

Consultation Newsletter Wolastoqey Nation

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Issue 10



WNNB Office

The Wolastoqey Nation in New Brunswick (WNNB) provides technical advice to Wolastoqey leadership and Resource Development Consultation Coordinators (RDCC's) in resource development consultation matters that relate to the implementation and exercise of Wolastoqey constitutionally protected rights. WNNB also acts to protect and promote traditional lands, ceremony, cultural practices, and language. WNNB consists of:

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Please note that our email has changed to @wolastoqey.ca

All newsletters and job opportunities are posted on our website at www.wolastoqey.ca

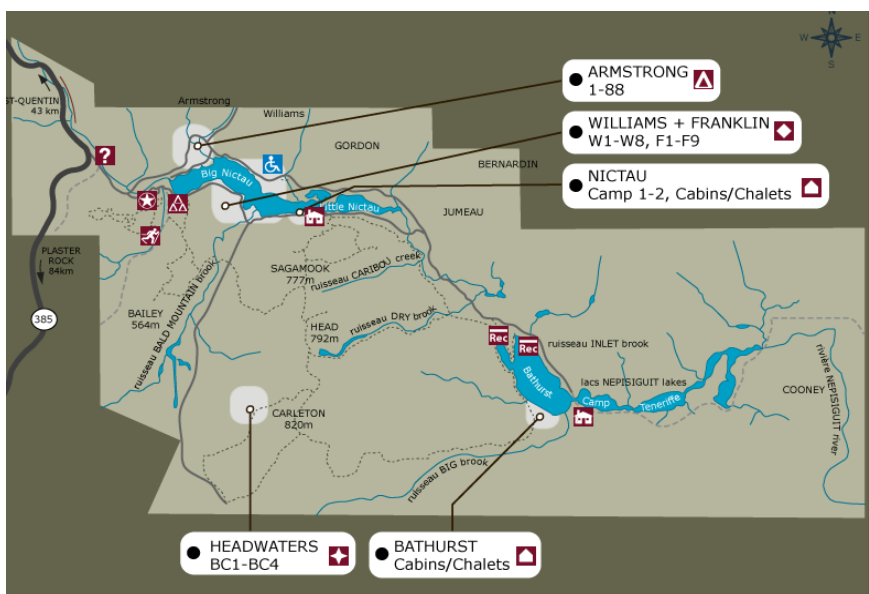
Mount Carleton Camps – Wolastoqey Use

As part of an accommodation process for the Mount Carleton Snowmobile Hub and Discovery Centre, the Wolastoqey communities have requested to have camps set aside for our use. As a pilot, this year we can reserve camps for culturally based activities at no charge.

There are still some openings available this year. If you are interested, go to <http://parcsnbparks.ca/> and check for availability (pick Mount Carleton under “3.Pick your park and/or campground”).

If you see a site that is available, you can reserve a group campsite for your cultural activity through your community RDCC.

Please contact your RDCC (see page 4 for contact info) if you would like more details.



Species at Risk – Bumble Bees

As Indigenous people in Canada we have an added interest in what species are listed under schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act (SARA). All species that are listed under schedule 1 require a publication of either recovery strategies or management plans. The main difference between these 2 types of documents is that species that have a management plan are species of “special concern” which aren’t afforded the same protection as the other schedule 1 listings. Species that are “threatened”, “endangered”, or “extirpated” all have recovery strategies and are afforded protections which disallow harm to individuals and destruction of critical habitat. The aim of these documents is to ensure species continued existence, as species richness is generally a good indicator of ecosystem health and resilience. Indigenous people have an added interest, because ecosystem health is intrinsic to our way of life and allows for our continued relationship with nature through hunting, fishing, and harvesting. These practices have been in place since time immemorial and are protected through s. 35 of the constitution act of 1982, and for the Wolastoqiyik through the affirmed Peace and Friendship Treaties from the 1700s. In the case where a species that we currently harvest is offered SARA protection, as conservation is among the few factors which supersede our Indigenous rights to harvest, there may exist the duty to consult, although these occasions are rare.

Currently in New Brunswick, the Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee is listed as endangered and Yellow-banded Bumble Bee is listed as special concern.



Pictured above left the Gypsy Cuckoo and above right the Yellow-banded bumble bees. Photos from their respective COSEWIC assessment and status report documents.

When people think of bees, generally they think of honey bees. The main difference between honey and bumble bees is that honey bees generally build their nests to surround their honey comb, which is used as winter time fuel to sustain the colony until the following spring. For bumble bees, their nests are made in the ground from old rodent holes and rotting logs. They still feed on nectar and pollinate as honey bees do, but their life history is dramatically different. Typically, the success of honey bees is tied to the success of the colony, for bumble bees it is connected only to the survival of mated queens.

Both species (above) have had significant decreases in populations, and while they have very different lifestyles, both are important for pollination. Some of these threats include negative land-use practices, such as spraying of insecticides for agriculture (neonicotinoids), spraying of defoliants in forestry (glyphosate), silviculture practices (monocultures), destruction of habitat (urbanization), parasite spread from greenhouse bumble bee colony escapees, and for the Gypsy Cuckoo a reduction in host species.

As mentioned above bumble bees, like honey bees, are important for pollination. If pollinators were to disappear, our rights to harvest would be dramatically affected. Food sources such as apples and blueberries, flowers such as lilac and roses, and medicines such as sage and thyme could disappear from our landscapes. With a continually decreasing land base from which to practice our rights, it is important to do our part to protect species that are so immensely important. While lobbying governments and industry to stop those practices which harm these population on larger scales is extraordinarily important, and something this office continues to do, individual practices can be equally effective.

Most important is to keep in mind that bees need to eat throughout the growing season (from spring to fall), so selection of plants that flower during different seasons is an important consideration. Mud mounds, compost piles and rotting logs can also act to support nests and over-wintering sites. Additionally, population status is largely unknown in many areas, so use of civilian science can help fill gaps in knowledge. For bumble bees visit

<https://www.bumblebeewatch.org/>

NB Power RoW Herbicide Application (2018)

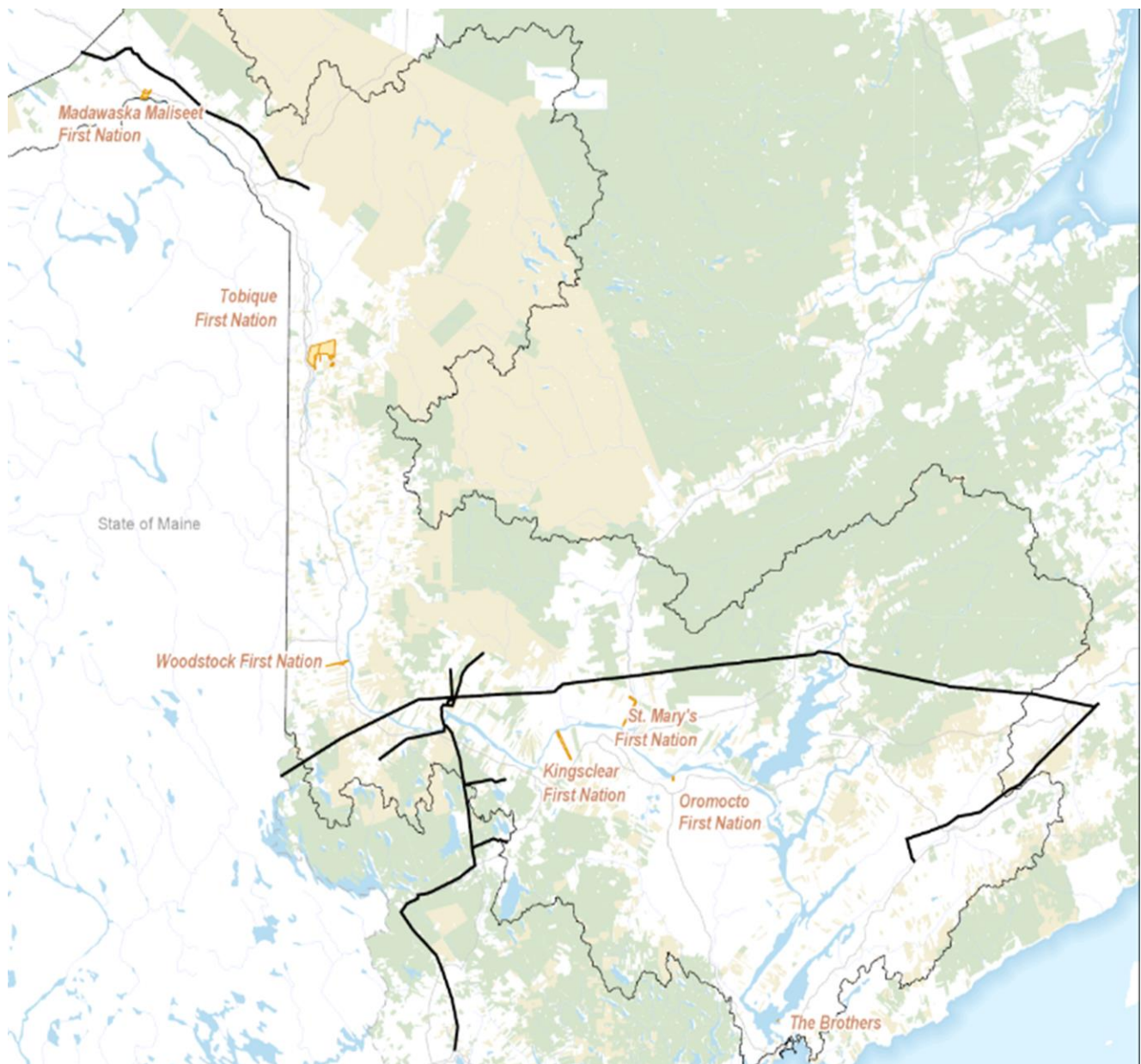
Through the RDCCs, our office is aware that herbicide use is a major concern for many community members. As a first step, our office and the RDCCs have requested the locations that will undergo herbicide treatment in NB Power's transmission line Right-of-Ways (RoW) in 2018.

The bold black lines in the figure below are the NB Power RoW locations that may undergo herbicide application this year (total of 1,500 hectares, however, the map below only focuses on Wolastoqey territory).

The work began in early **June** and may continue until **mid-August** depending on weather.

NB Power is applying Clearview Brush and Vision Max on the RoWs. Vision Max is glyphosate-based and has a blue dye that allows the applicator to know where it has been applied (to avoid over-treatment). Clearview Brush is the preferred herbicide and is used more frequently than Vision Max. Currently, we do not know which areas will be sprayed with which product (i.e., Clearview Brush vs. Vision Max).

We are continuing discussions with NB Power on providing more accurate communication and a potential monitoring program for 2019.



The Sisson Project: Federal Permits

In March 2018, WNNB submitted two reports to Environment Canada and Climate Change (ECCC) regarding the Sisson Project federal permits, including a technical review of the Sisson Mine Project Draft Fish Habitat Offsetting Plan and a technical review of the Sisson Mine Project Assessment of Tailings Management Alternatives. The federal permits are required as the Sisson Project would have to be added to the Metal Mining Effluent Regulation (MMER) Schedule 2 as they would be removing fish-bearing streams to make a tailings pond.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter (#9), comments on the draft fish offset report included:

- The habitat loss assessment in the report is incomplete and appears to minimize impacts to fish habitat.
- The proposed offset (removal of a partial barrier at Nashwaak Lake) is not sufficient nor appropriate, as it appears to be owned by New Brunswick. Additionally, the cost of the offset is estimated at \$185K which appears to be a significant underestimation of the offset, which is estimated at \$1.2-1.4M by our experts.
- The offset is aimed to increase Alewife survival, however, there is no data to indicate that Alewife are currently able to reach the barrier or that they have occupied Nashwaak Lake.

Since that time, we have received notice from DFO that they have deemed the fish offset application as incomplete and require more information, including:

- Demonstrate how the existing structure on Nashwaak Lake represents a barrier (i.e., a fish passage analysis);
- Provide evidence of the presence of alewife;
- Demonstrate that the remains of two old dams downstream of Nashwaak Lake are not a barrier to migrating alewife and that there are no other obstructions for the migration of the species, etc.

Therefore, the proponent still has work to do to complete their Fish Habitat Offsetting Plan.

On June 4, 2018, WNNB and its communities received a response from the Sisson Project to our comments submitted in March. We are still reviewing those comments and have yet to discuss them with the company. Any members who want a copy of the technical reports or responses from the Sisson Project can contact their Resource Development Consultation Coordinator (see page 4 for contact details).

Community Update

Migration Channel - This closure was put in place to protect Atlantic Salmon and restricted all fishing in the area from April 1 – October 31 each year. The variation order that created the closure was not renewed, but within this area there was also a 100-metre radius closure around the mouth of the Biodiversity Facility fish way. This closure is dictated by the *Fisheries Act*, however, is at the discretion of DFO Conservation and Protection – it can be reduced to 23 m. After extensive discussions, DFO responded with a proposal that reduced the closure to 75 m from June 15 – August 31, as this would protect a cold-water habitat for salmon. The overall result is that members have access to a larger amount of river and shoreline for a longer time period

Rainsford Lane - The Stantec archaeology team will be conducting the archaeological assessment field work for the Rainsford Lane Transmission Line Project this week (July 9-13). They will be mobilizing from the Stantec Laboratory and Warehouse at 3 Timothy Drive. Attached is a map of the field plan.

Contact Information:

If you have any questions about the content of this newsletter and would like more information, please contact your community RDCC.

- Madawaska – Russ Letica (506-735-1757) email: russletica@madawaskamaliseet.com
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