

Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Knowledge for Ontario Mining Issues

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ACT I - Peter Croal



Could you survive here?



The Yanomani can



A core issue.....

"The forest is our home and our laboratory.
It is our university where we acquire the
knowledge to be able to survive"

Indigenous Peoples Federation



Some Key Facts:

- About 500 million people belong to the world's indigenous groups
- More than 5,000 different groups of indigenous peoples living in more than 90 countries
- 54 indigenous languages in Canada – strength of language tied to land and culture





Some positions...

Dr. Thomas Alcoze –
‘Science is not just
a white man’s thing’.



TK for whales, caribou, medicine and more....

- ▣ “The hardest thing is to sit in a room with scientists who think they’ve discovered something, but their scientific discovery just confirms what our oral histories have talked about forever,” says William Housty, a member of British Columbia’s Heiltsuk First Nation and director of Coastwatch. “That’s been the biggest hump for us to overcome, to get people to think about our culture on the same level as Western science.”

A contemporary view.....

- Dr. Stewart Gendron, Past President of Voisey's Bay Nickel - "in today's mining industry having access to traditional knowledge is so important because it allows companies to put in place more **successful mitigation strategies** to address the environmental and socio-economic aspects of mining operations".



Examples of financial benefits:

- Hammersly Iron Pty Limited (Rio Tinto)
- Aboriginal communities affected
- Consultations saved company \$100 million and commenced production 6 months early
- Malampaya Deep Water to Gas Project (Shell)
- FPIC cost \$6m, \$36M construction costs saved due to construction finishing 3 months early



Findings

- “a proven track record of harmonious community relations can make future interaction with government regulators much easier and can help a project sponsor with public contracts for other projects” World resources Institute



Links between TK and TRC



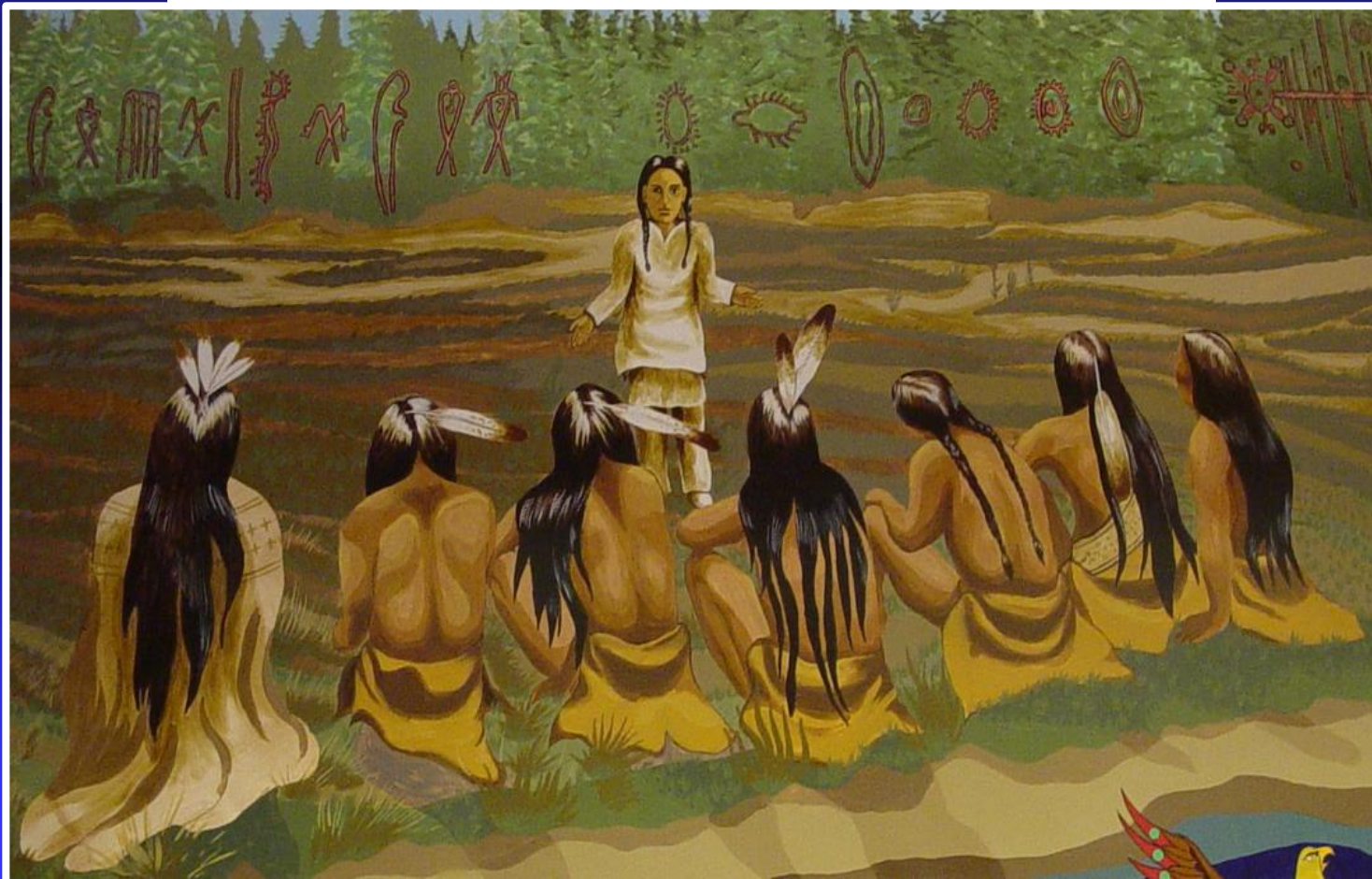
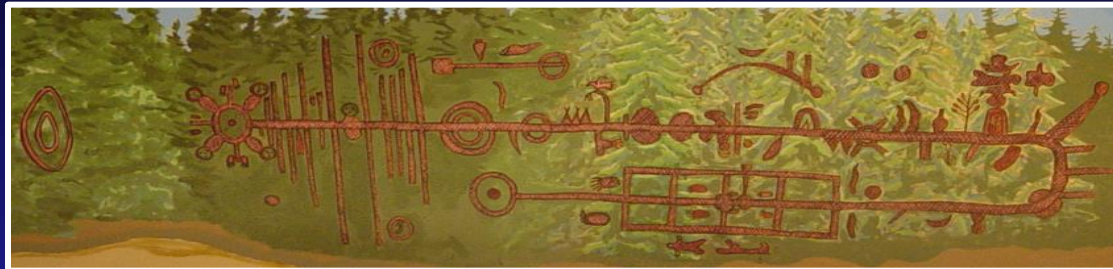
93 Call to Action



Use of TK can help with relationship building...



Act II- Martin Millen





Unity, Strength and Success. When we are united, we are strong and our strength leads to success in all that we do.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation

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Treaty Signing Locations

1906

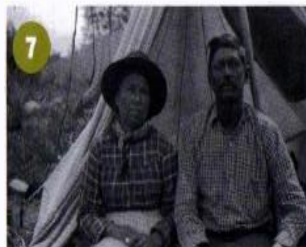


Image #7 – Chief Michel and Wife, Fort Metachewan,



Image #8 – Native Encampment, Fort Metachewan



Nishnawbe Aski Nation

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The Resilience of Traditional Knowledge



Indigenous Institutions of Knowledge



44 ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT





*Getting to the roots
of TEK what
don't we know????*

Western and Traditional Knowledges



Sharing the Responsibility



Where are we going?





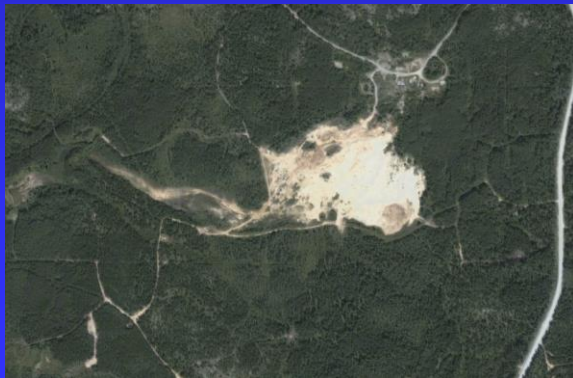
**Our Future Leaders
living TEK**

Act III – Mary Boyden



Industry Demonstration of TEK: historic Naybob Tailings Site

- Vegetation planning conducted by Elders
- Research project identified to look at soils, drainage and migration of tails



Naybob TMA Timmins



Elders assessing the planning stages of the rehabilitation and re-vegetation of Naybob Tailings Management Area



Evidence of metal uptake in Poplar trees, identified by Elder

Academic Demonstration of TEK: Environmental Monitoring

- 5 PHD's from 3 universities collaborated with Elders to develop parameters for a model of environmental monitoring based on TEK and Science



Very high conductivity readings likely indicate high levels of arsenic and other mine leachates



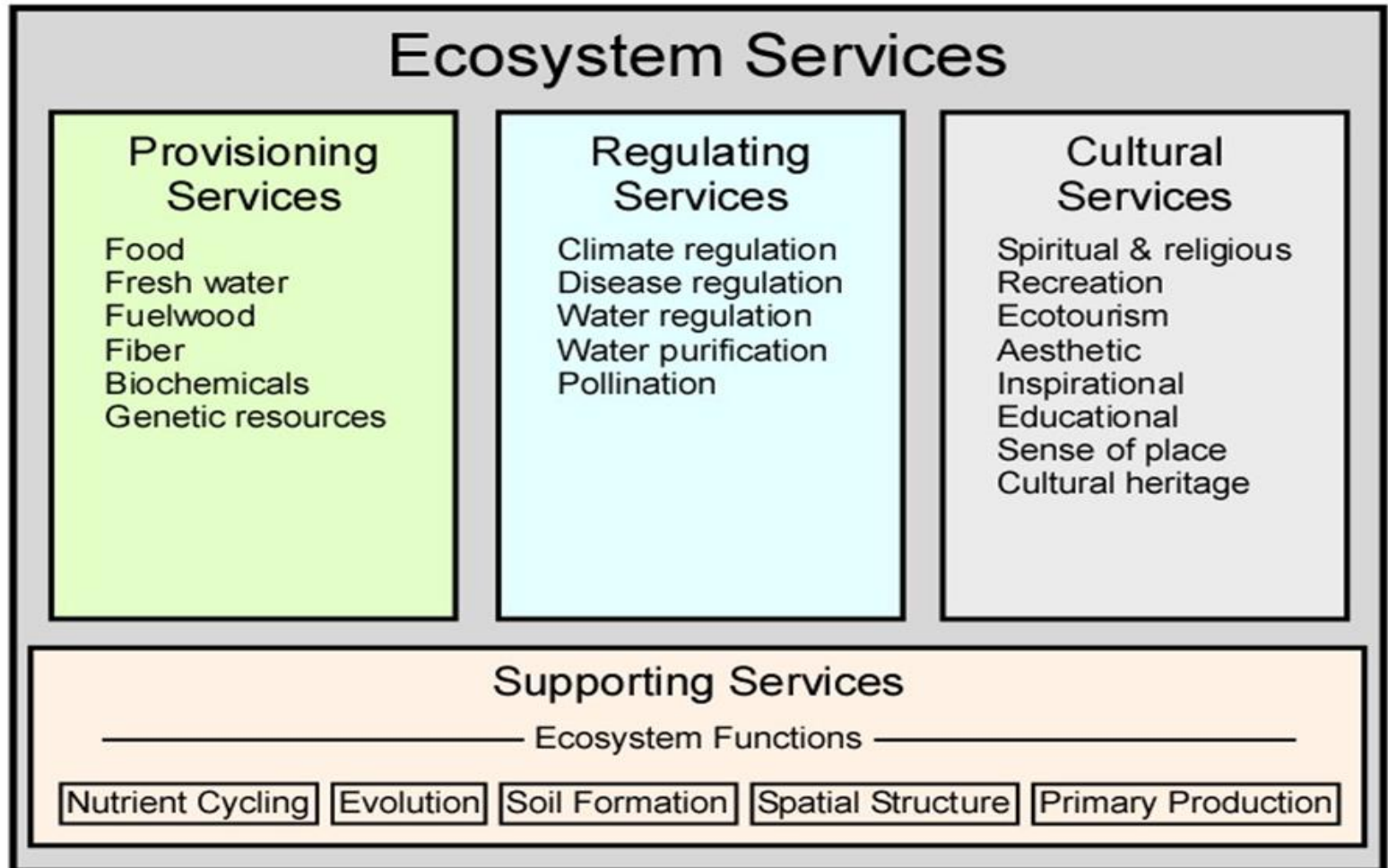
Ideal stand of willow growing in tailings material presents a risk for Traditional Practitioners and Herbalists

Community Demonstration of TEK: Whish ki yak it Project

- Youth from 3 First Nations in the Timmins area worked with Elders and Goldcorp scientists to be exposed to elements of both TEK and environmental sciences at the Coniaurum Reclamation Site



One way for TEK and Science to walk into the future together



Power Statement of the Knowledge Keepers who guide Eighth Fire Solutions:

Wenjonishgyeyaan—*recognizing where you come from, the awakening or coming into awareness.*

‘I woke up and realized I came from the Mother, Earth.’

Where we are from, where we are going.

“It’s pretty ironic that the so-called ‘least advanced’ people are the ones taking the lead in trying to protect all of us, while the richest and most powerful among us are the ones who are trying to drive the society to destruction.”



Noam Chomsky

Thank you – Miigwech

Let's talk!

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