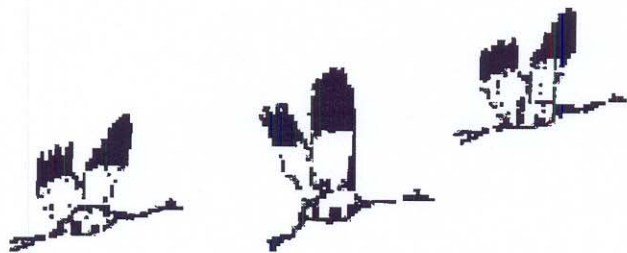


Northwest Territory Metis Nation



NWT CIMP - NWTMN On-site Environmental Monitor Training

March 31, 2006

Abstract

As industrial activities are taking place at a rapid pace within the lands the Northwest Territory Metis Nation (NWTMN). The desire of the NWTMN to become more involved in this development, has led to submission of a proposal that would enable Metis monitors. These monitors would establish a working relationship with developers, and conduct on-site observations.

Objectives

This funding was sought to train on-site observers for deployment to active industrial development sites in the south slave that have been identified by members of the NWTMN as areas of particular interest. This funding was used to bring the employee to a level of expertise that would assist the day-to-day operational requirements of the Environment section of the NWTMN. In the end, the NWTMN would like to be in a position to have a set of usable monitoring field skills in each of our local offices.

Introduction

In 2005 there was a decision made to employ on-site monitors for some of the major developments that are taking place on Metis lands. These developments were identified as the following:

1. Tamerlane Ventures mineral development proposed for old Pine Point Mine site area.
2. Paramount Resources oil and gas activity in the Cameron Hills area near Hay River.

Activities in 2005-06

Identification of possible recruits for the monitoring position was identified early in 2006. The persons identified were hired for a training session within both Hay River and Fort Resolution local offices. The training provided to the monitors was as follows:

1. Field observation, both biotic and abiotic. These were general observations of the state of the area. As further visits were conducted, more detailed observations were to be noted. All measurements that were required for the area were to be estimates only.
2. Weather observations and animal sightings were to be noted.
3. A diary of observations was to be kept.
4. Weekly and monthly reports were to be prepared, content discussed.
5. Field office visits were conducted to discuss the activities of the monitors.
6. Water and soil sampling techniques were provided to field office personnel.

Training activities:

Fort Resolution

Training was provided to Mr. Lloyd Cardinal and Kenneth Delorme. A one-day training session was provided to the above staff, with some fieldwork being done.

Hay River

Training was provided to Mr. George Lafferty of the Hay River Metis Nation. One day training was provided to the Hay River monitor. A field trip to the local dumpsite to view the bio-pad on-site was done, to practice some of the note taking and observations.

Use of field equipment and related safety issues were discussed, and explained. The future acquisition of field equipment was also discussed as per each of the offices activities.

Results

Hay River

Establishment of a working relationship with Paramount Resources, and weekly site visits were conducted for the period Feb-Mar 2006. Observations of the access road, and activities within the Significant Discovery License Area were confirmed and noted as per each application/amendment received.

Fort Resolution

As activities have increased in the old Pine Point mine area, the Métis residents of Fort Resolution have expressed concern over what is happening. With the hiring of an on-site monitor, the explanation of the activities being conducted within the old Pine Point Mine site became a reality to the Metis residents of Fort Resolution. These types of initiatives go a long way to alleviate some of the concerns of the residents of the area, this facilitates the movement of concerns in both directions; from the community to the developer, and from the developer to the community.

It is hoped this type of activity will continue to be funded, in order the communities involved will be informed as to the major activities in their areas. If the CIMP program is to be successful, initiatives such as these are important to the local residents in proximity to major developments. This aids in developing the capacity of the communities to better understand the scope of these developments, and their effects. Also, the continued funding by the Government of Canada, would make for better community decisions being made if the appropriate resources were made available to them.