

## Information update from the Traditional Use study team

### Traditional use research being done by the Four Maliseet First Nations Communities

October 2015

Kwe, Hello!!

Four Maliseet Communities are doing a Traditional Use study concerning where Maliseet people have been camping, hunting, trapping, fishing, collecting berries, medicinal plants, wood and using the land in other ways as far back as they can remember. This study is being done to help the Maliseet Nation understand the potential impacts that the proposed Energy East pipeline project may have on Maliseet traditional land use. However, the information from the study will also help Maliseet people in a number of other ways in the future.



This is an update on progress with the study. The Consultation coordinators from each participating community, along with the

principle researcher and co-researcher of the study, met with community members and Leadership in June 2015 to talk about the purpose of the study, how it would be done, and the timeline. We also wanted to hear thoughts about the study from community members. Among other things, we pointed out that community consultation regarding the pipeline project would be handled through a separate process, not this study. That would include things such as general project details, gathering of community concerns/perspectives and documenting potential effects. ***This study focuses on Maliseet Traditional Use in New Brunswick.***

#### **How the research will be done**

Research for the Traditional Use study involves interviews with a total of 145 Maliseet people who have experience hunting, trapping, fishing, collecting berries and medicinal plants and otherwise using Maliseet lands and resources in New Brunswick. The interviewees will be selected by your Maliseet First Nations governments in conjunction with the study team researchers. Many of the interviewees will be experienced older community members but younger people (over the age of 18) will also be interviewed. To be selected for an interview you must be a registered member from either St. Mary's First Nation, Woodstock First Nation, Tobique First Nation or Madawaska First Nation and must be an experienced land user.

During the interviews, participants will be asked to indicate on maps the locations of cabins, camps, harvesting sites (animals, fish, berries, wood) and special cultural sites that relate to Maliseet traditional use. The locations and traditional use information recorded on the maps will then be put into a computer database (GIS) that can be used to make new maps of all of the Traditional Use locations for each community. The interviews will be audio recorded so that what people say about each location can also be documented. Both the maps and recordings will be used to write a report. Study team researchers will use historical documents to help put the Traditional Use information into its proper context.

The interviews will be conducted by community researchers Brian Stuart (Madawaska), Jamie Idol (Tobique), Rachelle Tremblay (Woodstock), and Shyla O'Donnell (St. Mary's) along with outside researchers Peter Armitage and Ave Dersch. Jason Hall and Andrea Bear Nicholas will be studying the information from the interviews so that it can be placed in its historical context in the study report. The computer mapping (GIS) work is being done by outside researcher, Stephen Kilburn.

#### **Timing of the research**

The main part of the Traditional Use study research will start in October, 2015. Team

members will meet with small groups of experienced land users in each community during *Research Planning Meetings*. The types of land use that should be documented (e.g., which animals are harvested), the design of the maps that should be used for the interviews, and other matters will be discussed. We plan on doing the *interviews* throughout November and into January.

The audio recordings from the interviews will be transcribed (typed up in a computer) in January and February and the map information will be put into the computer (GIS) database. After that, team members will read all the interview transcripts, look at the map information, and write a draft Traditional Use study report. The report will describe Maliseet Traditional Use and how it has changed over the years. Both maps and stories from the interviews along with other sources of information about Traditional Use will be used in the report.



With draft Traditional Use maps and report in hand, principal researcher Peter Armitage and other team members will hold meetings in

each community to show interviewees, Chiefs and Councils, and other community members the draft results of the research. Changes will be made to the maps and draft report to correct mistakes and missing information. The report will be carefully reviewed by Chiefs and Councils before it is provided to Energy East and made public. At the end of the research, a copy of the report, audio recording, transcript, and personalized map will be provided to each interviewee.

### **Confidentiality**

All information provided by people interviewed for the Traditional Use study will be owned by the Four Maliseet First Nations. This information will not be released in the future for other purposes without the permission of the Four Maliseet First Nations governments. Information provided by interviewees will be kept in the files and computers of the Maliseet First Nations governments. Interviewees will be thanked in the Traditional Use study report for participating in the research. However, their information will be kept confidential because their names will not be linked to their information.

Participant Identification Numbers (PIN) will be used by the researchers to keep track of their information in the report. The public will not know who these numbers belong to or which individuals provided specific information.

**If you have any questions about our research, please call Deana Sappier at 506-273-5544.**