

MANITOBA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

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Manitoba Conservation
East Side Planning Initiative
405 – 326 Broadway Avenue
Winnipeg, MB
R3C 0S5

Dear Sirs:

Please find enclosed the position of the Manitoba Trappers Association with regard to the East Side Planning Initiative

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important process.

Sincerely,

J.H. Corky Peterson.
President

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Recommendations for the East Side Planning Initiative
Broad Area Plan

The Registered Trapline system or RTLs were brought about by close cooperation between government and trappers. It was a system designed in the 1940's to eliminate destructive competition and a system whereby traditional native hunting and trapping grounds could be preserved by introducing planned fur harvesting over most of the north.

This system has proven effective over the past half century for successful regulation, monitoring and harvest, while maintaining furbearer populations which are sustainable.

The area covered by the Broad Area Plan comprises 298 registered traplines within 11 Community Trapline Sections. As many as 800 trappers have held license on these lines in any given year. As an example, total fur harvest from the East Side area for 1986-87 season was \$1,256,816.

Trapping, hunting fishing and gathering for personal use is an inherent right of aboriginal peoples. Commercial fur harvesting, that is, the selling of pelts, is an important traditional occupation for many people of the East Side.

The following is the position of the MTA as a representative organization of the trappers and the fur harvest industry of Manitoba. The Manitoba Trappers Association is a predominantly volunteer organization formed in 1972 to represent the interests of the trappers in the Province of Manitoba, and the protection of the fur industry.

The Manitoba Trappers Association supports the principle of the East Side Planning Initiative process. However, the rights and privileges of trappers should not be compromised by any initiative or development that might take place on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg, or elsewhere in the province.

No infringement on the economic viability of trapping or fur harvesting should result through the creation or establishment of protected areas, federal or provincial parks.

Any development such as roads, or other linear disturbances should not negatively affect trappers, and the trappers' tenure should be honoured.

When proposals, developments or occurrences take place which may affect the integrity of the fur harvest industry, the trappers' organizations should be respected as a community of people with a common interest. In this regard they should be involved in the full process of communication and consultation before implementation of any significant development

It is the expectation of the MTA that we will continue to participate in the ongoing East Side Broad Area Plan development and implementation process. Further, that we will be able to represent the interests and concerns of trappers as the future of the East Side of Lake Winnipeg evolves.

Stuart Jansson, MTA Director Zone 1 and ESPI: ESAC/SWG/PCI

Carl Monkman, MTA Director Zone 7 and ESPI: ESAC/CWG

Cherry White, MTA Administrator and ESPI: RT/SWG