

Wabanong Anishinaabe Trappers Association

Recommendations to the ESPI Round Table

Approved on June 17, 2004

The WATA was incorporated on July 14th 2003 to promote Aboriginal Trapper Rights on the East side of Lake Winnipeg and to protect the ecological integrity of its member's trap lines. WATA members are concerned with any proposed development activity on the East side of Lake Winnipeg with special focus on the trap line areas. The following recommendations were agreed upon at the June 17th meeting of the WATA.

- 1.** Existing obligations under the Treaties must be met before any planning process is engaged. The Manitoba Government should make a good faith effort to finalize outstanding Treaty Land Entitlement and meet existing Treaty obligations with First Nations communities and Trappers on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg.
- 2.** The Manitoba Government and industry should make a clear written statement that no Treaty or Aboriginal Rights can be abrogated.
- 3.** Government and Industry should have a written set of consultation guidelines, policies or protocols regarding development proposals that may infringe on Treaty and or Aboriginal Rights before consulting with Aboriginal communities and Trappers. These consultation guidelines, policies or protocols must be incorporated into the planning process for the East Side of Lake Winnipeg.
- 4.** That a Protocol Agreement be developed between the government of Manitoba and all First Nation communities and Trappers on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg and that this agreement will become an integral part of any planning process.
- 5.** Governments, industry and crown corporations must recognize, respect, and honour local agreements between Trappers and their traplines as this is imperative to creating greater control and participation for Trappers.
- 6.** Government should support the creation of an East Side Lake Winnipeg Trappers Council that will participate in any land use/development planning process.
- 7.** It must be recognized that Aboriginal Peoples and each of the First Nation communities on the Eastside of Lake Winnipeg have the right to manage, plan, control and protect the natural resources within their traditional territories and traplines.

- 8.** Government, industry and Aboriginal communities should work together to protect First Nations culturally significant areas, traplines, sacred sites, ceremonial, historical sites and burial sites without disclosing the exact location. The goal is to protect these important sites from the damage and other impacts caused by development.
- 9.** Community-based land use planning, including trapline studies, by First Nation communities on the Eastside of Lake Winnipeg should be completed prior to any large-scale development activities commencing within the ESPI planning area.
- 10.** Governance systems within Aboriginal communities must support and respect traditional activities, such as hunting, fishing and trapping in any land use process.
- 11.** The Manitoba and Federal Governments must support and promote the First Nations Accord World Heritage Site nomination.
- 12.** First Nation communities are solely responsible for identifying their traditional resource territories.
- 13.** Additional lands within Aboriginal Traditional Territories must be set aside or protected to exercise First Nations Constitutional Rights for traditional uses, hunting, fishing and trapping.
- 14.** Government and Industry should assist in providing resources and funding to enable Aboriginal communities on the Eastside of Lake Winnipeg to undertake or complete Traditional Land Use and Occupancy Studies within their traditional territories before any large-scale development occurs.
- 15.** All First Nations communities in the ESPI Planning Area must be provided with resources & money (from Federal, Provincial and other sources) to develop land use plans for their traditional use areas.
- 16.** Governments must provide funding for or develop more human capacity building initiatives and programs to realize and participate in the full potential of activities in regions and territories.
- 17.** Governments must enhance and support more effective skills training programs for First Nation in the region as part of overall employment strategy. This funding should not be tied to any future large-scale development proposals.
- 18.** Government must enhance and support capacity development for communities to acquire information and the resources necessary for effective land use planning in their traditional territories, and create an educational/training program targeted specifically to Aboriginal youth to enable them to deal with environmental and resource issues in their home communities.

- 19.** Trappers, in consultation with grassroots community members, must be engaged in any planning processes for their communities.
- 20.** Government must share a percentage of the royalties generated from existing large-scale industrial development in the region with the First Nation members, including Trappers.
- 21.** Government must support and continue implementing decisions and activities with respect to the First Nations/Manitoba Government MOU on Protected Areas Accord.