



Indigenous Involvement in Environmental Assessment

Finding a Better Way

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Ontario Association for Impact Assessment

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Toronto, Canada



BURGESS
ENVIRONMENTAL
PLANNING



Research Questions



Should we co-produce environmental assessments with indigenous communities? If so, how can this be done?

Do the resulting First Nation generated EAs that come late in the decision-making process create a new set of challenges or a solution?

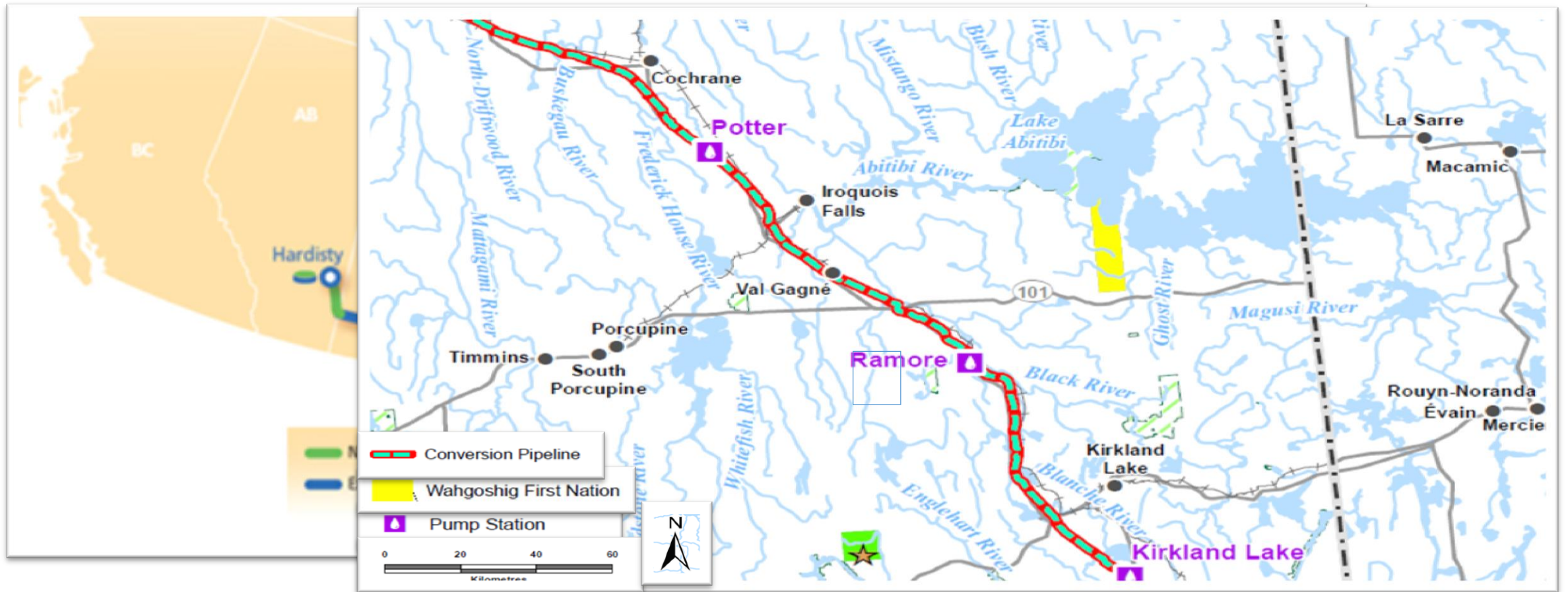
What We'll Cover



Case Study – Wahgoshig First Nation Community Impact Assessment for the Energy East Pipeline Project

- Approach and process
- Community values
- Community involvement
- Effects, mitigation and significance
- Challenges and successes in 'co-production'

Project / First Nation Context

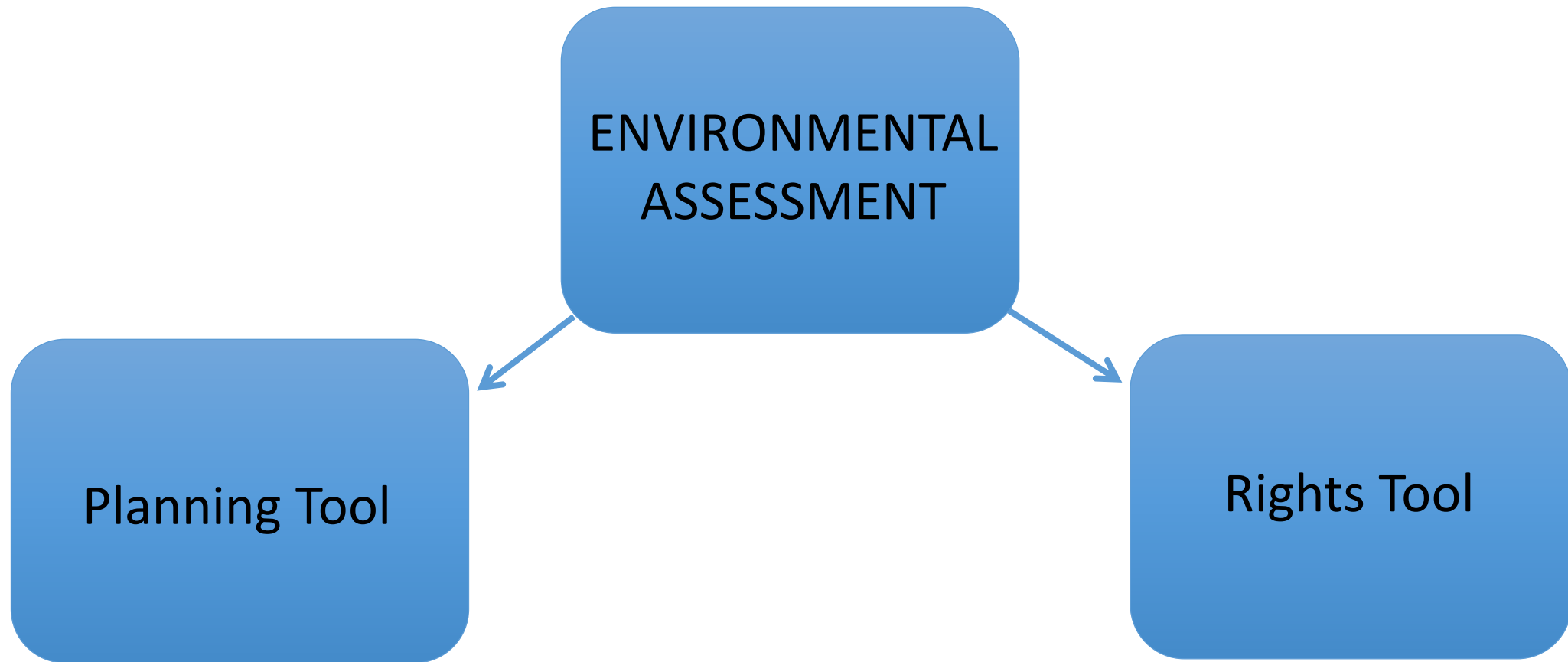


Community Asset Approach



Based on the work of Kretzmann, John P. and John L. McKnight. Building Communities from the Inside Out: A Path Towards Finding and Mobilising a Community's Assets. ACTA Publications, Chicago, IL. 1993.

Rights-based Approach



Community Involvement



Project Contributors

Community
Members

(Advisors)

Chief &
Council

(Advisors
and
Decision-
makers)

Community Impact
Assessment Team

WFN

- Project Liaison
- Community Working Group

Consultant Team

- Core Team
- Technical Advisors

April - May
project set up;
WG meetings



May – June
background
information
review



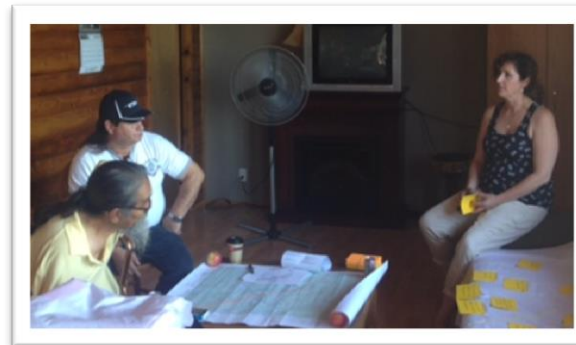
June – August
community
impact
assessment
meetings



**August –
September**
reporting



It's here! The consolidated Energy East application has arrived, all 38,885 pages of it: ow.ly/S1G5300i1VP



**Wahgoshig First Nation
Community Impact Assessment
for the
Energy East Pipeline Project**

Preliminary DRAFT (v.2)
September 6, 2016

Prepared in Partnership with:



Gord Rezon Consulting Corp.

draft

Community Values



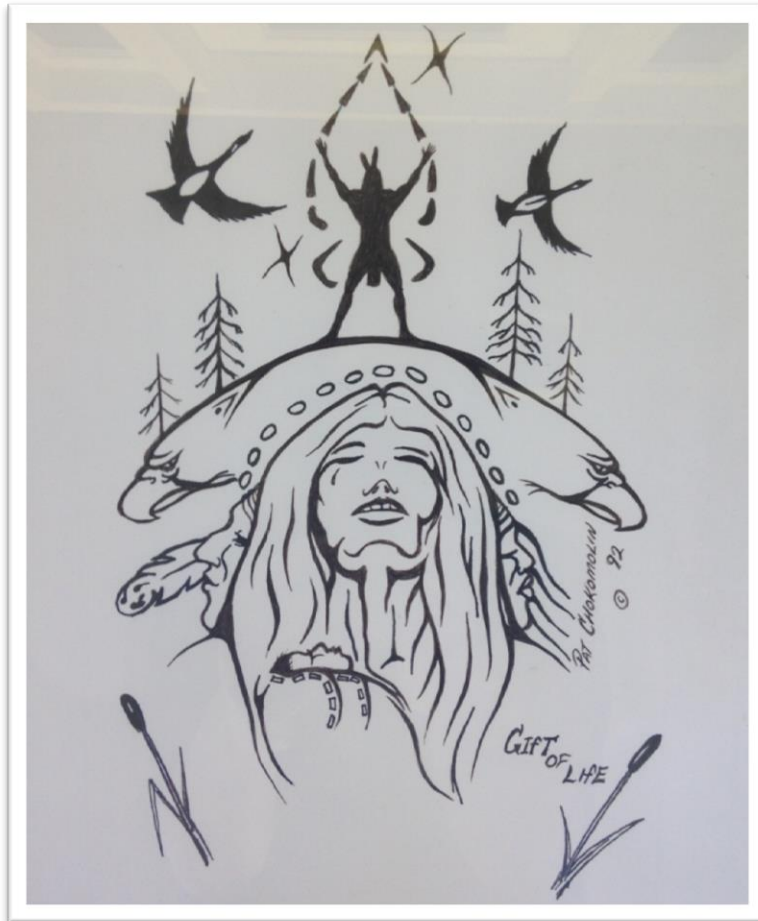
To maintain and protect:

1. WFN culture, traditions and how WFN uses land and their territory
2. The natural environment
3. WFN's ability to earn a living and share benefits from activities in WFN territory
4. WFN community well-being and safety related to impacts from Project spills and accidents

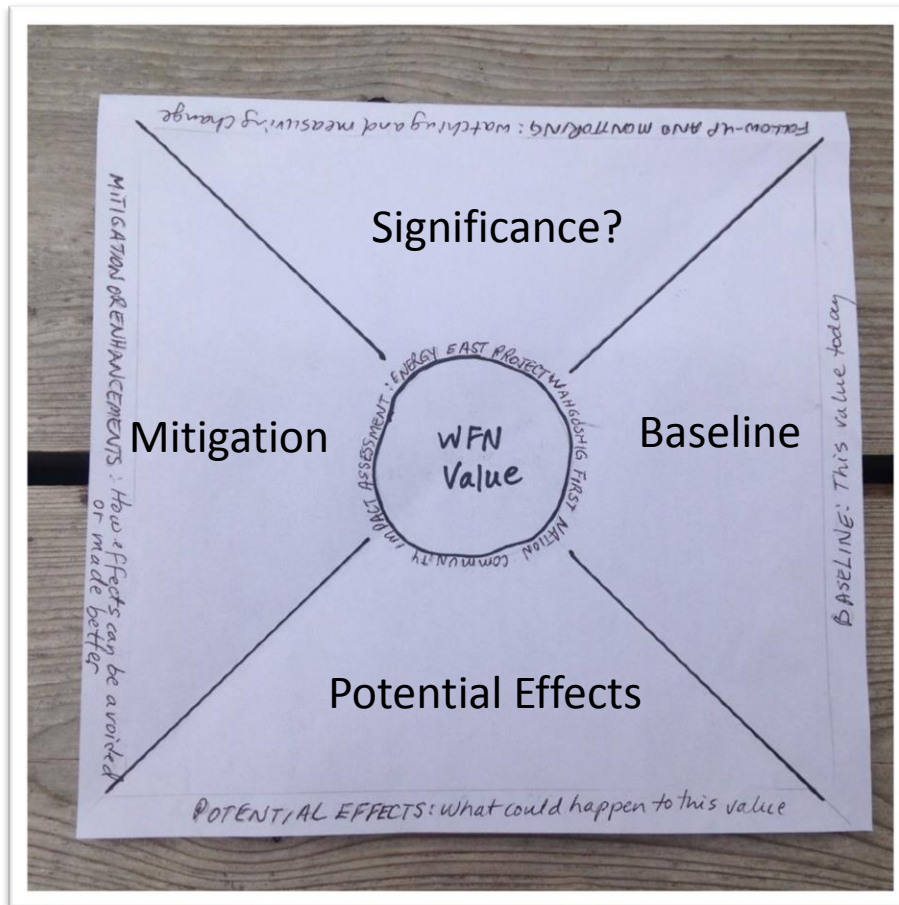
Community Involvement



Working Group Perspective



Effects, Mitigation and Significance



Challenges and Successes



- Fully understand community capacity (mapping)
- Working for community vs. proponent
- Significance criteria / measures . . . legacy tool
- EA during community elections . . . difficult dynamics
- Measuring significance . . . challenging concept
- Having an in-community advocate
- Culturally relevant diagrams . . . to explain concepts?
- Funding allocated meant hybrid review and impact assessment



Back to the Questions . . .

Should we co-produce environmental assessments with indigenous communities?

YES!

Do the resulting First Nation-generated EAs that come late in the decision-making process create a new set of challenges or a solution?

BOTH!

Thank You!



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