

East Side First Nations Council

Terms of Reference



**Protecting
& Managing**
our Future

Manitoba 
Building for the Future

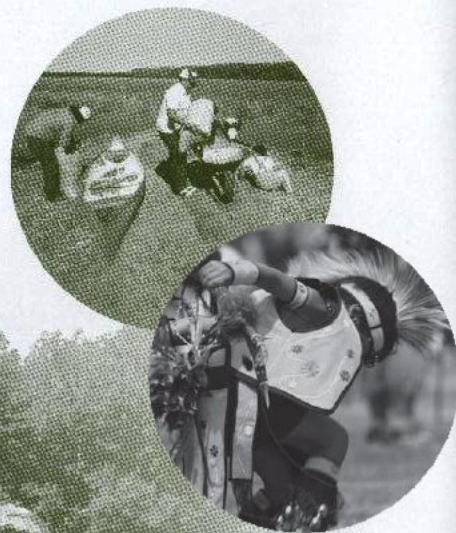
BACKGROUND

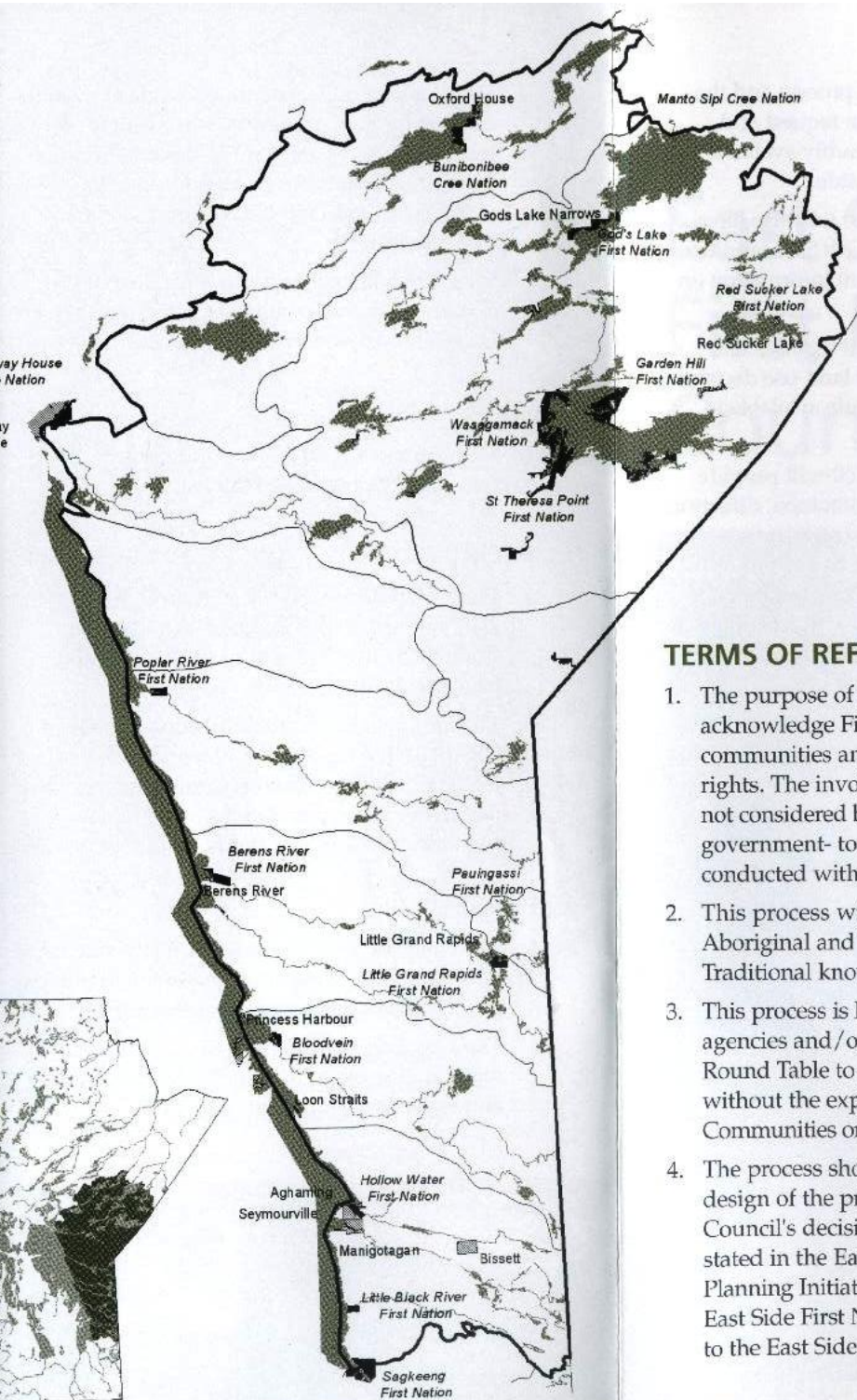
The East Side of Lake Winnipeg Round Table has established the East Side First Nations Council with representatives from each of the 16 First Nation communities within the planning area (Figure 1).

The 16 First Nation communities are:

- Berens River First Nation
- Bloodvein First Nation
- Bunibonibee Cree Nation
- Garden Hill First Nation
- God's Lake First Nation
- Hollow Water First Nation
- Little Black River First Nation
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation
- Manto Sipi Cree Nation
- Norway House Cree Nation
- Pauingassi First Nation
- Poplar River First Nation
- Red Sucker Lake First Nation
- Sagkeeng First Nation
- St. Theresa Point First Nation
- Wasagamack First Nation

- A. According to the East Side Lake Winnipeg Executive Summary (2002), "East Side First Nations Council is established to help the East Side Round Table prepare a sustainable development plan for the east side Lake Winnipeg planning area."
- B. Under the Terms of Reference for the East Side Lake Winnipeg 2002, The East Side First Nations Council will acknowledge, and be consistent and co-ordinated with existing provincial government initiatives including:
 - i. Treaty Land Entitlement
 - ii. The Protected Areas Initiative and accompanying First Nations Memorandum of Understanding
 - iii. The Northern Development Strategy
 - iv. Historical and traditional uses and activities
 - v. Constitutionally protected s.35 Aboriginal and Treaty Rights;
 - vi. Natural Resources Transfer Agreement 1930





TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. The purpose of this process is to respect and acknowledge First Nation governments, peoples, communities and their legal and constitutional rights. The involvement in this particular process is not considered by the First Nations to be "meaningful government- to- government consultation" and is conducted without prejudice.
2. This process will address issues such as Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and ownership of Traditional knowledge.
3. This process is NOT intended to allow government agencies and/or secretariat staff of the East Side Round Table to make decisions or propose consensus without the express consent of the First Nation Communities or their internally chosen representative.
4. The process should also address issues such as the design of the process itself and the breadth of the Council's decision-making powers. For instance, as stated in the East Side Lake Winnipeg Broad Area Planning Initiative (Executive Summary 2002), the East Side First Nations Council will provide direction to the East Side Round Table, as appropriate on:
 - a. The conduct of public meetings and consultations with community members
 - b. The goals, objectives and values for the east side plan
 - c. The issues and concerns to be addressed
 - d. Options and alternatives to address issues
 - e. Integrating community plans into the planning process
 - f. Integrate traditional knowledge
 - g. The East Side plan and amendment of the draft plan
5. Members of the Council will:
 - a. Represent the First Nation community to which they are affiliated.
 - b. Provide the position of their community.
 - c. Provide their best judgement, knowledge and expertise.



6. Transparency is paramount to the process and the East Side First Nations Council can request and obtain any relevant information readily available to government regarding the east side.
7. The East Side First Nations Council will also have access and be made privy to any East Side land use planning decisions, and to pertinent information on the public registry.
8. The East Side First Nations Council requires that environmental, governmental and land-use decisions relating to the East Side will be made available to them prior to any final ratification.
9. The East Side First Nations Council will provide direction to the Government of Manitoba, direction to the East Side Round Table and the East Side Advisory Committee and will act as a community liaison. The members of the East Side First Nations Council may delegate a representative to communicate directly with the Government of Manitoba and/or the Manitoba Conservation Minister.
10. The East Side First Nations Council will operate in accordance with the following rules and procedures:

MEETINGS

- a. The members of the East Side First Nations Council shall determine which meetings shall be open to the public and which will be held in private.
- b. The members of the East Side First Nations Council shall also determine when and where to meet, and the agenda to be followed.

MINUTES

- c. The East Side First Nations Council shall have written records of its meetings. Draft minutes shall be circulated to members for correction within one week following a meeting and revised minutes forwarded for approval at the next meeting. Approved meeting minutes shall be forwarded to the East Side of Lake Winnipeg Round Table and put on the public registry.

- d. Minutes shall reflect decisions made at meetings, differing points of view if consensus is not reached and any relevant issue or conclusion. Points made will not be attributed to any member unless agreed to or requested by that member.
- e. Minutes shall not constitute a legally binding document, and decisions made therein are for reference only, unless otherwise specified.

CHAIRPERSON

- f. The chairperson off the East Side Round Table will chair the East Side First Nations Council.

SUPPORT

- g. The East Side Secretariat will provide staff support to the East Side First Nations Council. Its function will be to organize and facilitate meetings.
- h. The East Side Secretariat's functions (outlined above) do not legally affect the independence of the East Side First Nations Council in decision making or recommendations made to the Manitoba Government and East Side Round Table.

EXPENSES

- i. The East Side First Nations Council members will be paid their expenses under the Manitoba government's general manual of administration.
- j. The East Side First Nations Council shall have input and access to the regulation of its budget and expenses.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

East Side Planning Initiative
405-326 Broadway Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0J5

Telephone: (204) 945-4380
Toll Free: 1-800-214-6497
Fax: (204) 948-2948

email: banderson@gov.mb.ca
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/eastsideplan>