

**NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program: Capacity Building & Monitoring Projects 2007-2008****Traditional Knowledge in the Liidlil Kue First Nation  
March 27, 2008****Contact information:**

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**Introduction:**

Funding will be used to purchase outstanding data sets from the Federal Government for our GIS inventory. A new computer for the transference of all new data and consolidation of old data from previous Traditional Knowledge endeavors. Implementation of record keeping which will help to monitor LKFN land use in our traditional areas in regards to Fur Records, Land Use Areas, Land use Applications vs. stakeholders of described areas and eventual cataloging of all local knowledge.

This would enable the creation of a legacy project, which over time shall keep a very live record of the changes of our home, harvesters and a record for further research and studies. During the gathering of information for the last TK study, financial limitations, did not allow for ground-truthing, and interviewing of all traditional land users of our territories the project was limited to family areas that directly fall onto to the pipeline right of way. With the use of some new equipment and a cash infusion, we hope that this will enable more information gathering on a continual basis.

The project will be monitored and done by Dieter Cazon, the current Manager of the Lands and Resources Department of the Liidlil Kue First Nation. He has over five years of GIS experience working on one TK study for the Liidlil Kue First Nation, and working for Imperial Oil Limited on the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Project.

**Methods:****a. Traditional Knowledge Gathering**

- *1-Interview Process - referenced past interviews from earlier studies of Liidlil Kue First Nation and we are currently compiling a guide on interviewing membership about traditional knowledge information and protocols. As of yet the process needs to be written out, and will be done during the summer of 2008 to create a guide for future reference.*
- *2-Traditional Place Names - our traditional naming workshop is still out standing as a project that needs to be done this year and due to scheduling, we have not been able to co-ordinate this activity as this*

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*is a project out of his regularly scheduled work load. The slavey Language Specialist requires that we have another day or two of meetings with elders to verify pronunciations and spellings before any documents are released to the public in regards to our Traditional Place names workshop. The Language Specialist, an employee under the Government of the Northwest Territories Dehcho Divisional Education Council, has donated his time with help from his employer to do. We are currently scheduling when best to get this accomplished, but are hoping to have it done in April, 2008. After this goes ahead, a map with all the traditional names will be provided to the Dehcho Divisional Board of Education, Thomas Simpson Secondary School, and Bompas Elementary School for educational endeavors.*

- *3-Digital Purchases – for the initial conceptualization of this exercise, we were able to purchase reference materials from an independent source who is retiring from the Government of the Northwest Territories. Members of the Liidlii Kue First Nation have an understanding of Traditional Knowledge and the years of interpretation of this information. The books are about Environmental and Wildlife Conservation in North America, as compiled through out the last 150 years of this countries history. It provides insight to the thought processes of past beliefs into conservation, and the understanding of how previously stated scientific facts have and still affect our members today. From our proposal, we were able to save some money from one of our high cost purchases in digital topographic information of Canada, since after the submission of our proposal, this information is now provided for free from the Government of Canada.*
  
- *4-Traditional Knowledge Computer - under our proposal, we have purchased a new computer to compile all our traditional knowledge information. Work on the computer is currently entailing updating all links and setting up a database for referencing, and adding new interview data in an easily accessible format for our membership to access. A system for regular information back ups has been instituted and are confident, that the loss of the machine itself will not be the loss of all the information we have gathered in the last 10+ years.*
  
- *5-Traditional Knowledge Hunting and fishing Test – to better understand the logistics of exercising one aspect of traditional knowledge, we were able to organize a traditional hunt north of our community. Through some minor costing we were able to implement various aspects of our natural way of life and formulate a plan for next year in which we can implement gathering of hard data*

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*information. In total 5 woodland caribou were gathered, 5 pickerel, one northern pike, and 7 white fish. Basic cutting and transport of the animals and fish was done on the land, while final preparation and packaging was done in our meat cutting warehouse. We are currently keeping the meat collected in deepfreeze for distribution on an as needed basis for the community, as well as having supplied the local health center and long-term care with meat for the use in preparing traditional meals for the elders and sick there. The Liidlii Kue First Nation was also supplied 5 caribou skins, at the request of members for the creation of drums to be used by local drummers. Due to the careful health interests in cutting and prepping traditional meats, 3 persons from membership were used to sanitize, cut, and package the meat in a sanitary manner.*

**b. Community Involvement**

- *Employees under the direction of Chief and Council of the Liidlii Kue First Nation established the groundwork to gather, and continue to gather the traditional knowledge of our membership for historical records, and as a defensive tool to defend our rights in our traditional areas. We have had one scenario recently that was valuable in helping to better understand and strategize our position in regards to a recent claim staked in our traditional area. It helped to develop a process for interviewing, and setting up protocols for future meetings of the type.*

**c. Traditional Knowledge**

- *Through the use of supplied funding we have established a protocol of helping to ensure the longevity of our Traditional Knowledge information gathering and helping to secure the safety of this investment.*

**Results:****a. Learning Process**

- *Understanding Traditional Knowledge in the context of use by any first nation differs from one organization to another, and the same is held true in regards to the Federal and Territorial Governments. In the way we would conceive it to be is open-ended, allowing for the free interpretation of one seeking it and sharing the information with others. Measuring traditional knowledge is not an easy task, as there will always be stories to be told, messages to be learned, problems to be solved. Traditional knowledge, in our opinion, is what defines us as a first-nations people.*
- *The Liidlii Kue First Nation feels that we have covered meeting the Monitoring and Research / Capacity Building and Training under CIMP by what we were able to accomplish, and will continue to accomplish for the remainder of our organizations life. We have set*

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*up a traditional knowledge Base, easily expanded, easily added to, and able to be used by membership for defending our rights, and sharing our information with our children and help all to learn about our history, and continue to educate.*

- *We have created an avenue of a training tool, in that through a simple mentoring, a GIS operator could get real world experience, in how the Liidlii Kue First Nation has implemented GIS for storing their traditional knowledge information. This mentoring would expose a young person on the value of traditional knowledge, using Arc View to create maps, and using a database to analyze store and show data.*
- *Through the process of a simple interview session, we are constantly reminded of past projects in our traditional area, that have had far flung effects 30+ years after inception. The Enbridge pipeline, Territorial and Federal governments, and global warming are constantly benchmarked on the negative and/or cumulative impacts past, present, and future developments that have and could have on us. This certainly has been leading to a cautious approach as we continue to be care takers of our land by simply listening to the knowledge shared within our membership.*

**Discussion / Conclusions:****a. Benchmark**

- *We have established the benchmark of gathering traditional knowledge of our membership. Through continued funding, we should be able to schedule regular interviews through out the year and ground truth the information that we do have with GPS and cameras by helicopter, boat, or skidoo.*

**a. Sharing Information**

- *As it stands, there have been a couple of reports written on certain aspect of the Traditional Knowledge information that we possess, these reports in their current state are not for public distribution. Given some time a report maybe able to be created, but currently we don't have the resources to compile that kind of information in the capacity that would be acceptable by our Chief and Council. The traditional place names map, in the short term after the verification workshop will be distributed by the LKFN for public consumption for Educational Purposes.*

**Budget:**

- In table format, provide the project budget and expenditures. (See example table 1 which may need to be customized to each project).**
- If not all CIMP funding was used, please describe why the project did not use all available funding (in paragraph format):**

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