

# Consultation Newsletter Wolastoqey Nation

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## 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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- Forestry Advisor: Angie Paul (Angie.Paul@wtci-nb.ca)
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- Fisheries Biologist: Dr. Colin Curry (Colin.Curry@wtci-nb.ca)
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WNNB now has a website:

<http://www.wolastoqey.ca/>

## Wolastoqey Makwahahtin (A Maliseet Special Gathering)

The Wolastoqey Nation in New Brunswick and Wolastoqey Tribal Council Inc. will be hosting a gathering, Makwahahtin, on February 27th, 2018 at the Delta Fredericton.

This event is for Wolastoqey community members to learn about the two organizations and to provide feedback on our projects, programs and services.

More information regarding specific workshops and speakers to follow.

**Date: February 27th**

**Time: Opening Prayer 9:30am**

**Location: Delta Fredericton**



**To Register visit:**

<https://wolastoqey-makwahahtin.eventbrite.com/?aff=affiliate1>

## Mactaquac Fish Passage



Led by Kingsclear First Nation (KFN) and WNNB Fisheries Biologist Colin Curry, WNNB has established a fish passage working group with representatives from KFN, NB Power and the Canadian Rivers Institute. This group is working to incorporate Wolastoqey priorities and recommendations into re-vamped fish passage structures for the Mactaquac Generating Station (MGS). Currently, only Atlantic Salmon and Gaspereau (Alewife/Blueback Herring) are provided passage, but NB Power will need to improve fish passage under their preferred Life Achievement option (Option 4).

Our first step has been to reduce the list of 55 fish species to be passed. For example, marine and estuarine species like hake and menhaden do not occur near the MGS, so do not need to be incorporated into fish passage plans. At the same time, providing upstream passage to species like Atlantic or Shortnose Sturgeon could hurt their populations because they likely would not survive the downstream trip through the turbines or spillways. Other species (e.g. stickleback) are abundant both upstream and downstream of the MGS, so there is not a pressing need to provide passage. Through this process, the list of species for passage has been reduced to 18. However, there are other species that require more discussion within Wolastoqey communities. For example, providing passage to Rainbow Trout or Smallmouth Bass, both introduced species, could negatively impact Atlantic Salmon.

Throughout the process, WNNB is advocating for the development of an adaptive fish management plan for the Wolastoq that will address other dams on the river (Beechwood and Tobique). We are also pushing NB Power to think beyond fish and address the wider effects of their operations on the Wolastoq ecosystem.

The next step is to gather further input from Wolastoqey communities. The first engagement will be held at Kingsclear in mid-February, followed by a focused workshop at the WNNB Annual General Assembly on February 27 in Fredericton. Once a final proposal on species for passage has been developed, it will be provided to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) for further comment, because increasing the number of species passed at Mactaquac will require changes in how DFO operates passage structures such as the fish lift and trucking operations.

For further information about the process, or to provide feedback on our work to date, please contact WNNB's Fisheries Biologist, Dr. Colin Curry, [colin.curry@wtci-nb.ca](mailto:colin.curry@wtci-nb.ca).

## Forestry Update

Throughout the month of February, WNNB staff Angie Paul (Forestry Advisor) and Thomas Herbreteau (GIS technician) will be in the communities to discuss forestry-related files. The open discussions will include:

- Spruce Budworm Early Intervention Strategy
- Modernization of the Pulp and Paper Effluent Regulations
- Crown Land Disposals/Surplus Properties
- Maple Sugary Expansions
- Species at Risk



Additionally, map layers will be presented including layers in the Crown Forest Management Plan (e.g., planned harvest areas, protected natural areas, deer wintering areas, etc.), Crown Forest Operation Plan, Forest Roads and proposed spraying areas.

If you have questions or concerns about these or other forestry-related or GIS files, please contact via email Angie ([angie.paul@wtci-nb.ca](mailto:angie.paul@wtci-nb.ca)) or Thomas ([thomas.herbreteau@wtci-nb.ca](mailto:thomas.herbreteau@wtci-nb.ca)) or by phone at (506)-459-2181

# Species at Risk – Bridging the Gap

Led by Kingsclear's project coordinator Gordon Grey, the Aboriginal Species at Risk (AFSAR) Bridging the Gap project aims to use "two eyed seeing" in reviewing the recovery/management plans for:

- Furbish Lousewort
- Butternut
- Wood Turtle
- Yellow Lampmussel, and
- Shortnose Sturgeon

All of which are under Schedule 1 under the Species at Risk Act (SARA).

## **What is Two Eyed Seeing?**

Traditionally Indigenous peoples viewed their environments as interconnected. We are a part of this interconnected web of life, and as such must maintain balance through mutual respect for ourselves and nature. In the bible it says that "For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human" giving man dominion over all, however, it doesn't recognize that we need nature to survive, whereas nature doesn't need us. We owe nature everything that we are, so instead of nature just serving us, we serve nature as well. By maintaining this balance we protect ourselves, our environment, and the generations to come. For example, when picking fruit from a tree, we are taught not to pick all the fruit, but merely what we need, and when harvesting always to be thankful, give prayer and an offering.

Undoubtedly Western Science has given us some miracles and advanced much of our understanding of many things. Both worldviews have points of overlap, and both have great value when assessing modern issues. Two eyed seeing "refers to learning to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strengths of Western knowledges and ways of knowing ... and learning to use both these eyes together, for the benefit of all" (Elder Albert Marshall).

## **Keeping the Balance of An Ecosystem - Example**

In Yellowstone National Park, wolf populations were hunted to the point they became extirpated. They were hunted because of the perceived harm to the other animals in the area and their stigma to humans and livestock. However, without the apex (top) predator, the elk population boomed. Elk like all other living things needed food to maintain their numbers. Soon the grazing efforts of the elk had eliminated much of the leafy vegetation in the park. Without its food source, the elk began to starve. So, by removing one species from an ecosystem the park managed to affect the whole food chain's balance. However, seeing what was happening, they managed to bring balance back, by re-introducing the wolf to the park and culling the elk.

## **The Importance of Species at Risk**

In the example above, while it is human interference that disturbed the system, it is also human management that brought it back from the brink of catastrophic failure and change. These decisions illustrate why **recovery strategies** and **management plans** for species are so important when approaching species at risk, and how a single species interaction with its ecosystem can influence the whole. The importance of a single species is often times obscured, as most ecosystems are complex. The idea behind SARA and protecting these vulnerable species is to protect the whole from the catastrophic unforeseen. Recovery strategies and management plans are the core documents released by Canada in directing our behavior towards species at risk.

## **The Importance of Species at Risk**

Most threats to species are human generated, although some not as directly as others. They generally fall into two categories:

1. Individual harm and mortality – such as consumption and competition (human impacts, invasive species), collection (trophies or pets), accidents (traffic, forestry equipment), pollution, natural (parasites).
2. Harm or destruction of habitat – such as human land use developments, climate change and water quality.

# Species at Risk – Western Science Terms

Schedule 1 species of SARA include species that are considered extirpated, endangered, threatened, or of special concern.

- **Extinct** – when a species is no longer in existence, ex. the Dodo.
- **Extirpated** – when a species has a population removed entirely from a distinct geography, ex. Woodland Caribou. Woodland Caribou used to inhabit NB and was once a staple in our diets, but now its Canadian population has been displaced to more northern latitudes.
- **Endangered** – when a species is facing the serious risk of extinction or extirpation, ex. Atlantic salmon. The outer Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon population has been facing an extreme downturn in population over the last few decades, with as few as 700 being counted at the Mactaquac Dam in 2016.
- **Threatened** – When a species will likely become endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors contributing to their extinction or extirpation, ex. American eel. American eel was and still is used as a food source for some. It is a catadromous fish living in freshwater, but it needs to travel to the ocean to spawn. With the prevalence of dams, the habitat of eel has been drastically reduced.
- **Special Concern** – When a species may become threatened or endangered because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats, ex. Monarch Butterfly. The Monarch butterfly is known as one of North America's iconic pollinators, including for the fragrant and beautiful lilac. One of the primary causes for its decline has been the widespread use of pesticides and herbicides for the purposes of agriculture and silviculture.

Should a species fall under schedule 1, they are afforded individual protections and often habitat protection if it is deemed necessary in the recovery/management strategies. Prohibitions to the harm of individuals and habitats do not apply to species of special concern. For the list of NB species see

<http://www1.gnb.ca/0078/SpeciesAtRisk/search-e.asp>

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## Contact Information:

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

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