Odonaterra
Community Environmental Strategies

MUSHKEGOWUK COUNCIL

Innovative Approaches to Building Impact Assessment Capacity

Ontario Association for Impact Assessment
October 23 - 24, 2024
Toronto, ON

Presenters:
Alana Graham & Caroline Coburn

Introductions

Impact Assessment & Capacity Building

Community Context

Mushkegowuk Council represents the interests of the Cree communities in the James Bay Lowlands. The Lands and Resource Department focuses on capacity building amidst numerous development proposals. Culturally safe approaches are essential for empowering remote communities to navigate these challenges effectively.

John Reuben, Moosonee, Ontario

Background photo taken from: https://www.worldatlas.com/bays/james-bay.html

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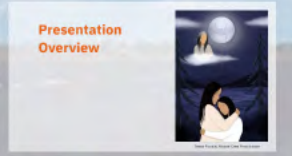

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Managing Director, Odonaterra

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Presentation Overview

- Community context
- Challenges and strategies in building impact assessment capacity within Omushkego communities

Tessa Pizzale, Moose Cree First Nation

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Tribal Council representing 7 First Nations in the Weeneebeg Lowlands:

- Attawapiskat First Nation
- Chapleau Cree First Nation
- Fort Albany First Nation
- Kashechewan Cree First Nation
- Missanabie Cree First Nation
- Moose Cree First Nation
- Taykwa Tagamou Nation

Robin Kioke, Attawapiskat First Nation

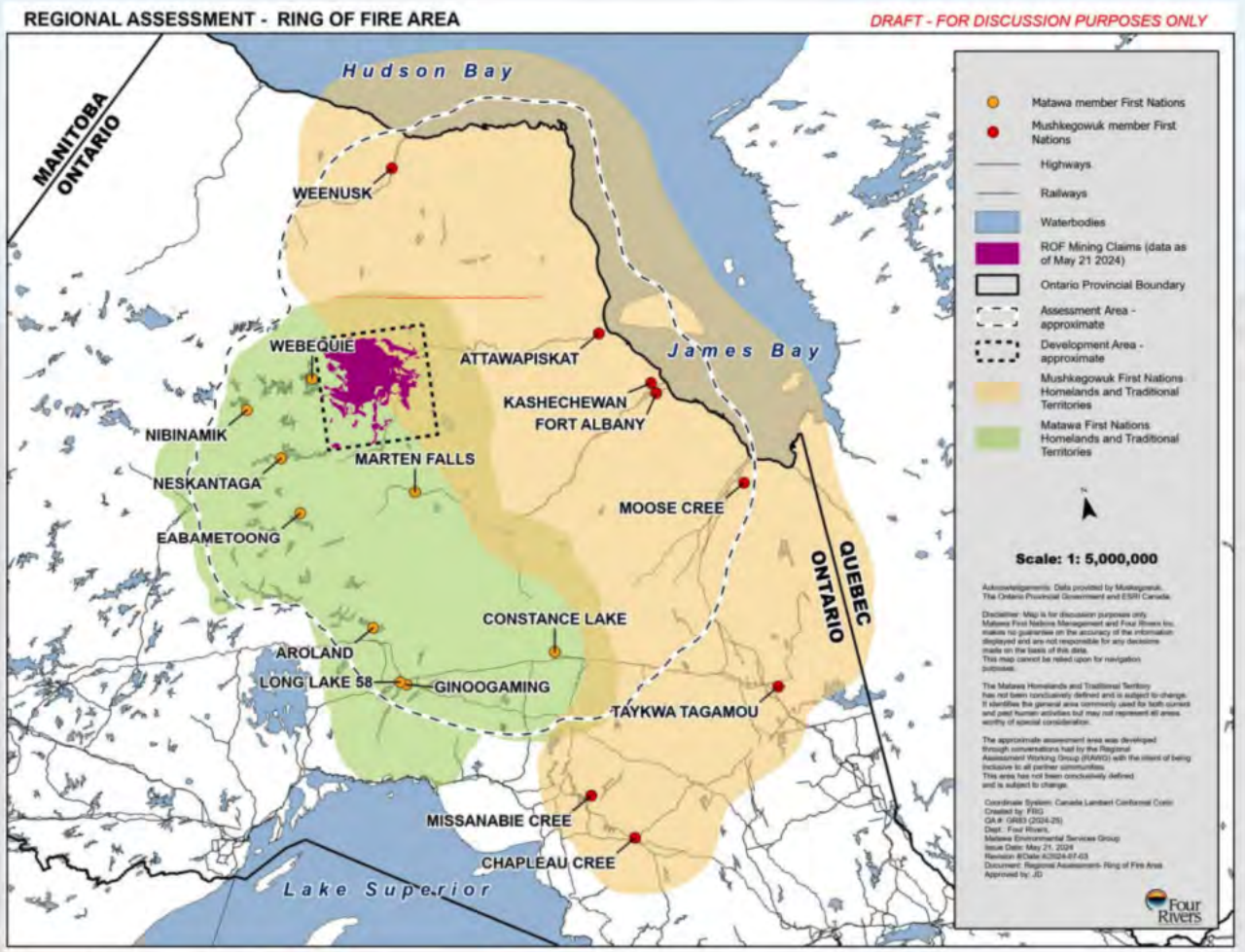
Mushkegowuk Is supporting impact assessment capacity building for the member communities - at the request of the communities.

Weeneebeg (James Bay) Lowlands

- Home to Cree communities
- Area is vital for Indigenous culture and identity
- Subject to resource development
- Need for sustainable development that respects traditional land use and shared decision-making.

Challenge of Participating in Multiple Development Proposals

- **Risk:** Mushkegowuk lands, sovereignty, and way of life
- **Need:** Collaborative effort to ensure that Indigenous rights are prioritized and respected in decision-making processes



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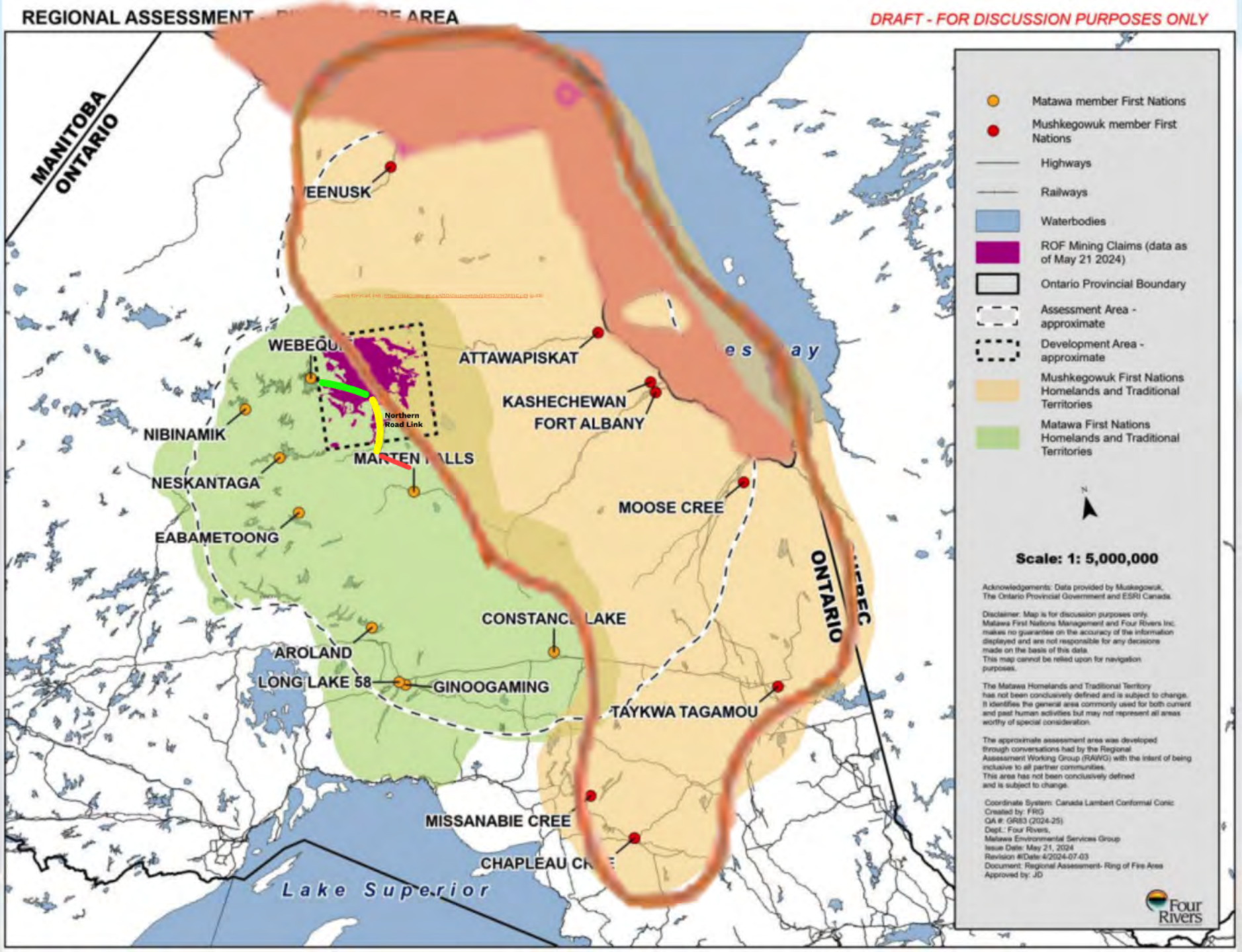
REGIONAL ASSESSMENT
DRAFT - FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY
MANITOBA
ONTARIO
WEENUSK
WEBEQUIE
ATTAWAPISKAT
KASHECHEWAN
FORT ALBANY
Northern Road Link
NIBINAMIK
MARTEN FALLS
NESKANTAGA
MOOSE CREE
EABAMETOONG
ONTARIO
CONSTANCE LAKE
AROLAND
LONG LAKE 58
GINOOGAMING
TAYKWA TAGAMOU
MISSANABIE CREE
CHAPLEAU CREE
Lake Superior
Matawa member First Nations
Mushkegowuk member First Nations
Highways
Railways
Waterbodies
ROF Mining Claims (data as of May 21 2024)
Ontario Provincial Boundary
Assessment Area - approximate
Development Area - approximate
Mushkegowuk First Nations Homelands and Traditional Territories
Matawa First Nations Homelands and Traditional Territories
N
Scale: 1: 5,000,000
Acknowledgements: Data provided by Muskegowuk, The Ontario Provincial Government and ESRI Canada.
Disclaimer: Map is for discussion purposes only. Matawa First Nations Management and Four Rivers Inc. makes no guarantee on the accuracy of the information displayed and are not responsible for any decisions made on the basis of this data. This map cannot be relied upon for navigation purposes.
The Matawa Homelands and Traditional Territory has not been conclusively defined and is subject to change. It identifies the general area commonly used for both current and past human activities but may not represent all areas worthy of special consideration.
The approximate assessment area was developed through conversations had by the Regional Assessment Working Group (RAWG) with the intent of being inclusive to all partner communities. This area has not been conclusively defined and is subject to change.
Coordinate System: Canada Lambert Conformal Conic
Created by: FRG
QA #: GR83 (2024-25)
Dept.: Four Rivers, Matawa Environmental Services Group
Issue Date: May 21, 2024
Revision #/Date 4/2024-07-03
Document: Regional Assessment- Ring of Fire Area
Approved by: JD
Four Rivers

Culturally Safe Capacity Building

Need: Culturally appropriate frameworks that honor Indigenous practices

Method: Effective training and knowledge-sharing to empower communities in managing development proposals and impact assessment processes, ensuring their voices are heard.

Tessa Pizzale, Moose Cree First Nation

Impact Assessment & Capacity Building

Funding

- **What:** Indigenous Capacity Support Program (ICSP) funding
- **Who:** Indigenous Services Canada
- **Purpose:** increase capacity over a 5-year period

Work Plan Co-development

Process:

- Co-developed by Mushkehowuk Council, Odonaterra, key community knowledge holders and external advisors

Key principles:

- Co-delivered by communities
- Communities choose what they need
- Accessible in-community, where members are living / gathering
- Culturally grounded (language, art)
- Use of existing resources.

Key Elements

- Experts / Advisory Groups (Community and external)
- IA Toolkit and Certification Program
- Using art to share concepts
- Website / GeoHUB repository

Patrick Cheechoo, Constance Lake First Nation

IA Toolkit & Certification Program

- Created by Experts & Advisory Groups
- Builds on existing resources - contextualized to Omushkego communities
- Training delivered virtually and in-person
- Certification/recognition after completing training

Omushkego Art

- Artists as stewards of culture and lands
- Oshichikesiwuk Nanipek - Omushkego Artist Collective ‘those who create along the waters of the coast’
- Future collaboration to create and implement activities in ICSP work plan
- Galen Boulanger, with Oshichikesiwuk Nanipek and the University of Ottawa, examines best practices for Indigenous arts and environmental governance collaboration and co-creation, with a focus on Impact Assessment.

https://nanipek.ca/

Oshichikesiwuk Nanipek

'Future of Lands'
Gerry McComb, Moose Cree First Nation (paintings)
Micheline Hunter, Weenusk First Nation (Caribou hide canvas),
and James Kooses, Kashechewan First Nation (Geese carving)

HUB / Website Development

Function:

- Central resource for information exchange and community access
- Supports ongoing learning and collaboration among community members and external stakeholders

May include:

- Training resources for certification program
- A roster of certified community individuals (to create knowledge network)

Video (Regional Assessment)

Mushkegowuk Website

Robin Kioke, Attawapiskat First Nation

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