

Indigenous-driven Infrastructure Development: Insights from Proponent First Nations on Road Development in the Ring of Fire Area

OAIA 2022 Conference

Toronto, ON

October 19, 2022

About Us

- Michael Fox, President, ICE
- Qasim Saddique, Principal, Suslop
- Jointly we represent road projects led by 2 First Nations in Northern Ontario

Third World Conditions

NEWSLETTER SIGNUP

ABOUT TRAILER FUNDERS TOUR OTHER FILMS

THIRD WORLD CANADA

THE FILM

[ORDER THE FILM](#)

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig (the people of the lake) is a remote Native community bound by reserve laws in the forgotten North of Ontario. This Nation dates back to 7,000 years where bones of their ancestors were discovered on the shores of Big Trout Lake.

Today this proud Nation is deeply impoverished in 3rd World conditions bound by Treaty laws signed, by their non-English speaking ancestors.

Set in the backdrop of the aftermath of the suicide of three parents, the documentary explores the impact of 3rd world conditions on the children left behind and a community's courage in looking after them.

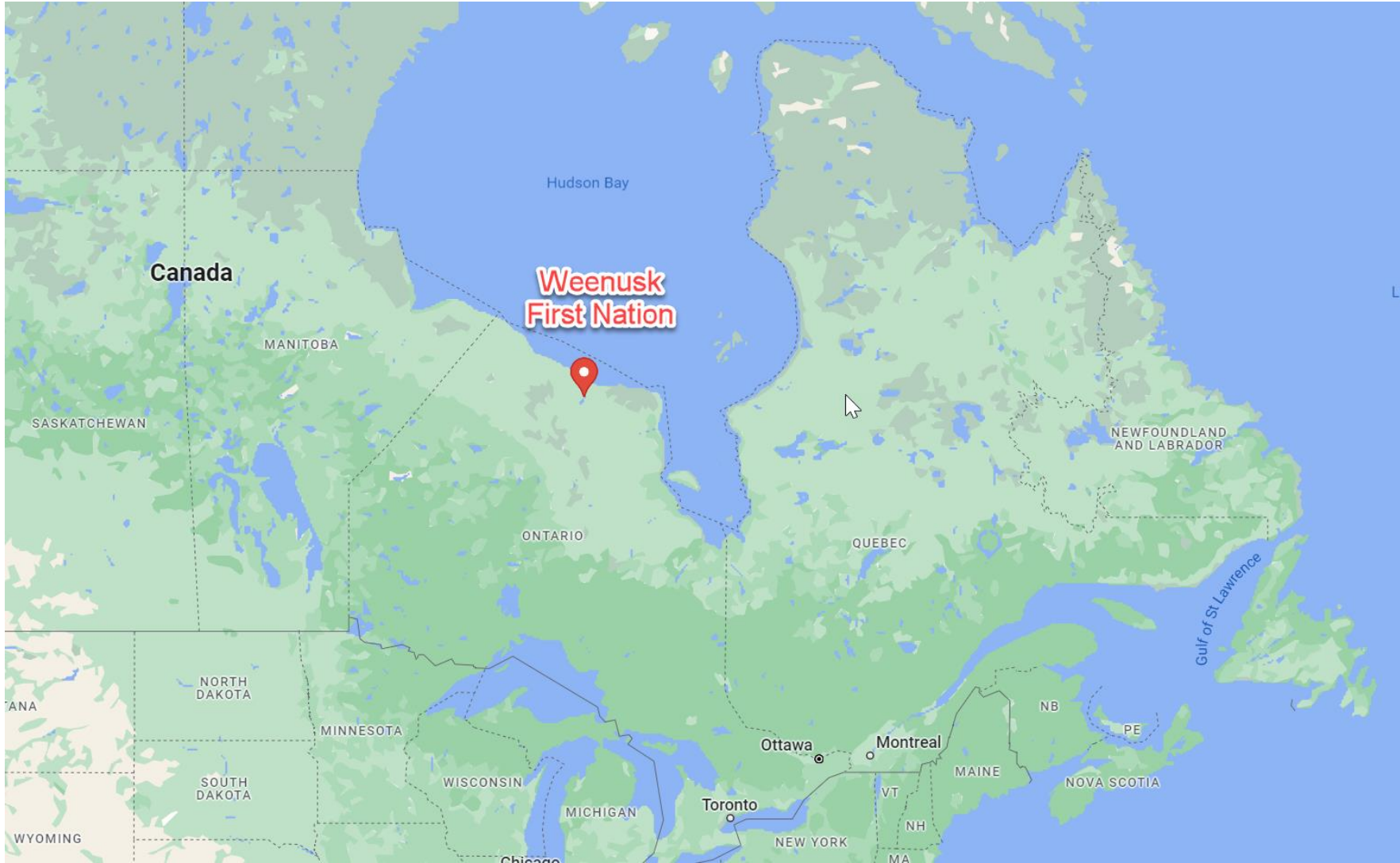


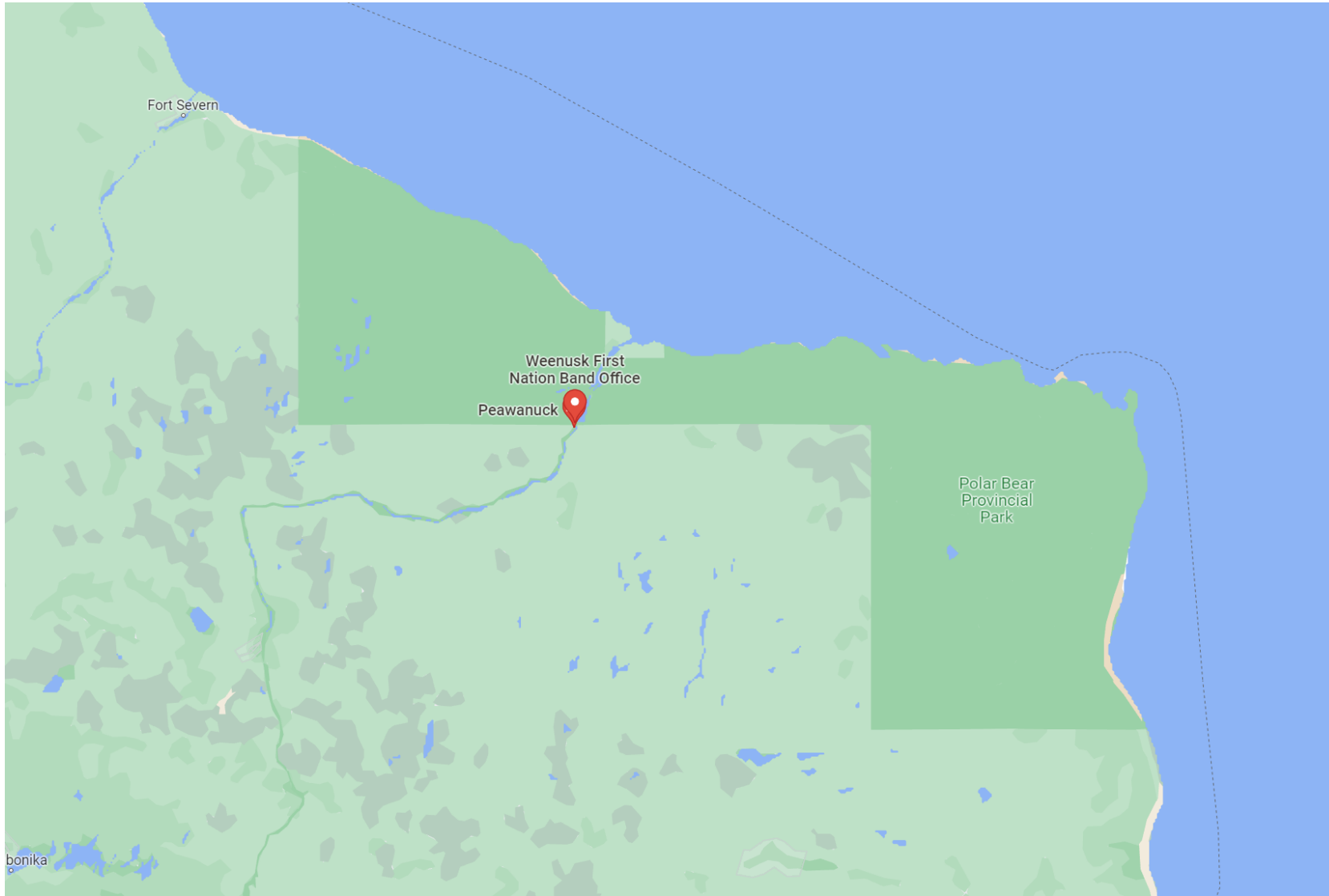
- About the Film
- The Filmmaker
- Photo Gallery
- Contact Us

Like 1,975 people like this. Sign Up to see what your friends like.

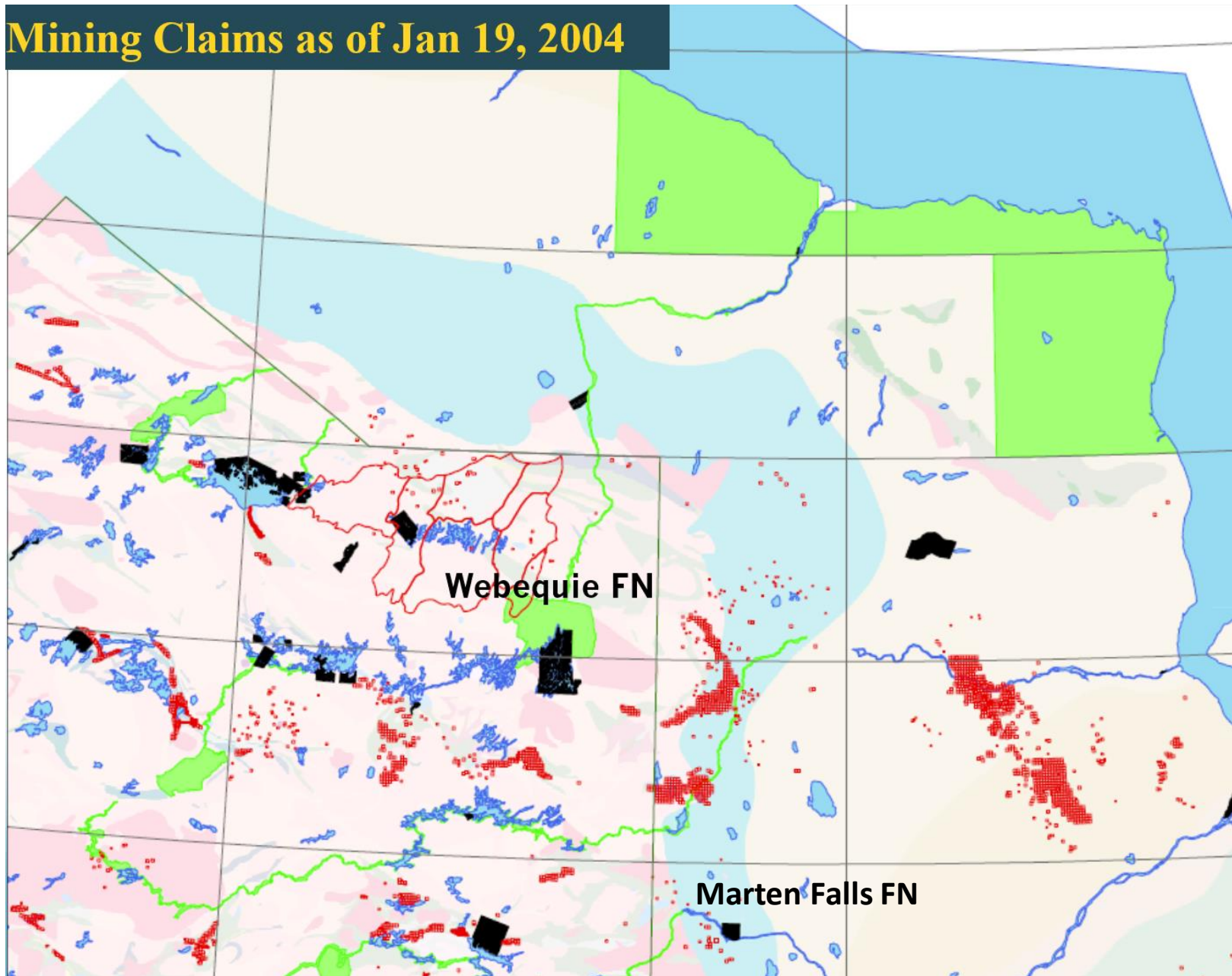


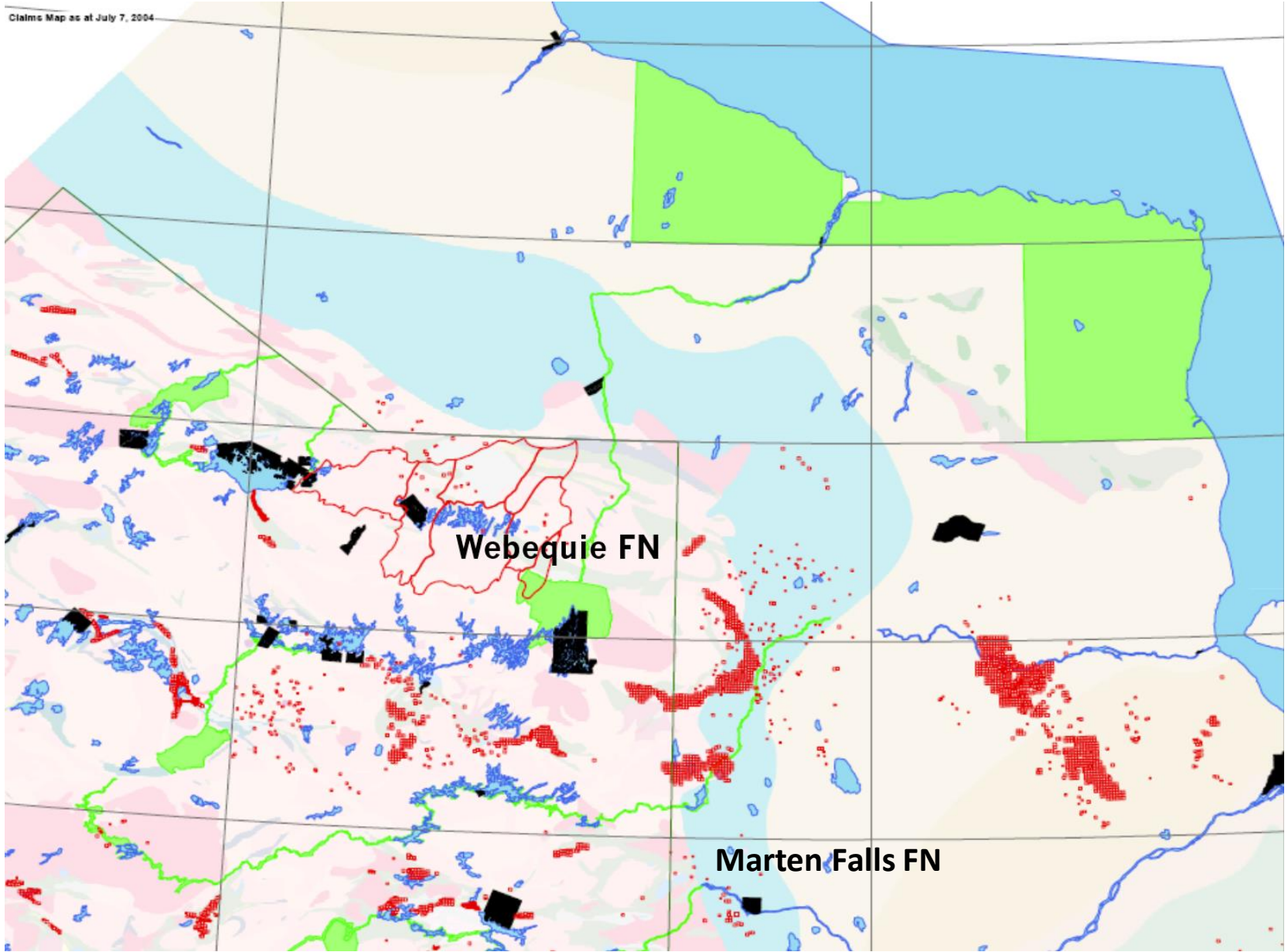




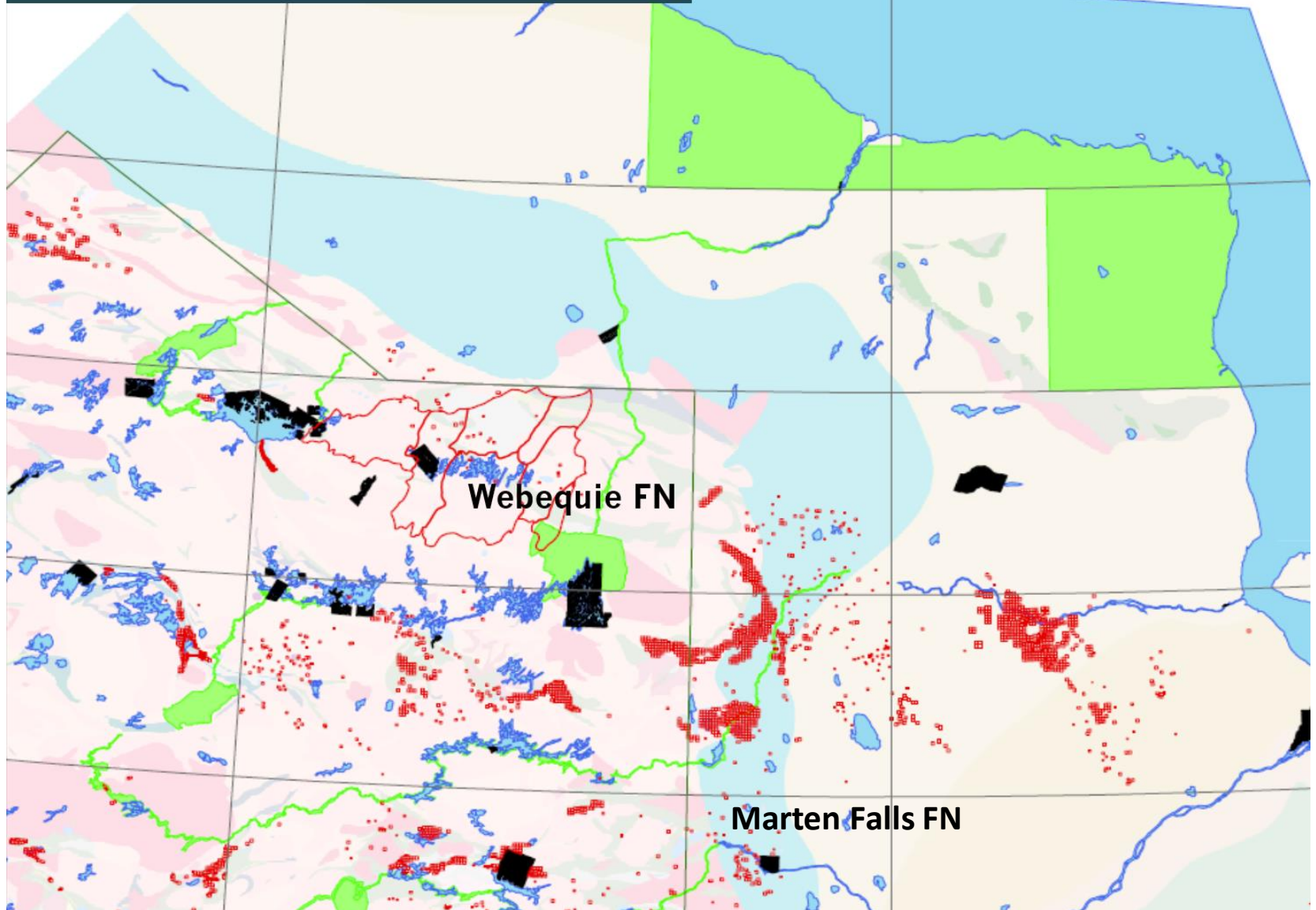


Mining Claims as of Jan 19, 2004

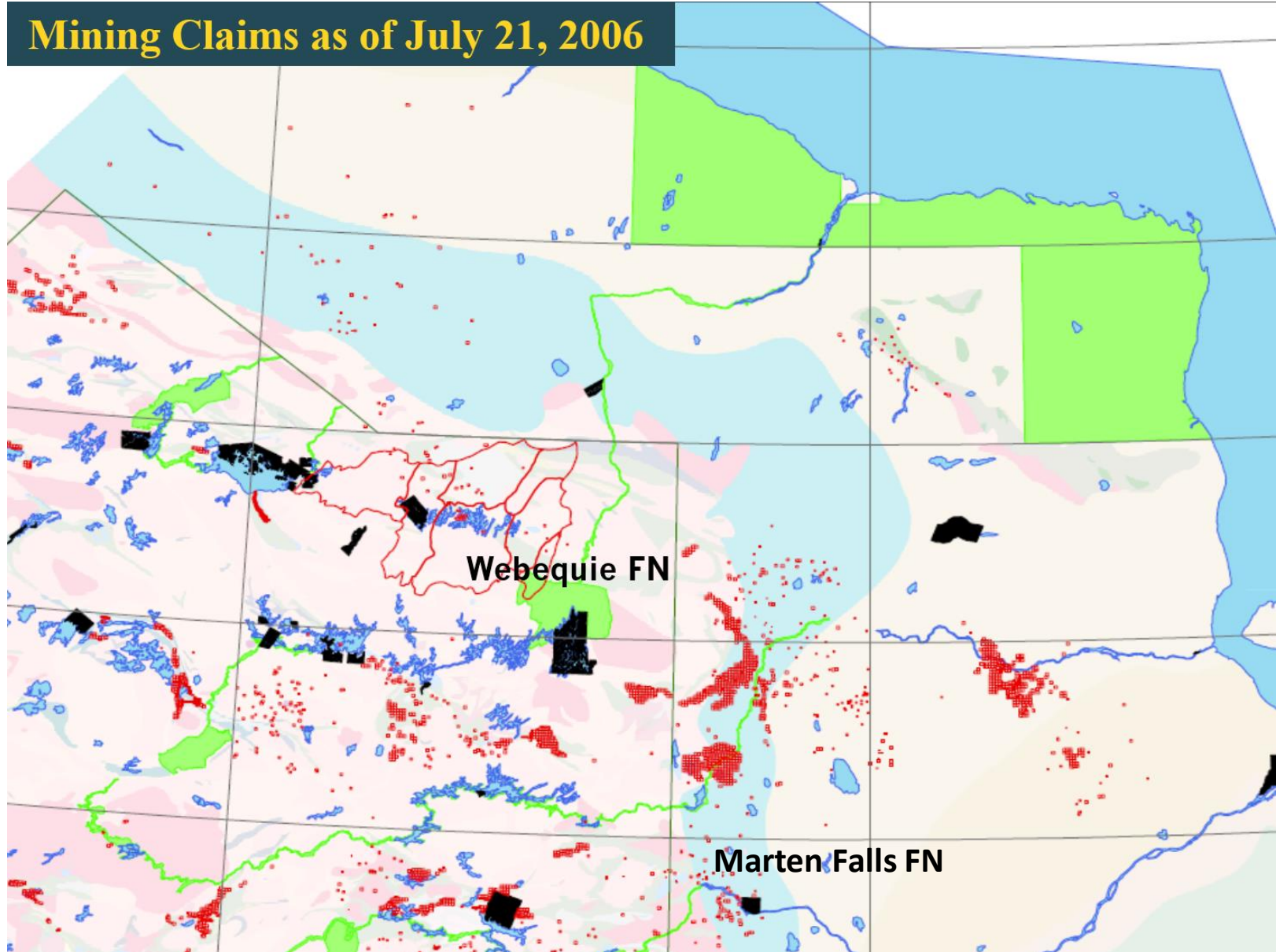




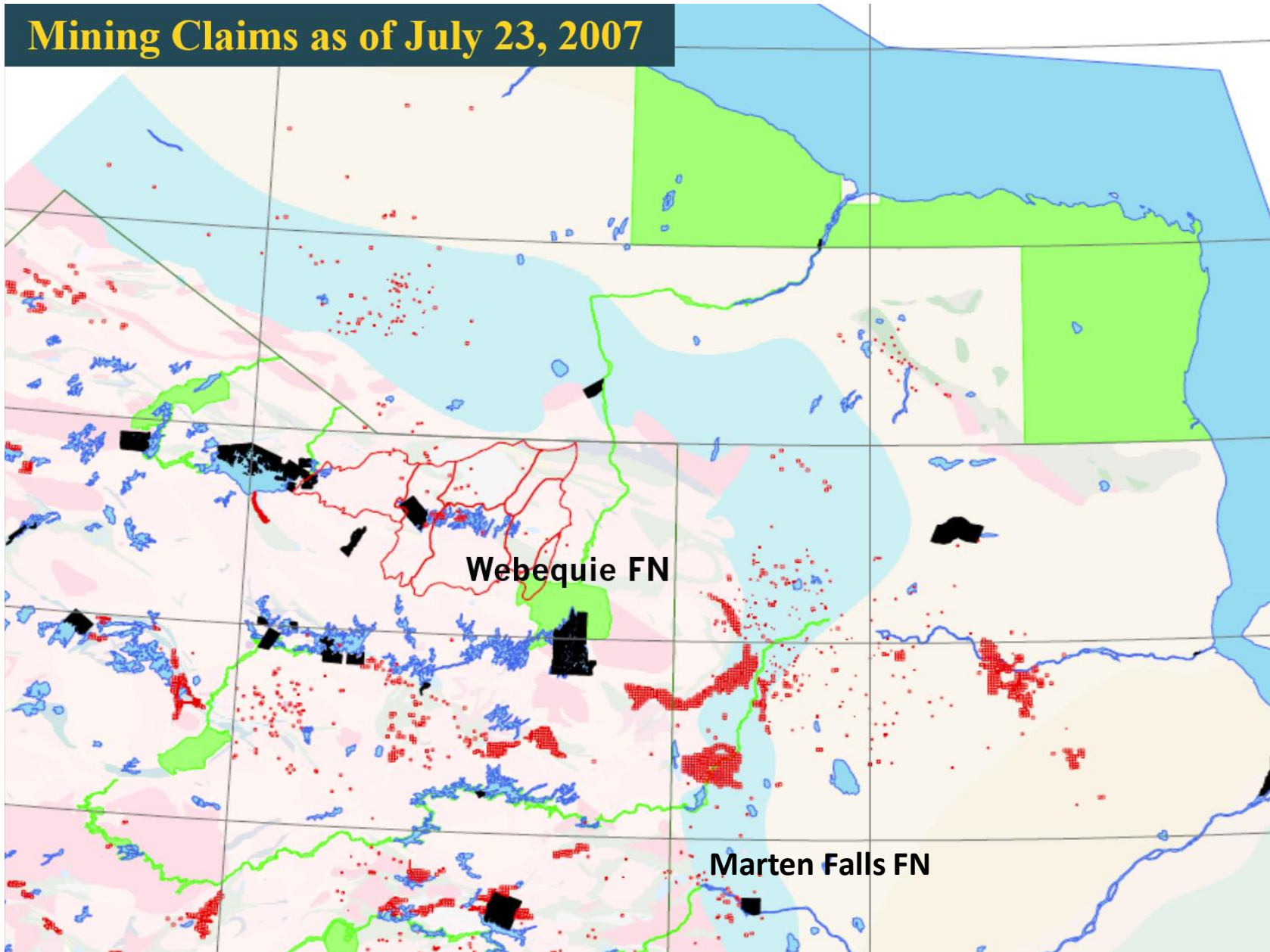
Mining Claims as of Dec 23, 2005



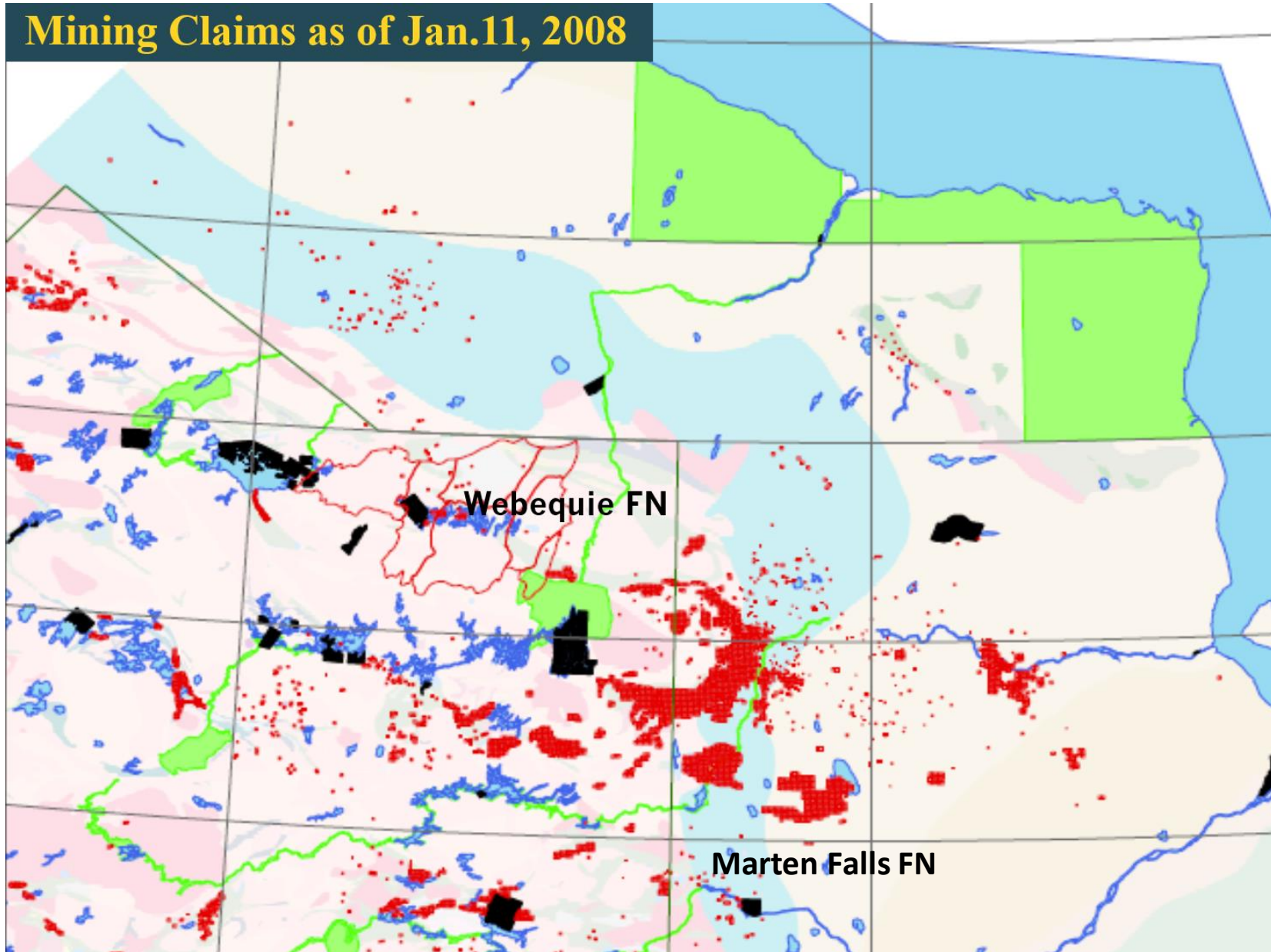
Mining Claims as of July 21, 2006



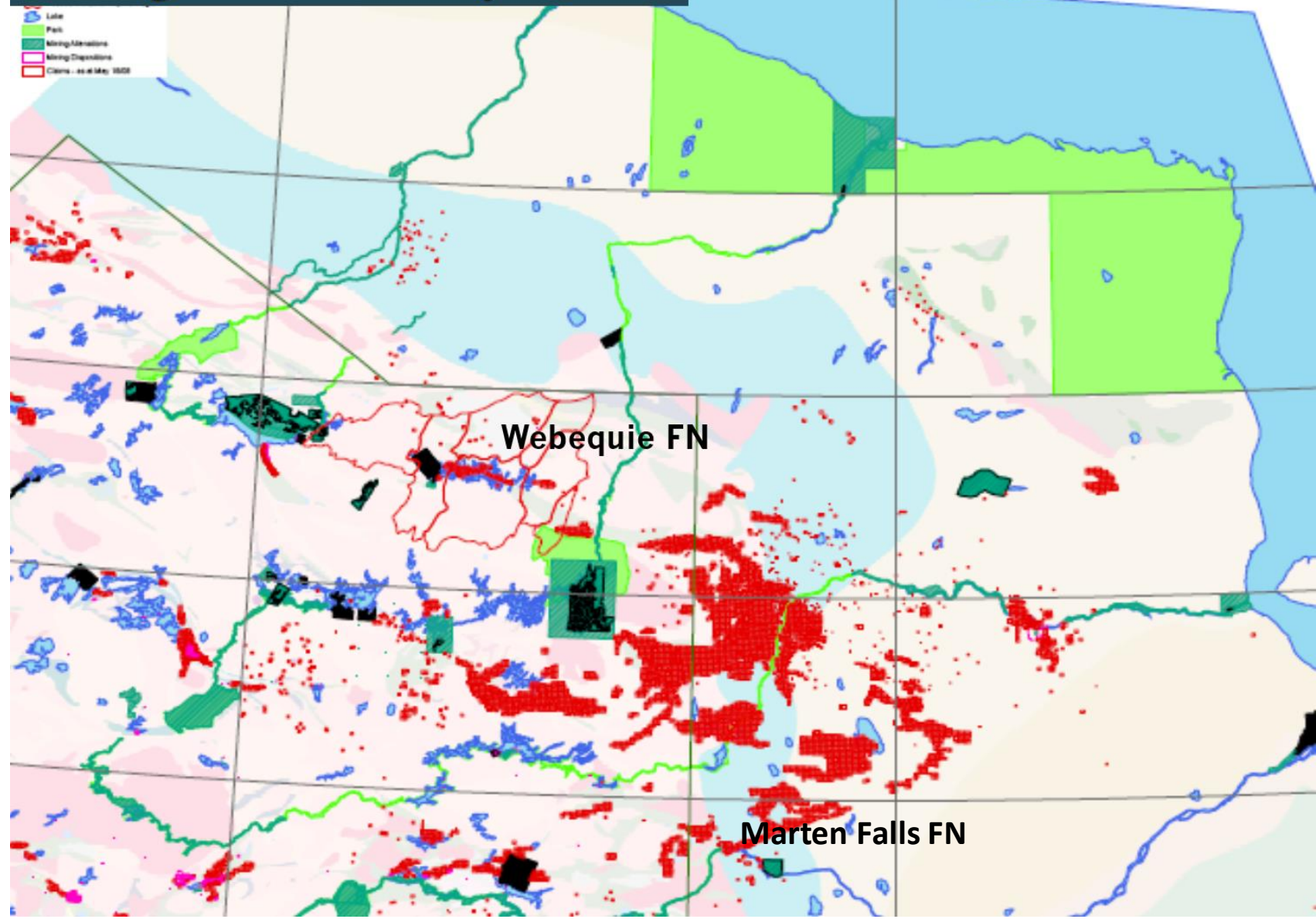
Mining Claims as of July 23, 2007



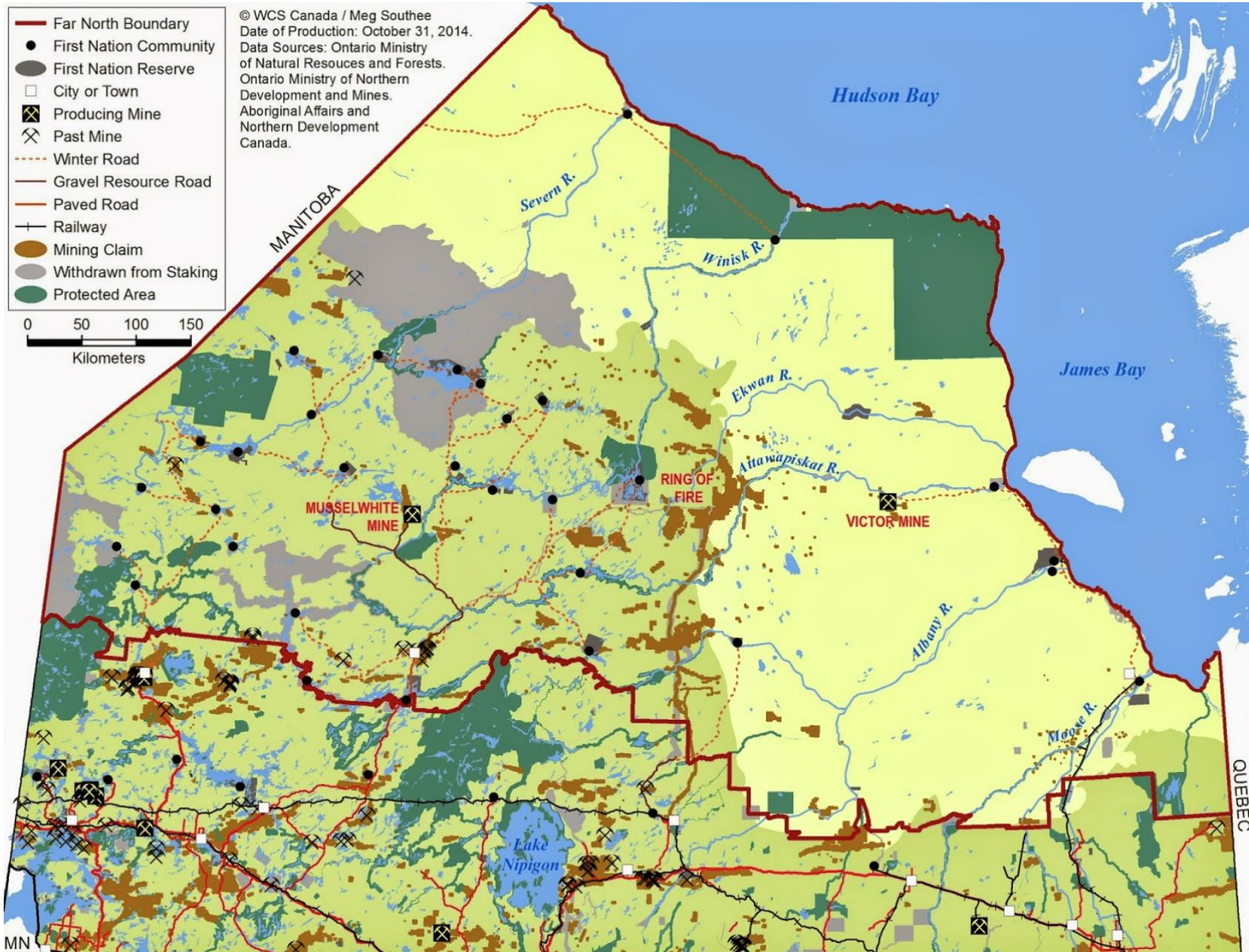
Mining Claims as of Jan.11, 2008



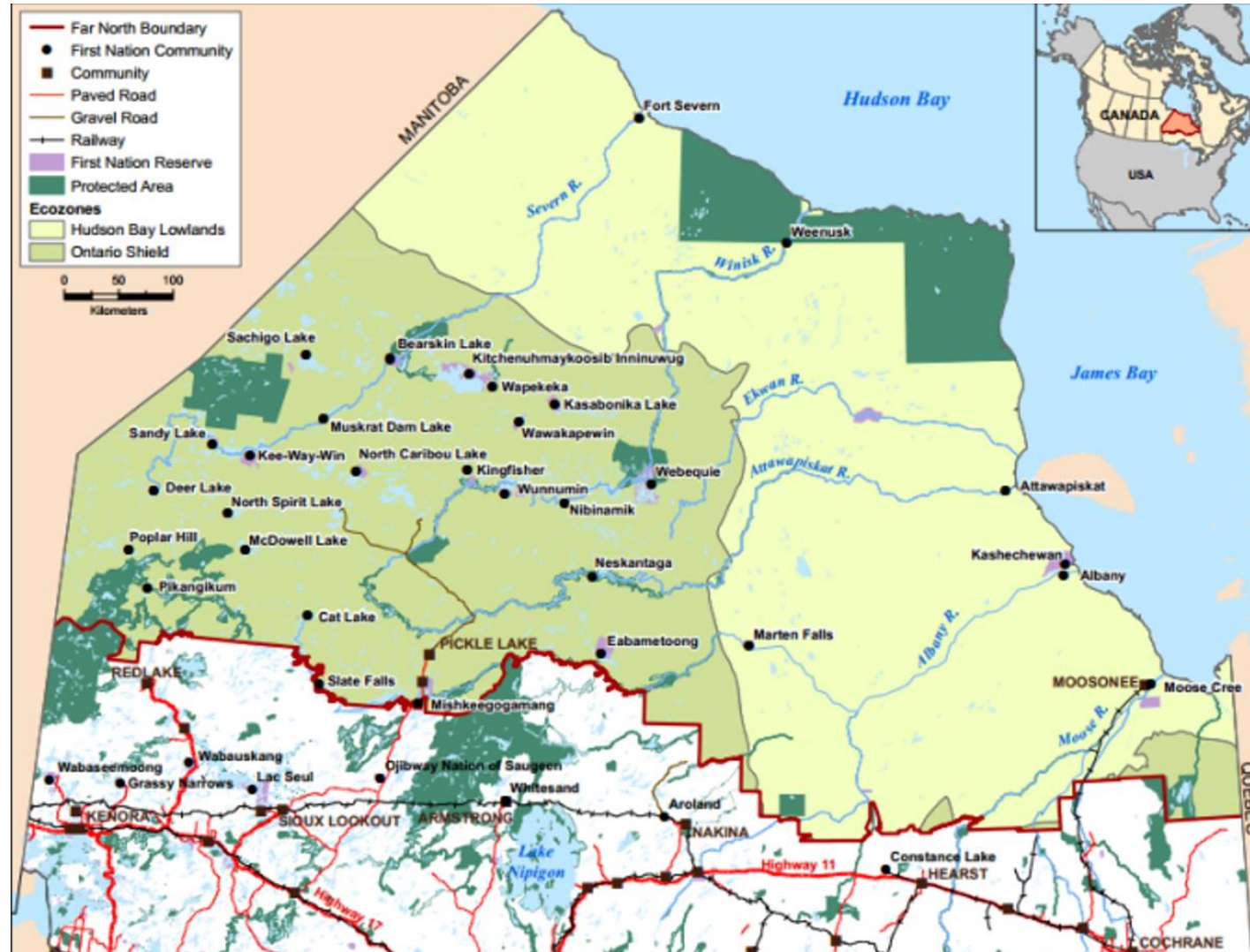
Mining Claims as of May 16, 2008



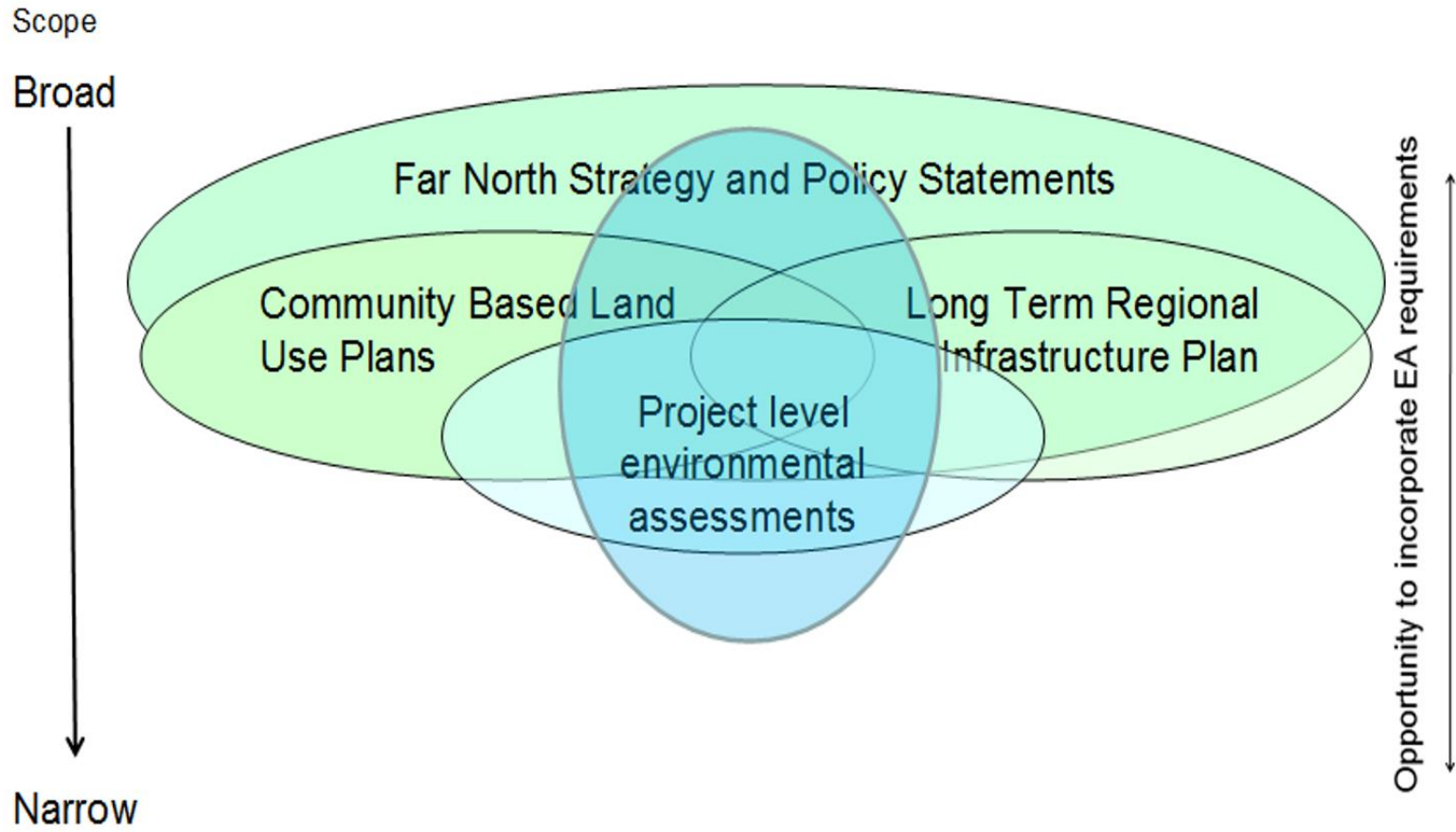




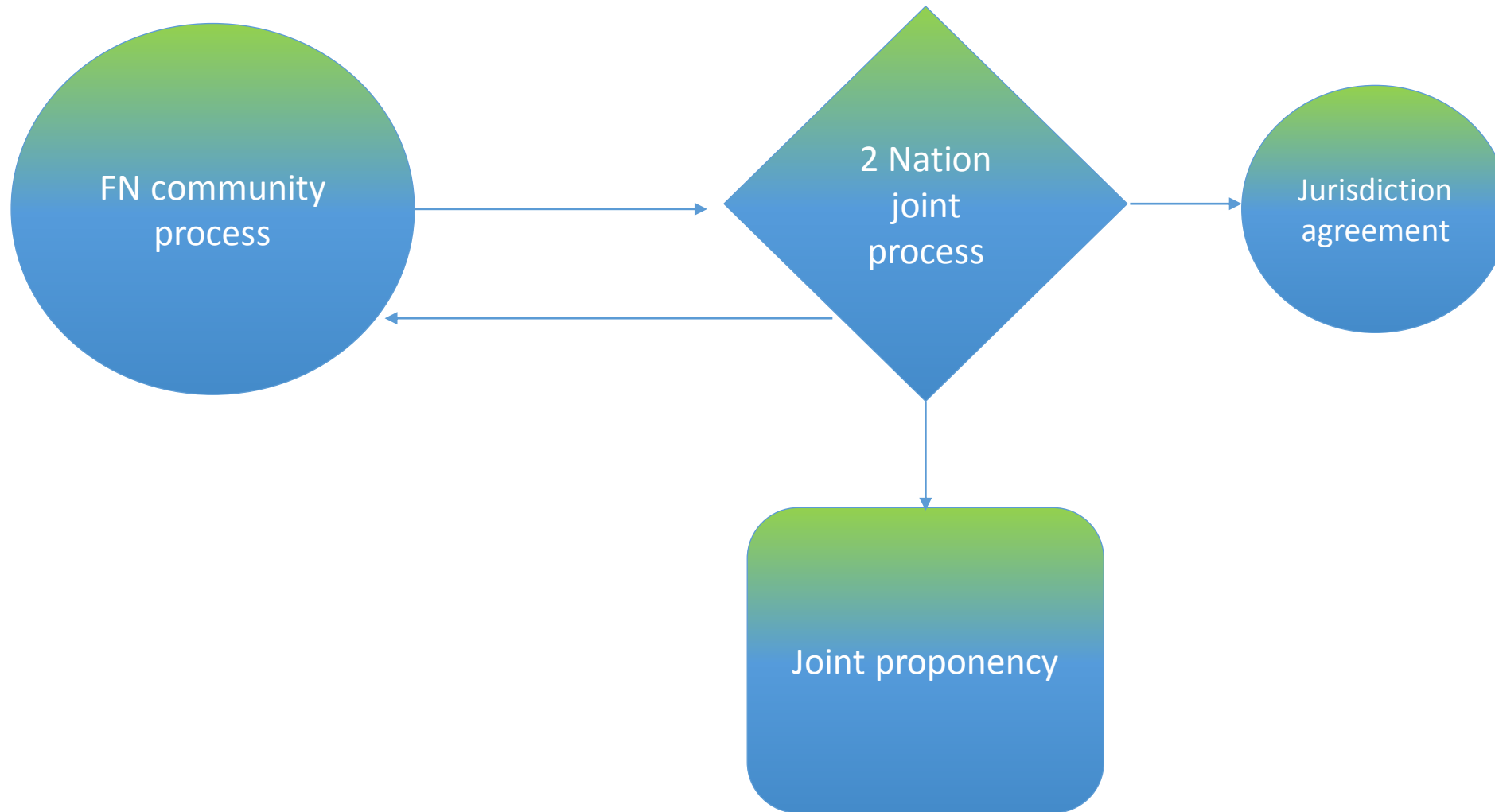
Ontario's Far North Act



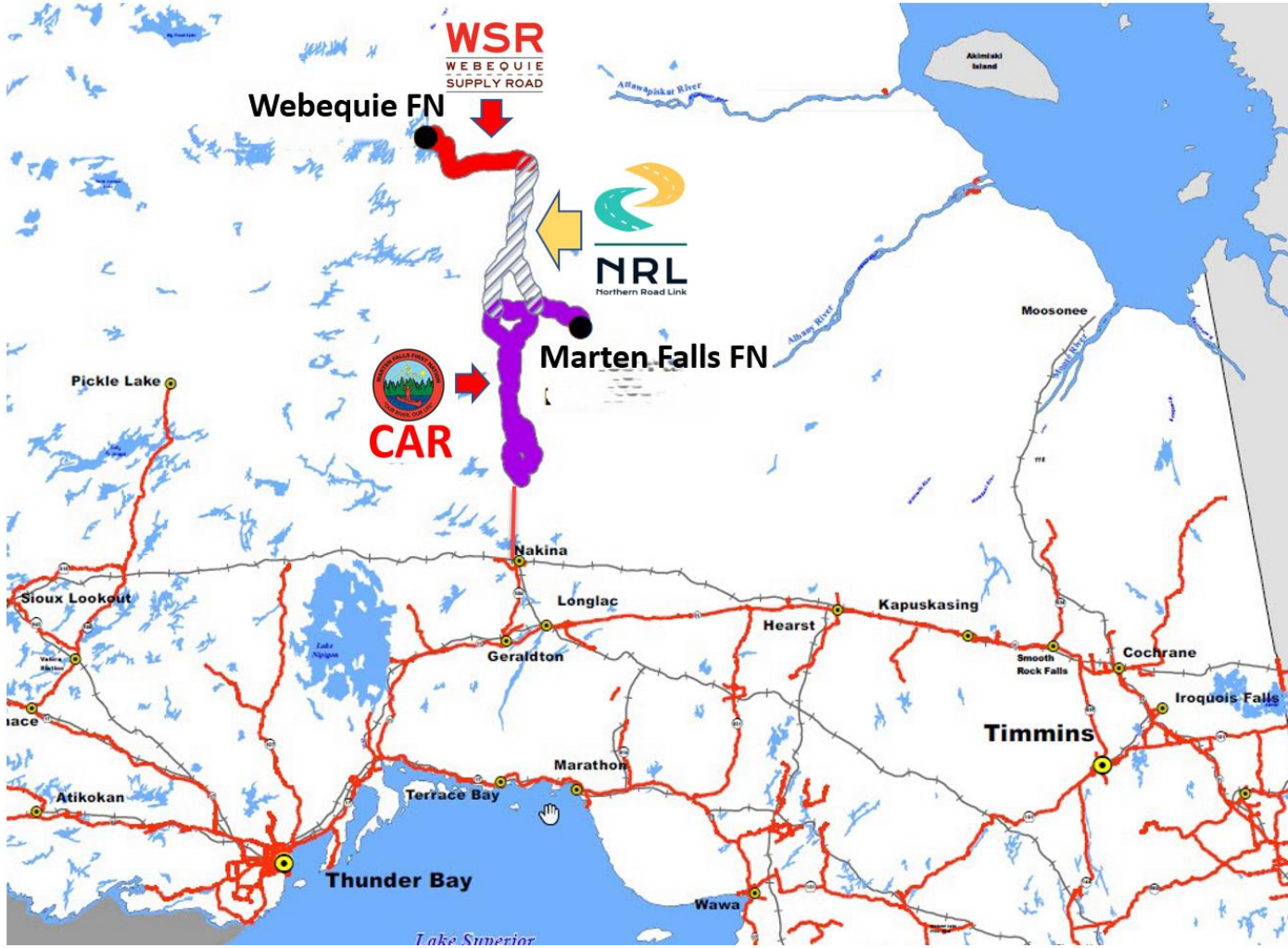
Inter-Relationship of Planning and EA Components



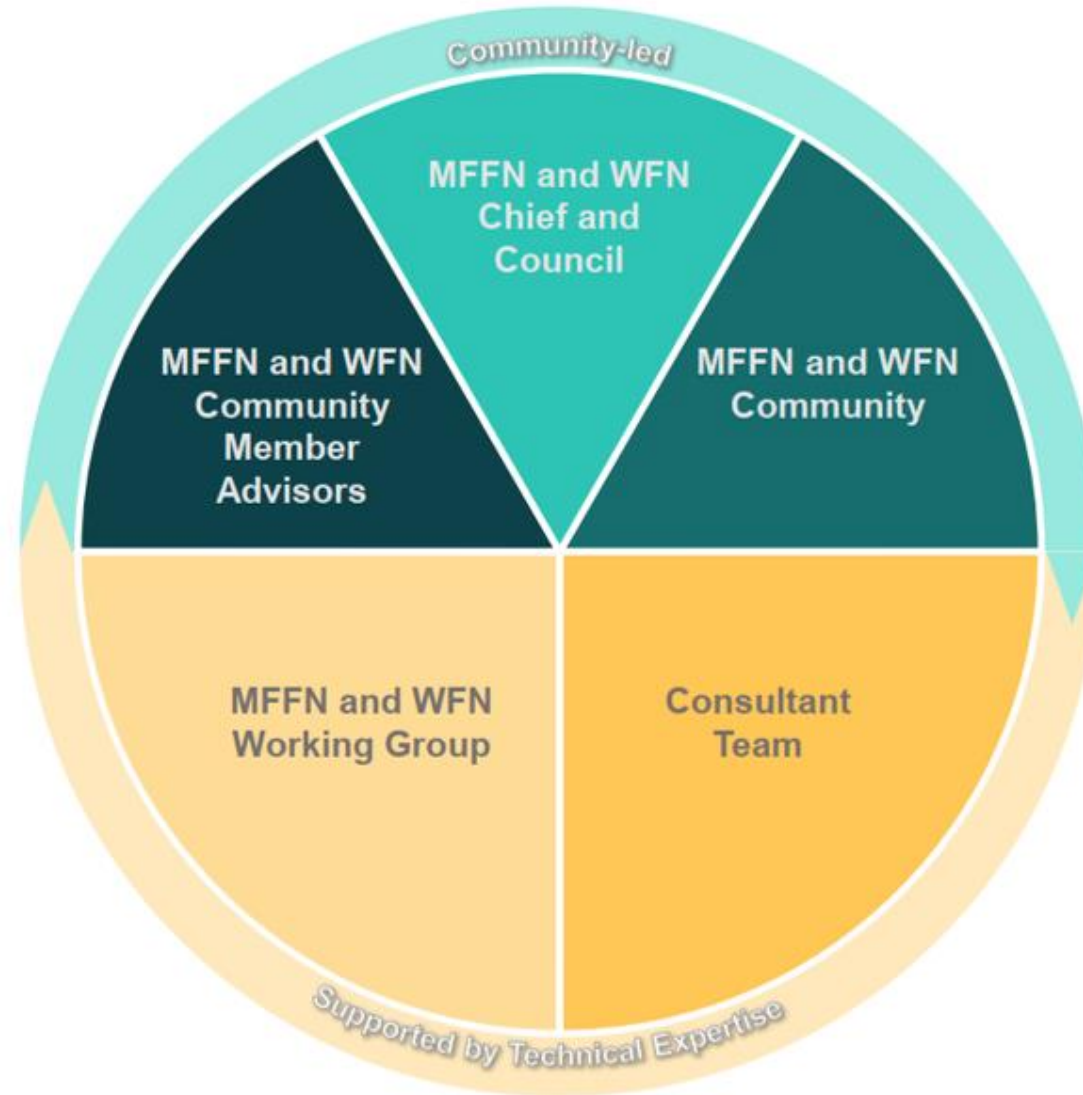
Transition to Being a Proponent



The Projects



Structure



Broad Consultation Requirements



Indigenous Communities including:

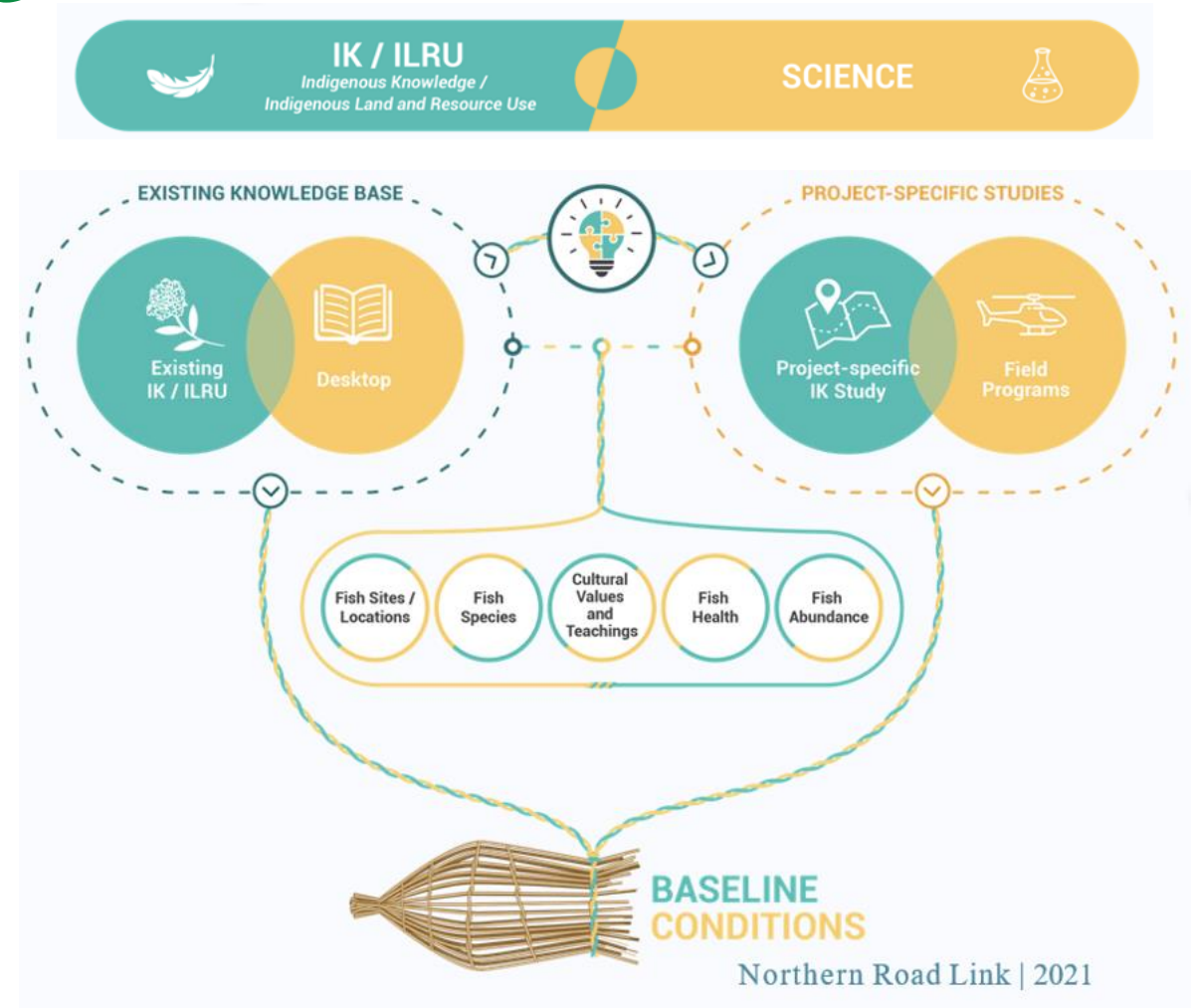
Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek	Long Lake #58 First Nation
Aroland First Nation	Marten Falls First Nation
Attawapiskat First Nation	Métis Nation of Ontario – Region 2
Constance Lake First Nation	Neskantaga First Nation
Eabametoong First Nation	Nibinamik First Nation
Fort Albany First Nation	Red Sky Independent Métis Nation
Ginoogaming First Nation	Wapekeka First Nation
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	Wawakapewin First Nation
Kashechewan First Nation	Weenusk (Peawanuck) First Nation
Kingfisher Lake First Nation	Webequie First Nation
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug	Wunnumin First Nation

Tribal Councils & Provincial Territorial Organizations (PTOs)

Indigenous Knowledge

Purpose: to collect information on traditional land use areas, sacred sites and other cultural important locations in the Study Area for both historic and current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes.

Indigenous Knowledge will be considered in all aspects of the Project.



Capacity Opportunities

Sharing and Use of Indigenous Knowledge

- ❖ Communities have existing IK studies they would be willing to share with permission and information sharing agreements in place;
- ❖ Communities undertake an IK study with their own consultant(s) with support of capacity funding; and
- ❖ Communities would like the support of the NRL Project team and those with relevant expertise affiliated with the Project to prepare and carry out an IK study with and for them.



Community Consultation Coordinators

- ❖ Community consultation coordinators may be identified for consultation and Indigenous knowledge.



Field studies

- ❖ Adequate Socio-cultural studies will be done in all communities.
- ❖ Community specific species study such as Fish and Caribou would be conducted.

Stakeholder Engagement and Misinformation

- Historic information and messaging from past mining companies on a private road and the use by large mining trucks
- This was no longer a part of the project
- At the start of the project we received the same criticism that existed in the past for mining projects
- Attempts made by stakeholders to show that the road projects led by the 2 communities were the same as the project scoped by the mining company, which included large open pit mines
- Lack of reception to the idea that the roads have limited environmental impact and there are no plans for open pit mining in the Ring of Fire
- Significant concerns in Marten Falls and Webequie around this

Joint Fact-Finding

- Significant concerns also existed in Marten Falls and Webequie around open pit mining and road development
- Active engagement by the communities provided answers to questions
- More accurate information is available and that has created strong grass-roots support for the road projects
- Main comment at the community level now is that “why is it taking so long to build the projects?”

Takeaways

- This is about economic reconciliation
- 2 First Nations are proponents of roads to the Ring of Fire
- Being a proponent is hard work but its possible
- Just because you are a First Nation proponent does not mean you don't need to consult with the nations
- Other First Nations may not support the project, and some may even oppose it (and that is okay)
- Just because you are a proponent does not mean that all past challenges and prejudice are gone... they linger and persist... some will continue to question if you really are a proponent

Meegwetch!

Michael Fox
(807) 472-6147
michael.fox@indigenousengagement.ca

Qasim Saddique
(416) 830-6544
qsaddique@Suslop.com