

Anishinabek/Ontario Resource Management Council

2007/2008 Annual Report





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For additional copies of this publication, please contact:

Lands and Resources Department Union of Ontario Indians Nipissing First Nation P.O. Box 711 North Bay, ON P1B 8J8

Tel: (705) 497-9127 Fax: (705) 497-9135

e-mail: info@anishinabek.ca

Acknowledgements

Inside photos courtesy of Rick Stankiewicz of MNR, Creative Impressions, The Union of Ontario Indians

Table Of Contents

1.0	Messages	5
2.0	Introduction	9
2.1	AORMC Highlights	10
2.2	Acknowledgements	11
3.0	AORMC Membership	13
4.0	AORMC Agreement	15
	Goal	
	Scope	16
	Principles	
	Summary	
	Strengths	
	Opportunities	1/
5.0	Working Groups	19
6.0	Enforcement Working Group	23
	Working Group Members for 2007/2008	24
7.0	Fisheries Working Group	25
	Working Group Members for 2007/2008	
8.0	Lands Working Group	27
	Working Group Members for 2007/2008	28
9.0	Water Working Group	29
	Working Group Members for 2007/2008	30
10.0	Anishinabek Nation Territory	31
11.0	Ministry of Natural Resources	33
12.0	Contacts	35



Grand Council Chief John Beaucage, Deputy Grand Chief Glen Hare and (then) Minister of Natural Resources David Ramsay after signing the third mandate of the AORMC, March 2007.

Photo by Marci Becking – UOI



1.0 Messages



A Message from the Grand Council Chief

Dear Friends:

Our Vision of Co-Management

A partnership is borne of respect, understanding, sharing and perseverance — and the Anishinabek-Ontario Resource Management Council is trule indicative on this philosophy. On behalf of the 42-member First Nations of the Anishinabek Nation, I take this opportunity to affirm our commitment to this partnership. I also wish to bring you our utmost respect and thanks for the ongoing work of the AORMC Council, working group members and staff.

With the appointment of The Hon. Donna Cansfield, as the new Minister of Natural Resources — this provides the Anishinabek Nation will the opportunity to renew our

vision of co-management between First Nations and government within the Province of Ontario.

For us, co-management isn't about giving up any authority or dividing-up jurisdiction — it is about jointly sharing responsibility. When we speak of co-management we refer to First Nations' inherent responsibility to look after the resources on behalf of our citizen and our Nation. At the same time, we also acknowledge the Crown's responsibility to look after the resources on behalf of their citizens. This is the underlying goal of the Anishinabek Nation when it comes to resource management.

The Anishinabek Nation was very pleased to share our message with Minister Cansfield and the whole of the Anishinabek-Ontario Resource Management Council on May 21, 2008. I hope this message will be echoed throughout the halls of government, and shared among Anishinabek and Ontario citizens alike for many years to come.

When the Creator placed us on the Earth, he presented our people with the gift of intellect and freewill. With these gifts, the Spirit also granted us a sacred responsibility to be stewards of the land and the water, including all flora and fauna that grow from Mother Earth. This is a responsibility that we take seriously and something that we have never given up.

The Anishinabek Nation is committed to the concepts of resource management, conservation and enabling sustainable use for our future generations. These are goals we all have in common and something that we can achieve together as partners in co-management.

In Nationhood.

John BeaucageGrand Council Chief
Anishinabek Nation



Message from the Minister of Natural Resources

I am pleased to convey my best wishes through the pages of the Annual Report of the Anishinabek/Ontario Resource Management Council.

Since being appointed Minister of Natural Resources in October 2007, I have met with representatives from the Anishinabek Leadership Forum on several occasions to discuss Anishinabek resource management concerns and to review proposals that support Anishinabek Nation resource management objectives. I am pleased that Ministry staff are working closely with representatives from the Union of Ontario Indians on these proposals.

The relationship that has developed between my Ministry and the Anishinabek Nation over the last few years is evolving into an effective partnership. Together, we have arrived at a greater appreciation of the political, social, traditional, legal and environmental

challenges encountered as we work to develop policies and programs that benefit Anishinabek Nation and Ontario.

I look forward to continuing to meet with Grand Council Chief John Beaucage to discuss resource management opportunities and finding new and creative ways to promote resource management benefits for this and future generations.

I wish the council members every success as they continue to work together.

Donna Cansfield

Minister of Natural Resources

Denna Carolulo

Messages From the Resource Management Council Co-Chairs:



I have enjoyed my first year as Anishinabek/Ontario Resource Management Council (A/ORMC) Co-chair and working cooperatively with the members of the council and the Working Group. In addition to strengthening the relationship between the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and

the Anishinabek communities, the partnership between Anishinabek Communities and the MNR continues to gain strength and momentum through the A/ORMC.

It is a priority for the MNR to ensure that our programs reflect the needs of the Aboriginal communities and that Aboriginal people can participate in the decisions that affect their lives. The A/ORMC is a successful partnership that provides an opportunity for senior Ministry staff to discuss policies and programs effecting natural resources management across the Anishinabek territory.

We can work together to bring a constructive perspective on jointly identified challenges and on how these issues might be addressed in the short and long term to increase benefits to Aboriginal people. By working together cooperatively, we can move forward on common priorities and seek mutually agreeable solutions.

As we enter a new year I see the continued success of the A/ORMC creating interest amongst other Ministries and Aboriginal organizations.

The sharing of perspectives, building trust and working together to overcome these challenges surrounding resource management is important in building the foundation to a strong long term relationship. The success of the A/ORMC is a testimony to the dedication and hard work of the Council and Working Group members.

I look forward to the continued dialogue between the parties and to sharing perspectives on natural resource management policies and programs in the coming year.

Eric Doidge, AORMC Co-ChairMNR Regional Director - Northeast Region



Greetings! It is my pleasure to include comments as the Co Chair of the AORMC. We are pleased to present the 2007/08 Annual Report for the Anishinabek / Ontario Resource Management Council (AORMC).

Since its launch in November 2000, the AORMC has been successful in improving communications, dialogue and relations

between the Anishinabek Nation and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).

The success of the AORMC is due, in part, to its unique structure. Anishinabek representatives and MNR staff share in making decisions that involve initiatives that may affect policies and programs.

The AORMC affirms the basic principles of mutual respect, recognition, responsibility, and cooperation, and aims to build a relationship based on trust. Consequently, the AORMC has transcended expectations and opened doors for other organizations that may consider a similar agreement.

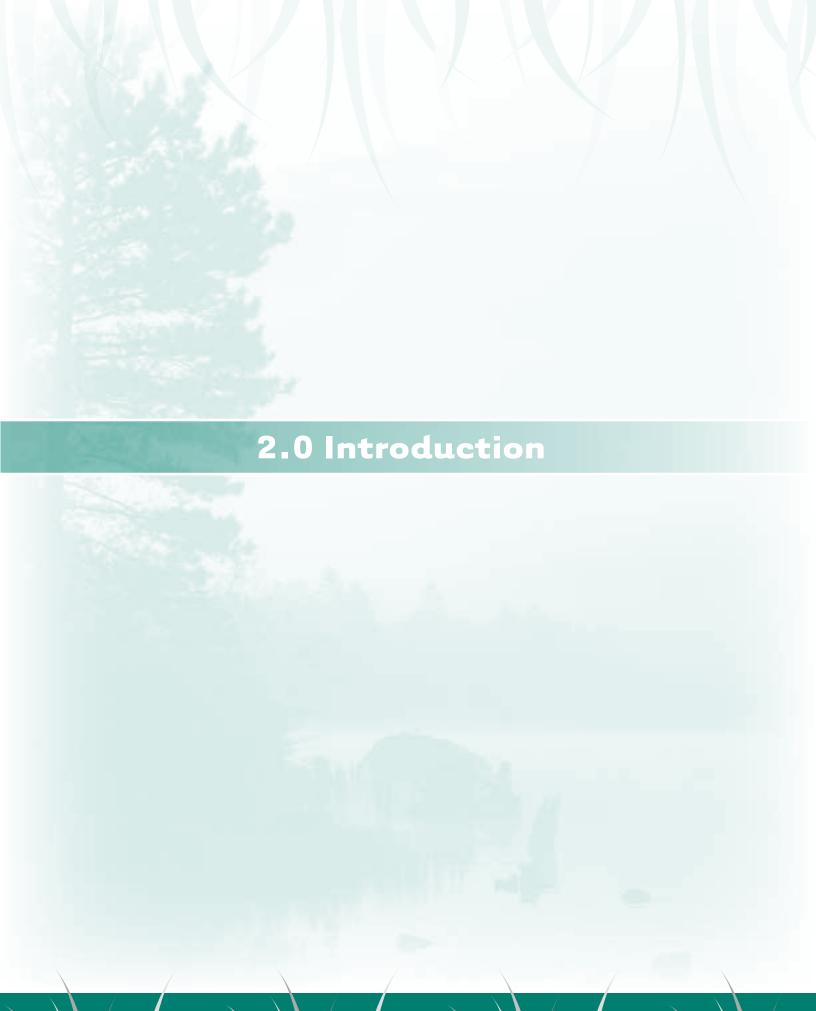
This report outlines key issues and achievements by the Working Groups whom support the Council. The Working Groups aim to mutually agree and support the interests of First Nations and government perspectives. As a result, the Working Groups have maximized their opportunities to meet the goals and objectives of the AORMC. We would like to congratulate the Working Groups for they can be proud of their contribution and commitment to the AORMC's success. Natural resource management in Ontario is an important area of mutual interest for both the Anishinabek Nation and the Ministry. We are confident that, in our current roles, we are succeeding and that our working relationship will continue to prosper.

It is my full intent and belief that we must ensure that our Anishinabek Rights are recognized, affirmed and protected. The AORMC is an excellent vehicle to ensure that our partnership with OMNR can address items of concern and work toward a solution for our members.

Inter-territorial harvesting has always been a high priority. I am hopeful that we can finally get some positive movement in the way of ensuring that this item is addressed in a proactive manner.

Kowaabmin,

Glen Hare, AORMC Co-Chair Anishinabek Nation Deputy Grand Chief



2.0 Introduction

In October 2000, Grand Council Chief and the Minister of Natural Resources mark the signing of a new way of doing business by being the original signatories to the Anishinabek Ontario Resource Management Council agreement.

The Resource Management Council is to provide a forum for Anishinabek First Nations and the Ministry of Natural Resources to bring issues of concern relating to resource management to facilitate a common understanding and work toward a positive solution to any challenges, where necessary expedite a resolution to problems.

2.1 AORMC Highlights

Renewal Of The Agreement:

On March 27, 2007, the Grand Council Chief and the Minister of Natural Resources sign the third mandate of the AORMC.

Union Of Ontario Indians Establish A New Department:

In May 2007, the Union of Ontario Indians establishes the new Lands and Resources Department which speaks to the need of ensuring Lands and Resources issues are paramount for the Organization.

Lands And Resources Director:

In May 2007, Jason Laronde accepts his new assignment as Lands and Resources Director.

AORMC Coordinator:

In August 2007, Arnya Assance accepts the position of AORMC Coordinator.

Second Annual Leadership Forum:

As per the principles of the Letter of Intent, the Anishinabek Nation and Ministry of Natural Resources met for the Second Annual Leadership Forum in August 2007. It is a priority for both signatories to ensure the Spirit and Intent contained within the Letter of Intent are recognized and affirmed.

All Working Group Working Session:

The Resource Management Council endorses the staging of an All Working Group Working Session in November 2007. The theme of the session was to revitalize and re-energize. Full participation of working group members ensured the success.

Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge And Water Policy Forum:

The Water Working Group through the Resource Management Council hosts the Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge and Water Policy Forum in Garden River First Nation, February 2008. Close to 100 participants attended, this

2.2 Acknowledgements

AORMC Advisors:

Jason Laronde accepted the position of Lands and Resources Director with the Union of Ontario Indians, and assumes the role as Advisor to the AORMC.

David Colvin, longtime AORMC Advisor due to retire from the Ministry of Natural Resources in August 2008.

Graham Vance, Senior Policy Advisor, Aboriginal Relations Branch for the Ministry of Natural Resources begins his tenure as AORMC Advisor in May 2008.

AORMC Working Group Members:

Acknowledgement of the contributions of Working Group members who have participated on a Working Group, and moved on.

Connie Buck

Ministry of Natural Resources Lands Working Group Co Chair from 2000-2007.

Scott McLeod

Nipissing First Nation member, Enforcement Working Group from 2002-2007.

New Working Group Members:

Jennifer Copegog of Beausoleil First Nation becomes the newest member of the Lands Working Group, November 2007.

Adolphus Trudeau of Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserves becomes the newest member of the Enforcement Working Group, November 2007.

3.0 AORMC Membership

3.0 AORMC Membership

Current Council Members:

Anishinabek Nation



Glen Hare, Co-Chair Anishinabek Nation Deputy Grand Chief Union of Ontario Indians



Chief Isadore Day Serpent River First Nation Lake Huron Region



Cliff Meness Algonquins of Pikwakanagan Southeast Region



Mike Esquega Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging First Nation Northern Superior Region



Errnol GrayAamjiwnaang First Nation
Southwest Region

Ministry of Natural Resources



Eric Doidge, Co-ChairRegional Director, Northeast Region
South Porcupine



Dave MacDonald Manager, Aboriginal Affairs Unit Peterborough



lan HagmanDistrict Manager
Nipigon



Dave PayneDistrict Manager
North Bay

AORMC Advisors



Dave ColvinMinistry of Natural Resources



Jason Laronde
Lands and Resources Director
Union of Ontario Indians

Grand Council Elder



Gordan Waindebence, Elder Sheguindah First Nation Lake Huron Region

4.0 AORMC Agreement

4.0 AORMC Agreement

Goal

The goal of the AORMC is to improve communication, dialogue, and relations between the Anishinabek Nation and its 42 Member Nations and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Scope

The area encompassed by this Resource Management Council is the traditional territory of the 42 member First Nations of the Anishinabek Nation.

The purpose of this Resource Management Council is to provide an opportunity for the Anishinabek First Nations and the Ministry to discuss resource management issues, exchange information, facilitate a common understanding, and collaborate on the resolution of issues.

The intention of the parties in creating the Resource Management Council is to provide First Nations with a formal, common table through which priority matters within the following broad themes may be negotiated:

- Communication
- Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs
- Forestry
- Hunting/Fishing/Trapping
- Land Use Planning
- Other issues as brought forward by First Nations.

The Parties agree to the sharing of information, discussion of issues as well as collaborate on the resolution of issues of regional concern that are specific to UOI First Nations.

Principles

The Anishinabek Nation and Ministry of Natural Resources affirm the basic principles of mutual respect, recognition, responsibility and sharing, and aim to build a relationship based on sustainable trust.

The parties recognize and respect the right of each First Nation or group of First Nations to pursue its own agenda and priorities.

This Resource Management Council is without prejudice to existing, or future, First Nations negotiations and is intended to facilitate such negotiations and processes where appropriate.

Summary

The Anishinabek Nation and Ministry of Natural Resources have established a foundation of positive interaction and continue to use the good ethics of respect and trust to build relationships. The following are contributing factors for building positive approaches when discussing natural resource issues:

Strengths

Provides regular opportunities for discussion on issues between senior MNR Staff and Anishinabek leadership. Bring staff from Anishinabek First Nations together with MNR staff.

Improved communication and direct dialogue on issues.

Reduces waiting time for information, requests, etc...

MNR staff gets experience working directly with representatives from First Nations, often resulting in change of attitude.

Opportunities

- Improved understanding of the Anishinabek Nation throughout the MNR corporate structure.
- Could serve as a model for other First Nation/Government relationships.
- May address First Nation concerns about consultation.
- Increased resources for First Nations and organizations that lack capacity.

The Anishinabek / Ontario Resource Management Council does not abrogate nor derogate from Aboriginal, treaty or Constitutional rights, jurisdiction, or any other right or freedom pertaining to any First Nation group of Aboriginal peoples or any First Nation person and does not add to or define such rights and freedoms.



LANDS AND RESOURCES



Working group members got together to re-focus and to re-energize their goals and objectives. At the end of the session this group photo was taken to show their commitment to the Resource Management Council (RMC).

- Photo by Rick Stankiewicz, MNR Enforcement Working Group member

Resource Management Council re-focuses

By Arnya Assance RMC Coordinator

The goal of the Anishinabek Ontario Resource Management Council is to improve communication, dialogue and relations between the Anishinabek Nation, its 42 member Nations, and the Ministry of Natural Resources. The purpose of this Resource Management Council is to provide an opportunity for the Anishinabek First Nations and the Ministry to discuss resource management issues, exchange information, facilitate a common understanding, and collaborate on the resolution of issues.

At the Oct. 3 RMC meeting, the members authorized the staging of a two-day all working group working session with key deliverables to be presented at the next scheduled RMC meeting. The theme for the All Working Group Working session was to Re-focus and Reenergize. The session was held at the Clarion Resort – Pinewood Park in North Bay Nov. 19-20, 2007.

With the changing of coordinators and new faces on working groups, the timeliness of the session couldn't have been more opportune. The two days were filled with a variety of visioning exercises which at the end of the session brought out the collective work-plan.

The session included an interactive agenda facilitated by Arnya Assance, the new RMC coordinator. A key to its success was providing the opportunity for the working group members to develop their guiding document, and going through the steps necessary to realize that work.

Session participants included working group members, Union of Ontario Indians Lands and Resources staff, Mike Esquega Sr. – RMC member and elder – as well as Dave Colvin, RMC advisor. By all accounts, the members left with a renewed sense of energy, which will guide the working groups in the specific resource management areas that affect our communities, at least for the next fiscal year and beyond

LANDS STAFF

Jason Laronde Lands & Resources Director

> Nadine Roach Forestry Coordinator

Barb Naveau

Rhonda Gagnon Community Stewardship Leader

Arnya Assance

Lynn Moreau Water Resources Policy Analyst



Best Wishes and a Happy New Year!

CONTACT

Union of Ontario Indians P.O. Box 711 North Bay, ON P18 8J8 PH: 705-497-9127 TOLL FREE: 1-877-702-5200 FAX: 705-497-9135 WEB: www.anishinabek.ca

Women sharing water stories

By Lynn Moreau

GARDEN RIVER FN – The first official event of the Anishinabek Women's Water Commission was hosted Nov. 3, 2007.

The commission's mandate is to raise awareness about the threats to Great Lakes water, and the group plans to accomplish its goals by sharing traditional knowledge and teachings with others.

Opening prayers were led by Elders Rose Trudeau and Gary Boissoneault. The Agwa Gumi Singers, an assembly of women hand drummers from both sides of the St. Mary's River sang an inspiring Honour Song to start the event. Chief Lyle Sayers provided a warm welcome, and Chief Dean Sayers of Batchewana provided the Grandfather Drum.

Chief Commissioner Josephine Mandamin from Wikemikong Unceded Indian Reserve and Commissioner Mary Deleary from Oneidas of the Thames were the guests of honour. Both Commissioners gave inspirational speeches to the community and to the members present at the event. Josephine spoke of her calling to walk around all five Great Lakes and the special role that women share in caring for the water, being

connected with Grandmother Moon.

Mary spoke about how the sacred covenant that our First Nation people hold with the Creator to care for the earth. She also expressed that our people need to reconnect their heart and spirit with the earth. Mary stressed the importance and need of sharing stories, traditional knowledge and teachings to our youth, so they too can gain the knowledge



Josephine Mandamin

- Photo by Marci Becking

held by our people. April Jones of Cape Croker First Nation was not in attendance but she is also a member of the Women's Water Commission.

Lynn Moreau, Water Policy Analyst for the Union of Ontario Indians, and Cathy Abrahams of the Anishinabek Joint Commission were on hand to speak about their roles and the importance of the Great Lakes.

A delicious feast was prepared and offerings were made to the St. Mary's River. Following the feast an opportunity was provided for others to tell stories about how their community honoured and celebrated the water. A closing prayer and traveling songs were given by the women drummers and Agwa Gumi Singers.

Many thanks to Libby Bobiwash of Garden River, who organized the event, and to Environment Canada, Family Tree and Garden River First Nation who contributed funding.

For more information on the Anishinabek Women's Water Commission or the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Sustainable Water Resource Agreement, please contact Lynn Moreau at the UOI office in North Bay.



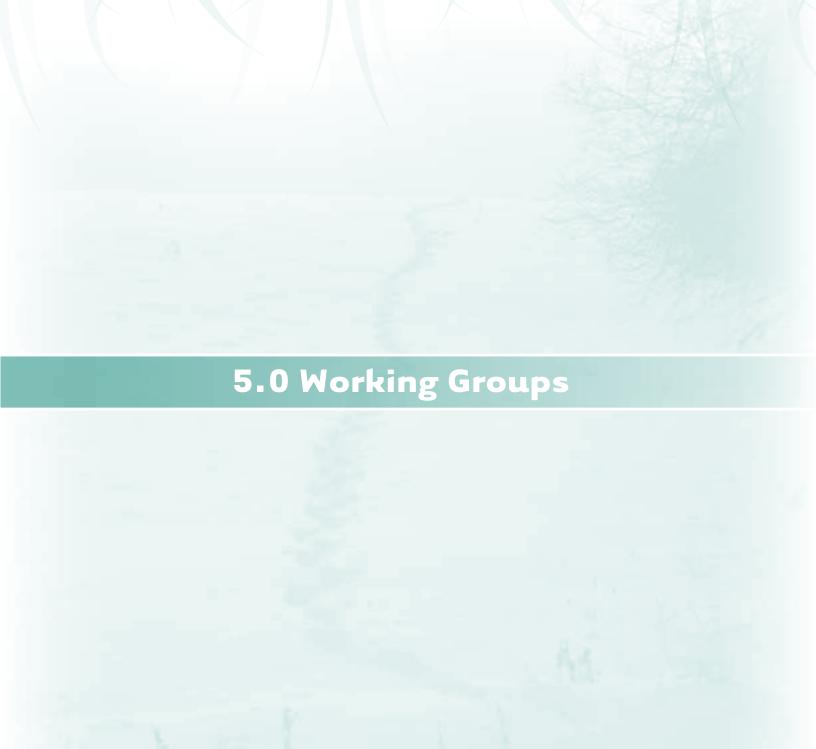
Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge & Water Policy

February 25, 2008 (6:00 pm) February 26, 2008 (8:00 am - 4:00 pm) Garden River FN, Community Centre

The Anishinabek Ontario Resource Management Council (AORMC) is an advisory body created by a memoradum of understanding between the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Union of Ontario Indians.

The Goal of the AORMC is to improve communication, dialogue and relations between the Anishinabek Nation and its 42 member First Nations and the Ministry of Natural Resources. The AORMC is comprised of a council and functioning working groups to discuss lands and resources matters.

Contact Arnya Assance@ 877-702-5200 ext 2340 Funding provided by Ministry of Natural Resources



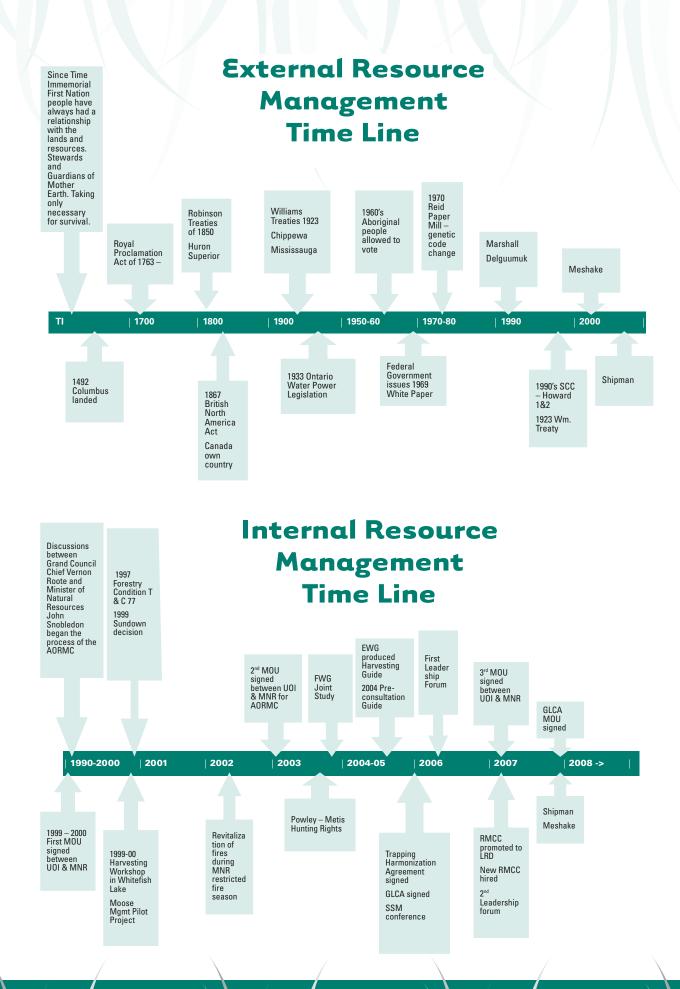
5.0 Working Groups

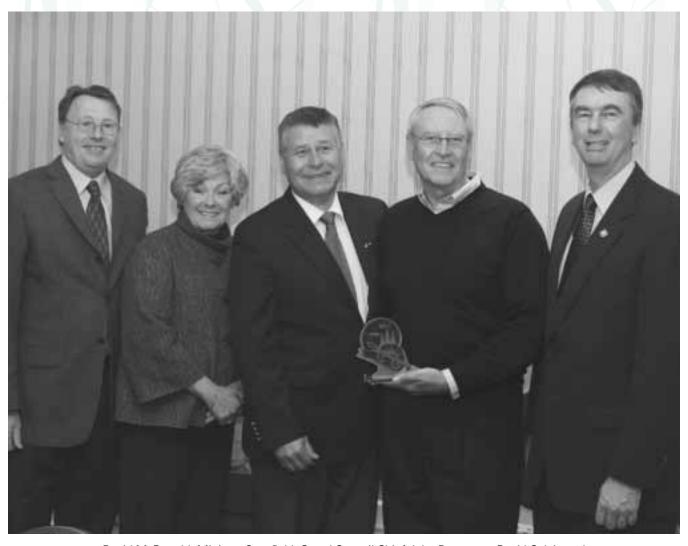
The role of the Working Groups will be to:

- Advise the Resource Management Council on natural resource management issues of mutual concern to the Anishinabek Nation and the Ministry of Natural Resources.
- Advise on the impact of changes to provincial programs and the effects on Anishinabek communities.
- Advise on natural resource management policy and practices that affect the development prospects of Anishinabek communities and organizations.
- Develop creative approaches to resolving present and potential disputes regarding natural resource management issues.
- Identify options for resolving these disputes to the Anishinabek/Ontario Resource Management Council wherever possible.

During the calendar year, the Working Groups have worked collectively to resolve natural resources issues that affect First Nation communities. In their efforts, the Working Groups have addressed direct concerns of each party and continue to move forward in their discussions.







David McDonald, Minister Cansfield, Grand Council Chief John Beaucage, David Colvin and Deputy Minister Charlie Lauer, May 2007

6.0 Enforcement Working Group

6.0 Enforcement Working Group

As a result of the All Working Group Working Session, the Enforcement Working Group has identified Communication, Education and Awareness as priority items.

Anishinabek Conservation Officer Model - significant research being conducted to test the viability of such a model. Research is on going, with presentation of findings to the Resource Management Council.

Updating Harvesting Guide and CD - to include impacting Case Law and decisions.

Inter Territorial Harvesting Conference - assist where possible in the planning of the Inter Territorial Harvesting Conference. The issue of crossing Treaty boundaries to hunt and fish has been a difficult issue for over 10 years. As some First Nations find their Traditional Territory shrinking (particularily in the southern part of Ontario) this issue continues to be front and centre in dialogue between Anishinabek Nation and the Ministry of Natural Resources. An All Ontario Gathering has been proposed by the Grand Council Chief to the Minister of Natural Resources.

Enforcement Working Group Membership:

Anishinabek Nation	Ministry of Natural Resources
Stanley Cloud, Co-Chair	Dave Harnish, Co-Chair
Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point	Sault Ste. Marie, ON
Keith Sayers	Rick Stankiewicz
Mississauga #8 First Nation	Peterborough, ON
Adolphus Trudeau	Brian Morrison
Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve	Sudbury, ON



7.0 Fisheries Working Group

7.0 Fisheries Working Group

As a result of the All Working Group Working Session, the Fisheries Working Group has identified Communication, Education and Awareness as priority items.

Gathering of community and MNR perspectives for Anishinabek Conservation and Fishing Agreement. Currently undertaking a comprehensive review of ACFA - seeking input from target audience of Chiefs and Councils, Fishermen, Community, and Committees. The in depth community questionairre will serve as education and awareness tool.

The responses to the questionairre will provide important guidance to the Fisheries Managment Working Group. Key pieces from the ACFA - are Fisheries based Economic Development. Review findings. Possible draft proposed new language for paragraph 9 of the ACFA. Presentation to Resource Management Council.

Fisheries Working Group Membership:

Anishinabek Nation	Ministry of Natural Resources
Bruce McGregor, Co-Chair	Mark Muschett, Co-Chair
Sagamok Anishnawbek	Peterborough, ON
Brian Monague	Susan Greenwood
Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point	Sault Ste. Marie, ON
Perry McLeod -Shabogesic	Rob Swainson
Nipissing First Nation	Nipigon, ON
Harold Michon Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging First Nation	

8.0 Lands Working Group

8.0 Lands Working Group

As a result of the All Working Group Working Session, the Lands Working Group has identified Communication, Education and Awareness as priority items.

Jennifer Copegog from Beausoleil First Nation joined the Lands Working Group.

Direction has been given to the Lands Working Group to pursue a conference which will address impacts of Court Decisions (Sundown, etc).

- Incidental Cabins MNR has developed a communication plan on consulting with First Nations in the development of
 a policy to address the incidental cabin issues. This communication plan has been in draft form for approximately a
 year. There is a need to get more information and look to finalize the MNR communication plan for incidental cabins
 and to push forward with the policy development.
- Work is continuing on the issue of Incidental Cabins. The Lands Working Group will ensure this item is covered on the agenda of the conference for our members have the correct information relating to impacting Case Law.
- Crown land disposition Sale of crown land remains a big concern for First Nations. The sale of shoreline property
 impacts First Nation communities Treaty wide.

As a result of the Rights Based Agenda put forward by the Anishinabek Nation the Lands Working Group will ensure this item is also covered on the agenda of the conference for our members have the correct information relating to impacting Case Law, consultation and accomposation.

Lands Working Group Membership:

Anishinabek Nation	Ministry of Natural Resources
Dan Kohoko, Co-Chair	Darrell O'Neill
Algonquins of Pikwakanagan	Thunder Bay, ON
Gary Boissoneau	Terry Eccles
Ojibways of Garden River	Peterborough, ON
Jennifer Copegog Beausoleil First Nation	Vacant

9.0 Water Working Group

9.0 Water Working Group

As a result of the All Working Group Working Session, the Water Working Group has identified Communication, Education and Awareness as priority items.

The Water Working Group hosted the Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge and Water Policy Forum in Garden River on February 25 & 26, 2008. Participants included community representatives from 26 Anishinabek communities, Tribal Council representatives, Government, Non Government Organizations, Industry, Consultants, Water Plant Operators and Youth.

Specific recommendations of Water Management were highlighted during the Forum, which will be the basis of presentation to the Resource Management Council.

Work continues with the Anishinabek Nation Women's Water Commission.

Water Working Group Membership:

Anishinabek Nation	Ministry of Natural Resources
Arnold May, Co Chair	Charles Faust, Co Chair
Nipissing First Nation	Nipigon, ON
Libby Bobiwash-Waikquakmic	Donna Palermo
Garden River First Nation	Timmins, ON
Robert Assinewe,	Karen Abrahams,
Sagamok Anishinawbek	Peterborough, ON
Rhonda Gagnon	Liz Mikel, Alternate (Karen A.)
Water Policy Analyst UOI	Peterborough, ON



Photo by Arnya Assance - UOI

10.0 Anishinabek Nation Territory

10.0 Anishinabek Nation Territory

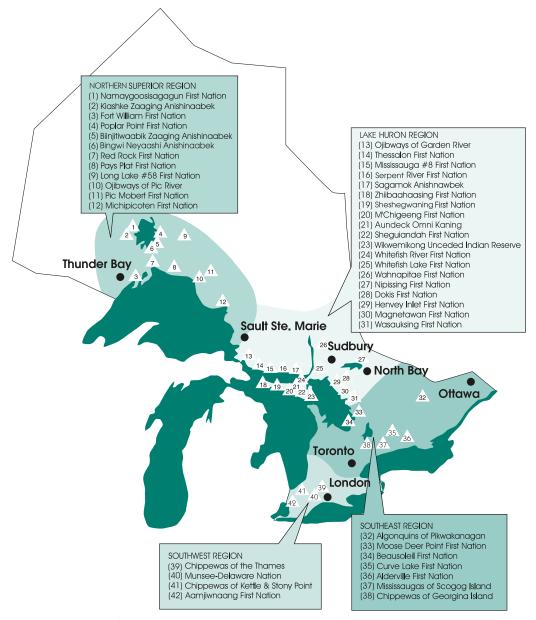
At present there are 42 First Nations who are members of the Union of Ontario Indians organization, representing approximately 42,000 Indigenous people.

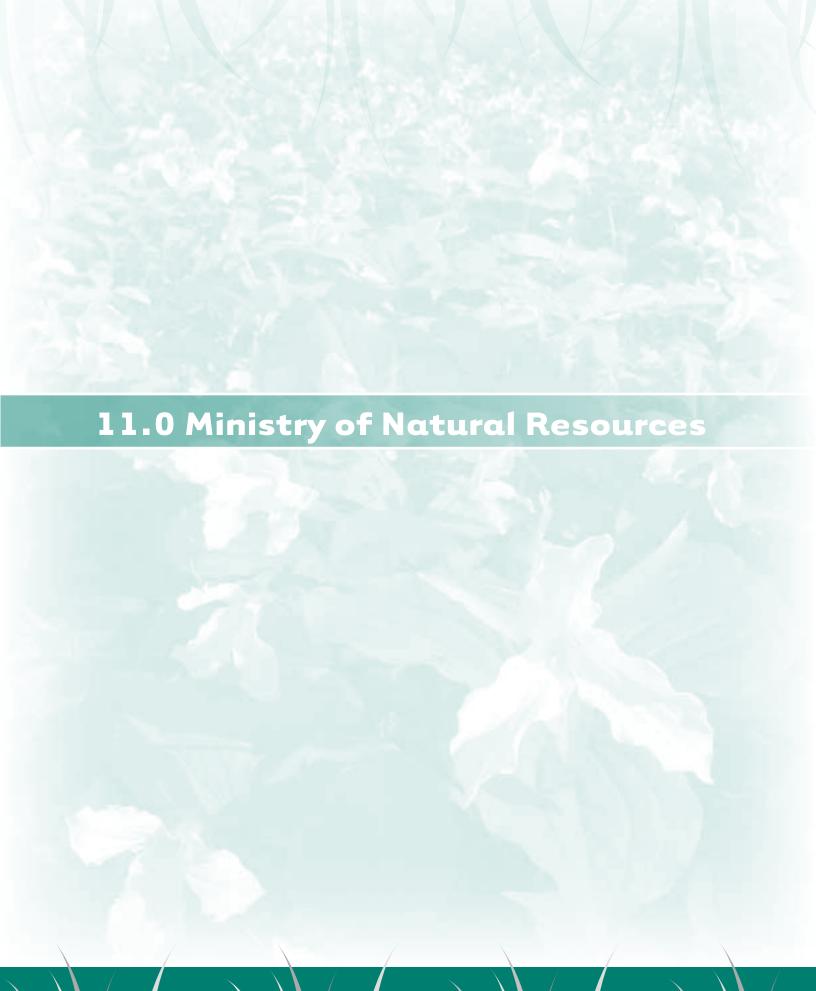
The Union of Ontario Indians is divided into 4 Regions:

- Southeast Region
- Southwest Region
- Lake Huron Region
- Northern Superior Region

Geographically, the area encompasses communities across Ontario from Fort William, Lake Nipigon, along the north shore of Lake Superior and Lake Huron, including Manitoulin Island.

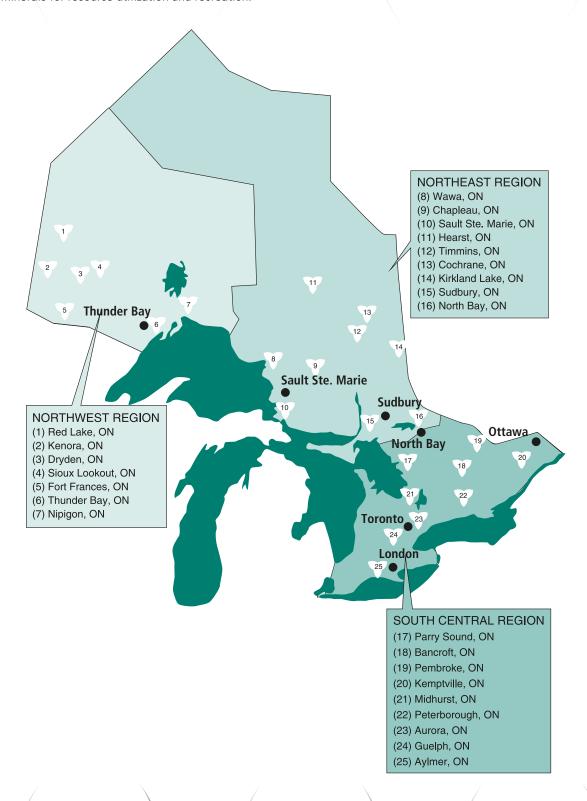
To the East, Algonquins of Golden Lake and throughout the central and southern part of Ontario, to the Chippewas of Sarnia First Nation.





11.0 Ministry of Natural Resources

The purpose of the Ministry of Natural Resources is to provide opportunities for resource development and outdoor recreation for the continuous economic and social benefit of the people of Ontario and to administer, protect and conserve public lands and waters. The Ministry programs are concerned with the use of the physical resources of land, water, trees, fish, animals and certain minerals for resource utilization and recreation.





12.0 Contacts

For additional information or comments to this report contact:



Arnya AssanceResource Management Council Coordinator
Lands and Resources Department

Phone: (705) 497-9127 Fax: (705) 497-9135 Toll Free: (877) 702-5200

Email: assancea@anishinabek.ca Internet: http://www.anishinabek.ca

Union of Ontario Indians Offices

Head Office

North Bay Nipissing First Nation P.O. Box 711 North Bay, Ontario P1B 8J8

Tel: (705) 497-9127 Fax: (705) 497-9135

1-877-702-5200

Satellite Office

Curve Lake Curve Lake First Nation Curve Lake Post Office Curve Lake, Ontario KOL 1RO

Tel: (705) 657-9383 Fax: (705) 657-2341

Satellite Office

Thunder Bay 300 Anemki Place, Suite C Fort William First Nation Thunder Bay, Ontario P7J 1H9

Tel: (807) 623-8887 Fax: (807) 623-7351 1-877-409-6850

AEI Satellite Office

Munsee-Delaware Campus Munsee-Delaware Nation 311 Jubilee Road, RR#1 Muncey, Ontario NOL 1Y0

Tel: 519-289-0777 Fax: 519-289-0379 1-800-441-5904

Ministry of Natural Resources Regional Offices

Northwest Region

435 S. James St., Suite 221 Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S8 (807) 475-1261

South Central Region

4th Floor, South Tower, 300 Water Street, P.O. Box 7000 Peterborough, ON K9J 8M5 (705) 755-2500

Northeast Region

Ontario Government Complex Hwy 101 East, P.O. Bag 3090 South Porcupine, ON PON 1H0 (705) 235-1300 The goal of the
Anishinabek/Ontario
Resource Management
Council is to improve
communication,
dialogue, and relations
between the Anishinabek
Nation and its 42
member Nations, and the
Ministry of Natural
Resources.



