

# SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT NOFNEC - 2014

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## ***ECONOMIC / ENVIRONMENTAL JURISDICTION ADVANCING FIRST NATIONS INTEREST***

DATE: Thursday, 2 October, 2014

PRESENTED BY: Chief Isadore Day, *Wiindawtegowinini*



# OVERVIEW

- Since Time Immemorial
- Treaties = Economies
- Indian Policy
- Reconciliation
- Correcting the Ledger
- Sustainability and FN Jurisdiction

# Serpent River First Nation Sustainable Development

Much work has been done in regards to sustainable development within the region. Primarily, in relationship building, SRFN has engaged the start of many regional efforts that are vital to regional success. Some factors that have been discussed are to identify our watershed, headlands, and broader that the Treaty/Crown Territory needs a new perspective in planning; one that focuses on Sustainability.

Inherently, Serpent River First Nation people have always had a direct connection to the land – a vital reality **:without the land, we would not survive.** We have always been advised that the most important aspect of our rights – was our responsibilities and obligations as freely given by the Creator. “Responsibility,” our ability to respond and uphold “Rights” is KEY.

# SRFN and Sustainable Development

*An effort to advance Development in a way that does not create irreparable harm and impact on the environment, rather seeks to maintain or improve on community, ecology and consequence of a triple bottom line approach: **Land People Prosperity***

*The land can survive without us, but we would perish without the land.*

# Serpent River First Nation's Story

- Our People have always had a direct relationship with Creation. Our Legends speak about the Land, Water, Fire, Sky and all living things given by the Creator. We always knew that we must be ready to take Our Responsibilities as caretakers and stewards of the Land. Mining, deforestation and ill-fated plans for development would provide a calling for SRFN to advance its values and beliefs into action plans – development should never again happen without first assessing what it is the Creator had provided us; our gift and sense of ‘inherent obligation’ - Children, teachings, land, responsibility and rights – toward one another. Our efforts toward Economic Development were realigned 1990's – SRFN Vision/Mission: to ensure that Community and Environment were paramount. Our Policy toward Sustainable Development includes the recognition of First Nation Jurisdiction and the establishment of the Environmental Review Commission, based on: *Anishinabe Aakii Genaabaajing Chi Nokini Gewin*.

# The Environmental Review Panel

- ❖ To review and assess selected economic development projects proposed for SRFN and lands within SRFN's traditional territory.
- ❖ To provide a mechanism for objective scientific review (through completion of harmonized Environmental Assessments (EA's)) of a variety of lands and economic development activities being proposed on reserve and traditional lands.
- ❖ To advise Chief and Council, and the SRFN EDC on lands and resources proposals, and to provide recommendations for mitigation, consultation and accommodation of issues and concerns.
- ❖ Where SRFN EDC or SRFN community members are project proponents, to ensure adequate consultation with community members and neighbouring communities.
- ❖ Where SRFN is in an active consultation with a Provincial or Federal government body, to provide recommendations to Chief and Council on the project by conducting an Environmental Review Panel screening, and to assist on enhancing community understanding of the project through whatever consultation and communication strategies are developed for that particular project
- ❖ Establish an Enhanced EA with harmonization with other jurisdictions.

# CEOP – COMMUNITY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FUND:

## *Sustainable Development*

- FUNDING APPROVED FOR SRFNEDC CORPORATE GOVERNANCE TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING
- MARCH 8, 2013 APPROVAL
  - ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW
  - DEVELOP SRFN EDC GOVERNANCE AND POLICY MANUAL
  - REVIEW BY-LAWS AND MOU WITH SRFN - Nationhood
  - BOARD GOVERNANCE TRAINING – BoD – C&C
  - DEVELOP (7) DISCUSSION PAPERS – *Land People Prosperity*
  - UPDATE SRFNEDC MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
  - UPDATE EDC BUSINESS PLAN – CSD/ ERP: SUSTAINABILITY
  - ADVANCING ECONOMIC JURISDICTION

# Since Time Immemorial

- We were all born with “Personal Sovereignty”
- Responsibilities and Rights - Nationhood
- Prophecy and Legends – Discerning our Path
- *Land; People; Prosperity* – The Creators Gifts
- We always had relationship: ***Working Together***

# Treaties = Economies

- They Came they Conquered “NO” Treaty was made!
- 1763: British Declared the means / methods of Treaty.
- 1764: Unrest, Understanding, Underscoring Promises
- Covenant Chain – Ultimately it was about Economy
- Nationhood & Sovereignty: Canada's Future secured?

# Indian Policy

- Wait: what about the Indians? Reserves / INDIAN ACT
- 1764; 1836; 1850; 1862 – (Under-fabric Treaty)
- Robinson Huron Treaties 1850: Reserves 4\$ Bucks!
- Residential Schools – Inhumane Indian Policies
- Loss of Self-determination: Infringement/Derogation

# Reconciliation

- Land: A mothers story; She felt Our Pain / Environment
- Encroachment; Injustice; Resistance – Fighting Back.
- Education, Case Law, *Canadian Constitution Sec (35)*
- RCAP: Canada makes History. Gathering Strength
- First Nation Jurisdiction: Responsibility and Rights
- Anishinabek Declaration – ROJ: Nation-Buidling

# Assessing and Correcting the Ledger

- Understanding Self Determination / Infringement
- Using Case Law and Interpreting Our Path Forward
- The Collateral Damage: *Land; People, Prosperity*
- First Nations: \* A Culture of Planning & More Planning!
- Prepare – Protect – Prosper = Formal Responsibilities
- FN Youth / Elders: Expectations of FN Jurisdiction

# Sustainable Development

*Land – People – Prosperity – Order of Priority*

- Next Generation: Instructions are in Indigenous DNA
- Development must incorporate Indigenous Values!
- Sustainable Development = Nationhood
- Development shouldn't occur at an irreparable loss.
- Systems Model – Partners, Policy, Process, Priorities.

# Serpent River First Nation

## Economic / Environmental Jurisdiction

Basically, treaties were about the land. Economic Development at the time of treaty making was the most important goal for expansion of fur, forestry, mining and trade between the Crown and its global partners – our people were mainly concerned with the livelihood, wellbeing and respect for our nations at that time. We negotiated treaties not as subjects but partners.

It was always understood that when treaties were made, sovereignty and nationhood were not relinquished, rather these were acknowledge and re-enforced. First Nations always, and still hold that “Self-Determination” is really about “responsibility” interpreted = FN Jurisdiction with regard to the land.

# Recommendations /Reflections: Ontario First Nation Environmental Conference

- 3-D Discussion / Dialogue / Decision: Sustainable Development
- Create a Time and Space to discuss “Community Story”
- Other FN organizations/communities: Collective Legitimacy
- Define/Evaluate FN Jurisdiction: SMART / SWOT / PEST
- Consider policy benchmarks that focus on **Efficacy** – meaning that our FN is using all available resources and means to obtain Sustainable Development – on our vision, our determination and with strategic Partners, Policy, Process, Priorities

# Seven Grandfather Teachings and Sustainable Development

- **Wisdom:** Collective Knowledge/Experience - Elders
- **Love:** Community Spirit Our People / Our Families
- **Respect:** Ethical Practice / Standards - Experts
- **Bravery:** Clearly Assessing / Managing Risk Effectively
- **Honesty:** Strong, Evidenced-Based Review – All Levels
- **Humility:** Discerning a Healthy Development Position
- **Truth:** Transparent / Inclusive Approach

# Miigwetch ~ QUESTIONS

***“The Creator provided us a time to reflect, gifts of knowledge and understanding – then he gave each one of us our relationships. Working together is obtainable because of everything that we have to our avail – the most valuable in this; each other.”***