

SUPREME COURT OF CANADA

(ON APPEAL FROM A JUDGMENT OF THE COURT OF APPEAL FOR ONTARIO)

BETWEEN:

ANDREW KEEWATIN JR.

and

JOSEPH WILLIAM FOBISTER

**on their own behalf and on behalf of all other members of
GRASSY NARROWS FIRST NATION**

APPELLANTS
(Plaintiffs)

- and -

MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

and

RESOLUTE FP CANADA INC. (formerly ABITIBI-CONSOLIDATED INC.)

RESPONDENTS
(Defendants)

- and -

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA

RESPONDENT
(Third Party)

- and -

GOLDCORP INC.

RESPONDENT
(Intervener)

(Style of Cause continues inside cover pages)

**FACTUM OF THE INTERVENER
FORT MCKAY FIRST NATION**

AND BETWEEN:

**LESLIE CAMERON on his own behalf and on behalf of all other
members of WABAUSKANG FIRST NATION**

APPELLANTS
(Intervenors)

- and -

MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

and

RESOLUTE FP CANADA INC. (formerly ABITIBI-CONSOLIDATED INC.)

RESPONDENTS
(Defendants)

- and -

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA

RESPONDENT
(Third Party)

- and -

GOLDCORP INC.

RESPONDENT
(Intervener)

- and -

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MANITOBA

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF SASKATCHEWAN

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF ALBERTA

GRAND COUNCIL OF TREATY #3

**BLOOD TRIBE, BEAVER LAKE CREE NATION, ERMINESKIN CREE NATION,
SIKSIKA NATION AND WHITEFISH LAKE FIRST NATION #128**

FORT MCKAY FIRST NATION

TE'MEXW TREATY ASSOCIATION

**OCHICHAGWE'BABIGO'INING FIRST NATION,
OJIBWAYS OF ONIGAMING FIRST NATION, BIG GRASSY FIRST NATION
AND NAOTKAMEGWANNING FIRST NATION**

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

**COWICHAN TRIBES, represented by CHIEF WILLIAM CHARLES SEYMOUR,
on his behalf and on behalf of the members of COWICHAN TRIBES**

LAC SEUL FIRST NATION

SANDY LAKE FIRST NATION

ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS / NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD

INTERVENERS

Karin Buss
Henning Byrne LLP
Suite 1450
10405 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 3N4

Tel.: 780 421-1707
Fax: 780 425-9438
kbuss@k2blaw.com

Kirk Lambrecht Q.C.
Shores Jardine LLP
Suite 2250
10104 103rd Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 0H8

Tel.: 780 448-9275
Fax: 780 423-0163
kirk@shoresjardine.com

Counsel for Intervener
Fort McKay First Nation

Marie-France Major
Supreme Advocacy LLP
Suite 100
340 Gilmour Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 0R3

Tel.: 613 695-8855
Fax: 613 695-8580
mfmajor@supremeadvocacy.ca

Agent for Intervener
Fort McKay First Nation

Robert J.M. Janes
Janes Freedman Kyle Law Corporation
Suite 340
1122 Mainland Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6B 5L1

Tel.: 250 405-3460
Fax: 250 381-8567
rjanes@jfkllaw.ca

Counsel for Appellants
Andrew Keewatin Jr. and
Joseph William Fobister et al.

Michael Stephenson
Peter R. Lemmond
Mark Crow
Malliha Wilson
Christine Perruzza
Attorney General of Ontario
8th Floor
720 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 2K1

Tel.: 416 326-4155
Fax: 416 326-4181
michael.r.stephenson@ontario.ca

Counsel for Respondent
Minister of Natural Resources

Christopher J. Matthews
Aird & Berlis LLP
Brookfield Place, Suite 1800, Box 754
181 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5J 2T9

Tel.: 416 863-4146
Fax: 416 863-1515
cmatthews@airdberlis.com

Counsel for Respondent
Resolute FP Canada Inc. (formerly Abitibi-
Consolidated Inc.

Guy Régimbald
Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP
Suite 2600
160 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 1C3

Tel.: 613 786-0197
Fax: 613 563-9869
guy.regimbald@gowlings.com

Agent for Appellants
Andrew Keewatin Jr. and
Joseph William Fobister et al.

Robert E. Houston, Q.C.
Burke-Robertson LLP
Suite 200
441 MacLaren Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 2H3

Tel.: 613 236-9665
Fax: 613 235-4430
rhouston@burkerobertson.com

Agent for Respondent
Minister of Natural Resources

K. Scott McLean
Dentons Canada LLP
Suite 1420
99 Bank Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 1H4

Tel.: 613 783-9600
Fax: 613 783-9690
scott.mclean@fmc-law.com

Agent for Respondent
Resolute FP Canada Inc. (formerly Abitibi-
Consolidated Inc.

Mark R. Kindrachuk, Q.C.
Mitchell R. Taylor, Q.C.
Attorney General of Canada
10th Floor
123 2nd Avenue South
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7K 7E6

Tel.: 306 975-4765
Fax: 306 975-6240
mark.kindrachuk@justice.gc.ca
mitch.taylor@justice.gc.ca

Counsel for Respondent
Attorney General of Canada

William J. Burden
Linda I. Knol
Erin Craddock
Thomas F. Isaac
Brian P. Dominique
Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP
Scotia Plaza, Suite 2100
40 King Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 3C2

Tel.: 416 869-5963
Fax: 416 640-3019
jburden@casselsbrock.com

Counsel for Respondent
Goldcorp Inc.

Bruce McIvor
Kathryn Buttery
First Peoples Law
Suite 300
111 Water Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6B 1A7

Tel.: 604 685-4240
Fax: 604 681-0912
bmcivor@firstpeopleslaw.com
kbuttery@firstpeopleslaw.com

Counsel for Appellants Leslie Cameron and
Wabauskang First Nation

Christopher M. Rupar
Attorney General of Canada
Suite 500, Room 557
50 O'Connor Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H8

Tel.: 613 670-6290
Fax: 613 954-1920
christopher.rupar@justice.gc.ca

Agent for Respondent
Attorney General of Canada

Patricia J. Wilson
Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP
Suite 1900
340 Albert Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1R 7Y6

Tel.: 613 787-1009
Fax: 613 235-2867
pwilson@osler.com

Agent for Respondent
Goldcorp Inc.

Guy Régimbald
Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP
Suite 2600
160 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 1C3

Tel.: 613 786-0197
Fax: 613 563-9869
guy.regimbald@gowlings.com

Agent for Appellants Leslie Cameron and
Wabauskang First Nation

Michael Conner
Attorney General of Manitoba
Suite 1205
405 Broadway
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 3L6

Tel.: 204 945-6723
Fax: 204 945-0053
mconner@gov.mb.ca

Counsel for Intervener
Attorney General of Manitoba

Paul E. Yearwood
Attorney General of British Columbia
3rd Floor,
1405 Douglas Street
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 9J5

Tel.: 250 356-6519
Fax: 250 387-0343
paul.yearwood@gov.bc.ca

Counsel for Intervener
Attorney General of British Columbia

Richard James Fyfe
Attorney General for Saskatchewan
Constitutional Law Branch, 8th Floor, Suite 820
1874 Scarth Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 4B3

Tel.: 306 787-7886
Fax: 306 787-9111
jfyfe@justice.gov.sk.ca

Counsel for Intervener
Attorney General of Saskatchewan

Lynne Watt
Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP
Suite 2600
160 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 1C3

Tel.: 613 786-8695
Fax: 613 788-3509
lynne.watt@gowlings.com

Agent for Intervener
Attorney General of Manitoba

Nadia Effendi
Borden Ladner Gervais LLP
World Exchange Plaza, Suite 1300
100 Queen Street,
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 1J9

Tel.: 613 237-5160
Fax: 613 230-8842
neffendi@blg.com

Agent for Intervener
Attorney General of British Columbia

Lynne Watt
Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP
Suite 2600
160 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 1C3

Tel.: 613 786-8695
Fax: 613 788-3509
lynne.watt@gowlings.com

Agent for Intervener
Attorney General of Saskatchewan

Douglas B. Titosky
Attorney General of Alberta,
Aboriginal Law
Suite 1000
10025 102A Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 2Z2

Tel.: 780 643-0858
Fax: 780 643-0852
doug.titosky@gov.ab.ca

Counsel for Intervener
Attorney General of Alberta

Peter W. Hutchins
Zachary Davis
Robin Campbell
Hutchins Légal inc.
Suite 300
204 Saint-Sacrement Street
Montréal, Québec
H2Y 1W8

Tel.: 514 849-2403
Fax: 514 849-4907
phutchins@hutchinslegal.ca

Counsel for Intervener
Grand Council of Treaty #3

Meaghan M. Conroy
Abram B. Averbach
MacPherson Leslie & Tyerman LLP
Suite 2200
10235 101st Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 3G

Tel.: 780 969-3500
Fax: 780 969-3549
mconroy@mlt.com
aaverbach@mlt.com

Counsel for Interveners
Blood Tribe et al.

Lynne Watt
Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP
Suite 2600
160 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 1C3

Tel.: 613 786-8695
Fax: 613 788-3509
lynne.watt@gowlings.com

Agent for Intervener
Attorney General of Alberta

Brian A. Crane, Q.C
Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP
Suite 2600
160 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 1C3

Tel.: 613 233-1781
Fax: 613 563-9869
brian.crane@gowlings.com

Agent for Intervener
Grand Council of Treaty #3

Marie-France Major
Supreme Advocacy LLP
Suite 100
340 Gilmour Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 0R3

Tel.: 613 695-8855
Fax: 613 695-8580
mfmajor@supremeadvocacy.ca

Agent for Interveners
Blood Tribe et al.

Karey Brooks
Janes Freedman Kyle Law Corporation
Suite 340
1122 Mainland Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6B 5L1

Tel.: 604 687-0549
Fax: 604 687-2696
kbrooks@jfkllaw.ca

Counsel for Intervener
Te'mexw Treaty Association

Donald R. Colborne
1125 Fort Street
Victoria, British Columbia
V8V 3K9

Tel.: 807 344-6628
Fax: 807 983-3079
drcolborne@shaw.ca

Counsel for Intervener
Ochiichagwe'Babigo'Ining First Nation et al.

Jason Madden
Nuri G. Frame
Pape Salter Teillet
546 Euclid Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M6G 2T2

Tel.: 416 916-2989
Fax: 416 916-3726
jmadden@pstlaw.ca

Counsel for Intervener
Métis Nation of Ontario

Brian A. Crane, Q.C
Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP
Suite 2600
160 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 1C3

Tel.: 613 233-1781
Fax: 613 563-9869
brian.crane@gowlings.com

Agent for Intervener
Te'mexw Treaty Association

Brian A. Crane, Q.C
Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP
Suite 2600
160 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 1C3

Tel.: 613 233-1781
Fax: 613 563-9869
brian.crane@gowlings.com

Agent for Intervener
Ochiichagwe'Babigo'Ining First Nation et al.

Lynne Watt
Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP
Suite 2600
160 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 1C3

Tel.: 613 786-8695
Fax: 613 788-3509
lynne.watt@gowlings.com

Agent for Intervener
Métis Nation of Ontario

David M. Robbins
Woodward & Company
2nd Floor
844 Courtney Street,
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 1C4

Tel.: 250 383-2356
Fax: 250 380-6560
drobbsins@woodwardandcompany.com

Counsel for Intervener
Cowichan Tribes et al.

David G. Leitch
Keshen & Major
Suite 200
120 Second Street South
Kenora, Ontario
P9N 1E9

Tel.: 807 468-3073
Fax: 807 468-4893
davigleitch@sympatico.ca

Counsel for Interveners
Lac Seul First Nation and
Sandy Lake First Nation

Joseph A. Arvay, Q.C.
Farris, Vaughan, Wills & Murphy LLP
25th Floor
700 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
V7Y 1B3

Tel.: 604 684-9151
Fax: 604 661-9349
jarvay@farris.com

Counsel for Intervener
Assembly of First Nations /
National Indian Brotherhood

Lynne Watt
Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP
Suite 2600
160 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 1C3

Tel.: 613 786-8695
Fax: 613 788-3509
lynne.watt@gowlings.com

Agent for Intervener
Cowichan Tribes et al.

Christopher Rootham
Nelligan O'Brien Payne LLP
Suite 1500
50 O'Connor Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 6L2

Tel.: 613 231-8311
Fax: 613 788-3667
christopher.rootham@nelligan.ca

Agent for Intervener
Lac Seul First Nation and
Sandy Lake First Nation

Jeffrey W. Beedell
Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP
Suite 2600
160 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 1C3

Tel.: 613 786- 0171
Fax: 613 788-3587
jeff.beedell@gowlings.com

Agent for Intervener
Assembly of First Nations /
National Indian Brotherhood

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FACTUM OF THE INTERVENER
FORT MCKAY FIRST NATION

PART I – OVERVIEW AND STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. Fort McKay First Nation [Fort McKay] intervenes in this appeal to defend constitutional protections applicable to its Treaty 8 rights, as modified by the *Natural Resources Transfer Agreement* [NRTA] (Book of Authorities of the Intervener Fort McKay First nation, hereinafter BAIFM, [Tab 31](#)) with Alberta (schedule 2 to the *Constitution Act, 1930*, BAIFM, [Tab 29](#)). Treaty 8 rights, as modified (BAIFM, [Tab 33](#)), enjoy constitutional protection through the whole of the *Constitution Act, 1930*, the *Constitution Act, 1982* (BAIFM, [Tab 30](#)), and the Honour of the Crown. The factual context of the present appeal does not involve consideration of the *Natural Resources Transfer Agreements* [NRTAs] under the *Constitution Act, 1930*,¹ yet the parties and the Courts below make comments on matters of law applicable to Numbered Treaties which have significance far beyond the Treaty 3 areas of Ontario. McKay therefore makes submissions respecting the significance of Treaty 8 and the NRTAs to the legal issues before the Court.

PART II – STATEMENT OF ISSUES

2. Fort McKay does not take a position on the primary issue before this Court, described by the Ontario Court of Appeal as whether Ontario has the right to "take up" lands and thereby limit harvesting rights without first obtaining Canada's approval in the Treaty 3 lands.

3. Fort McKay takes a position on two points: first, via Treaty 8 negotiation and the NRTA (BAIFM, [Tabs 33 and 31](#)), solemn assurances of continuity have been repeatedly given to Treaty Indians; second, there are legal consequence of such assurances for the exercise of provincial powers over land and resources, the taking up of land, and the duty to consult.

¹ Reasons for Decision of the Ontario Court of Appeal, paragraph 233: "We do not propose to comment on the NRTA since it is unnecessary for the resolution of these appeals."

PART III – STATEMENT OF ARGUMENT

4. The historical developments giving rise to constitutional protections for Treaty 8 are summarized in earlier jurisprudence of this Court, cited herein, in Kent McNeil’s article *Indian Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Rights in the Prairie Provinces of Canada*, and in the late Gerard V. La Forest’s book *Natural Resources and Public Property under the Canadian Constitution*.² In summary, by the *Rupert’s Land and North-Western Territory Order*,³ Canada’s acquisition of Rupert’s Land involved both (i) the assurance that “upon the transference of the territories in question to the Canadian Government, the claims of the Indian tribes to compensation for lands required for purposes of settlement will be considered and settled in conformity with the equitable principles which have uniformly governed the British Crown in its dealings with the aborigines”⁴ and also (ii) the obligation that “[a]ny claims of Indians to compensation for lands required for purposes of settlement shall be disposed of by the Canadian Government in communication with the Imperial Government; and the Company shall be relieved of all responsibility in respect of them.”⁵

5. Canada and First Nations then negotiated the Numbered Treaties. This Court already recognizes that, since the lands comprising Treaty 8 were largely unsuitable for agriculture, “[t]he Commissioners who negotiated Treaty 8 could therefore express confidence to the First Nations that, as previously mentioned, ‘the same means of earning a livelihood would continue after the treaty as existed before it’.”⁶ At the time of the Treaty and subsequent Adhesions, and until 1930, the Treaty 8 assurances included continuity of the ability to hunt, fish and trap for commercial purposes.⁷ With respect to mining in the Treaty 8 area, in particular, this Court also recognizes that “[a]lthough it was expected that some white prospectors might stake claims in the north, this was not expected to have an impact on the Indians’ hunting rights.”⁸ These collateral promises are integral to Treaty 8 interpretation, because the written version of the exchange of promises documented in Treaty 8 does not constitute an accurate

² Kent McNeil, *Indian Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Rights in the Prairie Provinces of Canada*, (University of Saskatchewan Native Law Centre, 1983) pages 2 – 10, BAIFM, [Tab 27](#); and Gerard V. La Forest, *Natural Resources and Public Property under the Canadian Constitution*, (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1969), at [pages 27, 29, and 34 – 36](#), BAIFM, [Tab 25](#).

³ *Rupert’s Land and North-Western Territory Order* (23 June 1870) BAIFM, [Tab 32](#).

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Mikisew Cree First Nation v. Canada (Minister of Canadian Heritage)*, [2005] 3 S.C.R. 388, 2005 SCC 69, at paragraph 30, per Binnie J. for the Court, BAIFM, [Tab 12](#).

⁷ *R. v. Badger*, [1996] 1 S.C.R. 771 at paragraphs [46 – 47](#), [56](#), [72](#) and [83](#), BAIFM, [Tab 14](#); *R. v. Horseman*, [1990] 1 S.C.R. 901 at 928 line a to 929 line j per Cory J. for the majority, BAIFM, [Tab 18](#).

⁸ *R. v. Badger*, *ibid.*, at paragraph 55, per Cory J. for the majority, BAIFM, [Tab 14](#).

record of all the rights of the Aboriginal party and all the duties of the Crown that were created in that exchange.⁹

6. Canada retained administration and control of Crown lands when the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta were created; and it assumed this responsibility in the Railway Belt and Peace River Block of British Columbia.¹⁰ In 1930, through the Schedules in the *Constitution Act, 1930*, these Provinces assumed administration and control over these Crown lands. By section 1 of the *Constitution Act, 1930*, however, provincial jurisdiction over lands and resources was expressly made subject to existing trusts or other interests, and was further limited by the *NRTA* provisions applicable to each Province.

7. With respect to Trusts or other interests, the Courts below agree that Ontario's rights in public lands under s. 109 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, are subject to the harvesting rights under Treaty 3.¹¹ Ontario concedes this, stating that its property in lands, mines, minerals and resources pursuant to the *Constitution Act, 1867*, is subject to “treaty harvesting rights” because such rights are within the proviso respecting the ownership of public lands.¹² It necessarily follows that its s. 91 rights are subject to these same Treaty rights. This proviso in the *Constitution Act, 1867*, is underlined in the chart in Part VII. Identical wording appears in clause 1 of each of the provincial Schedules to the *Constitution Act, 1930*, also underlined in Part VII. The intent of the *Constitution Act, 1930*, was to put the provinces in the same position as Ontario (and the other original Provinces of Confederation). The rights of Ontario as regards Crown lands and resources were subject to Treaty rights. When administration and control of Crown lands and resources was transferred to the provinces of Alberta through the *Constitution Act, 1930*, Alberta also took that interest subject to Treaty rights as amended by the *NRTAs*.

8. The intent of the *NRTAs* was to secure substantive Indian harvesting rights, also described by this Court as a substantive livelihood right.¹³ For Treaty 8, this involves a continuing ability to hunt, fish and trap for subsistence and cultural purposes, and to be able to pass that Aboriginal tradition onto

⁹ *Beckman v. Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation*, 2010 SCC 53, [2010] 3 S.C.R. 103 at paragraph 116, BAIFM, **Tab 3**.

¹⁰ *British Columbia (Attorney General) v. Canada (Attorney General); An Act respecting the Vancouver Island Railway (Re)*, [1994] 2 S.C.R. 41, page 58 line a to page 60 line h, BAIFM, **Tab 5**.

¹¹ *Keewatin v. Ontario (Minister of Natural Resources)*, 2011 ONSC 4801, paragraph 1375, BAIFM, **Tab 10**; Reasons for Decision of the Ontario Court of Appeal, paragraphs 65, 106, 117, 140, 210, BAIFM, **Tab 10**.

¹² Factum of the Respondent, Minister of Natural Resources, at paragraph 79.

¹³ *Mikisew Cree, supra*, at paragraphs **26**, **30** and **48**, BAIFM, **Tab 12**; *Moosehunter v. The Queen*, [1981] 1 S.C.R. 282 at page 293, BAIFM, **Tab 13**.

future generations.¹⁴ This is a fundamental element of the constitutional assurances given to First Nations so as to obtain their consent or adhesion to Treaty 8, and also a fundamental element of the constitutional assurances given to First Nations in 1930. The division of powers was amended by the *Constitution Act, 1930*, to ensure that this substantive livelihood right would be respected by the Provinces, and by Canada. Alberta is obligated to carry out this arrangement by clause 2 of the *NRTA* and/or the Honour of the Crown.

9. With respect to specific provisions of the *NRTAs*, paragraph 9 of the *NRTA* with Alberta provides that the rights to fishery were to belong and be administered by the Province “[e]xcept as herein otherwise provided.” Since the transfer of public lands generally was subject to Treaty rights, the provincial rights in relation to fishery are also subject to Treaty 8 rights to fish. Paragraph 12 of the *NRTA* with Alberta has two assurances. It provides that provincial laws respecting game were to be applicable to Indians “in order to secure to the Indians of the Province the continuance of the supply of game and fish for their support and subsistence.”¹⁵ This is a substantive right to the continuance of the supply of game. Alberta also “assures” to the Indians the right to hunt for food on “all unoccupied Crown lands and on any other lands to which the Indians have a right of access.” This includes Indian reserve lands.¹⁶ This is a substantive right to hunt for food. The right to a supply of game and fish for support and subsistence, and the right to hunt for food, are *both* substantive rights under Treaty 8 as modified by the *NRTAs*.

10. This Court states that the Indians were again re-assured of their continuing right to hunt and fish for food when the Treaty rights were “merged and consolidated” by the *NRTAs*. Dickson J., in *Frank*, stated that while the *NRTA* had partially amended the scope of the Treaty hunting right, “of equal importance was the desire to re-state and reassure to the treaty Indians the continued enjoyment of the right to hunt and fish for food” (emphasis added).¹⁷

11. There is no question that the *NRTA* limits provincial competence in respect of Indian livelihood rights under Treaty 8. Peter Hogg’s text, *Constitutional Law of Canada*, identifies the *NRTA* as one of the “exceptions to the general rule that provincial laws apply to Indians and lands reserved for

¹⁴ *R. v. Côté* [1996] 3 S.C.R. 139 at paragraph 56, BAIFM, [Tab 16](#).

¹⁵ *R. v. Horseman*, [1990] 1 S.C.R. 901, at page 915 line i to page 916 line c, BAIFM, [Tab 18](#).

¹⁶ *R. v. Sutherland*, [1980] 2 S.C.R. 451 at 459; and see also 462 to 463, BAIFM, [Tab 20](#).

¹⁷ *R. v. Badger*, *supra*, at paragraph 47, BAIFM, [Tab 14](#), citing with approval *Frank v. The Queen*, [1978] 1 S.C.R. 95 at 100, per Dickson J. for the Court, BAIFM, [Tab 6](#).

Indians.”¹⁸ He describes the *NRTA* as “[a] further limitation on provincial competence to make laws applicable to Indians”¹⁹ and confirms that, subject to game laws intended to protect the supply of game, “provincial laws cannot affect treaty rights.”²⁰ Hogg also states that the *NRTA* is “a right of the Indians to take game and fish for food” and that “provincial laws cannot deprive Indians of this right.”²¹ The submission of the Respondent Goldcorp, which is that provincial laws may burden Indian harvesting rights because such laws apply to First Nations “*ex proprio vigore* or by incorporation under s. 88 of the *Indian Act*”²² is mistaken in the context of Treaty 8. Paragraph 12 of the *NRTA* does not confer capacity upon the Province of Alberta to impose broad provincial regulation of Treaty harvesting for purposes unrelated to conservation of game necessary for the continued enjoyment of Indian livelihood rights.²³

12. Supreme Court of Canada jurisprudence confirms these propositions. In *Horseman*, Wilson J. (in the minority, but with the majority on this point) considers the effect of the *NRTA* upon Treaty 8 and states that the *NRTA* modified the Treaty 8 rights through a *quid pro quo*. The ability to pursue a commercial livelihood from hunting, fishing and trapping was unilaterally extinguished, but this involved a limitation on provincial powers: “[b]oth the area of hunting and the way in which the hunting could be conducted was removed from the jurisdiction of provincial governments.”²⁴ This Court confirms in *Badger* that this fundamental change to the nature of the Treaty right, in exchange for a limitation in provincial power, was unilaterally imposed by the Federal Crown, and that “[i]t is unlikely that it would proceed in that manner today.”²⁵ It follows necessarily that the law of inter-jurisdictional immunity is embedded in the *NRTA*, such that its abolition would constitute a constitutional amendment without consultation with Fort McKay or other First Nations.

13. In *Gladstone* the Court states that paragraph 12 of the *NRTA* “provides for a permanent settlement of the legal rights of the aboriginal groups to whom it applies.”²⁶ *Blais* (which involved hunting, and not trapping or fishing) describes the purpose of the *NRTA* as being “to ensure respect for

¹⁸ Peter Hogg, *Constitutional Law of Canada*, 5th ed., Supplemented, vol. 1 (Toronto: Carswell, 2007), at paragraph 28.2 on page 28-11, BAIFM, [Tab 24](#).

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, at paragraph 28.4 on page 28-19, BAIFM, [Tab 24](#).

²⁰ *Ibid.*, at paragraph 28.2(c) on page 28-12, BAIFM, [Tab 24](#).

²¹ *Ibid.*, at paragraph 28.2(e) on page 28-15, BAIFM, [Tab 24](#).

²² Factum of the Respondent Goldcorp Inc., paragraphs 81 and 82.

²³ *Horseman*, *supra*, at page 912 line f to page 913 line d per Wilson J; and 928 line a to 929 line j per Cory J. for the majority, BAIFM, [Tab 18](#).

²⁴ *Ibid.*, at page 933 line i, per Cory J. for the majority, BAIFM, [Tab 18](#).

²⁵ *R. v. Badger*, *supra*, at paragraph 84, BAIFM, [Tab 14](#).

²⁶ *R. v. Gladstone*, [1996] 2 S.C.R. 723, at paragraph 38, BAIFM, [Tab 17](#).

the Crown's obligations to 'Indians' with respect to hunting rights."²⁷ With respect to the substantive right to a supply of game and fish, the Court in *Sutherland* adopts the reasons of McGillivray J.A. in *R. v. Wesley* for the proposition that the intention of paragraph 12 of the *NRTA* "is to assure to the Indians a supply of game in the future for their support and subsistence ... subject to the express and dominant proviso that care for the future is not to deprive them of the right to satisfy their present need for food by hunting...".²⁸

14. Treaty 8 rights include hunting, fishing and trapping, and are far more than privileges of hunting, fishing or trapping somewhere. Treaty 8 negotiations and the *NRTA* both involve solemn assurances of continuity of practices, traditions and customs integral to First Nation societies. In this respect, location *is* important to First Nations -- particularly in areas in which the traditions were undertaken by ancestors, and on or near Indian reserves. This Court recognizes this reality in *Mikisew Cree*, where Binnie J. for the Court writes that "for aboriginal people, as for non-aboriginal people, location is important."²⁹

15. The Indian livelihood right has not received sufficient legal recognition. McNeil states that *NRTA* assurances "have been used as an aid in interpreting the game laws paragraph, but they have not been given legal significance in themselves."³⁰ Treaty 8 embodies a solemn engagement to Indians that their livelihood would be respected,³¹ and the *NRTA* restates this obligation.³² Fort McKay submits that, in the tradition of the common law anticipated by this Court's judgment in *Haida*,³³ it is now time that the solemn constitutional assurances respecting continuity be given greater legal significance of themselves.

16. The need for greater recognition arises from the acute sensitivity associated with provincial powers in respect of land and resources. Constitutionally protected Treaty 8 rights are, today,

²⁷ *R. v. Blais*, 2013 SCC 44, [2003] 2 S.C.R. 236 at paragraph 32, BAIFM, [Tab 15](#).

²⁸ *R. v. Sutherland*, *supra*, at page 462, BAIFM, [Tab 20](#), citing *Rex v. Wesley*, (1932), 58 C.C.C. 269, [1932] A.J. No. 5 at paragraphs 31 to 33, BAIFM, [Tab 21](#).

²⁹ *Mikisew Cree*, *supra*, at paragraph 47, BAIFM, [Tab 12](#). See also: La Forest, *Natural Resources and Public Property under the Canadian Constitution*, *supra*, at page 120: "It does, of course, matter to them where they hunt and fish...", BAIFM, [Tab 25](#).

³⁰ Kent McNeil, *Indian Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Rights in the Prairie Provinces of Canada*, *supra*, page 23, BAIFM, [Tab 27](#).

³¹ *Horseman*, *supra*, page 912 line f, BAIFM, [Tab 18](#).

³² *R. v. Badger*, *supra*, at paragraph 47, BAIFM, [Tab 14](#), citing with approval *Frank v. The Queen*, [1978] 1 S.C.R. 95 at 100, per Dickson J. for the Court, BAIFM, [Tab 6](#).

³³ *Haida Nation v. British Columbia (Minister of Forests)*, 2004 SCC 73, [2004] 3 S.C.R. 511, at paragraph 11, BAIFM, [Tab 9](#).

both substantive and procedural in nature.³⁴ This should require a nuanced, contextual approach to the interplay between Treaty 8 rights and the exercise of provincial powers, whether legislative, regulatory or proprietary. The law requires that provincial powers to govern must be exercised in a way which respects Treaty rights and the constitutional assurances which have been given. The ‘taking up’ clause in Treaty 8 must be read in the context of its underlying purposes, as intended by both the Crown and the First Nation peoples.³⁵ This includes solemn assurances by the Crown respecting continuity, *despite* the change which Treaty 8 presaged, operating with respect to both the supply of game and fish for support and subsistence, and the right to hunt for food. These assurances are solemn constitutional obligations to First Nation peoples intended to reconcile their Aboriginal interests with sovereignty, and as such engage the honour of the Crown. The Crown is required to act with diligence in pursuit of the fulfillment of these assurances.³⁶

17. Weakness in the consultation framework requires judicial action so as to ensure a proper appreciation of Treaty rights. The need for evolution in the law may be illustrated with respect to the imminent extirpation of woodland caribou from Alberta ranges, including the traditional lands of Fort McKay.³⁷ The significance of woodland caribou to Treaty 8 rights obtained judicial recognition in *R. v. Horseman*,³⁸ and pending extirpation of this species has never been justified.³⁹ This species would not be at risk of extirpation if Treaty 8 rights, as modified by the *NRTA*, were properly balanced with the exercise of provincial and federal powers through the duty to consult as presently applied. Weakness in the consultation framework, illustrated by the pending extirpation of a species imprinted on the Canadian quarter, flows from rigid application of the Court’s statement at paragraph 53 of *Rio Tinto*: “[t]he subject of the consultation is the impact on the claimed rights of the *current* decision under consideration.”⁴⁰ Rigid application of this comment means the duty to consult and accommodate is short-sighted, focussing on the trees affected by a government decision rather than on the forests in which Treaty 8 rights are exercised and in which game necessary for hunting exist. When

³⁴ *Mikisew Cree, supra*, at paragraph 57, BAIFM, **Tab 12**.

³⁵ *Mikisew Cree, supra*, at paragraph 29, BAIFM, **Tab 12**.

³⁶ *Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. v. Canada (Attorney General)*, 2013 SCC 14, [2013] 1 S.C.R. 623, at paragraph 9, BAIFM, **Tab 11**.

³⁷ *Adam v. Canada (Environment)*, 2011 FC 962 (CanLII) at paragraphs **14**, **20**, and **35 to 36**, BAIFM, **Tab 2**. See also: *Western Canada Wilderness Committee v. Canada (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans)*, 2014 FC 148 (CanLII), at paragraphs 90 to 94, BAIFM, **Tab 23**.

³⁸ *R. v. Horseman, supra*, at p. 929 at lines b – c, per Cory J. for the majority, BAIFM, **Tab 18**.

³⁹ *Supra*, fn 37, BAIFM, **Tabs 2 and 23**.

⁴⁰ *Rio Tinto Alcan Inc. v. Carrier Sekani Tribal Council*, 2010 SCC 43, [2010] 2 S.C.R. 650, at paragraph 53, BAIFM, **Tab 22**.

making this comment the Court was responding to a submission that the duty to consult required, in every case, an examination of *past* impacts arising from exploitation of the entire resource.⁴¹ By rejecting this submission, the Court was saying that the duty to consult is *prospective* in nature i.e. its purpose is “to take contested or established Aboriginal rights into account *before* making a decision that may have an adverse impact on them.”⁴² The ironic result of the Court’s comment has been overstatement of the capacity of the taking up clause to erode assurances of continuity of use, and the supply of game, through the exercise of provincial powers. The Court did not intend that solemn constitutional assurances be eroded to infringement, and then compensated with damages.

18. The Court has never limited the duty to consult to government decisions, or conduct, which have an immediate impact on lands and resources.⁴³ The duty to consult was intended by this Court to be a contextual, generative process, extending to strategic decisions.⁴⁴ Academic commentary points out, correctly, that Aboriginal peoples in Alberta are repeatedly frustrated in their efforts to rely upon the duty to consult to *look forward* i.e. to place a current decision in the context of others in order to properly appreciate the impact on present and future continuity of right which has been assured to them.⁴⁵ Judicial commentary recognizes that a rigid insistence upon examination of adverse impacts at the project level does not accurately appreciate future impacts.⁴⁶ When this Court spoke of the adverse effects of the winter road in *Mikisew Cree* upon the exercise of Treaty 8 rights, it did so in broad terms of injurious affection of surrounding lands arising from fragmentation of wildlife habitat, disruption of migration patterns, loss of vegetation, increased poaching because of easier motor vehicle access to the area and increased wildlife mortality.⁴⁷ Nothing in this is rigidly focused upon the immediate footprint of the winter road itself.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, at paragraph 52, BAIFM, [Tab 22](#).

⁴² *Ibid.*, at paragraph 35, BAIFM, [Tab 22](#).

⁴³ *Rio Tinto*, *supra*, at paragraph 44, BAIFM, [Tab 22](#). See also: David Laidlaw and Monique Passelac-Ross, *Alberta First Nations Consultation and Accommodation Handbook*, CIRL Occasional Paper #44 (Canadian Institute of Resources Law, University of Calgary, March 2014) at page 8, BAIFM, [Tab 26](#).

⁴⁴ *Rio Tinto*, *supra*, at paragraph 38, BAIFM, [Tab 22](#).

⁴⁵ David Laidlaw and Monique Passelac-Ross, *Alberta First Nations Consultation and Accommodation Handbook*, *ibid.*, at pages 31 to 32, BAIFM, [Tab 26](#).

⁴⁶ *Gift Lake Metis Settlement v. Metis Settlement Appeal Tribunal (Land Access Panel)*, 2009 ABCA 143 at paragraphs 31 to 33, *per curiam*, BAIFM, [Tab 8](#), citing with approval: *Bow Valley Naturalists Society v. Canada (Minister of Canadian Heritage)*, [2001] 2 F.C. 461 (C.A.), 266 N.R. 169 at paragraph 46, BAIFM, [Tab 4](#); and Bourassa J. in *R. v. Panarctic Oils Ltd.*, (1983), 43 A.R. 199 (NWT T.C.), [1983] N.W.T.R. 143, at paragraph 22, BAIFM, [Tab 19](#).

⁴⁷ *Mikisew Cree*, *supra*, at paragraphs [44](#) and [47](#), BAIFM, [Tab 12](#).

19. If the Crown is “to take ... [Treaty] ...rights into account *before* making a decision that may have an adverse impact on them,”⁴⁸ then it must consider the impact of the contemporary decision on the future exercise of Treaty rights at the level of the whole of a First Nation’s traditional territory. This prevents extinguishment of constitutionally protected First Nation rights by the cuts of hundreds or thousands of individual projects, each one found to be individually insignificant and therefore not requiring either accommodation or justification.⁴⁹ The Court’s decision in *Mikisew Cree* does not establish “the Mikisew Test”⁵⁰ but, rather, acknowledges that “Treaty 8 provides a framework within which to manage the continuing changes in land use already foreseen in 1899 and expected, even now, to continue well into the future.”⁵¹ This flows from the Court’s recognition of the law of Aboriginal consultation as a framework of broad principle, capable of future development by the courts.⁵² A broad vision in the duty to consult supports public policy objectives of sustainable development, defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs,⁵³ and the precautionary principle.⁵⁴ A broad vision will also recognize the necessity of effective cooperative federalism, since federal and provincial action will be required to protect the supply of fish and game. Provincial powers in relation to land and resources must be coordinated with federal powers in relation to inland fisheries, migratory birds, and species at risk, in this respect.

20. Lack of foresight in the duty to consult and accommodate undermines the assurances of continuity given to First Nations by the Numbered Treaties and the *NRTAs*. Because of the scale and extent of industrial development now occurring in the 21st century, more is immediately required in law to ensure respect for the assurances given, and obligations undertaken, as a condition of the acquisition of land in the Canadian west and derived from the equitable principles which have uniformly governed the relations between Aboriginal persons and the British Crown since 1763. Fort McKay therefore respectfully submits that the framework of the law of Aboriginal consultation be further developed to

⁴⁸ *Rio Tinto, supra*, at para. 35, BAIFM, **Tab 22**.

⁴⁹ *Supra*, fn. 46 and 47, BAIFM, **Tabs 4, 8, 12 and 19**.

⁵⁰ Factum of the Respondent Goldcorp Inc., at paragraph 117.

⁵¹ *Mikisew Cree, supra*, at paragraphs **27** and **63**, BAIFM, **Tab 12**.

⁵² *Haida Nation v. British Columbia (Minister of Forests)*, 2004 SCC 73, [2004] 3 S.C.R. 511, at paragraph 11, BAIFM, **Tab 9**.

⁵³ World Commission on Environment and Development, “Brundtland Report,” in *Report of the National Task Force on Environment and Economy* (1987), cited in *Friends of the Oldman River Society v. Canada (Minister of Transport)*, [1992] 1 S.C.R. 3, at page 37 lines b to i, BAIFM, **Tab 7**.

⁵⁴ *114957 Canada Ltée (Spraytech, Société d'arrosage) v. Hudson (Town)*, 2001 SCC 40, [2001] 2 S.C.R. 241, at paragraphs **3** and **31 - 32**, BAIFM, **Tab 1**, citing the *Bergen Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Development* (1990).

ensure respect for constitutional assurances of continuity *despite* change. The duty to consult and accommodate must encompass an obligation on the Crown, when taking up land under the Numbered Treaties, to consider and take action to ensure the supply of game necessary for hunting, fishing and trapping, and to ensure the continued enjoyment of the Treaty livelihood right assured to First Nations.

PART IV – SUBMISSIONS ON COSTS

21. These submissions have not imposed additional costs on any of the Appellants or Respondents, and Fort McKay submits that it should not pay costs associated with this intervention.

PART V – ORDER SOUGHT

22. That Fort McKay have permission to present brief oral argument at the hearing of the appeal; and that this Court recognize an obligation of the Crown, when taking up land under the Numbered Treaties, to demonstrate that it has considered and taken action to ensure the supply of game necessary for hunting, fishing and trapping, and to ensure the continued enjoyment of the Treaty livelihood right assured to First Nations.

ALL OF WHICH IS RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 28th day of April, 2014

**Karin Buss
Henning Byrne LLP**

**Kirk Lambrecht Q.C.
Shores Jardine LLP**

Counsel for the Intervener Fort McKay First Nation

PART VI – ALPHABETICAL TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

<u>Cases</u>	<u>Paragraph(s)</u>
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<i>R. v. Panarctic Oils Ltd.</i> , (1983), 43 A.R. 199 (NWT T.C.), [1983] N.W.T.R. 143	18,19
<i>R. v. Sutherland</i> , [1980] 2 S.C.R. 451	9,13
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<i>Rio Tinto Alcan Inc. v. Carrier Sekani Tribal Council</i> , 2010 SCC 43, [2010] 2 S.C.R. 650	17,18,19
<i>Western Canada Wilderness Committee v. Canada (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans)</i> , [2014] F.C.J. No. 151, 2014 FC 148	17

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PART VII – STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Constitution Act, 1867

109. All Lands, Mines, Minerals, and Royalties belonging to the several Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick at the Union, and all Sums then due or payable for such Lands, Mines, Minerals, or Royalties, shall belong to the several Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick in which the same are situate or arise, subject to any Trusts existing in respect thereof, and to any Interest other than that of the Province in the same.

*Constitution Act, 1930, Clause 1 of each Schedule, entitled *Transfer of Public Lands Generally**

1. In order that the Province may be in the same position as the original Provinces of Confederation are in virtue of section one hundred and nine of the Constitution Act, 1867, the interest of the Crown in all Crown lands, mines, minerals (precious and base) and royalties derived therefrom within the Province, and all sums due or payable for such lands, mines, minerals or royalties, shall, from and after the coming into force of this agreement, and subject as therein otherwise provided, belong to the Province, subject to any trusts existing in respect thereof, and to any interest other than that of the Province in the same.