

UPDATE FROM THE GIR OFFICE



It has been a very busy and exciting year for all the staff members at the GIR office. Our past, present, and future initiatives provide an intense workload as we aim to keep up with facilitating consultation as the scale and pace of resource development within the Athabasca Oil Sands region.

We are excited to announce some new staff at the GIR, Ashley Jacobs, Dean Holman and Russell Collier have joined us this year. We also have two more consultation coordinators starting in November, Chris Hopkins and Crystal Blain. The key role of our coordinators is to manage the day to day industry consultation efforts with every developer in the oil sands region.

We have recently launched our very own consultation and traditional knowledge web-based database, it is called the **MIKISEW COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE KEEPER (CKK)**. It now being utilized between the GIR and Industry for managing regulatory notifications and serves as a database in managing and storing all Mikisew Traditional Land Use Information and Traditional Knowledge. It will help us track documents, timelines, and activities, and provide us with quick analysis of industrial projects.

The GIR will be hosting our Roadshow at the end of January, stay tuned for exact dates and meeting locations. Our roadshow will be an opportunity for you to get industry updates and get updates on GIR projects. Wishing Everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

-Melody Lepine

GIR STAFF MEMBERS

Melody Lepine- Director

Ivy Wigmore-Finance Coordinator

Sally Whiteknife- Agreement Coordinator

Ashley Jacobs-Administrative Assistant

Melanie Dene-Consultation Coordinator

Dean Holman-Consultation Coordinator

Russell Collier-Consultation Coordinator

Sebastien Fekete-Consultation Coordinator

Jocelyn Marten- Community Coordinator

What's Happening At The GIR?

TOTAL: Proceeding with construction of the Jocelyn North Mine. Amendment application to divert Joslyn Creek and update no net loss compensation lake. Long term agreement with Total exists, proceeding with implementation.

MARATHON OIL SAGD Application

Their first operational project in the region is being proposed. They are interested in negotiating a long term benefits agreement with us.

-Russell Collier

Skills, Employment & Training (SET): Establishing a working groups for SET as per our agreements with Shell, Cenovus, Total, Husky, & Imperial Oil.

SPECIAL PROJECTS: Sociology Surveys are now completed. The Labour Pool Analysis was funded by Human Services Canada, ATC, and Industry partners. -Sally Whiteknife

IMPERIAL -ASPEN SAGD Application

First SAGD project for Imperial in the region. We conducted an IK study in preparation for filing of their application (coming later this year.) We will continue to work with Imperial to identify and mitigate issues and concerns., possibly through an agreement.

TECK- FRONTIER Mine Application

Currently our technical experts are reviewing the responses Teck has provided to them from the original review. There are still many outstanding issues that need to be addressed and this review will help further identify them as well as possible ways they can be mitigated.

This is going to be a large, open pit mine

on the West side of the Athabasca River and it will be approximately 50km from the WBNP. Key issues with this project is the impacts to the Ronald Lake Bison Herd, the only healthy bison herd remaining outside of the park for Mikisew to harvest. Cumulative impacts is also a critical issue as more and more projects produce impacts on the landscape that make it more and more difficult for Mikisew to access traditional lands.

The winter drilling program for 2013 was approved by the Regulators despite our intervention in the regulatory hearing this past August. -Cathleen O'Brien

Current GIR Projects & Initiatives

ATHABASCA OIL CORPORATION:

I had my first meeting with AOC this Sept to discuss their Winter Work program, located near the Hangingstone River. This project will have up to 163 test core holes which will be in two phases. GIR is trying to establish an on-going working relationship with AOC and seek consultation capacity.

GRIZLY OIL SANDS: GIR submitted a Statement of Concern on September 20th, 2013 in regards to this project, which is located 58 Kms NW of Ft. McMurray; close proximity to the Southern Pacific McKay project and the proposed Dover McKay project. The total lifespan of this project is 35-40 years with a total of 24,000 bpd of bitumen.

HUSKY ENERGY: Recently had a site tour with the MCFN Advisory Commit-

tee, where we able to see the whole Sunrise project. Husky has extensive monitoring for the water wells which is monitored twice a month. Bitumen production will sent through the Enbridge pipeline that will head to Toledo, Ohio.

PROSPER PETROLEUM: Prosper Petroleum is a new company in which they will be located near Namur Lake. They are proposing for a 10,000 bpd SAGD production. GIR is working with Prosper to establish an on-going relationship that will benefit MCFN long-term. – **Melanie Dene**

SITE C: Despite repeated attempts to get BC Hydro to scope the PAD assessment of Site C, they to refuse to do so. Currently, BC Hydro is responding to additional information requests made by the Joint Review Panel. A hearing may be called shortly for the issues surrounding Site C.

CONSULTATION POLICY: The Government of Alberta continues to work on its draft Consultation Policy. Many changes have been proposed by First Nations, but GOA is not including them. Treaty 8 is boycotting the process, and drafting their own Consultation Guidelines as a counter-proposal.

LARP: The Lower-Athabasca Regional Plan has been approved by GOA, but there are many outstanding issues with it. There are many frameworks that could help protect water, air, and wildlife that have yet to be developed or implemented.– **Sebastien Fekete**

SUNCOR has completed consultation on Winter Drilling programs for Firebag, McKay River and Lewis leases and continues to consult on the Voyageur winter drilling program. The Mine Dump 9, Dedicated Disposal Area 2 has been approved. We submitted a SOC on the Fort Hills EPEA Water License Renewal and an SOC on the Fort Hills Co-Gen Application for the expansion of their power generation plant.

They will be going to Ft. Chip on Dec. 3rd, 2013 to follow-up on the community meeting in May.

TRANSCANADA PIPELINES has been consulting with GIR on the Northern Courier Pipeline Project. We submitted an SOC in October to the Alberta

Energy Regulator. GIR conducted a Technical Scientific Review as a supplement to the SOC. GIR also conducted interviews as part of the Indigenous Knowledge Study.

IVANHOE and MCFN-GIR signed an agreement this year and consultation will continue according to the agreement. Ivanhoe and GIR met for our Q4 Meeting on the Tamarack SAGD project Application.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC RESOURCES and the GIR are in the final stages of consultation with the McKay Thermal Project-Phase 2 Application.

HAMMERSTONE and MCFN consultation continues with their Limestone Quarry Project. –**Dean Holman**

Cathleen O'Brien's Farewell to the GIR

After 6 years at the GIR, I will be moving on to a position with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo where I will be a Consultation Coordinator with the Aboriginal Relations Department. I have thoroughly enjoyed working here and I'm going to miss everyone in Fort Chipewyan and all my colleagues. I have learned so much and made so many friendships along the way. I hope I can still do good things for Fort Chipewyan in my new role. I plan on coming to visit and staying in touch with all of you.– **Cathleen O'Brien**

