify in the near future and forces First Nations to adapt to these changes.

On the other hand, continued emissions of greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels will further accelerate climate change, urging communities and industry to reduce emissions.

The TPU has received funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) to engage the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty #3 to create a Treaty #3 Climate Strategy. The strategy will a) outline the priorities of Treaty #3 First Nations for climate change adaptation and mitigation, b) showcase community-specific projects, challenges, and stories, c) establish Treaty #3 climate governance, and 4) provide resources for First Nations and Treaty #3 leadership.



RAINY NAMAKAN RULE CURVE PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STUDY

The TPU has received funding from the International Joint Commission (IJC) to engage the Anishinaabe Nation of Treaty #3 about their preferences regarding water regulation on Rainy and Namakan Lakes. These lakes are regulated by rule curves which define a range of water levels at which each lake is to be held. These rule curves are reviewed about every 10 years. Historically, Indigenous Peoples within the watershed had little impact on the rule curves, which privileged power production and recreation over Indigenous interests. For the next review, the IJC asked Grand Council Treaty #3 to engage the Anishinaabe Nation of Treaty #3 to identify which additional interests should be considered in the next rule curve review.

In addition to identifying Anishinaabe interests in water regulation, many of which have been voiced for decades, we will use this project to discuss water regulation mechanisms that respect Anishinaabe jurisdiction and Anishinaabe *nibi inaakonigewin*.

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Treaty 3 encompasses 14 Forest Management Units (FMU). Each FMU has a Forest Management Plan (FMP) that is prepared and renewed in ten year intervals. Currently Policy Staff at the TPU participate in the Kenora FMP planning committee and the Whiskey Jack FMP Planning committee, respectfully. Policy Staff also participate in the Kenora Local Citizen's Committee (LCC) funded by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF).

Work is currently being done to identify what FMU's do not have First Nations representation on Planning committees and within Forestry Audit Teams. Additional research is needed in all MNRF districts regarding audit teams. MNRF has been contacted to increase First Nation representation when audits are taking place. TPU staff will be guided by the Environmental Chiefs and member communities to decide if there is a need and / or requirement to join additional LCC's and FMP Planning Committees across Treaty #3. This work will also encompass the direct results of the "Collaboration in the Bush" project.

The TPU has completed the following work thus far:

- Researched all 14 FMU's in Treaty #3 and created files for each. Information found on each FMU consisted of: Past audits; adhering to Forest Certification Standards (i.e. SFI, FSC, CSA); historical consultation with Treaty #3 communities; FMP and Annual Work Schedule (AWS) reviews.
- Future research consists of, but is not limited to: Aboriginal Background Information Report's (ABIR) & Protected Values Reports (PVR); Forestry Audits; Proponent Indigenous Policy's; Customized Consultation Approach – process review and analysis.



TREATY #3 ENERGY AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Increasing energy demands in Treaty #3, climate change, and a trend towards involving First Nations in business partnerships create opportunities and risks for First Nations. Opportunities for economic development include power generation, transmission, and distribution, in particular in the burgeoning renewable energy sector. On the other hand, energy developments have ecological and often social and economic costs that must be considered.

The TPU has been awarded funding from Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to increase capacity within First Nations to shape the energy sector in Treaty #3. To this end, the TPU will organize energy-related trainings for First Nation leadership and staff. Further, the TPU will facilitate the creation of a Treaty #3 Energy Strategy that expresses the common vision of the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty #3 and outlines opportunities and risks of the energy market for First Nations to consider.

MINERAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORS (MDA) MEETINGS

The MDA position provides eligible First Nation communities and organizations, such as tribal councils, with additional resources and support to participate effectively in these regulatory consultation processes, including the review of exploration plan and permit applications, closure plans and closure plan amendments, and environmental assessments. Funding under this stream also helps increase community knowledge and understanding of the mineral development sequence, which includes mineral exploration, development and mining activities, and the associated economic benefits. This increased awareness and knowledge will enable greater participation in economic development activities that may arise, as well as support recommendations to leadership on decisions related to mineral sector activities. Funding for the MDA Program comes from one of the five Aboriginal Participation Fund (APF) streams.

Currently there are seven MDA's in Treaty #3 communities and one Mineral Sector Specialist (MSS) at Grand Council Treaty #3. The goal of MDA meetings is to support all of the MDA's in Treaty #3. The MSS coordinates each meeting and assists the MDA's in creating the agenda. These meetings can provide important information to MDA's including, but not limited to, the following: education & training opportunities; mining related economic opportunities; mining related negative issues that need to be further discussed and resolved; any other mining related topics that the MDA's wish to discuss.

IN SITU DECOMMISSIONING OF THE WHITESHELL REACTOR #1

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) is proposing to decommission the Whiteshell Reactor #1 (WR-1 Reactor), a former nuclear research reactor that operated until 1985. The WR-1 Reactor is located at the Whiteshell Laboratories (WL) site in Pinawa, Manitoba, which is situated approximately 100 kilometres northeast of the city of Winnipeg and located near the towns of Lac du Bonnet and Seven Sisters. CNL is proposing an in situ (leaving in place) decommissioning approach. In situ decommissioning of the WR-1 Reactor involves preparing systems and structures for grouting whereby the below-grade sealed structure will encapsulate and contain radiological sources and hazardous materials for a defined period of institutional control.

Under the Nuclear Safety and Control Act, CNL's proposal requires an amendment to its existing Decommissioning Waste Facility Licence issued by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). An environmental assessment conducted under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 is required, and an EA decision affirming that the proposed activities will not cause significant adverse environmental effects, before the CNSC can make a licensing decision on this proposal.

Grand Council Treaty #3's role in CNL Whiteshell Reactor Decommissioning:

a) To consult with CNL (Whiteshell Laboratories), CNSC on the project, and assist the Treaty #3 communities involved in the decommissioning of the WR-1 Whiteshell Reactor and to be involved in the decision to re-designation the land that the site is on. GCT3's role is to support the Treaty #3 communities that are involved in this project.



POLICY SCREENING AND REVIEW

Policy team members at the Territorial Planning Unit monitor key websites, information hubs, news stations, environmental forums, online newspapers etc. for any Treaty 3 environmental or natural resource related policy or legislative amendments. Any requests from Treaty 3 Communities or individual members are addressed as they are brought forward. Policy staff also review and comment on Environmental Assessments (Provincial) and Impact Assessments (Federal). Formal commenting always takes into consideration Manito Aki Inakonigaawin (MAI) and Nibi Declaration protocols and informs government and proponents that they both be learned, followed and adhered.



INTEGRATED RADIOACTIVE WASTE STRATEGY (IRWS) - NWMO

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) was asked by the Minister of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) to engage with Canadians and Indigenous Peoples to help develop an “Integrated Strategy for Radioactive Waste.” The NWMO was asked to lead this work because it has close to 20 years of recognized expertise in the engagement on plans for the safe long-term management of used nuclear fuel.

This strategy represents a next step – to identify and address gaps in Canada’s current long-term plans, and to look further into the future. It’s important to NWMO that they hear from all those interested in or who could be impacted by this Strategy development process. There is no predetermined outcome, NWMO wants to develop a solution collaboratively with Canadians and Indigenous Peoples and welcome all voices and perspectives.

Treaty #3 communities were asked the following questions:

- What is most important to get right when developing an Integrated Strategy for Canada’s Radioactive Waste?
- How does NWMO best deal with Canada’s Low-Level Waste and Intermediate-Level Waste over the long-term?
- What type(s) of facilities should NWMO use?
- Rolling stewardship vs disposal.
- How many of them should NWMO build?
- Who should be responsible for implementing the strategy?

Two engagement sessions on the IRWS occurred in 2023 in Dryden and Fort Frances. A “What We Heard Report” will be developed and posted on the NWMO website. NWMO submitted the IRWS report to Canada’s Minister of Natural Resources in June 2023.

NUCLEAR 101 TOOLKIT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In 2020, the Treaty #3 Chiefs in Assembly mandated the Territorial Planning Unit to work with the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) in relation to the proposed Adaptive Phased Management project. This mandate led the TPU to develop resources that educate on nuclear processes and ensure the respect and implementation of Manito Aki Inakonigaawin. The Nuclear 101 Guide is a direct result of the mandate set out from Treaty #3 leadership and is based on knowledge shared by the Elders and Knowledge Keepers in the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty #3.

The Nuclear 101 Toolkit is complete and available on the GCT3 website. TPU staff have been trained on the toolkit and are available to train community members. Consultants are currently visiting communities to train staff and community members.

Please watch for updates on our social media that share upcoming sessions on the Nuclear 101 Guidebook!



RESOURCE REVENUE SHARING

Treaty #3 and Ontario have come to agreement on a 1 year extension for the RRS agreement to ensure sharing of resources until December 2025. The agreement is put in place to complete work on the independent evaluation of the agreement and for Ministers and Treaty #3 leadership to have discussions on a long term renewal of the agreement.



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

Rule Curve Performance Indicator Study Engagement Sessions


Travelodge - Kenora - November 9th, 2023

La Place Rendez-vous - Fort Frances - November 10th, 2023

Nuclear 101 Engagement Sessions

Travelodge - Kenora - November 22nd, 2023

Best Western Plus - Dryden - November 23rd, 2023



**Nuclear 101 Guidebook:
Listen, Learn, & Engage**

UPCOMING SESSIONS IN:

THUNDER BAY

- 📅 Thursday, November 2nd, 2023
- 🕒 11:00am - 3:00pm
- 📍 Best Western Norwester Hotel

KENORA

- 📅 Wednesday, November 22nd, 2023
- 🕒 11:00am - 3:00pm
- 📍 Travelodge

FORT FRANCES

- 📅 Friday, November 3rd, 2023
- 🕒 11:00am - 3:00pm
- 📍 La Place Rendez-vous

DRYDEN

- 📅 Thursday, November 23rd, 2023
- 🕒 11:00am - 3:00pm
- 📍 Best Western Plus

To register, please email amanda.henry@treaty3.ca



Lucas King
Territorial Planning Unit Director
lucas.king@treaty3.ca

Chelsea Jack
Project Coordinator
chelsea.jack@treaty3.ca

Amanda Henry
Administrative Assistant
amanda.henry@treaty3.ca

Ellen Andrews
Communications Specialist
ellen.andrews@treaty3.ca

Chris Herc
Environmental Manager
chris.herc@treaty3.ca

Michaela Novak
Environmental Monitoring Coordinator
michaela.novak@treaty3.ca

Laine Fyke
Environmental Monitoring Coordinator
laine.fyke@treaty3.ca

Ashley Lindsay
Acting Emergency Coordination
Manager
ashley.lindsay@treaty3.ca

Kieran Davis
Emergency Management Coordinator
kieran.davis@treaty3.ca

Jordan Benoit
Policy Manager
jordan.benoit@treaty3.ca

Johann Strube
Policy Analyst
johann.strube@treaty3.ca

Marney Ritchot
Junior Policy Analyst
marney.ritchot@treaty3.ca

Dave Lindsay
Trapping, Fish & Wildlife Officer
dave.lindsay@treaty3.ca

Raeshawn Parsons
GIS Specialist
raeshawn.parsons@treaty3.ca

Shyanne Cobiness
Policy Analyst
shyanne.cobiness@treaty3.ca

Timothy Zaporzan
TPU Coordinator
timothy.zaporzan@treaty3.ca

Contact Information

Ph. 807-548-4214 ext 500

Fax. 807-548-5041

Email. tpu@treaty3.ca

Mailing Address. P.O Box 1720
Kenora, ON P9N3X7



www.gct3.ca/land/territorial-planning-unit



Grand Council Treaty #3 - Territorial Planning Unit

