



GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION

GFN CIA Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA)

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER — INFORMATION SHARING

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Special points of interest:

- CIA Open House events
- CIA Hardrock Site Visits
- CIA Steering Committee Meetings
- Upcoming CIA Open House (September 20, 2012)
- Upcoming GFN Youth Focus Group (September 25, 2012)



Adolph Rasevych and son Jason trapping beaver on family trapline, 1990's.

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Ginoogaming commences Cultural Impact Assessment to measure impacts

On May 7, 2012 the Ginoogaming First Nation community held the first Open House for the 12-month Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA), which will operate through to spring 2013.

The program is focused on measuring the effects of mining and natural resources development activities on the local Anishnaabe culture, values, and ways of life.

There will be five Open Houses in total: the second on September 20, the third in December, and the fourth in January, with the final Open House occurring at the end of March 2013 when the project will conclude.

The Open Houses are a way to share information that has been gathered with the Ginoogaming First Nation people. Data and information will also be shared via Internet (Ginoogaming First Nation web

site, www.ginoogamingfirstnation.ca), or the project's Facebook group, as well as other sources.

All of the Open Houses will be held at the Ginoogaming First Nation multi-purpose building (formerly Nimiki Migizi).

Information collected and compiled to date will be shared and communicated at these events, with the goal of spurring additional study participants and furthering community discussion through individual interviews and targeted group sessions.

At the Open House events, government, industry and technical experts will be asked to present pertinent information on the potential and actual impacts of the Advanced Exploration Activities, in order to inform the community and to

enable them to make an informed decision.

At the fourth Open House event (January), the draft results of the CIA will be presented to the community and will be discussed along with mitigation strategy requirements, with the final draft revised as needed.

The final Open House event (end of March) will celebrate the completion of the CIA process, with the final results reviewed and a community decision regarding the adequacy of the mitigation strategies and support of the Advanced Exploration Activities.



Anawtyn Rasevych helping elders to winnow wild rice, September 2012.

What is the CIA (Cultural Impact Assessment)???

Premier Gold Mines Limited has proposed initiating advanced mine exploration activities at the Hardrock Project site (former MacLeod-Mosher mine) located within the traditional territory of Ginoogaming First Nation.

Advanced exploration activities will involve de-watering the former mine shaft (13,000 m³/day) into a settling pond, treating the water to within Ontario's

PWQO, and then discharging the water into Kenogamisis Lake.

While Ginoogaming understands the potential employment and training opportunities that mining activities at the Hardrock site will bring, the community is concerned about the potential impacts that the proposed activities may have on the environment and their traditional land uses.

As such, the Ginoogaming First Nation community would like to utilize the comprehensive Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) study for the Hardrock Project as a way to provide the community with the knowledge required to make an informed decision regarding support of this project.





Future water treatment plant site viewed at Hardrock site visit, July 2012.



Assistant CCEM Troy Echum with core sample at Hardrock site visit, July 2012

“to spur further discussion on the project, to increase community interest, and to bring the site to those who are unable to participate.”



GFN Elder David Charles with birchbark crafts, 2012

CIA site visits: from Ginoogaming to Hardrock

Six site visits have been planned to be held throughout the CIA.

Photos and GPS/GIS information can be collected at these events, and these site visits include **group trips** to the site with all interested persons included.

CCEM's will rent a Porky's Shuttle for Ginoogaming band members to attend the site. Visits are booked with Premier Gold and then bulletins issued to the community, informing them of when and where to attend.

After these site visits, the data

will be compiled and prepared for communication at the Open House events and targeted group sessions.

The goal of the site visits are: to spur further discussion on the project, to increase community interest, and to bring the site to those who are unable to participate in site visits.

The first site visit was held on Friday, June 29.

The second site visit was held on Friday, July 27 and it was attended by the CCEM, the Assistant CCEM's, and GFN Elder David Charles.

The third site visit was held on Friday September 7 and GFN Elder Roy Echum was in attendance.

Site Visit #4 is scheduled to be held on **Friday October 5.**

Site Visit #5 is scheduled to be held on **Monday October 29.**

Site Visit #6, the final visit, will be held at the **end of March 2013.**

For all visits, the Porky's Shuttle will leave the GFN Complex and return a 3 hours later. Lunch and door prizes will be provided to guests for upcoming visits.

CIA data collection: how will Ginoogaming culture be measured?

Interested community members can participate in **targeted group sessions** consisting of groups of approximately six Elders, youth, women, trappers and general membership (total of 30 people).

Cultural value information would be collected through discussions with these groups, and be compiled and communicated at subsequent Open

Houses.

Interested individuals will also be **interviewed individually** on their views, hopes and fears on the Advanced Exploration Activities, to further explore the community's values surrounding the site and traditional use of the area.

All interviews would be recorded with information shared in a

manner that the individual is comfortable with. It is hoped that all individuals participating in the group sessions will also participate in individual interviews.

Upcoming events:

GFN Youth Focus Group will be held on **Tuesday, September 25.** Please contact CIA committee members if interested.

CIA Steering Committee meetings: who and what are they?

Membership for the Ginoogaming First Nation CIA Steering Committee was created at the May 7 Open House.

The steering committee consists of 7 individuals: the CCEM, the two Assistant CCEM's, one Elder, one youth, one member-at-large, and one Councillor from Ginoogaming First Nation, as well as a representative of Premier Gold.

The Councillor member of the Steering Committee will act as a liaison between the Committee and the Ginoogaming First Nation Chief and Council.

The Committee meets monthly to discuss ongoing results of the CIA, receive and discuss technical information, progress of Open House activities, etc. It is expected that experts from both government and industry

would attend these meetings as required/ requested to explain technical reports and respond to inquiries.

In this way the Steering Committee participates in and guides the CIA Process. As the Committee sees fit, such experts would be included in the community Open Houses and will assist in the CIA process.

CIA (Cultural Impact Assessment) objectives: what are they?

1) For community members to understand the impacts arising from Premier Gold's Advanced Exploration activities, and to ensure that Ginoogaming First Nation has made an informed decision and was able to weigh all the risks.

2) To have a study that focuses on the relationship of cultural values and cultural impacts. Ginoogaming will weigh the potential effects, risks, gains, mitigation effectiveness and compensation with community

involvement.

3) For Ginoogaming to lead and direct project opportunities by being actively involved in decisions of support or non-support.

The ultimate goal of this study is to identify and protect the traditional lands and territories within Ginoogaming First Nation, by ensuring that the lands and waters are protected for future generations, and enabling Elders to provide direction and inspire the youth.

In conjunction with this study

and the initiation of Advanced Exploration activities, Environmental Monitors will conduct environmental monitoring activities at the Hardrock Project site.

The Ginoogaming community member hired as the Environmental Monitors will also act as Community Coordinators for this CIA:

Peter Rasevych CCEM
 Denny Michano, Assistant CCEM
 Troy Echum, Assistant CCEM



GFN Elder David Echum and Adolph Rasevych on family trapline territory with moose, 1973.

GFN Elders speak out at focus group

On August 20, 2012, four GFN Elders met in a focus group setting in order to advance their participation in CIA activities.

The Elders assembled included: Roy Echum, David Charles, Victor Chapais, and Jerry Echum.

Other GFN Elders, including Dorothy Chapais and Gabriel Echum, were interviewed indi-

vidually in the following weeks.

All of the GFN Elders expressed their concerns and feelings regarding the Hardrock project and specifically, their views regarding natural resources development on Ginoogaming First Nation's traditional territory.

The Elders spoke out directly on their concern for the water, for

the land, for the animals, for the air, and how these impact the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health of the people.

The Elders want the GFN community and others to be aware of their views regarding treaty rights to hunt, trap, and fish and how these traditional cultural ways are often not paid respect by developers.

"All GFN Elders related how, historically, the First Nation has not benefited from gold mining or any other natural resources developments."

The GFN Elders all expressed the same opinions with respect to developments in the band's territory: they would like to see more involvement of the First Nation in all stages of development, as well as ways in which the First Nation will benefit.

All GFN Elders related how, historically, the First Nation has not benefited from gold mining or any other natural resources

developments. They also described how industries and government have yet to honour treaty obligations to the First Nation.

All GFN Elders expressed concern for the youth and for the future of GFN. They talked about how the community and people have changed over time, and how traplines and other ways of practicing traditional

culture have been in decline. They indicated that they do speak for the land, and that the land is healing for the people.

For further information on the GFN Elders focus group, attend the GFN CIA Open House Event on September 20, 2012 where some preliminary data will be presented to the community.



GFN Elder Victor Chapais presented with award (by Dilico Executive Director Micheal Hardy) for his decades of service to both Dilico and to GFN, August 2012.

How you can get involved in the GFN CIA:

- Attend GFN CIA Open House events to sign up for interviews and focus groups
- Attend GFN CIA site visits

The GFN CIA would like to involve any community members who want to be involved.



Call for photos, opinions, stories for our next newsletter: contact the GFN CIA directly.

GFN CIA Steering Committee Members

Peter Rasevych, CCEM
Denny Michano, Assistant CCEM
Troy Echum, Assistant CCEM
David Charles, GFN Elder representative
Jerry Echum, GFN Council representative
Cassy Echum, GFN youth representative
Marriane Echum, GFN youth representative
Cecil Mendowegan, GFN member-at-large representative
Tammy Lehtinen, Premier Gold Mines Inc.

Contact: GFN CIA office at (807) 876-2242

Facebook Group: "Ginoogaming First Nation Cultural Impact Assessment"

Did you know? First Nations in Ontario and the duty to consult

In a decision of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice released on January 3, 2012, a judge ordered that Solid Gold Resources Corp. could not carry on any further exploration activity on its claims block for 120 days.

The reason for this was so that the company would have the time to consult and accommodate with the Wahgoshig First Nation in a meaningful way.

The judge ordered that if the consultation with the First Nation was not effective, then the First Nation had the option of going back to court to seek

an extension of the injunction.

Solid Gold's mining claims block is in the heart of Wahgoshig's traditional territory, of significant importance to the band, and they entered the land and started to drill without any consultation or accommodation occurring first.

Wahgoshig Chief David Babin: "Justice has been done...Aboriginal and treaty rights really mean something and [that] courts will not let our rights get trampled by...failures of industry and government."

Wahgoshig lawyer Kate Kempton: "This is an important precedent for First Nations....it is in the public interest to ensure that First Nations constitutionally-protected Aboriginal and treaty rights, including the right to meaningful consultation and adequate accommodation, are honoured and respected."

Please see the link below for the MiningWatch Canada news story, as well as a link to the full court decision (in pdf format):

Elders' Teaching Corner

Legal/ Constitutional/
Treaty rights



Jason Rasevych with sturgeon at Long Lake #58 First Nation blockade, 1990.

<http://www.miningwatch.ca/news/wahgoshig-first-nation-ontario-wins-injunction-against-solid-gold-resources-exploration>