

Presentation to Environmental Assessment Review Process
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November 3, 2015

I: Geneva Lake Community Group Experience

- Letter to Agatha Garcia-Wright, Jan. 7, 2014, attached
- Letter to Mary Hennessy, February 23, 2014, attached

II: Camp Eagle Nest Experience

We run a youth camp that aims to give children and youth a healthy and fun wilderness experience based on Native culture and leadership. We have a base in Benny where Clyde grew up. It is his family's traditional territory but Canada considers it "crown land."

We objected in April, 2015 when we first found out about cutting plans in the Benny area when trailers for loggers were set up in the village and a logging road was started.

- The MNRF process didn't work for us. After rich data regarding endangered species, archeological interest and current and historical cultural use, only one suspected "serpent mound" was protected in the adjustments made and loggers were given the right to cut whatever they want up to 30 m. of all trails and waterways.
- The people who originally objected to the planned logging operations (Clyde & Barbara McNichol & Art Petahtegoose) were not invited to the meeting at which the results of all the studies the MNRF funded on the case were reviewed and decisions about planned amendments were made. This goes against the MNRF's own guidelines.
- We were asked by the lawyer hired by the Chief of Clyde's reserve who got funding from MNRF for the review process to remove all of the historical information from the Traditional Knowledge study I was working on since the MNRF wouldn't have any way to deal with that kind of information. So decisions were made without that information including strong historical evidence of promises that surveyors would come in to protect inland hunting territories of 1850 Robinson Huron signatories' relatives' clans as well but that this has never happened. Clyde is one descendant and intended beneficiary who is still waiting for surveyors to complete this commitment.

Recommendations:

1. **Ensure government authorities follow their own guidelines and stop extraction operations as soon as it is seen that important guidelines were not followed.** E.g. facilitate engagement with forest conservation projects such as a National Park Reserve or Queen's Commonwealth Canopy Project in such cases to get the operations stopped and proper processes followed.
2. **Be more specific and stringent regarding what constitutes adequate consultation with First Nations.**
 - **Require an effort to inform all Indigenous people in the traditional territory concerned, not just the "First Nations" that Canada officially recognizes.** Many Indigenous people are still left out when only officially recognized First Nation band councils are informed or consulted. At a minimum, it is important to ensure that correspondence, or notice of community consultations goes to every band member living anywhere in the traditional territory where the operation is planned. Clyde was not informed of planning and review sessions happening for the 2010-2020 Spanish forest management plan even though he was a Native person with a camp in Benny and home in Cartier, the location of many of the proposed operations and not far from others. The onus and cost should be on government for ensuring correspondence and notification goes to all or as many as possible Native people in such a situation -- living near proposed operations. Clyde's band had his address.
 - **Require proof that letters of invitation have been received by specific First Nation decision makers and that a decision has been made not to participate, if that is the case.**
 - **If a decision has been made by the chief not to participate, require the proponents to request of a statement as to the reason for non-participation, and to make this public information.**
 - It is not adequate for resource extraction companies (loggers, mining companies, MNRF etc) to believe they have adequately consulted First Nations if letters are sent to them to invite them to planning discussion events, and those letters aren't answered. Canada imposed band chiefs and governing councils were not set up to represent the interests of inland clans and never did represent them.
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3. **Do not conclude that if a band chief approves of an activity, it is OK.** Canada has a history of giving jurisdiction, funds and power to "chiefs" willing to go along with the resource extraction it wants and deposing the ones that won't. Mother Earth must be protected regardless of the race or position of the person that is advocating for this.