



NORTH SLAVE MÉTIS ALLIANCE

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Re: Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project Draft EIS Information Requests

Although the North Slave Metis Alliance (NSMA) has not yet received any notification regarding the amount of intervernior (participant) funding to expect, with which to conduct their review of the above mentioned document, a cursory review has nevertheless been performed in order to comply with the imposed deadline. Our preliminary information requests are provided below, but please take note that we do reserve our Aboriginal Right to full and honorable Crown Consultation on this project, including adequate information, adequate time, sincere efforts for accomodation, and just and equitable compensation where required.

Section F-1 Heritage Resources Effects Assessment

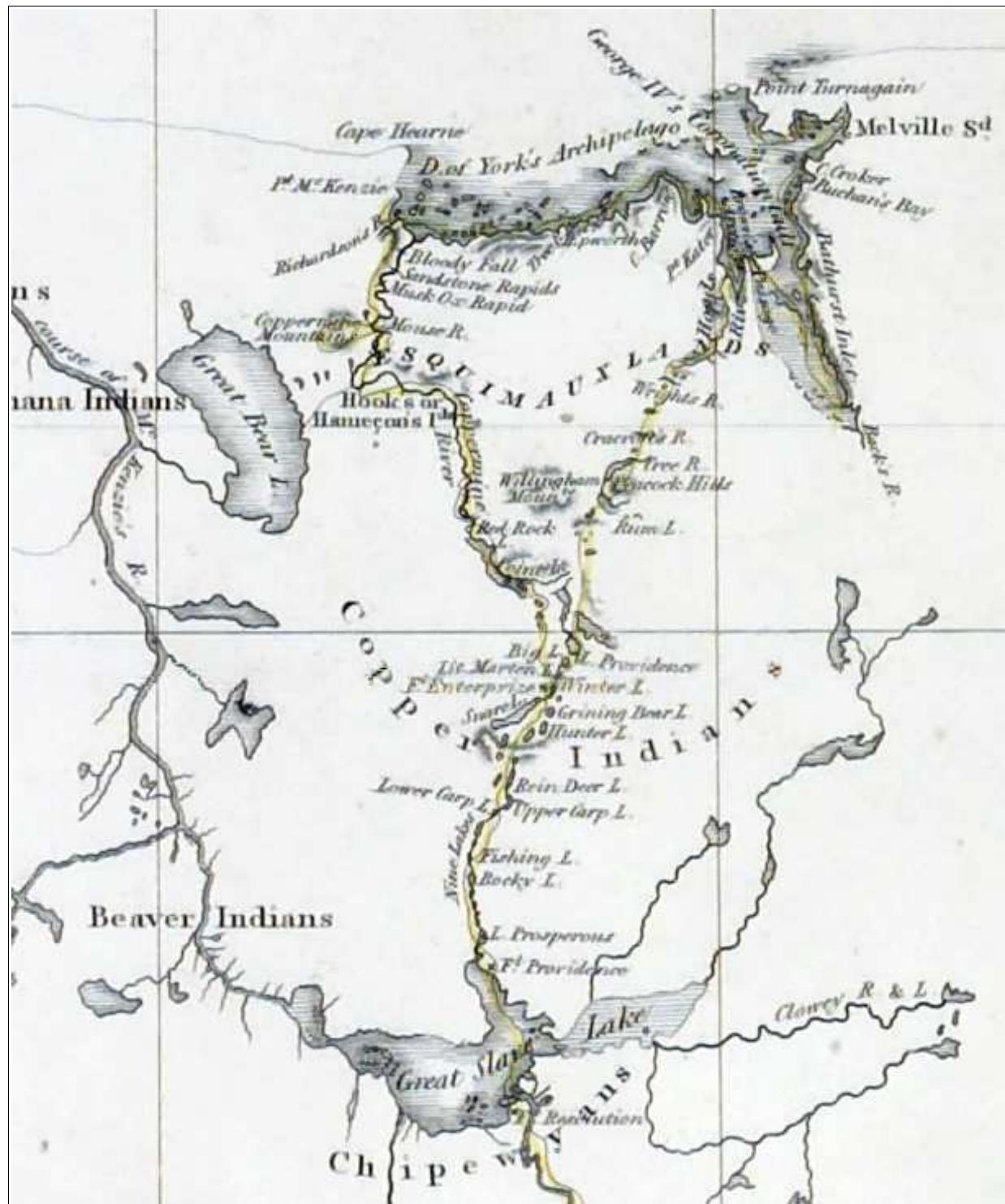
1. Introduction
 - a) What is the definition of “heritage resource” contained in the Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations? The introduction is unclear as to what heritage resources are being assessed.
 - b) Why is there no mention of the ethnogenesis of the Metis culture in this area during the period between 1600 and present? The introduction gives the erroneous impression that there were no Metis occupants and users of the area before “contact” with Europeans.
 - c) Since the Nunavut boundary overlaps with the NSMA's traditional territory, and the Inuit Heritage Trust presumably only deals with Inuit heritage, why is there no explanation in the introduction how the VSEC of heritage sites for the Metis (and presumably also the Yellowknives, Tlicho, Chipewyan, and Cree) will be dealt with?
2. Valued Socioeconomic Components.
3. Boundaries
 - a) Where is the map showing the “project area” and “study areas” for heritage resources?

b) Why is there no discussion of the exploration and environmental assessment portions of this project? Socioeconomic impacts are known to begin occurring as soon as a potential project is announced.

4. Environmental Setting

- a) Conflicting information is presented in this section. The introduction states that the baseline studies enable prediction of effects and inform the design of mitigation measures, yet the introduction acknowledges that understanding may change as new data becomes available, and the methodology section states that only limited literature review was used to provide context, and only the Naonaiyaotit Traditional Knowledge Project (NTKP) was consulted to incorporate traditional knowledge (TK) into the study of heritage sites. Are the baseline heritage resource studies adequate to predict and mitigate effects on Metis heritage values?
- b) What baseline research was done regarding Metis heritage values in the project area, and how was Metis TK incorporated into the research?
- c) Is the researcher knowledgeable of the ethical guidelines for conducting research involving Aboriginal People, and were the ethical guidelines followed? The methodology section should describe how the research complied with best practices in conducting traditional knowledge studies, and in conducting research involving Aboriginal Peoples.
- d) In section 4.3.1 where the Interior Barren Grounds chronological period is discussed, why is there no mention of the transition period between the Taltheilei Shale Tradition to the Athabaskan period, the ethonogenesis of the Metis, and the crucial role that the Metis played in the development of the area's cultural environment between the 1600's and the present?
- e) Why does section 4.4.2 regarding the Historic Contact not mention the Metis (or any of the other Peoples) who occupied and used and still do occupy and use the area, and who were key players in the social, cultural, technological, and economic evolution that occurred during that time?
- f) Why was community consultation conducted only in Kugluktuq, Ikaluktuuttiak, and Kingaok regarding the heritage resources and traditional knowledge of Contwoyto Lake area? Is current residency supposed to be a valid indicator of location of social, cultural, or heritage interests and values extending over past centuries?
- g) Shouldn't the Metis (and others) be included in the heritage resource assessment and traditional knowledge studies, given their ethnogenesis in the area, with their hundreds of years of occupation and use?

Please see the image below of a map of the 1820 Franklin trip guided by indigenous Metis. We would of course be extremely interested in any remains of this trip that may be found, and we would like to know how closely the proposed project comes to this traditional trail and historic route.



5. Effects Assessment

- a) How was the Ethnic value of the various sites assessed with regards to Metis values?
- b) How many of the previously recorded and newly discovered sites might have been of Metis ethnic affiliation?
- c) When you speak of Elders, do you mean only Inuit Elders, or Elders from all the potentially affected communities? (meaning of course cultural communities, not geographic communities).

6. Mitigation and Management Plans

- a) How, when, and where will the Metis be involved?

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

- a) How, when and where, will the Metis be involved?

Section F-2 Socio-Economic Effects Assessment

1.

Section F-3 Heritage Resources Studies 2001

8.

9.

Section F-5 Traditional Knowledge of Wildlife, Fish, and Water Quality

Section F-7 Socio-Economic Baseline Studies 2007

Section F-9 Review of Socio-economic Dimensions of the Bathurst Port and Road Project

Section F-10 The Economic Benefits for Nunavut and Canada

Section G-3 Transboundary Effects Analysis

Section G-5 Cumulative Effects Assessment

Sincerely,



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