

Zhaagimaa Waabo | Territorial Planning Unit

SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

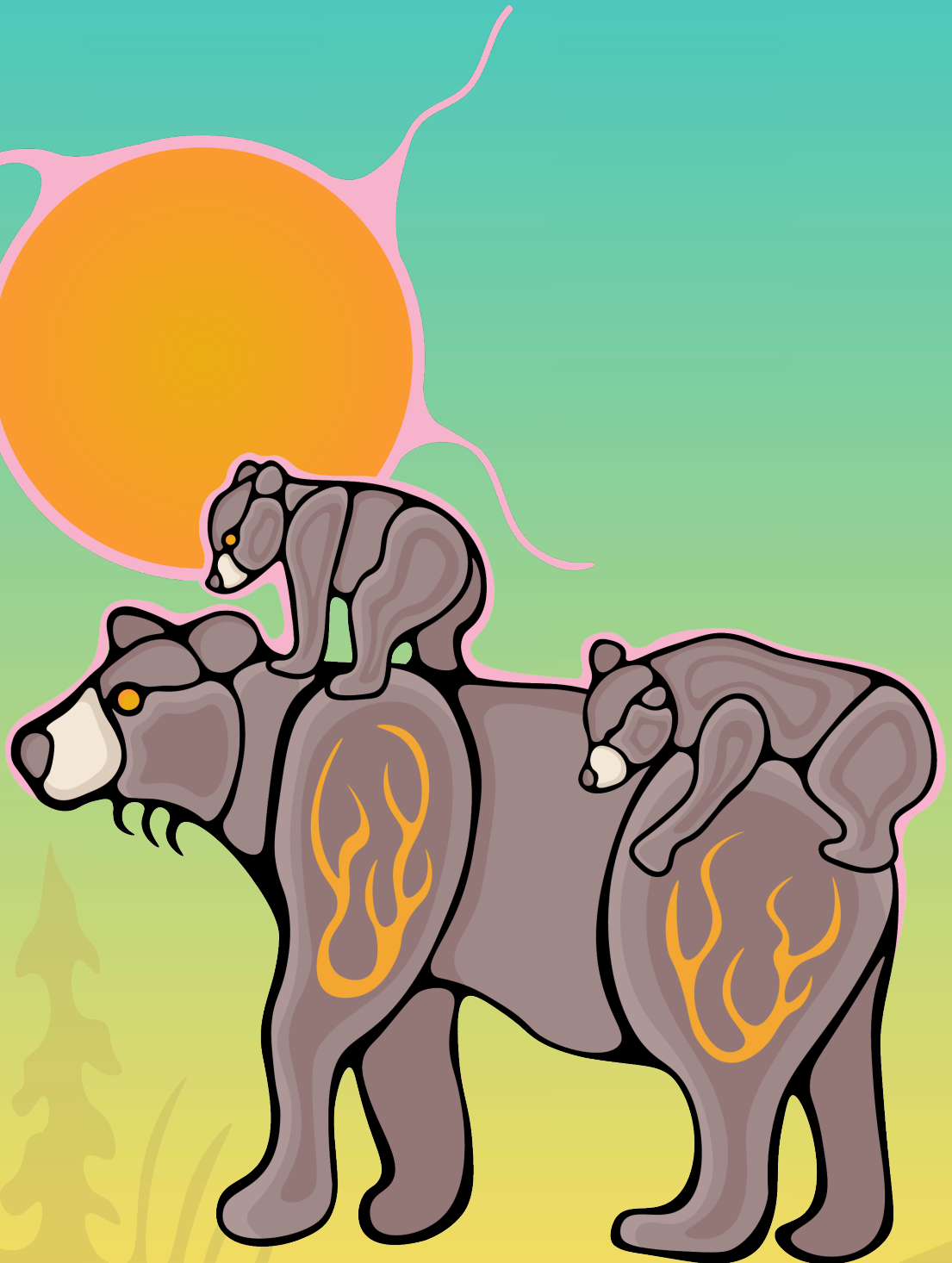


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A Message from the Department



Spring has finally arrived in Treaty #3 territory, and the TPU is getting ready to guide ongoing and upcoming work into the new season. The fall and winter gifted us with much time spent together - with our team, with Treaty #3 leaders, staff, and members, and with partner organizations. While quiet moments were few and far between, the stillness of winter provided us with an opportunity to prepare for another spring and summer dedicated to continuing efforts that protect, preserve, and honour Nibi and Aki.

With the excitement of the coming seasons growing, we would also like take a moment to reflect and say miigwech to all who helped us with projects through the fall and winter, and all those honouring their responsibilities to Nibi and Aki. Take a look through our newsletter and learn about the work that the TPU has been carrying out over the last few months!

- Lucas King, *Territorial Planning Unit Director*



Boozhoo! Welcome to the Team!



RYAN GILES/HUNTER

Boozhoo, my name is Ryan Giles/Hunter.

I proudly represent both sides of my family—on my father's side, I am from Manitou Rapids/Rainy River First Nations, and on my mother's side, I am from Wabigoon Lake Ojibwe Nation.

I am a member of the Compliance Team at the Territorial Planning Unit for Grand Council Treaty #3, where I work to support the protection of our lands and governance systems. My role allows me to contribute to the preservation of our traditional knowledge while ensuring that our voices are heard in decision-making processes. My journey has taken me from Humber College in Toronto, where I studied General Arts and Science, to working at the Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth as a Youth Amplifier. There, I developed a deep understanding of child rights and advocacy—something that continues to inspire my work today. I also had the opportunity to work with the Ontario Indigenous Centre of Excellence, where I supported the early years sector by providing educators with insight into cultural competency in the classroom, along with culturally relevant resources and support. I am passionate about creating a brighter future for the next generation by addressing Indigenous issues, upholding our rights, and ensuring that our communities are empowered to shape their own futures.



TAVON OSBORNE

Hello! I am Tavon Osborne the Administrative Assistant with the Territorial Planning Unit! I am from Shoal Lake 40 and grew up between the Shoal Lake 40 and Kenora, Ontario area.

My reasoning on joining the TPU is that it's an amazing hard-working environment and everyone always comes into the office with a big smile. Everyone is welcoming and encouraging always. A little about me, I play a lot of basketball and play guitar, I love to play more of the country side of music on guitar because it's peaceful and a lot easier than other things to learn. I also represented Treaty #3 in sports such as volleyball, basketball etc. Basketball is a big positive in my life and now working with the amazing people in the TPU makes everything fun and more positive every day!

Connecting Treaty #3 Youth & Elders

MANITO AKI INAAKONIGEWIN: YOUTH AND ELDER LEARNING DAYS

The TPU has been holding regional Manito Aki Inaakonigewin: Youth and Elder Learning Days that are creating space to come together, share teachings, and strengthen our collective understanding of Anishinaabe Inaakonigewin.

In October, the Compliance Team met in Ojibways of Onigaming for a second session. Teachings were shared on the traditional roles of Ikwe (women), Inini (men), and Niizh Manitowag (2Spirit), with powerful reflections on how these roles carry forward our responsibilities under Manito Aki Inaakonigewin. A third session took place in November in Red Lake, where Elder Kaaren Dannenmann opened with the Creation Story, shared just as the first snow settled. We reflected on the deep connection between this story and our unwritten law, and how our responsibilities to the Nibi, Aki, and animals continue today. Through art and discussion, Anishinaabe values were shown to guide everything from grassroots organizing to everyday practices like cleaning up the land and storytelling.

In February, we met with Grandmothers Sherry and Hazel Copenace and Elder Terry Greene to reflect on the teachings of the Treaty #3 Drum. We explored the origins of the Drum, their role in supporting Nationhood, and how the drum represents unity, responsibility, and spiritual law. The teachings remind us that our laws are living, deeply rooted in vision and ceremony, and continue to shape our responsibilities to each other and to Nibi and Aki.

Our final session, hosted by Buffalo Point First Nation, is planned for April 26th, 2025 and a wrap-up gathering back in Nigigoonsiminikaaning will take place later this spring.

Miigwech to all the Elders, youth, and communities who have shared their voices and vision along the way. These teachings will continue to guide our work as we support the operationalization of Manito Aki Inaakonigewin.



NATION-TO-NATION RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

Over the fall and winter, the TPU facilitated education sessions with proponents, held meetings with government ministries, and participated in community engagement events across Treaty #3. These sessions focused on increasing awareness and understanding of Manito Aki Inaakonigewin, its role in guiding development, and how it informs compliance and harmonized impact assessment processes.

The team also delivered two presentations at the University of Calgary. In February, we presented to the Environmental Law Association on "Manito Aki Inaakonigewin: Anishinaabe Laws and Governance in Treaty #3," receiving positive feedback from students, faculty, and legal professionals. In March, we presented to a fourth-year Hydrology class highlighting the impacts of hydro development in Treaty #3 and the continued role of Anishinaabe law in water governance.

The TPU values the opportunity to engage with partners across sectors and looks forward to continued dialogue that supports deeper understanding and respect for Anishinaabe law and jurisdiction.

Emergency Preparedness Week

Emergency Preparedness Week is taking place on **May 4 - 10, 2025**. This week is a national awareness initiative that helps ensure you, your family, and your community are prepared for emergencies. This year's theme is **Be Prepared. Know Your Risks.**

Be Prepared. Know Your Risks.



Learn about the local organizations that can support you in the event of an emergency, and look into the risks that you may face in your region.



Create an emergency plan that can support your household through an emergency, and review it with everyone who needs to know the drill.



Build your own "emergency kit" by gathering together essential items that will keep you self-sufficient for a minimum of 72 hours.

Take some time during this year's Emergency Preparedness Week to ready yourself for the unknown. Common seasonal hazards include:



Extreme temperatures



Floods



Wildfires

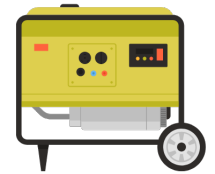
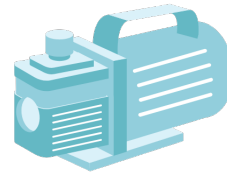
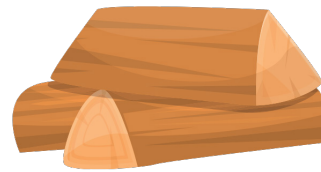


Thunderstorms

May 4 - 10, 2025

Deployable Devices

The TPU team works collaboratively to deploy various safety devices to Treaty #3 communities as they are requested. Communities need only reach out to the TPU to secure any of the following list, should they require it!



Deployable Devices available include: Air purifiers, log splitters, fire suppression tools, water pumps & hoses, generators, and more!

Reminder: Air purifier filters & cells should be changed yearly, if you have units in your community that are in need of servicing please reach out to tpu@treaty3.ca.

911 Mapping Update

Since 2022, Grand Council Treaty #3 has been leading the 911 and Infrastructure Mapping project in collaboration with 25 Treaty #3 communities, tribal councils, and local mapping experts CE Strategies.

With the goal of developing accurate and up-to-date address and infrastructure maps, fourteen communities have finalized their addressing, with the updated information provided to emergency services. Several First Nations are continuing to validate road names and house numbers to ensure that each home has an assigned address.

Do you have questions about your community's mapping or data access, or need to touch base on the project? Please reach out to Ericka James from CE Strategies by phone (807) 285-0530 or by email at Ericka@cestrategies.ca.



TREATY #3 ENERGY SERIES:

SUMMER ENERGY SYMPOSIUM

Join us this summer in Lac Seul First Nation for the fourth symposium in the Treaty #3 Energy Series! Learn about energy development opportunities, new programs, and energy policy, while networking with community staff, policy makers, and industry representatives. We will also continue building the first Nation-wide Energy Strategy.

DATE: JUNE 18-19, 2025

LOCATION: LAC SEUL FIRST NATION
FRENCHMAN'S HEAD COMPLEX



SCAN TO REGISTER!

To register, please use the QR code and fill out the linked registration form. If you have any questions or require support, please contact Amanda.Henry@treaty3.ca. Travel stipends will be provided for those who require it. Register by June 5th to ensure timely distribution of travel funds.

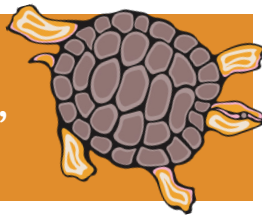
Examining Energy in Treaty #3

ENERGY SYMPOSIUMS AND STRATEGY

Since our Fall Newsletter, the TPU and Economic Unit have hosted two Energy Symposiums for Treaty #3 members. These symposiums, one in Thunder Bay and the other in Couchiching First Nation, saw Community Energy Champions, Economic Development Officers, Land Managers, Chiefs and Councillors join us in learning about green energy projects, transmission planning, electric vehicles, traditional energy teachings, and more. We also discussed challenges and priorities as they relate to the development of a Treaty #3 Energy Strategy.



Save the date for the Summer Energy Symposium! June 18-19, 2025 in Lac Seul First Nation.



PIPELINES & TRANSMISSION POLICY

The TPU has been reviewing the guidelines for federally regulated oil and gas pipelines. The Canada Energy Regulator is planning to revise its Onshore Pipeline Regulations and Filing Manuals, and has been requesting feedback from First Nations and First Nation organizations. The TPU has re-affirmed its expectation that all development in the territory must occur under the premises of Treaty #3 and Manito Aki Inaakonigewin. All pipeline related plans

must be co-created with the communities whose lands would be affected, the First Nations must be sufficiently resourced to participate at all stages, and consent with the communities must be achieved.

Also under review are federal efforts to create regulations to transfer some regulatory authority over pipelines and transmission lines to First Nations under the Canada Energy Regulator Act. The Act already allows Canada to sign Indigenous Ministerial Arrangements for this purpose. This might apply if a trans-Canadian pipeline or high-voltage transmission line were proposed, as has been discussed in response to U.S. tariffs.

Have you taken the survey regarding the transfer of regulatory authority? If not and you would like to, email Johann.Strube@treaty3.ca.

TRANSMISSION LINE UPDATES

Proponents are seeking to partner with some Treaty #3 First Nations to bid on future transmission lines in the territory. Further, Canada is seeking to involve First Nations in the regulation of interprovincial and international transmission lines.

Potential Transmission Lines

Dryden-Manitoba Transmission Line (Waasigan Phase III): The first two phases of the Waasigan Project, a power line between Thunder Bay, Atikokan, and Dryden, have begun. In January of 2025, a renewable energy company emailed GCT#3 for guidance on how to engage Treaty #3 First Nations about a potential partnership to construct the Dryden-Manitoba Transmission Line. TPU anticipates that the triggers identified by the IESO (the regional energy demand exceeds a critical threshold) will be met within the next 20 years. This line would be separate from Waasigan and open to new bidders.

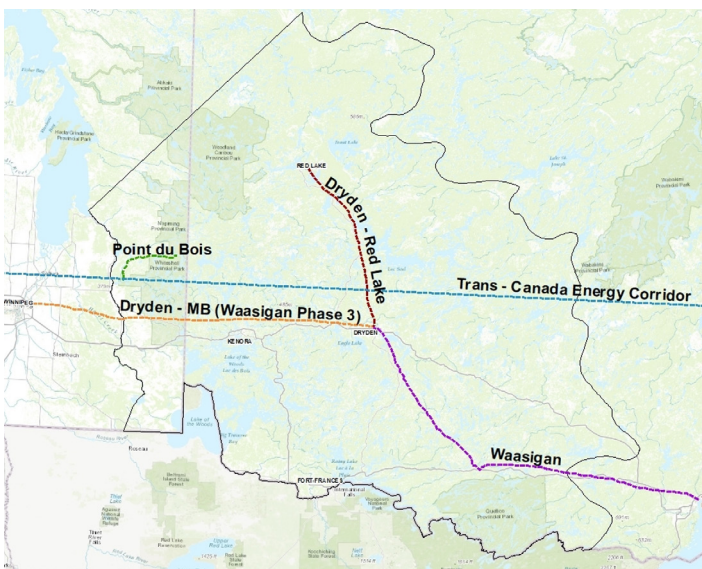
Pointe du Bois Transmission Line: Manitoba Hydro is expecting a license to construct a 50km, 115 kV transmission line between the Point du Bois Generation Station on the lower Winnipeg River and the Whiteshell substation. Manitoba Hydro is expected to issue a Request for Proposal for

construction in early summer 2025. The proponent is inviting GCT#3 and communities to consider a tender submission and share relevant First Nation-owned businesses for consideration for subcontracting.

Dryden-Red Lake Transmission Line: In November 2024, an IESO study assessed the need for additional transmission and generation capacity in its North of Dryden electrical sub-region. Although no new lines are officially requested, Hydro One, Lac Seul First Nation, Wabauskang First Nation and Eagle Lake First Nation are exploring a partnership to bid on a transmission line between Dryden and Red Lake, should IESO request that line. The three communities invited Ogichidaa and GCT#3 staff to an initial meeting on January 21 to open the door to other communities to become involved.

Potential Trans-Canadian Energy Corridor

Resulting from the changing US Canada relationship, discussions about a Trans-Canada Energy Corridor have re-emerged. If built, this corridor could transport large volumes of oil and electricity across Canada, almost certainly crossing Treaty #3 Territory. To this day, no proponents have come forward to construct the line. Ten years ago, many Treaty #3 First Nations rejected the proposed Trans-Canadian Energy East line which was ultimately withdrawn.



Contact Johann.Strube@treaty3.ca for any questions or comments on these policy developments or energy updates.

Progress & Projects in Climate Change

ESTABLISHING RECYCLING PROGRAMS

The TPU has gained approval to continue the Emissions Reductions Waste Diversion Project. This project will aim to assist Treaty 3 First Nations in establishing recycling programs in communities through the new producer responsibility program. The TPU has partnered with RPRA (Resource, Productivity, and Recovery Authority) and Indigenous Services Canada. The community based monitoring team will also be doing surface water testing in community waste sites beginning this spring 2025 as part of the project.

Contact Geneva.Kejick@treaty3.ca to learn more.

TREATY #3 CLIMATE EDUCATION PROJECT

Funding has been received to deliver climate education across Treaty #3 over the next three years. This will be carried out through climate camps and workshops for all age groups, and by training community climate champions and educators across Treaty #3. Stay tuned for further details!

Are you interested in organizing a climate information session in your community or in nearby schools? Would you like to learn about climate planning for your community?

Reach out to Johann.Strube@treaty3.ca to plan a workshop or learning session!

LOBBYING FOR BETTER FUNDING FOR CLIMATE ACTION IN TREATY #3

The TPU has been working with First Nation organizations from across Canada to develop recommendations for how the federal government can better support First Nation-led climate action. Canada must increase its support and shift towards treaty-based, long-term, non-competitive funding where communities determine the priorities for its

use. Our technicians identified a lack of adequate support for climate change adaptation and mitigation planning, emergency preparedness, clean energy development, and climate-ready infrastructure. The Federal Cabinet was scheduled to discuss these recommendations in the fall, but the resignation of the Finance Minister and Prime Minister delayed the process. The TPU will continue to lobby for these changes and engage the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty #3 on developing a Treaty #3 Climate Strategy.

Forestry Updates

NATURAL RESOURCES OUTREACH COORDINATION PROJECT

The TPU will be starting the Natural Resources Outreach Coordination Project (NROCP) this spring in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). The project intends to build relationships between Treaty #3 communities and the MNR through outreach on knowledge sharing, education, and the delivery of natural resources information and policy programs.

The project lead will work to support consistent and open dialogue between all parties to ensure inherent and Treaty Rights are respected, and communities in Treaty #3 are provided equal space in decision-making in relation to work the MNR will be carrying out.

Reach out to Hailey.Tucker@treaty3.ca for more information.

Mineral Development in the Territory

Since the fall of 2024, Grand Council Treaty #3's mineral development initiatives have continued to advance with a strong focus on advocating for First Nations' rights, enhancing community capacity, and ensuring meaningful participation in mining activities across the territory.

Over the past several months, we have provided written submissions on key legislative and environmental matters impacting Treaty #3. This included comments to the Department of the Environment regarding the amendments to the

Impact Assessment Act (IAA), highlighting concerns about potential environmental impacts on treaty rights. We also submitted feedback on the Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area, emphasizing the need for Treaty #3's inclusion in the study process and addressing encroachment onto the territory.

Building on the Mining 101 Toolkit through our quarterly Mineral Development Advisor/Land Manager meeting held in July and October 2024, we finalized and distributed the Mining 101 guide. This resource provides Treaty #3 communities with accessible information on the mining process, legal considerations, and strategies for protecting inherent rights. The guide also reflects input from First Nations, including calls for simplified legal language, visual aids, and youth-focused content.

In early 2025, we facilitated a visit to the Hammond Reef exploration site near Atikokan, Ontario.



This provided our First Nation community members with the opportunity to observe diamond drilling and core extraction, offering firsthand experience with exploration activities. This type of direct engagement is vital for building knowledge and capacity within Treaty #3 communities.

Trapping News in Treaty #3

The TPU has a new Fish & Wildlife Specialist supporting the Policy Team!

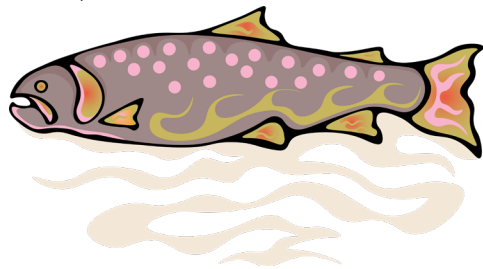


Boozhoo! My name is Ashley Lindsay, I am a member of Niisaachewan Anishinaabe Nation. I have been working at Grand Council Treaty#3 for just over 5 years now, as I transition into my new role as the Fish & Wildlife Specialist, I look forward

to expanding my knowledge on fish and wildlife in Treaty#3, learning from our Elders and meeting new people in this field!

UPDATES FROM THE “WANII’IGEWIN” TRAPPING CENTRE

The Treaty #3 Trapping committee and Territorial Planning unit at Grand Council Treaty #3 are still in the process of discussing the renewal of the Trapping Administration and Education Agreement with Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry that expired March 31st, 2024. The agreements' primary objective is to harmonize the administration of trapping and furbearer management between MNRF and Treaty#3 Trappers. The renewal of this agreement with MNRF will be brought to the Environmental Chiefs for direction when the final draft is completed.



CANADA ONTARIO RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT (CORDA)

CORDA is an agreement between Canada, Ontario and First Nations members in Ontario. This agreement promotes resource and economic development opportunities for First Nations members by providing financial support to foster economic development and natural resource

management for future generations.

At this time, please keep an eye out for any future CORDA updates.

Community Based Monitoring Updates

TRACKING CHANGE: CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

This fall, the TPU held the last Climate Impacts Monitoring Session in Fort Frances to gain community feedback on the TPU's climate initiatives. Water quality monitoring continued through the fall and winter with interested Treaty #3 communities and in Kenora and Dryden. Ice monitoring began in the Kenora area and participating communities.



Temperature loggers were deployed through the ice on lake beds to track temperature trends in these important habitats in the winter months. The first of three research-grade weather stations was deployed to Anishinaabeg of Naongashiing, and the remaining two will be deployed in data-deficient areas. In addition, a few air quality monitoring stations have been purchased to monitor the concentrations of

some atmospheric gases and particulate matter (such as ash). This will help monitor long-term air quality by providing more localized data to Treaty #3 communities.

The TPU has also begun collecting samples for microplastics (plastics in the environment under 5mm) in Treaty #3. Fish and sediment samples were taken in the fall, and water and wild rice samples will also be taken in the upcoming year. Sample collection for microplastics will continue over the next two years and will provide a baseline of microplastics in Treaty #3 to help guide policy development around microplastics.

If you would like your community to participate in the Community-Based Monitoring Program, please contact Laine.Fyke@treaty3.ca.

Reach out if you would like a copy of the most recent Water Quality Monitoring Reports.

Protecting Wildlife in the Territory

PROTECTING NIBI: COMBATING INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES IN TREATY #3

This Fall, the TPU received the first of three Aquatic Invasive Species Decontamination Units that will be deployed within Treaty #3 over the next three years.



The first unit will be operated in the Kenora area (Lake of the Woods) by TPU staff members for the 2025 season at no charge to the public. The unit will help protect our waters against the introduction and combat the spread of harmful invasive species. TPU staff received training on the decontamination protocols from members of the Department of

Fisheries and Ocean Canada.

In November, the TPU held its first meeting of the newly established Treaty #3 Phragmites Management Area Working Group. The group was created to unite Phragmites efforts across the territory and prevent unnecessary overlap of efforts. Members primarily consist of local governments, environmental organizations, and Treaty #3 communities. The Working Group will meet 3-4 times a year, with the next meeting to be held this upcoming spring.

The TPU is in the process of creating an Aquatic Invasive Species identification and information booklet that is specific to Treaty #3 and the species within our territory. The booklet will be written in both Anishinaabemowin and English. The TPU is on-track to publish the booklet later this year.

For additional information or to participate in any Invasive Species projects, please reach out to Michaela.Novak@treaty3.ca.

SPECIES AT RISK INITIATIVES

The TPU is working to develop a Treaty #3 Species at Risk website that builds education and conservation capacity for those species across Treaty #3. The website will feature profiles on culturally important species in Treaty #3 and federally or provincially listed Species at Risk as well.

A key component of the website will be to highlight the Anishinaabe names of each featured species as well as any cultural importance behind them as well. To help inform and guide the development, the TPU has been holding Knowledge Sharing Circles in communities attended by Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

Are you interested in guiding the development of the Species at Risk site through Knowledge Sharing?

Reach out to Nick.Norris@treaty3.ca if you are interested in holding a Knowledge Sharing Circle for Species at Risk.

Mapping the Future!

This past autumn and winter has been one of the busiest for the GIS Team here at the TPU. We are excited for the continued increase of map and data requests and are working tirelessly on the Treaty #3 Geoportal.



The Treaty #3 Geoportal is an online interactive and living database where users can access, view and store different forms of spatial information and data. The purpose of the Geoportal is to be a one-stop-shop for data and information for the Treaty #3 Communities and associations on anything happening in the territory.

This can include GIS layers like swamps and roads, as well as projects that are happening in the region and their photos, documents, and other files. You also have access to the mapping tool which allows you to view the different layers and use a few marking tools.

The Geoportal is divided into two sides: one being the public side where you don't need to log in and can access publicly available information and data. This side is currently open, and you can explore it at: gct3.gather.geoforms.ca.

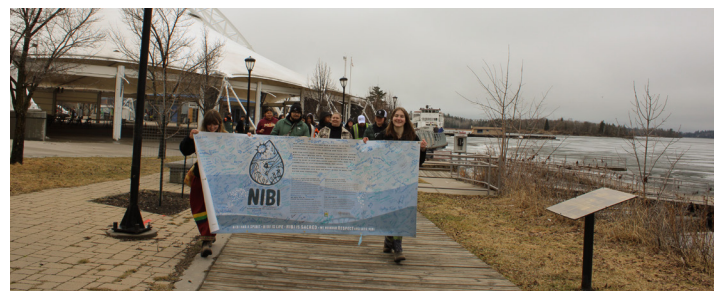
The other side is the Private or Community Vault side and it is still in development. We are happy to state

that we are getting close to launching the private side and plans for community administrator training are already being discussed. This private side will give communities a safe and secure place to save their own projects and geographical data as well as give them the control to share it with others.

If you are interested in a map, data, or information about the Treaty #3 Geoportal, please reach out to Raeshawn.Parsons@treaty3.ca.

Honouring & Respecting Nibi in Spring

This spring, we honoured Nibi through Ceremony and walking. We had an incredible turnout at the Spring Nibi Walks, with support from Elders, Nibi advocates, and so many youth and students! Miigwech everyone for making it a wonderful few days, it was incredible to see so many people.



Celebrating Success & Connections: The Treaty #3 National Environmental Gathering



The TPU co-hosted the the 3rd annual Treaty #3 National Environmental Gathering on February 11th and 12th with Migisi Sahgaigan at the Dryden Regional Training and Cultural Center to great success. The Gathering was attended by over 70 Treaty #3 members with Federal and Provincial government and NGO representatives attending as well. Traditional Environmental Knowledge and Teachings were shared throughout the gathering by community Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and Ogichidaa Francis Kavanaugh. Treaty #3 communities highlighted important environmental work they've been leading, Federal and NGO representatives spoke on research and projects happening in Treaty #3 and how communities can be included, and the TPU led updates on community-based monitoring efforts and how community members can be involved. The TPU thanks Migisi Sahgaigan for their support in organizing the gathering, Elders and Knowledge Keepers for sharing their knowledge and teachings, speakers, and attendees for making another great gathering possible!



Resource Revenue Sharing Updates

On April 30th, 2018, the Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement (RRSA) between the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty #3 and the Government of Ontario with the Ministries of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) and Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) came into effect.

This agreement states that the party signatories have agreed to participate in sharing revenues from the forest and mining sectors across the Treaty #3 Territory. This step is monumental in furthering relationships with Government parties in accounting for revenues generated in the development of the Treaty #3 Territory.

The December 2024 Distribution marks the last of the 2018 Agreement and parties were close to finalizing a new agreement prior to the Ontario Election that would include Aggregate revenues. GCT3 & the RRS Chiefs Committee await response from Ontario to continue to finalize a new agreement.

NWMO Updates

In November 2024 NWMO completed its site selection process by selecting the Revel Site in Treaty #3 Territory. The site has entered into the site characterization stage and will lead to a rigorous Impact Assessment Process. As mandated by the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty #3, GCT3 continues to assert Manito Aki Inaakonigewin to ensure any project entering into Treaty #3 Territory is respectful of Nation and Community laws and protocols. As the relationship agreement between NWMO and GCT3 has wrapped up as of March 2025, GCT3 will continue to work with NWMO and Federal partners to ensure appropriate protocols and capacity are in place to continue assessing this large project so that the means are established to respect Treaty partnerships in decision making between the Crown and the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty #3. Later in the year it is likely that a draft initial project description will be prepared by NWMO to commence a regulatory process.

Casting out Winter & Reeling in Spring

What better way to celebrate the final days of winter than a day of ice fishing! The TPU took a break from desks and boardrooms, and got out on the ice for one last winter fish fry.



News from IISD Experimental Lakes Area



WHAT IS IISD EXPERIMENTAL LAKES AREA?

IISD Experimental Lakes Area (IISD-ELA) is the world's freshwater laboratory—a series of 58 lakes and their watersheds nestled in the heart of the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty #3, and the only place in the world where scientists can experiment on real lakes to understand what human activity does to fresh water. The findings from over 50 years of ground-breaking research have rewritten environmental policy around the world and aim to keep fresh water clean for generations to come.

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR THE WORLD'S FRESHWATER LABORATORY THIS YEAR?

IISD-ELA is soon to begin its 57th research season, with much unfolding at the world-renowned freshwater research station.

To start the season on a meaningful note, IISD-ELA will host a Spring Nibi Ceremony at its facility late April. The ceremony will honour and lift nibi with Elder blessings. It will also celebrate the beginning of a meaningful relationship between Treaty #3 and IISD-ELA—one that is rooted in the teachings of Manito Aki Inaakonigewin (the Great Earth Law). The work to align IISD-ELA's stewardship and operations with this guiding law began in December 2024, followed by two transformative guidance meetings with Treaty #3 Elders and the Women's Council to develop a Relationship Agreement.

On the research front, exciting developments are underway. For example, did you know that trained dogs can help detect oil spills? A recent study at IISD-ELA demonstrated that dogs are more effective than any other detection system at identifying two types of oil under thick ice—an impressive breakthrough! Research on the impact of QACs, a commonly used class of chemicals found in everyday household detergents and cleaners, on freshwater supplies continues at IISD-ELA with a four-year whole-ecosystem experiment.

Want to stay connected with IISD-ELA?

Visit their website at www.iisd.org/ela, and/or reach out to Serene Parenteau at sparenteau@iisd-ela.org to sign up for their monthly Lake Relations e-blast and stay up-to-date on IISD-ELA's research and activities.

IISD-ELA AND TREATY #3: A RELATIONSHIP GROUNDED IN MANITO AKI INAAKONIGEWIN

Following the guidance of the Environmental Chiefs, the TPU and IISD-ELA have been working together to develop a Manito Aki Inaakonigewin authorization process for the IISD-ELA site, along with a Treaty #3–IISD-ELA Relationship Agreement. This work began with an in-person guidance meeting in December and continues through working sessions with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, community members, and IISD-ELA staff.

A spring ceremony at the IISD-ELA site is being planned for April 30th to formally acknowledge this relationship through offerings, ceremony, and guidance from Elders. This work marks an important step in operationalizing Manito Aki Inaakonigewin with research partners and strengthening Anishinaabe-led environmental governance.

Lake of the Woods Control Board Updates

The Lake of the Woods Control Board (LWCB) has been monitoring winter and early spring conditions across the Winnipeg River basin. This past winter

has been close to normal, with some differences in the amount of snow and level of weather severity between the southern and northern portions of the basin. Around Lac Seul, as of the beginning of April there are normal amounts of snow, whereas further south near Lake of the Woods and Rainy Lake, snow amounts are below normal. There have also been reports of thicker ice on Lake of the Woods compared to last year.

On March 19th, the LWCB held its spring Regulation Meeting in Kenora and adopted its Spring Regulation Strategy. The strategy lays out how the LWCB plans to manage the flows out of the dams at Lake of the Woods and Lac Seul for the period of March to the end of June, depending on whether the spring is dry, normal, or wet. For both Lake of the Woods and Lac Seul, the strategy recommends targeting normal end-of-winter lake levels and then monitoring conditions throughout the spring to have the lakes gradually refill, while also considering the flow downstream on the Winnipeg and English Rivers.

The LWCB develops its regulation strategies using observations of basin conditions, as well as water supply and weather forecasts. Input from various interests concerned with basin management is also incorporated in the strategies. The LWCB welcomes and encourages feedback from First Nations across the basin at these meetings or at any time. The LWCB will be holding its summer Regulation Meeting and annual public open house event the week of June 9th in Kenora. Details on the open house will be posted on the LWCB notice board closer to the date.

Keep up to date with LWCB updates and regulation strategies.

View and subscribe to their noticeboard, at www.lwcb.ca/noticeboard, where water level forecasts and important updates on basin conditions are shared weekly.

Contact secretariat@lwcb.ca or call 1-800-661-5922 to speak with a staff member.



Staff Contact Information

ADMINISTRATION

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