



Grand Council Treaty #3

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MEDIA RELEASE

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First Detection of Zebra Mussel Larvae on the Canadian Side of Rainy Lake Demonstrates Increased Need to Monitor and Implement Preventative Measures

After collecting 78 samples from 38 waterbodies in Treaty #3 territory, the Territorial Planning Unit (TPU) can confirm that the first presence of Zebra Mussel veligers (larvae) has been detected on the Treaty #3 side (Canadian side) of Rainy Lake. A single Zebra Mussel veliger was confirmed present in a sample collected at the Government Landing dock located on Christie Creek, a small stream connected to Rainy Lake. While Zebra Mussel veligers have been identified in samples gathered from sites in the United States, this is first positive identification on a sample site in Treaty #3.

With direction from Treaty #3 communities, Grand Council Treaty #3 (GCT #3) coordinates a comprehensive Zebra Mussel monitoring program across Treaty #3 territory. Growing concerns around the potential spread of these invasive species from confirmed populations in Manitoba, Minnesota, and Thunder Bay are key factors in the program's continuous growth and development. In addition to the threat of spread, Treaty #3 territory is significantly underrepresented in invasive species monitoring efforts, leading to an even greater need for GCT #3 to step in and build adaptable programming.

It has been well-documented that Zebra Mussel infestations can severely impact aquatic ecosystems and critical underwater infrastructure. The detection of Zebra Mussel veligers in Rainy Lake is a cause for increased monitoring efforts, and a call for focusing on the implementation of accessible spread prevention measures.

This summer, in addition to carrying out routine early detection efforts and supplementary follow-up monitoring on Rainy Lake, GCT #3 will begin the process of establishing boat decontamination stations at high use boat launches across the Treaty #3 territory. Additional preventative measures will see the creation of an information booklet on invasive species found in Treaty #3, and community outreach to offer guidance and support for the creation or adaptation of further invasive species monitoring and management programs in the territory.



The TPU carrying out monitoring activities to test for the presence of Zebra Mussel veligers.

A [Zebra Mussel Monitoring Report](#) is available to view or download, further detailing the findings from the 2023 monitoring season. The TPU welcomes all Treaty #3 members to join them in monitoring activities, and is happy to set up training days for Treaty #3 communities wanting to learn more about these important efforts.

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For more information, please contact:

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