

Northern Ontario First Nations
Environment Conference,
Gathering for a Sustainable Future

Respecting
Our land our resources....

Mamaweswen the North Shore Tribal Council

Organizational resource initiative – Protecting our lands





MAMAWESWEN THE NORTH SHORE TRIBAL COUNCIL

Mamaweswen, The North Shore Tribal Council represents its seven member First Nations of Batchewana, Garden River, Thessalon, Mississauga, Serpent River, Sagamok and Atikameksheng Anishnawbek. The Tribal Council provides services to the First Nations in the areas of health, second level education, administration, financial management, economic development, employment and training services, technical and engineering services.

The North Shore Tribal Council also provides direct services to community members in the areas of holistic health services, Ontario works and employment and training services.

NSTC is celebrating 25 years of program delivery and services on the North Shore of Lake Huron.



MANDATE OF NSTC

The mandate of Mamaweswen, The North Shore Tribal Council is to assist and facilitate the activities of its member communities. In a manner that promotes the cultural, spiritual, political, economic, environmental and social well being of the member First Nations, the Tribal Council acts to serve three primary functions:

1. Research, develop and deliver regionally based products and services to member communities when directed by NSTC member communities.
2. Provide advisory services to member communities.
3. Provide collective political support to advance the betterment of First Nations people.

The NSTC has evolved from its original mandate of providing advisory services to the First Nations that had been provided by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs to the delivery of regional programs and services. The Tribal Council's strategy is to continue to provide quality service to the First Nations. As the needs of the First Nations change, the Tribal Council evolves and adapts to meet the new demands of an aspiring Nation.



PROTECTION PROTOCOL

North Shore Tribal Council continues to work with the Anishnawbek to protect their lands, sacred sites, culture, health and environment. We work very closely with the Leadership Environmental Network to protect indigenous lands and peoples from environmental threats.

Staking claims by industry will continue to target tribal lands, hoping to exploit tribal sovereignty to avoid municipal, provincial and federal laws. We work with our Anishnawbek to oppose and or engage in attempts by governments and industries who engage in or propose to engage in activities that desecrate sacred sites



AMALGAMATION OF LANDS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

What is land management?

“Land management is planning, promoting and monitoring, and the day-to-day management and administration of reserve lands and resources to ensure long term viability for future generations.”

What is economic development?

“Economic development has been defined as “the process by which a community creates, retains, and reinvests wealth and improves the quality of life” (David Dodson, MDC, Inc.).”



FUNCTIONS AND REPORTING

The purpose and expected outcome for the development of a lands and resources unit will:

- a) enhance relationships with all levels of government and industry through communication, information sharing and capacity building;
- b) develop strategic planning principles across the overlapping jurisdictions of membership communities to promote a unified stewardship model to increase the environmental and economic sustainability across all of the member communities of Mamaweswen;
- c) Develop an implementation model to promote efficiency, transparency and active governance of lands and resources; and
- d) Carry out the consultation and planning to put in place a Mamaweswen Natural Law for its membership communities.

In addition the NSTC objective is to promote overall community networking, capacity building, and sustainable community development.



KNOWING YOUR AUTHORITIES!

Lands Management & Economic Development on reserve lands is governed by an entirely different legal regime.

The starting point when dealing with any interest in reserve land is determining what legal regime is in place.

Self governance

Land code (NALMA)

INAC

There are variations even within the *Indian Act* regime.

It is necessary to identify the type of powers that may have been granted to the FN.

WE ARE TREATY PEOPLE

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

- Adopted on September 13, 2007 from the UN General

Assembly

Article 25

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard

ARTICLE 29

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.
2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.
3. States shall also take effective measures to ensure, as needed, that Programmes for monitoring, maintaining and restoring the health of indigenous peoples, as developed and implemented by the peoples affected by such materials, are duly implemented by the peoples affected by such materials, are duly implemented.



REGIONAL STEPS TAKEN ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A Strategic Coordination and Development Office and Natural Law would provide Mamaweswen with a mechanism to collectively carry out traditional first nations planning, governance and law making and enhance the environmental technical and traditional knowledge of the lands.

The Lands and Resources -Strategic Coordination and Development Office would permit Mamaweswen and its membership communities to carry out consultations on a timelier basis.

Consultation would still take place at the local level with First Nations directly in most cases. The difference is that with membership communities will have resources and technical and traditional materials developed by the Strategic Coordination and Development Office to facilitate direct consultations.

It is also intended that membership will collectively implement the Natural law which will provide consistency across the jurisdiction.

ARTICLE 32

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.
2. States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.
3. States shall provide effective mechanism for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact

TRIBAL AND FIRST NATIONS GREAT LAKES WATER ACCORD

Accord signed on November 23, 2004, at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

It is thus our right, our responsibility and our duty to insist that no plan to protect and preserve the Great Lakes Waters moves forward without the equal highest-level participation of Tribal and First Nation governments with the governments of the United States and Canada.

Merely consulting with Tribes and First Nations is not adequate, full participation of Tribal and First Nation governments with the governments of the United States and Canada. Merely consulting with Tribes and First Nations is not adequate, full participation must be achieved.



TRIBAL COUNCIL HISTORY AND CONTRIBUTION TO LANDS AND ENVIRONMENT AT NSTC

Lands

Wolf Policy - Traditional Lands and
resource Policy Development
Mapping Awareness Workshops
Forestry Department
Giikid domowin Forestry Model of
care for the land
Fisheries Model
Organizational strategic planning

Environment

Environment Department (LIDS)
Commercial Fisheries Project,
E.A.G.L.E. Project
Youth Environmental Leadership
Camp
Science camp



LANDS AND ENVIRONMENT CHALLENGES

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and the new relationship fund core consultation have not included funding priority for tribal councils.

AANC does not provide core funding to Tribal Council for advisory services and support in lands

What is the Definition of Environment stewardship by a an elder, committee, and how does it affect the regional activities of land uses.

How does this impact North Shore Tribal council services, and Proposed Growth North Report? Discussion Paper, Growth North Ontario applies to the project.

Strategic Environmental assessment is a concern through the capacity building, workshop delivery and conference consultation process.

There are no technical services components for the delivery of consultation and negotiations

The work plan or activities detailed sheet also has missing components for traditional land uses, Traditional knowledge, land use planning, zoning appears to be a an issue, infrastructure requirements for business, sustainability planning.



PROTECTING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

Establish a technical advisory group , an or a lands advisory group composed of staff, elders, traditional knowledge holders an technicians required.

To establish funding options to support the work of the lands and resource working group and to fund a land use mapping assessment of existing first nations capacity, research and data collection.

To build technical capacity respecting land use mapping collectively and in each member first nation while developing a shared mapping data base.

To develop and enter into a protocol among the member communities to collectively manage territorial overlap and resource issues based on principle and process agreed.





USEFUL TIPS AND TOOLS

There are ways to start the inventory of the environment of the Indigenous Territories.

Working with someone like Dr. Lickers could be helpful with finding ways to incorporate environmental components into all papers and documents filed on all reviews related to the environment.

First Nations should find ways to develop their own environmental standards and use these standards to review all activity within their territory.

Each Nation should determine where their territories are and should start mapping the water including all known underground water.

This could be project of the First Nations students working with the Elders. At the same time, they would begin to learn about their own land resources, water and its importance to themselves.

What are the overlaps with the neighbours (other Indigenous Peoples)? Go back to using the traditional names of lakes, rivers and streams.

The stories that go with the names should be told again in a story telling time or some way to communicate this information – it would be done on line with computers and



NSTC KEY TO SUCCESS

- ✓ Knowing your laws/policies/processes
- ✓ Having the professional capacity
- ✓ Lands and Economic Development working closely together
- ✓ Support from Communities

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