

January 5, 2018

Michael O'Flaherty  
586 Greenwood Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario, M4J 4A9  
r.m.oflaherty@gmail.com

Stephanie d'Obrenan  
Senior Manager, People and Culture  
30 Forensic Engineering  
40 University Avenue, Suite 800  
Toronto, Ontario, M5J 1T1

**Re: Technical Report Writer/Editor**

---

My writing has focussed on documenting complex, typically social, issues and making sense of those issues to an outside, non-specialist audience. This writing has been rooted in detailed research and investigation from multiple perspectives, often working in multi-disciplinary teams. My strength is in building analyses that are logical, demonstrated through data, and without unnecessary concepts or verbiage.

For the past fourteen years I have been working as an independent consultant, conducting applied, multi-disciplinary research and writing largely on Aboriginal participation in the natural resources sector. This work has required a strong sense of self-motivation and organization, including managing multiple deadlines.

I am a generalist who is eager to learn new material and comfortable reviewing technical documents from a variety of disciplines. I am very comfortable working in a team setting and believe strongly in taking lead from those who best know a specific subject matter.

In addition to having abundant experience with writing and editing, I am well-versed in document formatting and layout, in both Windows and Mac operating systems, as well as production of pdf files in Acrobat.

My career goal is to focus specifically on professional writing. As a result of neurological damage in my throat I have developed a speech disability that now effectively prevents me from consulting. I continue to be able to communicate verbally in contexts where there is no loud ambient noise, including in meetings. My disability has lead me to apply for this very interesting job opportunity; this position is one I am well suited to.

Please let me know if you need any additional information to further consider this application, including samples of writing. References can be supplied if needed.

Sincerely,



## Michael O'Flaherty

email: **r.m.oflaherty@gmail.com**

web: **eco-ant.com**

tel.: (416) 462 – 9579

mail: 586 Greenwood Avenue

cell: (416) 689 – 8238

Toronto, Ontario, M4J 4A9

### RELEVANT SKILLS

- ❖ Multi-disciplinary and collaborative social science research
- ❖ Analysis of complex issues
- ❖ Production of well-documented technical analyses

### WORK HISTORY OVERVIEW

- ❖ 2003–2017: Independent consultant and researcher
- ❖ 1991–2003: University instructor

### EDUCATION

- ❖ PhD (1997) Anthropology, University of Toronto

### WORK EXPERIENCE

#### **Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Nomination (March 2010 – September 2017)**

Pimachiowin Aki Corporation is a partnership of four First Nations and two provincial governments joining as a non-profit corporation to establish a UNESCO World Heritage Site <[www.pimachiowinaki.org](http://www.pimachiowinaki.org)>.

*Tasks:* Conducted research, writing and editing tasks associated with production of the first nomination document (2012) and two resubmissions (2014, 2016). Original content included: description and history of cultural heritage values associated with the site; comparative analysis for cultural values demonstrating the site's Outstanding Universal Value; a detailed summary of all professional reports commissioned by the Corporation to document cultural heritage values.

*Lead:* Gordon Jones, Pimachiowin Aki Project Manager

#### **Updating Canada's World Heritage Tentative List (May 2016 – October 2016)**

The Parks Canada Agency manages Canada's World Heritage sites and periodically updates the Tentative List of sites that have good potential to be nominated as World Heritage Sites. <<http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/progs/spm-whs/sec06/c.aspx>>

*Tasks:* Conducted research and writing to help Parks Canada improve the readiness of Indigenous peoples and their partners to develop Tentative List applications. Produced a full report (61pp.) that details World Heritage requirements as they relate to Indigenous heritage places and identifies potential opportunities for

## **Michael O’Flaherty**

Indigenous heritage on the World Heritage List. A summary document for public distribution (14pp.) was also produced.

*Super:* Marc Johnson, Indigenous Affairs and Cultural Heritage Directorate, Parks Canada

### **Medical Research Reports (May 2016 – April 2017)**

Five plain-language reports on current medical research related to health care: “Cannabis and Exercise”, “Cannabis Use Disorder”, “Cannabis and Treatment of Sleep Disturbances”, “Cannabis and Cancer Treatment: An Overview of Current Research”, “Tackling Obesity: The Role of Self-Efficacy”, and “Tackling Obesity: The Importance of Setting Goals”.

Available at: <https://ecoantdotorg1.wordpress.com/writing/popular/>.

*Tasks:* Lead author conducting online research and writing of reports that present the results of clinical research for an informed but non-specialist audience.

*Lead:* Dr. Nicola Davies, Trusted Writer Consultancy

### **Common Ground Research Forum (January 2015 – July 2015)**

The Common Ground Research Forum is a Community – University Research Alliance (CURA) project funded through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Their goal is to understand and build capacity for cross-cultural collaboration and social learning for regional sustainability in Kenora, Ontario. <[www.cgrf.ca](http://www.cgrf.ca)>.

*Tasks:* Lead author conducting writing and editing of a plain-language book that presents the results of academic and community-led projects that were completed between 2010 and 2015. Projects ranged from science-based studies to art projects.

*Lead:* Dr. John Sinclair, University of Manitoba

### **Whitefeather Forest Recreation Resource Inventory (January 2011 – April 2011 )**

Inventory of natural and cultural features that may provide opportunities for recreation within the Whitefeather Forest Cheemuhnuhcheecheekuhtaykeehn (protected areas), in support of joint planning for the Whitefeather Forest by the Whitefeather Forest Management Corporation and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

<[www.whitefeatherforest.ca](http://www.whitefeatherforest.ca)>.

*Tasks:* Authored the Inventory through a review of existing data, discussions with OMNR staff, and personal experience with the Whitefeather Forest.

*Lead:* Doug Gilmore, Whitefeather Forest Cheemuhnuhcheecheekuhtaykeehn Project Manager

### **Indigenous Ecological Classification of Wetlands (March 2007 – November 2011)**

A multi-year project that developed descriptions of wetland values that First Nations and Métis people in the Athabasca oil sands region want to see restored through future oil sands reclamation processes. The project was conducted for the Cumulative Environmental Management Association (CEMA), a multi-stakeholder non-governmental organization representing government, regulatory bodies, Aboriginal groups, industry, and environmental groups <[cemaonline.ca](http://cemaonline.ca)>.

## **Michael O’Flaherty**

*Tasks:* As project lead in the phase two pilot study, and co-lead with Iain Davidson-Hunt in the phase one scoping study, I conducted research through focus groups, interviews and field visits. Wetland values were identified in three subject areas — customary use, ecological and cultural values — and documented in narrative text, a GIS database and imagery.

### **Species at Risk in the Whitefeather Forest (March 2004 – March 2010)**

Research on woodland caribou and lake sturgeon was conducted through the Whitefeather Forest Management Corporation (WFMC) of Pikangikum First Nation, northwestern Ontario, to support joint planning capacity between the First Nation and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, as part of the First Nation’s Whitefeather Forest Initiative <[www.whitefeatherforest.com](http://www.whitefeatherforest.com)>.

*Tasks:* As research coordinator for the WFMC, I secured funding, oversaw research and authored final reports for several projects. Research was multi-disciplinary and focussed on explaining indigenous knowledge perspectives, in addition to developing GIS data that can be made available for land use planning purposes.

### **Forest Management Planning Manual Revisions (December 2008 – April 2009)**

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) developed revisions to the Forest Management Planning Manual to incorporate the provisions of the Declaration Order for Environmental Assessment Act coverage for forest management on the Whitefeather Forest (next project described).

*Tasks:* Worked with the OMNR on behalf of the Whitefeather Forest Management Corporation of Pikangikum First Nation to develop text of final revisions. Document posted on Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights <<http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca>>, Registry Number 010-5349 (see Part F, “Additional Requirements for the Whitefeather Forest”).

*Lead:* Dan Pyke, Manager, Ministry of Natural Resources, Forests Division

### **Declaration Order for EA Act Coverage (January 2007 – January 2009)**

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) developed a request to the Ontario Ministry of Environment for a Declaration Order for Environmental Assessment Act coverage for forest management on the Whitefeather Forest, which at the time was north of the area of associated with EA Act coverage for forest management.

*Tasks:* Worked with the OMNR on behalf of the Whitefeather Forest Management Corporation of Pikangikum First Nation to develop text of proposal that reflected shared commitments in “Keeping the Land” (next project described) to integrate Pikangikum First Nation customary stewardship practices and indigenous knowledge in forest management, and ensure a continuous supply of woodland caribou habitat. Document posted on Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights <<http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca>>, Registry Number 010-3417.

*Lead:* Alissa Sugar, Special Project Officer, Ministry of the Environment

## Michael O'Flaherty

### Whitefeather Forest Land Use Strategy (January 2004 – July 2006)

The Whitefeather Forest Management Corporation of Pikangikum First Nation developed, in collaboration with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR), their plan for management of the 2.2 million hectare Whitefeather Forest. This plan, "Keeping the Land", was the first (Aboriginal) community-based land use plan in Ontario <[www.whitefeatherforest.com](http://www.whitefeatherforest.com)>.

**Tasks:** Worked with the OMNR and Pikangikum elders to develop text that reflected the cultural teachings and community priorities of Pikangikum Anishinaabe people. I also took the lead on layout and production of the final document. In addition, I assumed a key role in the production of bilingual (English-Ojibwe) posters used in the open houses leading up to the final land use strategy.

**Lead:** Alex Peters, President, Whitefeather Forest Management Corporation

### Lake Abitibi Model Forest (2003 – 2005)

Contract researcher and member of Social Sciences Advisory Committee, tasked with defining the scope and mandate of social science research in the Model Forest and developing a set of potential projects to be considered for the future.

**Tasks:** Lead for a Local and Indigenous Knowledge Documentation project, one of two projects passed by the LAMF Board. The project sought to define through dialogue with local and Indigenous peoples, including Moose Cree First Nation, the scope of future potential knowledge-based research to be conducted by the LAMF. Also, project lead for a baseline survey on Non-Timber Forest Products use in the Lake Abitibi Model Forest.

## ACADEMIC WRITING

"The Use of Biodiversity for Responding to Globalised Change," Iain J. Davidson-Hunt, H. Asselin, F. Berkes, K. Brown, C.J. Idrobo, M.A. Jones, P. McConney, R.M. O'Flaherty, J.P. Robson, and M. Rodriguez. In: Davidson-Hunt, I.J., Suich, H., Meijer, S.S. and Olsen, N. (eds.). 2016. *People in Nature: Valuing the Diversity of Interrelationships between People and Nature*, pp. 19–31. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. [online] URL: <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/46207>.

*Pikangikum Cultural Landscape Documentation Guide*, Iain Davidson-Hunt and R. Michael O'Flaherty, with contributions from Janene Shearer, Catie Burlando, Andrew Chapeskie, Nathan Deutsch, Oliver Hill, Andrew Miller, Paddy Peters, Michael R. Sanders, Whitefeather Forest Elders Steering Group. 2010. Winnipeg, Manitoba: Aboriginal Issues Press, University of Manitoba.

"Anishinaabe Stewardship and Forest Management on the Whitefeather Forest, Pikangikum First Nation, Ontario: An Ethno-Ecological Perspective," R. Michael O'Flaherty, Iain J. Davidson-Hunt & Andrew M. Miller. 2009. In *Changing the Culture of Forestry in Canada*:

## Michael O'Flaherty

*Engaging Canada's Aboriginal Peoples in Sustainable Forest Management*, edited by Marc G. Stevenson and David Natcher, Edmonton: Sustainable Forest Management Network.

"Indigenous knowledge and values in planning for sustainable forestry: Pikangikum First Nation and the Whitefeather Forest Initiative," R. Michael O'Flaherty, Iain Davidson-Hunt & Micheline Manseau, 2008. Part of a special feature: Crossing Scales and Disciplines to Achieve Forest Sustainability, *Ecology and Society*, 13(1):6. [online] URL: <http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol13/iss1/art6/>.

Miller, A.M., Davidson-Hunt, I.J., and O'Flaherty, R.M. 2008. Pikangikum First Nation and forest fire management: old and new knowledge of fire. Sustainable Forest Management Network Research Note Series No. 37. [online] URL: <http://www.sfmn.ales.ualberta.ca/en/Publications/ResearchNotes.aspx>

"Keeping Woodland Caribou (*Ahtik*) in the Whitefeather Forest," R. Michael O'Flaherty, Iain Davidson-Hunt & Micheline Manseau, 2007. Sustainable Forest Management Network Research Note Series No. 27. [online] URL: <http://www.sfmn.ales.ualberta.ca/en/Publications/ResearchNotes.aspx>.

"Researchers, Indigenous Peoples and Place-based Learning Communities," Iain Davidson-Hunt & R. Michael O'Flaherty, 2007. *Society and Natural Resources*, 20:4, 291-305. [online] URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/08941920601161312>.

"The Whitefeather Forest Initiative: Indigenous Wisdom Guiding a New Community Forestry Opportunity in the Boreal Forest of Canada," Andrew Chapeskie, Michael O'Flaherty, Alex Peters & Norman Quill, 2005. In H. YoungBear-Tibbetts, W. Van Lopik and K. Hall (Eds.) *Sharing Indigenous Wisdom: An International Dialogue on Sustainable Development*, pp. 7-37. Menominee, Wisconsin: College of Menominee Nation Press.

"The Tragedy of Property: Ecology and Land Tenure in Southeastern Zimbabwe," *Human Organization*, Journal of the Society for Applied Anthropology, 62(2) Summer 2003: 178-190.

"Living On the Edge: Ecological and Cultural Edges as Sources of Diversity for Social-Ecological Resilience", 2003. Nancy J. Turner, Iain J. Davidson-Hunt, R. Michael O'Flaherty. *Human Ecology*, 31(3), September 2003: 439-461.

"Ecological Agriculture: Situating the Garden in Anthropology," *Culture and Agriculture*, Journal of the Culture and Agriculture Section of the American Anthropological Association, 2000, 22(2):16-26.

"Communal Tenure in Zimbabwe: Three Models of Collective Land Holding in the Communal Areas," *Africa*, Journal of the International African Institute, 1998, 68(4): 537-557.

SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH PROPOSALS

- 2009 "Developing a Community Monitoring Programme for Lake Sturgeon in the Berens River (Red-Assiniboine Rivers-Lake Winnipeg population)"  
funding: Environment Canada / Department of Fisheries and Oceans  
value: \$38,540 cash + \$8,940 in-kind
- 2008 "Identification and verification of woodland caribou habitat in the Whitefeather Forest"  
funding: Environment Canada  
value: \$25,185 cash + \$8,000 in-kind
- 2007 "Collaborative Research on Lake Sturgeon in the Berens River (Red-Assiniboine Rivers-Lake Winnipeg population)"  
funding: Environment Canada / Department of Fisheries and Oceans  
value: \$20,602 cash + \$7,630 in-kind
- Species at Risk poster project  
funding: Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources  
value: \$13,093 cash + \$30,700 in-kind
- 2006 Identification of Woodland Caribou Travel Routes and Calving Areas in the Whitefeather Forest  
funding: Environment Canada and Ministry of Natural Resources  
value: \$114,110 cash + \$25,067 in-kind
- 2005 "Integrating Indigenous and Science-based Knowledge for the Identification of Critical Woodland Caribou Habitat in the Whitefeather Forest"  
funding: Environment Canada  
value: \$31,580 cash, \$17,280 in-kind
- 2005 "Learning journeys of Pikangikum people through our cultural landscape (*Beekahncheekahmeeng ahneesheenahbay ohtahkeemeewahn*)"  
funding: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Community University Research Alliance (CURA) programme  
value: \$24,600 cash
- 2004 "Keeping Woodland Caribou in the Boreal Forest: Cross-Cultural Research Supporting New Forest Management Models"  
funding: Living Legacy Trust, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Ministry of Natural Resources  
value: \$266,825 cash, \$68,630 in-kind

## Michael O'Flaherty

### OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

#### **Natural Resource Institute, University of Manitoba (2006 – Present )**

Adjunct faculty member since 2006, assisting with graduate student research (both MNRM and PhD) as a committee member. The NRI is a multi-disciplinary graduate body and home to the Canada Research Chair in Community-Based Resource Management.

#### **Building Cross-Cultural Understanding of the Pikangikum Cultural Landscape (2009)**

Assisted with production of a display of Woodlands style paintings by a young Pikangikum artist at the Red Lake Heritage Centre. The paintings were also displayed with Elders' quotations and teachings in an exhibit at the Woodland Caribou Provincial Park Office in Red Lake.

#### **Peer Reviewer for Professional Journals (2003 – Present)**

Provide occasional subject-area assessments to journal editors about the suitability of articles for publication and how authors can improve their articles to meet journal-specific needs and interests. Journals include *Canadian Geographer*, *Society and Natural Resources*, *Ecological and Environmental Anthropology*, *Identities*.

#### **Course Coordinator, Pikangikum First Nation, Ontario (Jan – Mar 2006)**

Coordinator and instructor, along with two Pikangikum elders, for community-based delivery of courses on: "Trees and Herbaceous Plants" & "Introduction to Indigenous Cultural Tourism" (included basic GIS training).

#### **Mount Allison University (Sociology & Anthropology), 1999–2001**

Assistant professor, conducted courses on: introduction to anthropology, anthropological theory, social inequality, African cultures and societies, ecological anthropology, family and kinship, and anthropology of the life cycle.

#### **Sessional University Instructor (1996 – 2003)**

Sessional instructor at various institutions: University of Toronto (Anthropology), Ontario College of Art and Design (Liberal Studies), Wilfred Laurier University (Sociology & Anthropology), and Sheridan College (General Arts & Science). Courses included: introductory social & cultural anthropology, African cultures and societies, and ecological anthropology.

#### **Organic Crop Improvement Association (1996 – 2003)**

Member of Pacific Rim International Certification Committee, OCIA International Office, Lincoln, Nebraska, 2000–2003. Member of Certification Review Committee and Standing Committee on Certification for the OCIA Ontario chapter, 1996–1999.