



# WHAT WE HEARD

## FRCN Conservation Areas Initiative – Round 1 Engagement Summary

March 2023



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## PHOTO CREDITS

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## Acknowledgement

The FRCN Conservation Areas Initiative acknowledges and respects the existing and pending Treaty and traditional land use rights of First Nations, as outlined with respect to FRCN in the 2013 “Protocol Respecting Crown-Aboriginal Consultations” (Appendix H).

This proposal will seek alignment with other neighbouring First Nations in a way that respects their existing or pending Treaty and traditional land use rights, and support a collaborative approach to regional conservation.

We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for everyone who has taken the time to share their thoughts, priorities and visions for conservation with us, including: the elders of Fisher River Cree Nation and Peguis First Nation; communities and councils throughout the region; commercial stakeholders; survey respondents; and those who engage with us on social media. In light of the many challenges our communities have faced during the pandemic, your efforts and care are appreciated all the more. Thank you for valuing the health of our natural environment, and helping us work toward a sustainable future in our region.

# Introduction

This initiative is led by Fisher River Cree Nation, in partnership with Peguis First Nation and the Manitoba chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society.

The Initiative has the support of the provincial and federal governments.

The goal of the initiative is to protect the health of our lands and waters so they can continue to provide us with sustainable economic opportunities and support our cherished lifestyles and cultures.

The purpose of the engagement process is to ensure that the voices and wishes of Manitobans—especially area residents, Indigenous peoples, local communities, and regional stakeholders—are considered when determining which areas should be conserved within the study area.

We are developing a balanced conservation proposal within a study area that stretches from Riverton to Kinnow Bay Provincial Park and includes a section of Lake Winnipeg.

We do not expect every piece of this area to be protected: we are studying the broad needs and diverse interests of the region in order to develop an appropriate and successful conservation proposal.

Preserving the natural landscape will also provide sustainable economic opportunities such as tourism and a healthy fishing industry.

These lands are key to restoring the health of Lake Winnipeg because they act as natural filters against damaging nutrients. They help to prevent floods and provide habitat for an incredible array of wildlife. The forests and wetlands serve as a massive carbon sink, which

helps to mitigate climate change, and the trees clean the air we all breathe.

Round 1 of the process was designed as an open process which aimed to assess the values and preferences of regional residents and organisations with an interest in the area. Round 2 will involve more focused questions and a review of the draft proposal, which will be refined in order to reflect the values, preferences and comments of regional residents and organizations with an interest in the area.

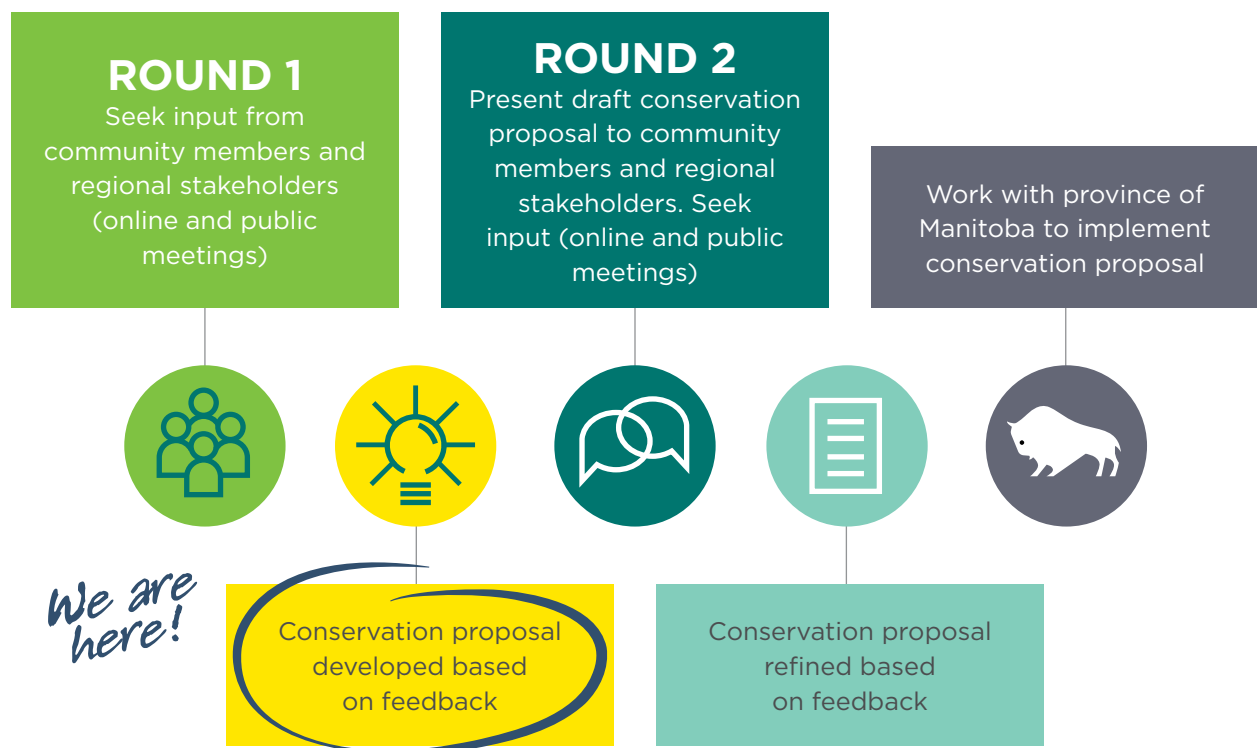
The engagement process began in early 2020 with meetings with Fisher River Cree Nation (FRCN) elders. Plans shifted drastically due to the COVID-19 pandemic which struck in March 2020. Some meetings were held virtually, others were postponed until restrictions eased. We deployed virtual tools like a photo contest and scavenger hunts to engage regional residents we could not meet with in person.

## Engagement Process Results

- \* 2 meetings with FRCN elders
- \* 20 interviews with Indigenous Knowledge keepers from FRCN and Peguis
- \* 2 community meetings with FRCN and Peguis band members
- \* 2 virtual open houses for regional residents
- \* 35 meetings with 28 different groups of: political leaders; residents or cottage owner associations; business groups; organisations with an interest in the region; stakeholders; and rights holders.
- \* 455 responses to an online survey of regional residents and people with an interest in the area.

# Our Engagement Process

Round 1 of our community and stakeholder engagement process (see **Figure 1 - The Engagement Process**, below) involved a number of methods to build relationships and awareness of the Initiative. Our general goals were to better understand the priorities of regional communities, rights holders and stakeholders related to sustainable development and conservation in the region. The majority of Round 1 work was conducted from early spring of 2021 to the summer of 2022. Round 2 of the engagement process will be conducted in 2023.



**Figure 1 - The Engagement Process**



Date	Activity	Details
June 2019	Elders Meeting	Guidance was sought from the Fisher River Cree Nation Elders group ahead of the launch of the formal engagement process in 2020.
April 6, 2021	Elders Meeting	Guidance was sought from FRCN Elders in a meeting held virtually because of the pandemic.
July 2020 – September 2021	Indigenous Knowledge Interviews	Interview Summaries are provided in the Knowledge Holder Interview Summary companion document to this report <b>Appendix A</b> .
April 13, 2021 (FRCN) April 15, 2021 (Peguis)	Community Meetings	Community meetings to introduce the initiative to FRCN and Peguis band members were held virtually due to the pandemic.
June 10 2021 to July 25, 2022 (Ongoing)	Community and Stakeholder Meetings	A total of 35 meetings with 28 different groups of: political leaders; residents or cottage owner associations; business groups; organizations with an interest in the region; stakeholders; and rights holders. A full list is provided in <b>Appendix B</b> .
October 7, 2021 & October 13, 2021	Online open houses	Two public open houses to introduce regional residents to the initiative were held virtually due to the pandemic.
FRCN – July 2021 Peguis – August 2021 Bifrost/Riverton – September 2021	Fisher River Scavenger Hunt	Land-based scavenger hunts using the online ‘Turfhunt’ app to promote the initiative and encourage people to explore the landscapes of the region.
December 5, 2021 to January 31, 2022	Community Voices photo contest	Our ‘Community Voices’ photo contest invited Interlake residents to tell us what they love about the southeastern Interlake region, with prizes drawn at random for those who made a submission. Summary attached in <b>Appendix F</b> .
December 5, 2021 to January 31, 2022	Online survey	Four hundred fifty-five (455) responses from across the southeastern Interlake region. Full details of what we heard can be found in the appendices, attached as follows:  <b>Appendix A</b> – Survey results summary <b>Appendix B</b> – Verbatim Survey Comments
March 2022 to March 2023	Letters of support from Manitobans in support of the initiative’s goal	3725 letters of support gathered

**Table 1 – Round 1 Engagement Summary**

# Who We Heard From

Our initial survey was promoted through our growing network of rightsholders and stakeholders, and through our social media platforms, resulting in 455 people responding primarily from around the Southeastern Interlake region. Figure 2, below, shows a map of self-declared postal code data from those who responded is available in **Appendix C**. You may also view this data as an [online interactive map](#).

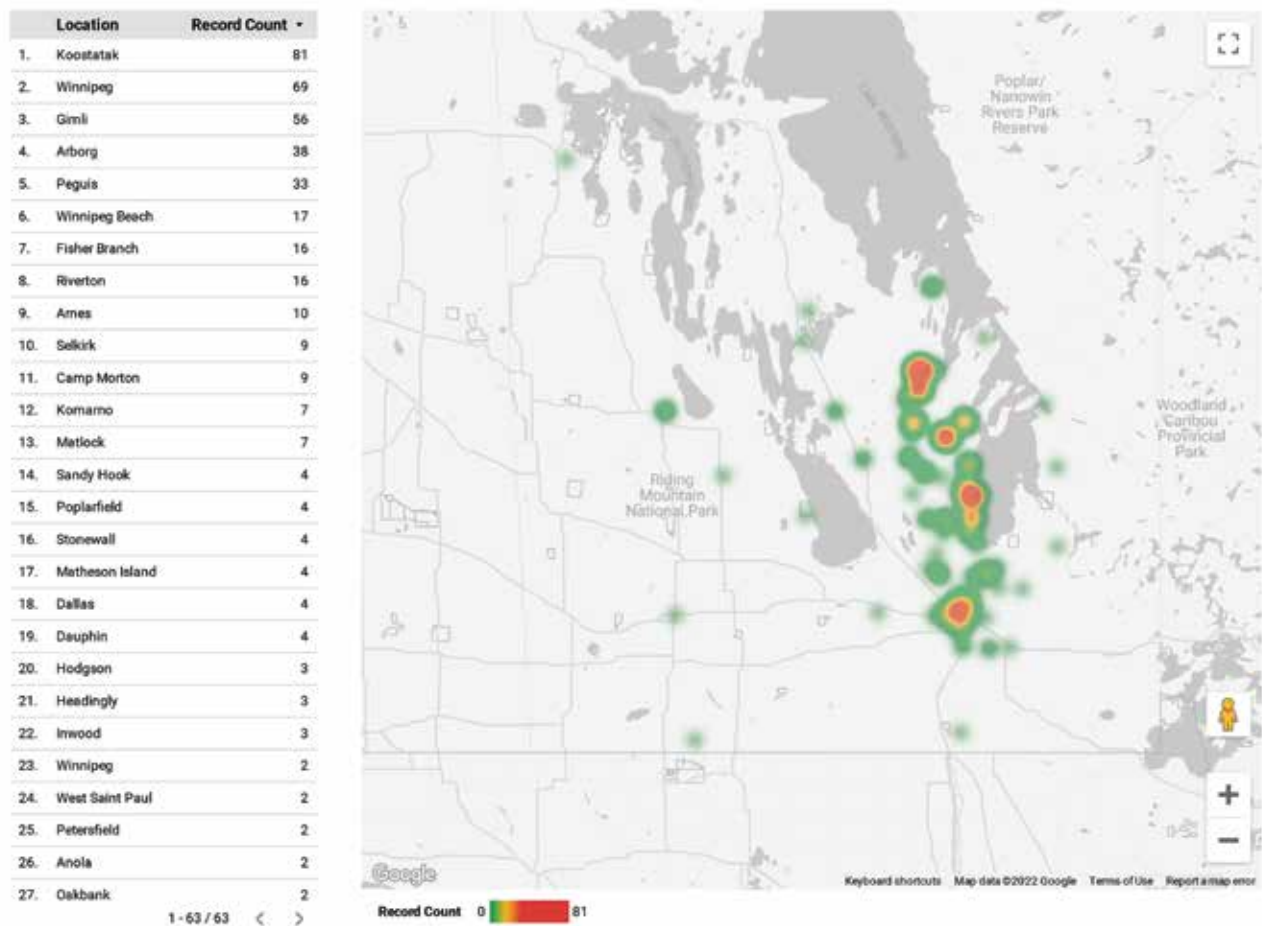
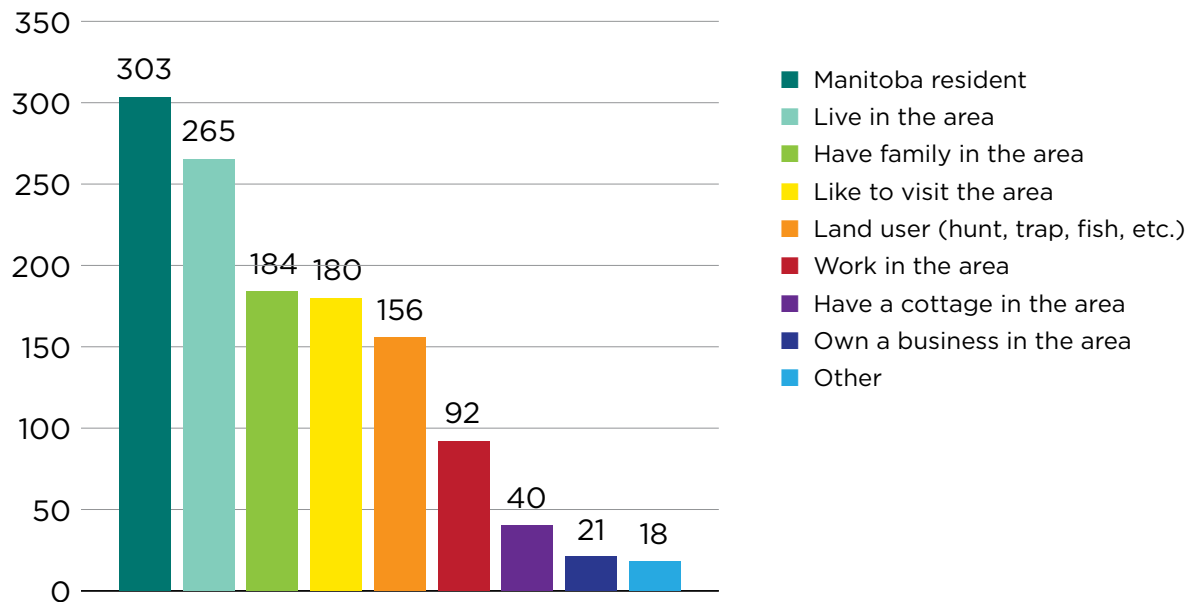


Figure 2 – Survey Respondent Postal Code Data

We also asked survey respondents to share their relationship to the region. A summary of how they identified is provided in **Figure 3**, below.

### What is your relationship to the area?

*Choose all that apply\**



**Figure 3 - Survey Respondent Relationships to Study Area**

**\*Please note:** Though respondents were asked to ‘choose all responses that apply,’ over 100 respondents who indicated that they live in the area did not identify themselves as Manitoba residents. As such, **the response rates provided in Figure 3 are under-representative of respondent relationships to the region.**



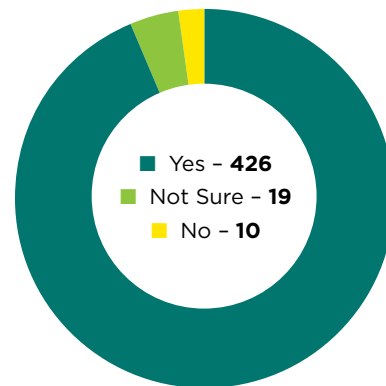
# Survey Results

The Round 1 online survey was open from December 5, 2021 to January 31, 2022. It was promoted through: our email list; the initiative Facebook page; social posts shared by partners, supporters and regional Facebook groups; and paid advertisements on Facebook targeting people in the study area. Four hundred and fifty-five (455) people responded to the survey.

This report outlines some of the sentiments and themes that have emerged during Round 1 of our engagement process. This information will be used to develop our initial proposals for additional conserved lands and waters in the Fisher Bay region.

A significant majority (94%) of survey respondents supported additional protections for our region’s lands and waters, as shown in **Figure 4**, right.

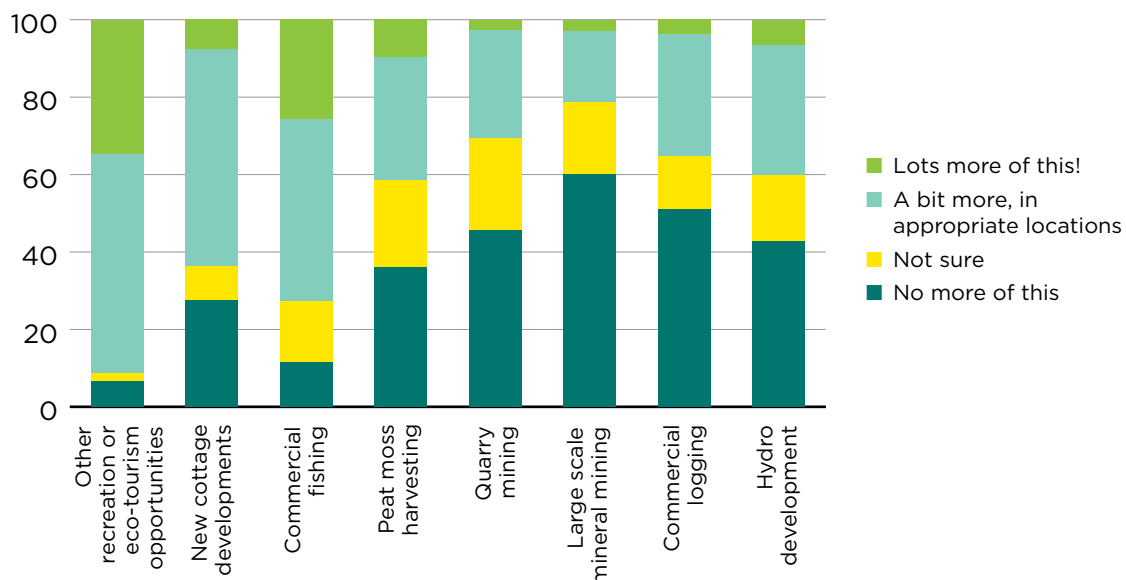
## Do you support protecting land and water in this area?



**Figure 4 - Level of support for conserving lands and waters in the region**

When asked what “What kind of development do you want to see in the region” responses varied. There was strong opposition to mining and logging and strong support for significant expansions to eco tourism and commercial fishing. A common thread was that people were generally satisfied with current levels of development. A summary of how much survey respondents supported each type of proposed development is provided in **Figure 5**, below.

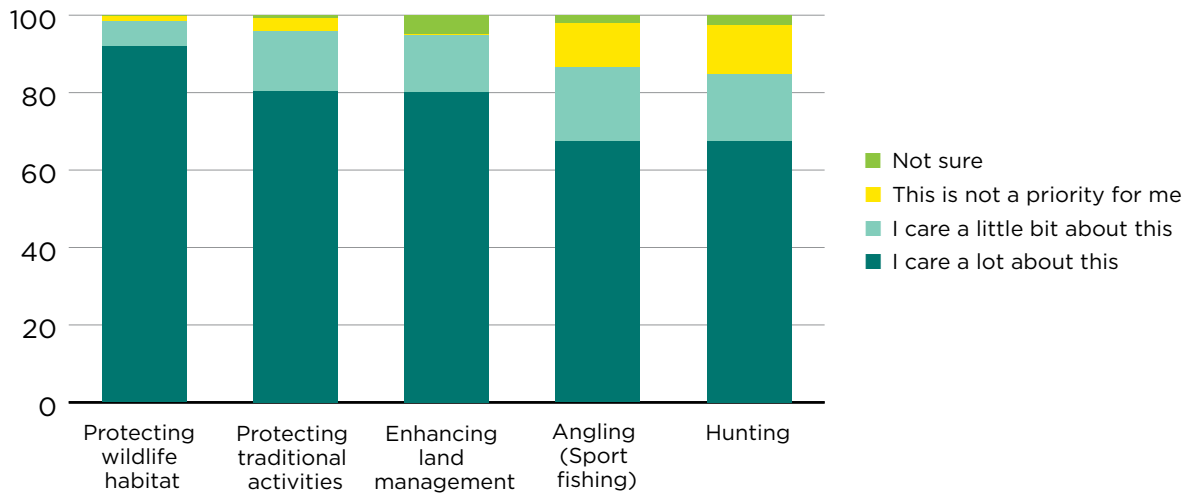
## What kind of development do you want to see in the region?



**Figure 5 - Levels of support for various types of development**



### How important are the following activities to you?



**Figure 6 - Importance of land-based activities**

Two questions in our survey asked respondents to provide feedback in their own words. These comments were coded and organized based on the themes that emerged, which are shown below for each of the two questions, along with some of the feedback provided to us. A full list of all comments submitted is provided in **Appendix B - Verbatim Survey Comments**. It is available in an extended electronic versions of this report and on the initiative website.





**Q1:** “If you want this area protected, tell us why. Are there particular activities or places you cherish and want to maintain? If you want to see development in this area, tell us what kind and/or where. Please let us know if these comments refer to a specific zone or area. Detailed maps are available in the map gallery.”

*“We need to protect as much as possible because of the life it gives us. Many things can be done as long as the laws of sustainable harvesting are followed. I harvest medicines in many areas on that map. The medicines are abundant but mining, making dams, destroying the peat moss, over harvesting the forest are all so detrimental to the intricate balance of all of this, for fish, animals, medicines. Our people have done it for thousands of years without leaving destruction.”*

*“Many migrant and non migrant bird species nest in this area. Since the 70’s bird populations for many species has plummeted. They’re essential to nature as are many other animal species in the area. We need to protect natural habitat.”*

*“Areas used by family have been heavily impacted by peat mining – far less wildlife now. This activity and similar ‘development’ needs to stop. We support traditional Indigenous harvesting but that is it and would be compatible with any new protected areas.”*

*“Area 6 and 7 are known to be used by endangered bats and caves are in the area. I’m sure many more are unknown and could be threatened by increased quarrying.”*

*“We need access to the beach toward Fisher Bay. A parking lot should be built and maintained along the beach. There needs to be some brushing/clearing, picnic tables, barbecue sites, bathroom/change rooms.”*

## Topics mentioned in written responses to Q1

Habitat preservation	59
Species protection	41
Water Health	29
Zone specific comments	27
Hunting & Trapping	21
Future generations	20
Eco-tourism & Outdoor Learning	17
Forests and Lumber	17
Garbage/Pollution	15
Access	15
Protect it all	14
Camping and Hiking	14
Peat	13
Amenities	13
Foraging/Medicine picking	12
Sustainable use	12
Land management	12
Food & Agriculture	10
Sustainable harvesting	9
Motor sports	8
Birding	7
Mining	7
Cottages	7
Promotion	7
Traditional Indigenous Practices	7
Beaches/Swimming	6
Other watersports	6
Hydro	6
Dialogue & Cooperation	5
Habitat remediation	3
Treaty rights	3
Parks	2
Invasive species	2
Other	17



*“I think the government needs to appreciate the untouched forests that we have, and instead of taxing landowners based on the fertility of their soil of the entire property (which is why many farmers remove all of the forested areas off farmland) , perhaps the government should give landowners green space credits for NOT removing trees from the land.”*

*“I enjoy all areas in the Interlake. Love to swim, fish, go boating, hiking etc. It is a pleasure to be able to take the grandkids out on the land and show them nature at its finest. Can not imagine not being surrounded by this natural beauty. We can already see the effects that over hunting and mining has had on this area.”*

*“We are losing so much wildlife/land and it’s all to do with over development and pollution... we need to save these areas in order to keep some habitats and ways of life alive and not wiped out.”*

*“We need to be cognizant of the balance between economic activity and protection of a healthy ecosystem. Meaningful consultation and cooperation between the keepers of the land, the environmental scientists and economic developers is essential. All the voices need to be heard – and heeded.”*



**Q2:** “There are lots of different ways that people use the land and waters. Please share any additional issues of importance to you here.”

*“My husband is a commercial fisherman keeping our water & land clean means a lot to our family. It’s our way of life fishing.”*

*“Living in cottage country, I appreciate those lakefront homes that leave the shoreline untouched. Thankfully, manicured lawns are few, but the concept of manicured lawns bothers me a lot: usage of fertilizers, excess water, shoreline manipulation.”*

*“I am of Indigenous descent, learning that there is nothing more important right now than protecting our land and water for future generations. I just wish more people saw it this way as well and start making a difference to protect our land and waters.”*

*“Keeping the lake clean from pollution from garbage that is improperly disposed of to proper drainage from fields and ditches. Also to preserve marsh areas.”*

*“Unnaturally high water levels due to aggressive regulation by Manitoba Hydro is one of the most destructive factors affecting shoreline areas and wetlands in our area. They have not been held accountable for any of the damage and adverse effects to the environment and property, in spite of an acknowledgement in the original study that this would place an unfair burden on residents and property owners along the shores of Lake Winnipeg. A more moderate and circumspect approach to regulation is needed to mitigate the negative impacts.”*

## Topics mentioned in written responses to Q2

Water Health	52
Habitat preservation	42
Garbage/ Pollution	38
Eco-tourism & Outdoor Learning	34
Species protection	29
Fishing	25
Traditional Indigenous Practices	23
Hunting and Trapping	21
Camping and Hiking	19
Foraging/ Medicine picking	13
Forests and Lumber	13
Land management	13
Food & Agriculture	12
Beaches/ Swimming	9
Access	9
Health and wellness	5
Cottages	5
Zone specific	5
Hydro	5
Motor sports	4
Sustainable harvesting	4
Habitat remediation	4
Treaty rights	4
Future generations	4
Other watersports	3
Mining	3
Sustainable use	3
Dialogue & Cooperation	3
Birding	2
Invasive species	2
Promotion	2
Peat	1
Protect it all	1
Improve knowledge base/ monitoring	1
Affordability	1
Other	5

*“We would like to see that the peat moss plants in our area be stopped. More and more keep coming up down highway 234. They are destroying so many homes of wildlife, every year adds up. It’s very concerning with all animals and all human safety and lives.”*

*“We use water for our ceremonies and these lands belong to the wildlife that live here, if there’s a disruption to the natural laws of the land... there’s an unbalance.”*

*“Finding more ways to get rid of litter. Additional garbage receptacles or receptacles from kid camps for recycling crafts.”*



## Important Issues to Note

During our interviews with knowledge holders, a number of people were hesitant to name specific ‘areas to protect,’ and expressed a desire to see the whole region protected. They wondered what it would mean for any areas that did not receive such a designation.

During the engagement process, a number of communities expressed frustration with drainage issues, and identified a need to work collaboratively to manage water flows in the area; too often communities are working in ‘silos.’

## Next Steps

Information gathered through our engagement process so far will be used to develop a draft conservation proposal for the study area. The proposal will be based on what we heard from regional leaders, elders and knowledge keepers, commercial operators, local groups, and individuals together with our analysis of scientific data. Round 2 of the engagement process will begin in 2023. We will present the draft proposal to community members, local political leadership and stakeholders and then refine it based upon that feedback. We will then work with the province of Manitoba to implement the conservation proposal.

## Appendices

These documents are available in an extended electronic version of this report and on the initiative website: [www.FRCNConservation.ca](http://www.FRCNConservation.ca).

Appendix A – Knowledge Holders  
Interviews Summary

Appendix B – Round 1 Rightsholder/Stakeholder  
Meeting Summary

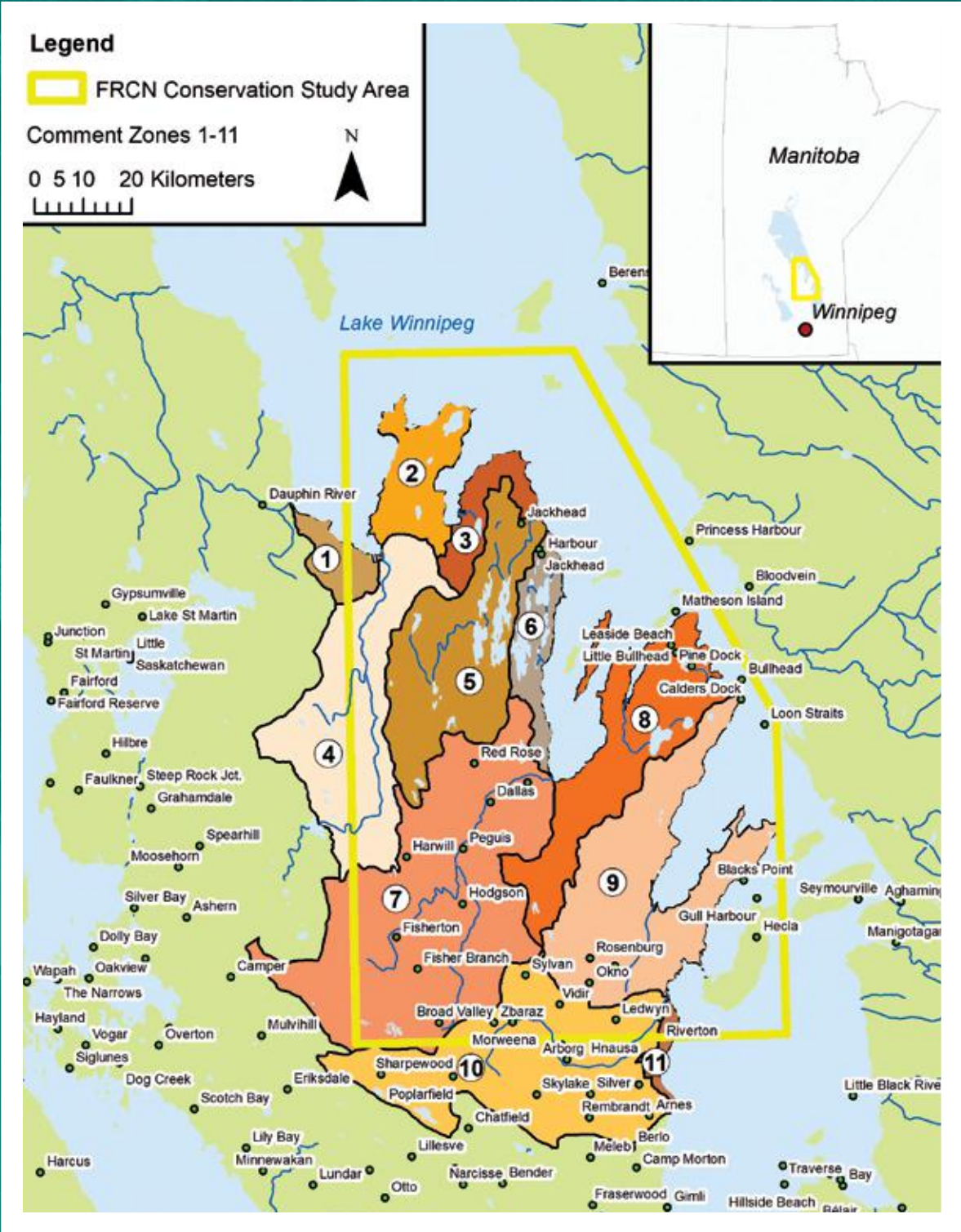
Appendix C – Round 1 Survey Results Summary

Appendix D – Round 1 Verbatim  
Survey Comments

Appendix E – FRCN Postcard

Appendix F – Community Voices summary

# Comment Zone Map





**This initiative is led by Ochekwi-Sipi/Fisher River Cree Nation, in partnership with Peguis First Nation and the Manitoba chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society.**

**The Initiative has the support of the provincial and federal governments.**



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TRUST**

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delivered by The Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation





# KNOWLEDGE HOLDERS

## Interview Summaries

### Abstract

These are the summaries of the Knowledge Holders interviews completed for the Fisher River Cree Nation Conservation Initiative over the period of 2020 – 2021.

N Elizabeth Murdock  
March 2022

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## About the Author

Liz (Elizabeth) Murdock is a proud member of Fisher River Cree Nation, with farming and family roots in Peguis First Nation. She holds a Masters degree in Social Work - Indigenous Knowledge, serves on the board of directors for Intertribal Child & Family Services, and gives generously of her time and skills to support various community initiatives.

Liz was project manager for the FRCN Conservation Areas Initiative from 2020 to 2022, and her work was instrumental in creating the foundations for the initiative that we are building on today.

We are grateful for all Liz's efforts and her ongoing support.

## Introduction

The goal of this initiative is to create designated conservation areas within the identified parameters of the Fisher River Cree Nation Conservation Areas Initiative study area (See Appendix 2). The initiative's intent is to apply knowledge holder information, the survey samples of community people, input of stakeholders, and western science for the creation of conservation area proposals. These lines on a map will be revised as the Knowledge Holders, community members and stakeholders voice their ideas. The end result will be a final proposal that will be presented to and negotiated with the provincial government.

A total of 22 individuals were interviewed using a purposeful sampling method with the criteria of: having knowledge of the land; historical knowledge of the area; and can be referred to as a knowledge holder in their nation. Fourteen interviewees were from Fisher River Cree Nation and eight from Peguis First Nation - six of whom identified as women, and 16 as men. Four of the women were from Fisher River Cree Nation and two were from Peguis First Nation, while 10 men were from Fisher River, and six from Peguis.

Those interviewed were all from the area, and most currently live and work in Fisher River Cree Nation or Peguis First Nation. They ranged in age from approximately their late forties/early fifties to their seventies.

The interviews were completed in person with the exception of one. Most were held outdoors due to pandemic restrictions during the time of this work. This is evident in some of the recordings where you can hear birds singing, cars on the highway or lawnmowers close by.

The interviewees were provided with questions and maps of the study area. All completed the required paperwork to allow the use of their interviews to be shared. They were given the choice to either: be identified by their names; remain anonymous or; use a pseudonym. All agreed to the publication of quotes from their interviews for the purpose of advancing the initiative. There were two females and two males who did not wish for their names to be used, but all agreed that their comments could be used anonymously. Two of the interviews were not recorded: one by choice not to record, while technical issues prevented the other from being recorded. Summaries of those interviews were not included in this report.

Some of the interviews were summarized while others were presented verbatim. The decision to summarize comments or present them verbatim was determined on a case-by-case basis depending on how the questions were answered.

The questions used to guide the interviews can be found in **Appendix 1**, attached.

## Themes

It is important to note that one of the major hurdles to overcome before a few of the interviews were to begin was to have a discussion about how the information being gathered was going to be used. The mistrust of those in power (the government) was mentioned before the beginning of several interviews and the reluctance of some to participate needed to be heard.

The Knowledge Holders spoke of how the government at times has taken the information provided by the people and twisted things around to suit their needs and not always used it for the intended purpose. They expressed concern that providing information also provides the opportunity for the government to say “We did consult with the people....” when the outcomes of such “consultations” don’t result in any significant changes. Knowledge Holders said they have felt like “We expressed what we wanted and they did not listen, so what is the point of having more discussions.” I did my best to explain how the initiative will work, how the information will be used, and what it is hoped the outcomes may be.

Which then led to the second concern I heard repeatedly. The Knowledge Holders said, “I will not pick one piece of land to protect.” This is for two reasons: firstly, there are feelings that it should all be protected and secondly because if they pick one piece of land, again the government then can say, “they picked this piece of land” leaving them the opportunity to do whatever they like with the rest of the lands.

Other common themes were:

- 1) The importance of land to traditional medicine picking;
- 2) The loss of land for providing hunters opportunities to both teach their children and grandchildren the skills necessary to hunting and having no bigger animals to hunt for at all;
- 3) The importance placed on the next generations of children and how protection of the land is so critical for them;
- 4) Sustainability for any economic impact needs to factor in how it will affect the long term of the lands, this includes the peat moss industry.
- 5) The importance of protecting water. Water is medicine. Water is life.

## Clean Lands

The majority of the traditional medicine pickers voiced their concerns about having clean land to have clean and healthy medicines. They talked about having lands for the future and how without clean land the medicines will not be healthy and become unusable. They feel they are already going further afield to find clean medicines in places where there is little activity. They are struggling to find the clean medicines needed for their work.

## Hunters

The hunters expressed concern about the lack of game animals, especially the moose. There was concern here too about the health of the animals being hunted. There have been numerous times when they have been out and witnessed diseased animals making the meat totally unusable and having to be destroyed.

## Future Generations

It is important for most Knowledge Holders to always consider what is best for the future generations of children and grandchildren. To be able to teach them about who they are and how important the lands are in their ongoing development, it is necessary to be on the land, in a natural landscape. To be on the land, the land has to be there. There is concern this may be totally lost if we cannot get it protected.

## Peat Moss

There was no support for the peat moss industry. The Knowledge Holders feel this industry is damaging the habitat for the animals that live not only within the immediate area but also those in a much larger area.

There are concerns for the health of the land and how this is affecting Lake Winnipeg. The loss of the environmental filtration to the lake provided by peat moss is the biggest concern as many are feeling the contamination of Lake Winnipeg is damaging the fish populations of the lake.

Loss of the fish also means an economic loss since Fisher River Cree Nation has many fishermen and fisherwomen who use this as a means of economic income. Which eventually also means a change in the traditional lifestyle of the families dependent on the fish for their livelihoods.

## Areas To Protect

While the Knowledge Holders expressed concerns about identifying specific areas to protect - most wanted to protect as much as possible and were concerned that identifying specific areas would leave others at a higher risk of being lost to development - many did identify areas of significance. Here is a summary:

### **Anonymous Elder - Male #1, FRCN**

The lands that seem to be the most important to him are Goldeye Lake is at the north end of Zone 7. He also thinks Zones 2, 3, 4 and 5 are important to maintain as they are.

### **Anonymous Elder - Male #2, FRCN**

The north zones are what he feels are most important to protect are Zones 2, 3, 4 and 5. The areas around Kinwow Bay and around the High Rock area.

### **Lorne Cochrane, FRCN**

Lorne wants the whole area protected from Hwy 325 north. He said the government unilaterally cut back the area to end up being what it is now.

### **Dorothy L. Crate, FRCN**

The lake and the shorelines are important to Dorothy. While all of it is important, she feels Kinwow Bay and Mcbeth, Zones 2, 3, 4 and 5 are specifically important to conserve. Another important point for Dorothy is the keeping of the lake clean of garbage and pollutants.

### **Darrell Mckay, FRCN**

The lands that seem to be the most important to him are areas where medicine can be picked. Places like down the Fish Road and the swamps, rivers and creeks. Keeping these areas healthy and clean are vital.

### **John G. Murdock, FRCN**

The lands that seem to be the most important to him are those used for medicines.

### **Sam Murdock, FRCN**

Sam thinks the whole area under discussion should be protected from Riverton to Mcbeth. The area is a natural, traditional hunting area of mainly marsh and swamp.

### **Graham Smith, FRCN**

Graham cares about the land and medicines he uses, and keeping the land free from pollution and garbage is important to him. Graham finds most of these medicines around the areas of Zones 5, 7, 8 and 9.

**Anonymous Knowledge Holder - Female #2 - Peguis First Nation**

The entire study area is important to her. She has picked medicines in many of the zones and, like many of the traditional medicine people, she finds she needs to go farther afield to gather clean medicines. Zones 6, 7 and 8 are the primary spots used by her. She also has picked in the lower of Zone 4 as well as Zone 5.

**Ellis Cochrane, Peguis First Nation**

The lands that seem to be the most important to him are in Zones 1, 4 and 5. The lands here are mostly swamp, fens and bogs that drain into Lake Winnipeg - filtered, and clean. The Mantag River system is very important to him.

**Floyd Flett, Peguis First Nation**

Saving the lands as they are is important for Floyd. The lands in Zones 4 and 5 are especially important as well as some in 6 and 7. He would also like to see an expansion of protected areas in the northern parts of Zones 2 and 3, especially in the Kinwow Bay area and across to that Sturgeon Bay area. He says it will “save a lot of animals” to make the protected areas there bigger. Floyd has concerns too about the pollution that happens when people go out into the bush. Keeping as much area unpolluted and clean he feels is what is crucial for the future of the lands.

**Mike Sutherland, Peguis First Nation**

Washow Bay peninsula and the shorelines of Fisher Bay and Sturgeon Bay are priorities for Mike in order to protect Lake Winnipeg. He’s also concerned about protecting areas that support moose given the sharp drop in moose populations, particularly in game hunting area 21 and 21a which encompass the northern portion of the study area.

## FISHER RIVER CREE NATION KNOWLEDGE HOLDERS

### Interview Summary #1: Anonymous Elder (Female #1)

The interview was completed by a female elder who allowed us to use her quotes, but wanted to remain anonymous.

This elder is from Fisher River. She has lived and worked in Fisher River Cree Nation for many years. She is a highly respected traditional elder who has raised her children here. She cares deeply for Mother Earth and passes along her teachings to those who seek out her knowledge.

She is a regular land user being a medicine gatherer. It is having clean medicines to use that is an important part of what she wants to see for the future. Following natural laws of sustainability and respect for the land in what it can provide for human beings is how she lives her life.

*“We are the ones causing all this damage, the environmental issues, the human beings, it's not anything else, it is not the trees, it is not the animals, it is us that is destroying everything, the human beings. We are breaking natural law in many ways, not just killing the animals and the trees, and harming the air.”*

What she says about:

#### Water:

*“You see, down the bank from where I fast, that water is just brown. I wouldn't even use it, but I do still put my tobacco down. I still wouldn't give up hope on life, you give up hope then you give up on life, so I always have hope and pray and put my tobacco down that that water will run clear again.”*

#### Nature & Habitat:

*“We will perish, especially without the water and the land, everything we need to look after - it's not just these areas, it's all areas.”*

#### Cultural Lifestyle:

*“Our natural medicines are all over and we have to protect them ... It was given for the resources that we need to live.”*

#### Sustainable Development:

*“It's important to keep away from chemicals, to keep our environment safe to live in.”*



## Interview Summary #2: Anonymous Elder (Male#1)

This interview was completed by an elder that did not want his name used. He is an elder in Fisher River. He has lived and worked here for most of his life and knows the land and the animals.

He also worked away from here and has had the opportunities to see the changes in the lands of the communities he has worked in. His experiences in those places also has seen the destruction of lands and waters.

Like many of the elders interviewed, while he sees that all the land is important, Goldeye Lake is something specific he would like to see protected.

He states:

*“It’s a beautiful little lake. There’s got to be a lot of jackfish in there. They used to winter fish up there years, winter fisher with nets. You know all those little creeks that go up in there, well jackfish go up in there.”*

### Priorities for Protection:

The lands that seem to be the most important to him are Goldeye Lake is at the north end of Zone 7. He also thinks Zones 2, 3, 4 and 5 are important to maintain as they are.

What he says about:

### Water:

*“I remember when we were little kids, we used to go skate around on the river and when we wanted a drink of water, we would just poke a little hole in the ice and have a good drink of water. Now you wouldn’t drink it, you don’t even want to go look at it, it’s so tainted.”*

*“They are still trying to do those drainages and that is killing all of our swamp land there. Years ago when those little creeks used to run in there, there was no heavy flow of water, it would just trickle in and the water was filtered by those little creeks and whatever else. Now they opened them up wide and some of them are wider than our river here. That’s one of the things they should stop doing.”*

### Climate Change:

*“And these storms we are getting nowadays too. We never heard of tornadoes around Manitoba years ago. Everything is coming with the climate change, I guess. Crazy!”*

*“Everything yeah, pretty wicked. You look at the little kids running around all happy and you don’t know what’s in the future for them.”*

#### Nature & Habitat:

*“They can’t leave Mother Nature alone. Like the beautiful areas that we had are all pretty much taken for that damn almighty dollar. A lot of time I think about my grandkids and where this world is going.”*

#### Cultural Lifestyle:

*“They used to go out by boat. You know they would get two, three moose. They would bring it back and there was usually two or three that went out. They would come back and they would share it with the community...That was real hunting then. Walk and pack them out of the bush. It was a lot of work. Come home, give it away and go back out again... But there was a lot of game back then.”*

### Interview Summary #3: Summary for Anonymous Elder (Male #2)

This elder lives in Fisher River Cree Nation with his family. He has lived and worked in Fisher River for most of his life. He did work in the city too as a younger man. He returned home and raised his children here in Fisher River.

Having land to hunt and fish is important to this man. He continues to use the land and waters in this area for that purpose as much as he can. There are not many healthy animals around these days that can be hunted for food, especially moose. What’s left he thinks should be left alone to try and be revitalized as a population.

#### Priorities for Protection:

The north zones are what he feels are most important to protect Zones 2, 3, 4 and 5. The areas around Kinwow Bay and around the High Rock area.

What he says about:

#### Nature & Habitat:

*“I spend time on the land with my children and grandchildren teaching them the importance of living off the land. I try and teach them to protect and not destroy.”*

#### Culture/ Lifestyle

*“My grandmother used to pick medicines to make poultices. My wife also picks medicine – sweet grass, sage and labrador tea.”*

## Sustainable Development

*“Protect the land. Stop the clearing of trees ie. cutting lumber. When clearing logging does happen, ensure that the loggers do some reforestation, the planting of trees to replace the trees they cut down. Same with the stripping of the peat moss, what are they doing after they take the peat, they need to again ensure that the land can replenish and be repaired to be able to be a place where the animals that live in that habitat can continue to survive.”*

## Interview Summary #4: Summary for Lorne Cochrane

Lorne Cochrane lives and works in Fisher River. He has extensive experience in governance. He is self employed having his own business in developing and helping with management strategies. He is a Fisher River Cree Nation member who lives here in Fisher River with his family. His children are grown, he has grandchildren now who seem to be his main priority especially when thinking long term about their futures and what may be here for them.

Lorne works hard for the members of Fisher River Cree Nation under reconciliation. His understanding and caring for the people of Fisher River and its waters and lands goes deep. He uses his business experience for the benefit of the Fisher River people with the consideration of economics, the viability and sustainability of any opportunities at the forefront of anything he does. He has seen changes to the land and waters over the years and struggles with initiatives such as these finding while they have good intentions the overwhelming majority of times the government actions are not substantially motivated for any real changes for those who live at the end of the river.

Lorne states:

*“We feel like a lot of these initiatives federally and provincially run have hidden agendas that doesn't benefit First Nations who rely on the lake for a livelihood whether it's commercial fishing or hunting or gathering.”*

*“When we championed the provincial park, we did it to protect our area.”*

### **Priorities for Protection:**

Lorne wanted the whole area protected from Hwy 325 north. He said the government unilaterally cut back the area to end up being what it is now.

What he says about:

### Water

*“We can live with anything in life except water and yet we are damaging and destroying it.”*

*“The sloughs are intended as a filtration system and now with agriculture changing all that they are just rushing water faster which includes all the agricultural pesticides and different things they use for their crops that deteriorate the waters. That alone contributed to the poor water quality in our community hence the reason we can't have individual wells unless they are set up with iron removers and water filtration systems.”*

### Nature & Habitat:

*“When we championed the provincial park we did it to protect our area. I agree with protecting lands for the environment, air quality or for water quality but doing it within our immediate area when activities outside of it impact on us, it's meaningless. Like why should we spend all our efforts trying to protect and correct historical damages to these lands from private businesses supported by the federal government. Even if we do it now the water quality is still going to be affected because they are not doing nothing in the southern basin, with all the agriculture use of the pesticide.”*

### Cultural Lifestyle

*“That's the frustration we see is that we are becoming comfortable is losing our way of life due to actions and activities bought on us by the federal and provincial government without proper consultation, altering the land use and the environment which is obviously having an impact on the wildlife and the gathering of medicines, berries and food.”*

### Reconciliation

*“I don't know if there is any quick or clean answer about how we do protection because what we do, we do in reaction to damage by other activities that the province does to these lands, such as drainages and agriculture, such as discharging raw sewage into the Red River system, such as the peat plants. Why is it we are always brought on after the fact to try and look at mitigating damage that are in/occurring because of these outside forces or actions that are permitted by the provincial government. That's the bottom line, we got to find a way.”*

## Interview Summary #5: Summary for Dorothy A. Crate

**Dorothy A Crate** is a respected elder from Fisher River Cree Nation. Dorothy was married to Grenville Crate Sr. He passed away many years ago. Dorothy speaks fluent Cree. She was the Cree teacher at Charles Sinclair School in Fisher River Cree Nation until her retirement. She can be considered one of the “go to” people when someone needs translating from Cree to English.

Dorothy grew up on the land and spent her childhood years in the bush with her family. She has the lived experience of watching how her parents treated the animals and how they hunted and fished for food to provide for the families. She married into Fisher River as a young woman and has witnessed the changes in the community to the land and waters over the years.

Teaching the young people is an important thing for Dorothy. To have them learn about the land, the importance of keeping it clean and healthy and free of pollution for the future.

Dorothy states:

*“We need to keep telling our young people to take care of the land. They need to learn to use their eyes and ears on the land. We were taught as youngsters to do these things.”*

What she says about:

### Water

*“They drank fresh water off of the lake, but you can’t do that now. We used to take our cup and drink right out of the lake.”*

She talked about how important the river was to the people of Fisher River and how much it was used for fishing, swimming, water etc.

She remembers how clean the river used to be and how kids used to swim in there, and how now in this time that is not possible due to how polluted the waters are.

### Nature & Habitat:

*“They need to use their senses about the environment around them. Walk outside into nature to be healthy. She stressed the importance of walking and being healthy and circulating the blood in the body. Staying healthy not only physically but also spiritually, and socially.”*

## Interview Summary #6: Summary for Dorothy L. Crate

**Dorothy L. Crate** is a member of the Fisher River Cree Nation. She is a respected elder who has lived and worked in Fisher River for most of her life. She is a fisher woman, learning the life of a fisher person as a means of income for herself and her family. She spent over forty-five years on Lake Winnipeg, learning how to not only fish, but also to keep herself and her helpers safe as they went about their daily routines on the waters of Lake Winnipeg. Learning how to read the weather, the wind and the waters are key to understanding that you can never take anything for granted.

The health of Lake Winnipeg is important to Dorothy. She sees keeping the land and the waters clean as a major part of conservation.

### **Priorities for Protection:**

The lake and the shorelines are important to Dorothy. While all of it is important, she feels Kinnow Bay and Macbeth, Zones 2, 3 and 4 & 5 are specifically important to conserve. Another important point for Dorothy is the keeping of the lake clean of garbage and pollutants.

Dorothy states:

*“You have got to respect the lake. You knew when there was a storm coming. You could just tell by the change of the current or you would see your flag starting to move a different way, the wind blowing in a different way.”*

*“You always watch for these signs. If you see the water coming up a bit. Well, you know, there's a storm coming... You'd have to watch the clouds too... see how they swirl or which way. Oh, there's just so many different things you can tell, even the way the waves curl when they start to blow, by the way it's curling.”*

**“You'll leave it as you find it. Yeah. That was the motto. And it should stay like that. Don't take advantage of nothing, don't wreck it, don't destroy it.”**

Dorothy feels the pollution of the lake is a danger to the fishermen and fisherwomen of the lake. She has no tolerance for those who do not take the time to “leave it as you find it, or make it better.”

What she says about:

### **Water**

The lake and the waters of Lake Winnipeg has been the livelihood for Dorothy and her family. Maintaining the health of the lake is important.

## Climate Change

*“I enjoyed it and I guess I would love to be outside. You’ve got to respect the lake. You don't know the environment, you know, it's just changing so much. When I first went out, we always knew when there was a storm coming. You could just tell by the change of the current or you would see your flag, you know, starting to move a different way, the wind blowing in a different way.”*

*“Well, I like to have it, just leave it there for the next generation. I don't know if that's going to happen with where the environment is going. There are so many wicked storms out there.”*

## Nature & Habitat:

*“There's just so many different things you can tell, even the way the waves curl when they start to blow, if the way it's curling some, it's just something that you've been taught that you have to watch for...it stays with you, all that stuff throughout your life. You're always, you know, I like, I'm constantly looking and I'm saying, okay, you know, saying that there's going to be a change. I even watch the birds.”*

## Cultural/ Lifestyle

*“We had a lot of freedom because we were like a little a family there, everybody looking out for everybody.*

*“She stayed with us, and she spent a great deal of time with us. She'd take me to go for a walk with her and she'd point out these things to me. And she even tried to tell me, the bear was my friend and all these legged animals like that.” (Dorothy in reference to her grandmother)*

## Sustainable Development

*“And we have to let the people know how to pick it. And don't get greedy about it. You know, you just pick what you need.” (medicine picking)*

## Interview Summary #7: Summary for Terri and Dave Kirkness

Terri and Dave Kirkness are from Fisher River Cree Nation. Dave was a fisherman. He is now retired and has passed on his licenses to his eldest son. Terri is a teacher in the community. She works at the Fisher River High School. Fisher River Cree Nation is home for them. They have lived and worked in the community their entire lives, raising their family here. They have grandchildren who are their primary concern for the future and like other grandparents they want to see these lands and water healthy for their use in the future.

Education and the prevention of further pollution of the lake water are what seem to be the most important. To keep the lands as wild and natural as they can be in today's changing environmental habitats is what they would like to see. They feel that natural lands will help with the retainment and protection of birds, plants and animals.

What they say about:

### Water

*"The swamps and like the peat moss and all that, it filters the water. It's a natural filter. So, if we don't bother those, and let them be and let them do their jobs so we can have clean water in Lake Winnipeg."*

*"At Mcbeth, the water was nice and clear. And then when we got to the point, what's that called Long point and then you could see it getting brown. Then as we got closer and closer, getting darker and darker by the time we got outside of the mouth of the river, I could just smell the river and it smelled like sewer."*

*"They have been studying this lake for years. Still no action on it."*

### Sustainable Development

*"The development of a marina they believe can help in this area."*



## Interview Summary #8: Summary for Darrell Mckay

Darrell Mckay is a Fisher River Cree Nation member. He has lived and worked in Fisher River for his life. Darrell and his wife raised their children here. They now have grandchildren who they are enjoying. They want to ensure as much as they can that the lands and waters are clean and healthy for them. Darrell says we need the wetlands, we need them to be healthy.

Darrell Mckay is a gatherer of medicine. He is now a traditional man who works with the medicine he gathers off the land. He has the gift of a sweat lodge and does his best for those who attend. Darrell stresses it is important to remember to “give back for everything you receive.”

He gathers medicines from all over the lands and he is learning what to use them for. For every sickness out there, there is a medicine out there on the land for it. It’s important for him to save the lands where the medicine grows, places like down the Fish Road and the swamps, rivers and creeks.

### Priorities for Protection:

The lands that seem to be the most important to him are areas where medicine can be picked. Places like down the Fish Road and the swamps, rivers and creeks. Keeping these areas healthy and clean are vital.

What Darrell says about:

### Water

*“Water is the first medicine.”*

### Culture / Lifestyle

Darrell says that it is important to remember to give back for everything we receive. He was told to use what he picks or kills.

*“In the old days we used everything and every part. We only take what we need and we are not to waste it.”*

Darrell talked a lot about the use of medicine and how people have learned how it’s time to relearn and share the knowledge they either have learned or carry with them.

## Interview Summary #9: Summary for Stan Mckay

Stan Mckay is a well known respected elder and knowledge holder of the Fisher River Cree Nation. He grew up on the shore of the Fisher River, speaking only Cree until the age of eight. Stan had to go to residential school as a child. His life and career have been written about in a book called *Journey from Fisher River – A Celebration of the Spirituality of People through the life of Stan Mckay* by Joyce Clouston.

Stan carries memories of what the Fisher River lands and waters were, and the importance of them to the people that live here. He continues to believe being on the land with family is an important part of why protecting wild spaces is necessary.

Stan's comments:

*"I have come to believe as I watch people that healing happens on the land."*

Stan uses the words; balance, management, grow and maintain, planting and caring and sustainable as he talks about the land and waters in this area. He states:

*"If we learn to care for the environment, if we understand the possibilities of doing this regional land care, water care process, we will learn things about ourselves as well."*

Stan feels it's important to have the conversation with our neighbours to the south of Fisher River about the land and waters we all live on.

### Water

*"The well-being of our communities is in many ways, economics, but also just a way of life in the community as it is connected to the water. I think maintaining the quality of water in the lake and our river. To try and do what we can for the river would be important."*

### Nature & Habitat:

*"We share life on the land with the birds and the animals and for that to be balanced we have to acknowledge we share it... so we don't take our land for granted, we share it with all the life around us."*

### Culture / Lifestyle

*"I think when we lose that connection to the land our humanity suffers, we are not healthy people."*

*"They would walk their trapline and they would find how many houses there were. How many muskrat houses? How many beaver houses? And then they would decide how many animals they are going to trap; like how they are going to manage the population. They are not going to kill or destroy every rathouse or take every animal, they are going to take what's available and what's realistic and what they need and what needs to be kept for future planning."*

## Reconciliation

*“I think if we took that philosophy it’s not about management, it’s about relationships. And I’m hoping that this initiative will be about growing and understanding.”*

*“There is so much to learn from nature - so much beauty and so many lessons.”*

*“This initiative that Fisher River is taking with our neighbors is an important possibility and I think the area is very much under stress by what’s happening around it.”*

## Interview Summary #10: Summary for Steve Mckay

Steve Mckay is an elder from Fisher River Cree Nation. Steve lives with his wife in Fisher River. His time on the land would be considered as being under the grouping of living memory since he is now retired. He has spent time on the water as a fisherman in his younger years.

Steve has had many roles in his life as a man living and providing for his family. He fished and worked as a pulp cutter, a laborer and a carpenter building homes. He worked with men in the logging business with the Fisher River’s logging mill. He worked not only around this area, he traveled away going out of the area as well.

Steve's biggest concern would be the pollution that is around. He would like to see the environment cleaned up, with the use of plastics discarded and the use of gas and oil on the lake be done with more care to keep the lake clean.

He says:

*“Fishermen back then were careful not to get gas into the lake. They were careful how they handled the gas and oil. This was their livelihood - they took care not to damage the lake.”*

When he talks about fishing he says:

He saw different species of fish back then compared to now. Used to get sauger and sturgeon, majority was pickerel and whitefish. Difference in the fish over the years would be only the sizes.

What he says about:

## Water

*“The water was clear in the river, you used to be able to see right down to the bottom. And we used to drink that. It was good rain / river water.”*

## Cultural / Lifestyle

His remembers his grandmother taking the hair of the hides of moose and deer and using that for making clothing they used to wear - moccasins and mitts, etc.

## Sustainable Development

Important to plan for areas for the planting of trees for future harvesting.

## Interview Summary #11: Summary for John G. Murdock

**John Murdock** is a knowledge holder from Fisher River Cree Nation. He is a respected lodge holder who has followed the traditional Cree way of life for many years. He holds a sweat lodge and hosts ceremonies at his home. John lives with his family in Fisher River. He is a gentle man, caring a lot about the environment and the people and places around him. His first thought is always about the children now and into the future and what will be the legacy left for them.

He knows about the land and the medicine and berries. Having places to pick medicines and berries are key things to the life he practises. He would be considered a partially active land user going out seasonally to pick medicines that he needs.

### **Priorities for Protection:**

The lands that seem to be the most important to him are those used for medicines.

What he says about:

## Water

John talked about how clean the water used to be and how over the years how the flow of the water has changed due to the change in the water levels. There used to be a creek flowing by their house when they were kids and they would take fish out to eat. The creek has now disappeared and he states he would no longer be comfortable eating the fish in the river due to the pollutants and contamination.

## Climate Change

The water levels of the river are part of the changes of the climate.

## Cultural / Lifestyle

John feels strongly about keeping the lands protected and having and keeping areas for the future of the children. Having something for them to walk in and be available for them to see in a natural state can help maintain some of the traditional values of the Cree people.

## Interview Summary #12: Summary for Sam Murdock

Sam Murdock lives and works in Fisher River Cree Nation. He started commercial fishing with his father when he was a young boy at the age of twelve and has been involved in fishing and the fishing industry for many years. This includes not only commercial fishing as a source of income to support his family early in life, but also later in life entering the governing field of the fisheries. He has worked many years on the waters of Lake Winnipeg. It is important for the fishermen of Lake Winnipeg to gain ground in the matters of what the fishermen want to see happen for their future and the future of Lake Winnipeg.

### Priorities for Protection:

Sam thinks the whole area under discussion should be protected from Riverton to Mcbeth.

*“This is all a Marsh and swamp, this is where the guys still go yet. It's a natural, traditional hunting area.”*

Sam talked about the currents of the water and how much they have changed on the lake over the years:

*“Back then you could drop your net and you knew which way the current would flow, if it was a north wind, it was as north current. Same with south if it was a south wind the current ran south. They ran the same way as the wind. Now if you have a strong south wind, you will have a north current. The currents have changed since the dams have been constructed.”*

What he says about:

### Water

*“You know prior to 1970 the Lake was very clean and we had a natural flow because the water has actually come from the foothills of the Rocky Mountains and parts of the United States, through Montana and all the waters from that distance will flow into Lake Winnipeg being that Lake Winnipeg is the lowest lying lake in central Canada. We end up with most of the water because of the different rivers that, that flow into this body of water.”*

*“Just last week we went down to Lockport and I wouldn't eat that fish off that river after knowing what's upstream, you know? I mean, now they're catching pickerel with one eye or fins missing or an extra fin.”*

### Culture/ Lifestyle

*“Like my grandmother used to tell me that they would use it as kids, travel up here for the ceremony and that's when they would pick their medicines and so on. But you know, like the sweats back then weren't tarps, it was birch bark and so on. They would cover the outside, the inside was covered with birch bark and red willow. Right. And then the outside, they would cover that with a peat moss. That's how they kept the heat in today, traditional use. Yeah. I mean, when you think about it, the old way can still be done. It's more work though.”*

## Reconciliation

*“I used to co-chair the Lake Winnipeg stewardship board for seven years, and we came up with 134 recommendations to deal with all this, you know, the contaminants and the chemicals that cause the phosphorus and the nutrients.”*

\* **NOTE:** Sam told us that very few of these recommendations have ever been implemented\*

## Lakes Diversion

*“So, another big factor here of course, is the Lake Manitoba diversion. As a result of that, because we commercial fish in this area there were a lot of trees and there was like slime in our nets. We had never seen the slime before.”*

*“I'm thinking in the next three or four years, and that's going to have a devastating effect on this body of water, because all the spawning grounds have changed.”*

Flooding was also a concern of Sam's.

## Interview Summary #13: Summary for Graham Smith

Graham Smith lives with his family in Fisher River Cree Nation. His family history gives him ties to Peguis First Nation. His father was a Peguis band member. The knowledge he gained was from his father who knew a lot about herbs, and what he has learned through his own practice. Graham is a medicine picker and uses the land in this manner. He does not get around as easily now and is teaching others which medicines to pick, and how. He also will trade what he has for other medicines he may need. Graham credits the medicine he uses for extending his life from the cancer he had in 1996.

### Priorities for Protection

Graham cares about the land and medicines he uses, and keeping the land free from pollution and garbage is important to him. Graham finds most of these medicines around the areas of Zones 5, 7, 8 and 9.

What he says about:

### Water

Graham feels it important to try and keep the water as clean as possible. There is a lot of contamination in the rivers and lakes.

### Nature & Habitat:

Graham talked about how important clean lands are to be able to pick healthy medicines. He finds that with the more open roads are the further afield he needs to go to find medicines from the lands he can use.

### Cultural / Lifestyle

Graham openly and freely shares what he knows and what he has. This is traditionally the way of Indigenous peoples.

## PEGUIS KNOWLEDGE HOLDERS

### Interview Summary #14: Summary for Anonymous (Female #2)

This person is a member of Peguis First Nation and lived in the area for a long time. She continues to be a very traditional lady and lives her life in this manner. She however no longer lives in this area. She completed this interview over the phone and email. I decided as an interviewer her views are important to this process.

### Priorities for Protection

The entire study area is important to her. She has picked medicines in many of the zones and like many of the traditional medicine people she finds she needs to go farther afield to gather clean medicines. Zones 6, 7 and 8 are the primary spots used by her. She also has picked in the lower of Zone 4 as well as Zone 5.

She states:

*“This area we talk about I would like to see it remain the same. Trees growing with vast wilderness for the animals, birds, insects, plants grasses, and medicine. Each having their own healthy habitat. I would like to see it natural and thriving, with clean water for the next seven generations and beyond.”*

What she says about:

### Water and Climate

*“I look at the waterways and there are changes to the shoreline. I am watching them disappear.”*

## Nature & Habitat:

*“Everything is becoming sick animals, birds, people and fish. The numbers of species decreasing. There are some species are already gone. It is time to protect.”*

## Cultural/ Lifestyle

*“In this area there are camps, cabins, land base education, fishing, medicine picking, sweat lodges, Sundances, men and women workshop, hiking, fishing, and boating. All of these activities are out on the land and are vital to the spiritual and mental health of our people.”*

## Interview Summary #15: Summary for Kathy Bird

Kathy Bird is a member of Peguis First Nation. She is a renowned and well-respected medicine woman. She lives with her husband Carl Bird Jr. at Matootoo Lake. She has extensive experience and knowledge about the plants and their medicinal uses. She is a user of the land in this manner finding the need for healthy sustainable land is needed for the health of the plants she picks and uses in her everyday life as a medicine woman. Kathy has built her life around Matootoo Lake finding the surrounding area a perfect place for hosting and having many traditional ceremonies. Matootoo Lake is a small body of water only accessible by private driveways making it a desirable place for birds and other wildlife.

The future generations of children are central to Kathy. The work she does and the experience she has gained from her traditional teachers, her many years of practising her work and knowledge she carries she is passing on to her children and to others. They spend time with her listening and learning lessons of the land. A clean environment is important to Kathy. It is important to have clean, healthy earth to pick the medicines, those that are free from contaminants and pollution.

Educating our youth about why this is important, creating awareness of the importance of strong leadership to get their voices heard when talking about protecting and conserving the land are all things important to her.

## Priorities for Protection

Kathy refused to pinpoint any particular area for protection, as she believes that protecting the whole area is important.

What she says about the:

## Water

*“We are struggling enough as it is to have that fresh water. Growing up water was free and now we are having to buy it. I never imagined that we would end up having to buy it.”*

## Climate Change

*“I know change is inevitable. But we don't need to add to the speed of the change.”*



## Nature & Habitat:

*“Mother Earth is such an amazing organism, and everything is so well set up and everything is so well balanced so that we can live here, even to how the peat moss keeps the mercury down there. There’s a plan to everything and when you disrupt natural law, you disrupt those things, then that is when you see all the bad things happen.”*

## Culture – Lifestyle

*“When you go into these areas along Fisher River where the sweet grass grows and you just sit there and you are surrounded by the sky and the wind and the sun and the birds and the aroma of the sweet grass. Those things are healing and you can sit there and take a deep breath and relax and enjoy that peace and the beauty of everything that is around you, and that helps to heal your spirit.”*

*“I’m hoping that more and more of our people are begin to understand the sacred teachings around Mother Earth and our natural laws and those types of things.*

## Sustainable Development

*“The teachings that he gave me were so meaningful to me because it talked about sustainable harvesting, it talked about future generations and so those are our natural laws, sustainability for life to continue and let it be there for seven generations ahead. We are taught to always think seven generations ahead.”*

## Reconciliation

*“We still have to encourage our people to embrace those things again, that which carried our people for thousands and thousands of years. I always tell people, the government did such a good job at putting us out there in the rest of society, as a nothing, as a nobody, wandering around aimlessly trying to survive for the next day, never ever, so many people don’t understand the intricacies of our societies that we have had here for thousands and thousands of years. When you look at when they first came here, the way that our world was and all the people that lived here we were able to keep it that way, fresh water, clean air, you didn’t find garbage anywhere and even how we looked after those things was all natural.”*

## Interview Summary #16: Summary for Ellis Cochrane

Ellis Cochrane is an elder of Peguis First Nation. He grew up on the land. As a child he lived with his parents and seven siblings. He learned how to hunt, trap and fish from his parents as well as his maternal uncles who were a big part of his education.

His parents were also farmers and worked hard to provide for their children. They had cattle that needed to be fed and watered as well. They used a combination of both ways to survive.

Ellis remembers a lot of the old places and through the years has seen the changes in the landscape in both the land and the waterways. Because he hunted and trapped in many of these places, he has seen their existence disappear gradually and the lands change from swamps and bogs to dryer lands as the farmers expanded their drainage systems for more lands to be used for farming.

One of the things most important to Ellis is:

*“The Mantag River system to me is more important than High Rock. It’s a river system goes all the way from Ashern right through to Lake Winnipeg. It’s a water system that has its own filtering system, it has underground rivers goes through the Mantag marsh and it filters everything. Clean water goes through there and it’s a dam good thing pollution don’t come back up the river. There’s so much water and that’s my biggest concern.”*

Education is key, says Mr. Cochrane. He would like to see education happening and kept ongoing with the younger children as well as those who are current users of the land. His hope is that the more people who know about the lands and the importance of maintaining clean and healthy land, the more awareness it will bring. He uses himself as an example, he says as a young man, he worked the land, and didn’t think twice about protecting or preserving trees or flowers. It’s through education and awareness and time as well where he has learned the value of what it is we have here. Education is the most important thing, to teach as many people as possible and have them out there teaching others.

### **Priorities for Protection:**

The lands that seem to be the most important to him are in Zones 1, 4 and 5. The lands here are mostly swamp, fens and bogs that drain into Lake Winnipeg - filtered, and clean. The Mantag River system is very important to him.

What he says about:

### **Water**

*“A filtering system is needed. We need to do our best to keep this as best we can. Trying to keep what we have now. And we are going to **try and keep it the way it is.**”*

### **Climate Change**

*“The landscape has changed drastically - where there used to swamps, it’s dry now. The little lakes that were here are dried up. What they did is they put a drainage system in here for the farmers and it drained everything. The weather some yes, but it’s mostly man made.”*

## Cultural Lifestyle

*“We try and live as best we can from foods off the lands. The wife can cook up wild meat and knows how to cook them. She tans hides and leathers. She makes items out of them. Her parents are the same, she learned from them.”*

## Reconciliation

*“Designated trails would intensify traffic. We know where to go. Maybe 100 people. But if a trail is created it opens it up to the world. Leave it alone and local.”*

## Sustainable Development

*“There was thick bush here when I was young. But the bulldozers come in and cleared the land and we didn't think nothing. But now we should be teaching our children now from when they are small about protecting and preserving the land. Start teaching them young so they learn the importance of this stuff.”*

*“Teach people how to grow their own healthier plants rather than chemical grown etc. It's not too late to have people learn how plants, gardens etc.”*

## Interview Summary #17: Summary for Floyd Flett

Floyd Flett is from Peguis First Nation. He lives in Peguis with his wife and family. He has hunted, fished and trapped in the area for most of his life.

He sees the lands and waters through the lens of this work. As a hunter-gatherer, he sees the damage being done to the lands, the contamination and the subsequent runs off into the trenches, creeks and rivers and into the big lakes. As a provider for his family, he feels that using the plants and animals for subsistence is no longer healthy as they are no longer healthy. The consuming of the plants and the water that animals and fish use to live gets into the food chain, making it unhealthy down the line.

### Priorities for Protection:

Saving the lands as they are is important for Floyd. The lands in Zones 4 and 5 are especially important as well as some in 6 and 7. He would also like to see an expansion of protected areas in the northern parts of Zones 2 and 3, especially in the Kinwow Bay area and across to that Sturgeon Bay area. He says it will “save a lot of animals” to make the protected areas there bigger. Floyd has concerns too about the pollution that happens when people go out into the bush. Keeping as much area unpolluted and clean he feels is what is crucial for the future of the lands.

Floyd states:

*“A few years ago (maybe 7 – 8 years ago) they went hunting, and there was a family there along the lake and they killed a moose, and that moose was all full of damage. The liver and lungs were all blistered and sick. That tells us you know that something is going on there. Those moose are eating something or drinking the water. If I was them, I would have taken some samples before burning it, because they burnt it up along the lake. There are not many moose around anymore.”*

*“But now I am even scared and hesitate to eat any moose meat or deer meat. Like I killed one deer last fall and that is what we ate.”*

What he says about:

### Water

*“Pollution too is going to affect the birds and all animals along the shorelines too. The bird nesting etc is all going to be affected. They are not going to know what is going through this channel and it is going to affect the fish population as well.” (the Lake St. Martin channel)*

*“Is it worth it? The immenseness is great and it's like no one cares. It's overwhelming the destruction that is happening out there.”*

### Interview Summary #18: Summary for Grant Wayne Manning

Grant Wayne Manningway is from Peguis First Nation. He lives with his family in Peguis First Nation. He is a traditional man and practises his cultural traditions. He is a Sundance Chief that prepares year-round for the time of the Sundance ceremonies. He is also an environmental monitor who has spent time on the land in this capacity ensuring the work being completed by industries is being completed in a manner that protects the plants and animals so as not to be impacted in a negative way. Wayne is also part of a hunter-gatherers group that uses their knowledge and experiences to teach the youth of their community hunting, fishing, trapping, hunting and gathering medicine in land-based education camps and outings. Wayne is an active land-user, gathering medicines needed for the Sundance ceremonies and sweat lodges.

Education of anyone, from adults at the Sundance and sweat lodge ceremonies to youth in the hunter gathers group - needs to be connected to the land. These are land-based skills that are important to Wayne and having the resources to continue them are important.

Wayne says when asked the question - What would you like to see the area to look like in 100 years, into the future?

*“Whatever they bother, it's going take more than 100 years to return - it took a lot longer to get to where it is.”*

He goes on to say that he would like to see the area remain the way it is now. And to “not be bothered”.

*“It will never be the same, we will never bring natural back when it’s been so disturbed.”*

What he says about:

### **Water**

*“There is a body of water here and that is the most important thing there’s a lot of little plants and medicines there and there is no specific area.”*

*“Water is the most important thing to look after, polluting the south means polluting the north here.”*

### **Nature & Habitat:**

*“Leave it as natural as it is, Like why do you want to disturb something that took thousands of years to be the way that it is and do more harm than good?”*

### **Cultural/ Lifestyle**

*“That’s what the old people always said is that we must protect here, there are no boundaries in what we have to start looking after.”*

### **Reconciliation**

*“I’m glad that they’re taking the initiative to try to protect this area... Having your own people in this program would really benefit this conservation initiative instead of having to rely on outside people who don’t really care about the same things as we do.”*

### **Sustainable Development**

*“What we take we have to pay for in the long run; only take what you need.”*

## **Interview Summary #19: Summary for Mike Sutherland**

**Mike Sutherland** is a member of Peguis First Nation. He is a hunter, trapper-gatherer. He is also the Director of the Peguis Consultation & Special Projects Unit for Peguis First Nation. He lives with his wife Sharon and their children. He cares about the future of the land and as he goes about his business whether it be in his career life or his hunter, trapper life he wants others to understand the importance of doing what we can now to protect the land and the animals going forward into the future. His work as the Director of Peguis Consultation & Special Projects Unit keeps him abreast of the government policies that can affect the land, waters and animals around us.

Mike continues to work as a hunter, trapper-gatherer. When he works his trapline he shares the benefits, not only with his family, but with the youth and elders of the community of Peguis as well. The education and life teachings of the ways of the Indigenous people of Peguis are important life skills Mike feels they should learn. He maintains a cycle of opportunities in trapping, gathering and fishing as tools to educate anyone willing to learn.

### **Priorities for Protection:**

Washow Bay peninsula and the shorelines of Fisher Bay and Sturgeon Bay are priorities for Mike in order to protect Lake Winnipeg. He's also concerned about protecting areas that support moose given the sharp drop in moose populations, particularly in game hunting area 21 and 21a which encompass the northern portion of the study area.

Mike states:

*“You don't see any moose in that area but you do see a lot of habitat destruction. And that is one of the biggest issues that I have, is the destroying of habitat. You know it's one thing to hunt moose but to destroy that habitat is to destroy that population - without a place to live the moose won't survive.”*

What he says about:

### **Water**

*“Washow Bay peninsula is a sensitive area, as well as shorelines of Fisher Bay and Sturgeon Bay and so on. We have to make sure and do what we can to protect those areas as well as you look at what's happening with Lake Winnipeg.”*

*“So, watching out for legislation and making sure we fight tooth and nail to protect our land and our water by opposing (harmful) legislation.”*

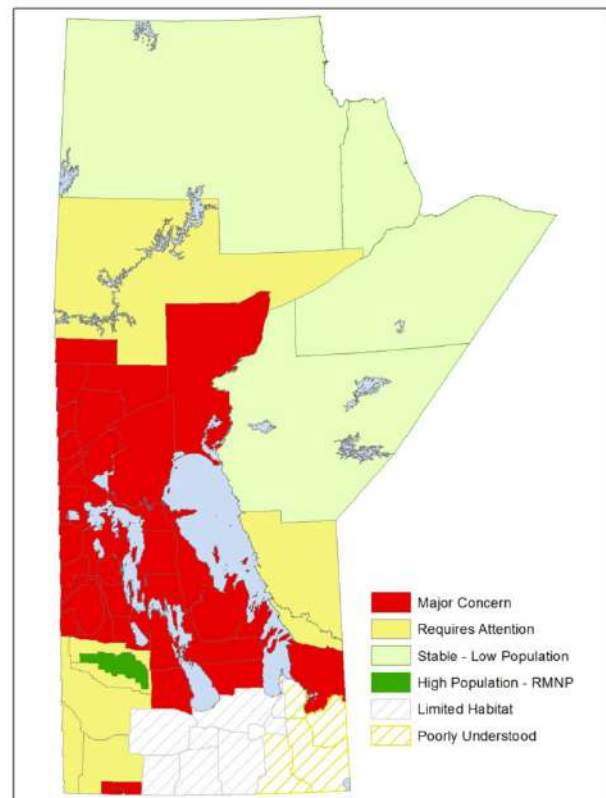
*“Washow Bay peninsula is the kidney of Lake Winnipeg. That peat mining industry is going to kill that peninsula and I guess eventually Lake Winnipeg will die.”*

### **Sustainable Development**

*“There used to be a forestry industry but it is very limited now in our area. It would be nice to see more forestry replanting, tree planting opportunities to help build back what we had within our area before the 89 fire. There is a fishing industry in Fisher Bay and up further north towards Kinwow Bay, Sturgeon Bay and so on, over across at Matheson Island, Loon Straits where a lot of our fishermen go to fish during the regular fishing seasons. We do trap as an economic base, my family so we do make some money trapping throughout the winter months and we've made some good money some years where prices have been higher and furs have been plenty.”*

## Nature and Climate Change

*“The other areas of concern are the low moose populations. Our family hasn’t killed a moose in over 10 years in areas 21 or 21A. We have seen the decline of moose and while we are out in the bush during the winter months we also seen huge increase in the wolf populations which help decimate moose populations. And not just moose, you know as First Nations people we have to be careful with harvesting practices. You know I remember one time there were over a thousand moose in 21 and a good number of moose in 21A. Area 21 now, which is one of the areas in question, has less than 150 moose in it at the last count and area 21A has less than 100. Yet in the early 1990’s 21A was boasting the highest cow/calf population in the world. And that’s the Washow Bay peninsula 21A.”*



Map 1. Conservation Status of Moose in Manitoba by Game Hunting Areas

## Cultural/ Lifestyle

*“I am a trapper, hunter and fisherman. My family we’ve been living and utilizing the land to supplement our food intake every year through with deer and elk, migratory birds, ducks and geese, upland game birds like chickens, ruff grouse, sharptail grouse and rabbits. We pick fruit and berries and also medicines. Our family is a trapping family and we’ve been on my grandfather’s trapline for 46 years and my son is now getting into trapping and he will continue that tradition within our family and so we trap pretty much everything except for wolves. We are wolf clan so we don’t trap wolves.”*

## Appendix 1 – Interview Questions

### Interview Questions for Knowledge Holders for the Fisher River Cree Nation Conservation Areas Initiative

1. How do you think we could support the conserving (saving) of land and water in this area?
2. What kinds of changes to the environment are you most worried about?
3. What would you like the area to look like in five, ten, twenty, twenty-five, and hundred years from now? What kinds of activities would you like to see in the area?
4. From the maps are their areas of interest to you? And what or why do you think they are important?
5. What can you tell me about the land in this area/zone?
6. What can you tell me about the animals, plants or fish in the area? / zone? What kinds of animals do you harvest for subsistence, or for yourself, your family or community? What kinds of plants or animals do you harvest, hunt or trap for economic reasons?
7. What activities are you are aware of that may happen in this area? Such as hunting, fishing, trapping, medicine picking, berry picking, ceremonial activities, cultural activities, family activities, any other outside activities.
8. Can you think of any industry taking place in these zones? Which zone? Would you please tell me about them?
9. What types of personal activities are happening within these zones? Which zone? Would you please tell me about them?



**Protocol**  
**Respecting Crown-Aboriginal**  
**Consultations**

Between

**Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs**

and

**Fisher River Cree Nation**



PROTOCOL respecting Crown-Aboriginal consultations dated August 7, 2013.

**BETWEEN:**

**Her Majesty the Queen in Right of the Province of Manitoba,**  
as represented by the Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs,

(called "**Manitoba**"),

-and-

**Fisher River Cree Nation**  
as represented by Chief and Council,

(called "**Fisher River**").

**WHEREAS:**

- A. Manitoba is responsible for the management of Crown lands and natural resources administered and controlled by Manitoba, in accordance with the authority of the Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Agreement;
- B. Fisher River is signatory to Treaty No. 5;
- C. The members of Fisher River have treaty, Aboriginal, and inherent rights in respect of natural resources and waters on Crown lands and on Fisher River Reserve lands, including rights under Treaty No. 5, the right to hunt, trap, and fish, for food at all seasons of the year on unoccupied Crown land and other land to which they have a right of access as set out in paragraph 13 of the Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Agreement, and other rights including the right to gather plants for food, medicine, and ceremonies on unoccupied Crown lands;
- D. It is desirable for Manitoba and Fisher River to have a common understanding with respect of sharing information about proposed dispositions, allocations or authorizations respecting Crown land or resources and about Crown-Aboriginal consultation processes within Fisher River's Traditional Territory; and
- E. The Constitution of Canada, including the recognition and affirmation of Aboriginal and treaty rights under s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and International human rights instruments including the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* support the principle that Aboriginal peoples

and governments in Canada should cooperate through agreements and other constructive arrangements to protect fundamental rights of Aboriginal peoples.

**THEREFORE**, Manitoba and Fisher River express their common understandings as follows:

**SECTION 1 - Duration of Protocol**

- 1.1 The duration of this Protocol shall be from August 7, 2013 until terminated under subsection 10.1.

**SECTION 2 - Traditional Territory**

- 2.1 Fisher River's Traditional Territory means the area described in the map attached as Schedule "A" to this Protocol.
- 2.2 The boundaries of Fisher River's Traditional Territory may be amended from time to time by agreement, in writing, by the Parties.
- 2.3 The Parties agree that the traditional territories of other First Nations or Aboriginal communities may overlap or fall within Fisher River's Traditional Territory and that any terms or designations in this Protocol do not affect the Aboriginal and treaty rights of other First Nations and Aboriginal communities nor the Crown's duty to consult with those other First Nations and Aboriginal communities.
- 2.4 Manitoba and Fisher River recognize that additional information acquired through a Traditional Land Use and Occupancy Study and Mapping Initiative may assist the Parties in assessing natural resource related proposals as to potential impacts on the exercise of Fisher River's Aboriginal or Treaty rights.
- 2.5 Manitoba and Fisher River recognize that additional information acquired through a Traditional Land Use and Occupancy Study and Mapping Initiative may assist the Parties in Crown-Aboriginal consultation processes.
- 2.6 Manitoba and Fisher River recognize that additional information acquired through a Traditional Land Use and Occupancy Study and Mapping Initiative may assist the Parties in other assessments and processes relating to or involving social, economic, environmental and other initiatives or programs.

### **SECTION 3 - Coordinators**

- 3.1 Manitoba and Fisher River recognize that the coordination of sharing information and the coordination of Crown-Aboriginal consultation processes will be aided by the identification of a single coordinator for each of them.
- 3.2 Fisher River will provide for a Fisher River community consultation coordinator, who will act as the principal point of contact with the Manitoba consultation facilitator for the purposes of sharing information and for coordinating Crown-Aboriginal consultation processes between the Parties.
- 3.3 Manitoba will provide for a Manitoba consultation facilitator, who will act as the principal point of contact with the Fisher River community consultation coordinator for the purposes of sharing information and coordinating Crown-Aboriginal consultation processes between the Parties.

### **SECTION 4 - Notifications - Crown Land and Resource Dispositions , Allocations or Authorizations**

- 4.1 Manitoba will conduct its internal circulations, reviews and initial assessments of proposed Crown land and resource dispositions, allocations or authorizations that fall within the Fisher River Traditional Territory in accordance with provincial policies and procedures.
- 4.2 Except where Manitoba decides to initiate consultation about a proposed decision or action in accordance with section 5, Manitoba will provide notice to Fisher River of any contemplated dispositions, allocations or authorizations respecting Crown land or resources in Fisher River's Traditional Territory.
- 4.3 The notice provided under subsection 4.2 will include:
  - (a) Information on the contemplated Crown land or resource disposition, allocation or authorization;
  - (b) A summary of comments relating to the Crown land or resource disposition, allocation or authorization as identified by Manitoba during its internal processes;
  - (c) Subject to availability, an orthophotogrammetric based map of the site of the proposed Crown resource disposition, allocation or authorization along with a key map; and
  - (d) any other information or documents that the Parties may consider helpful in evaluating the proposed Crown land or resource disposition, allocation or authorization

- 4.4 Fisher River shall reply to the notice provided under subsection 4.2:
- (a) within forty-five (45) days from receipt of the notice; or
  - (b) by the response date stipulated in the notice, if greater than 45 days; or
  - (c) by such other date as the Parties may agree.
- 4.5 In the reply under subsection 4.4, Fisher River may advise whether it has any concerns about the contemplated disposition and any information that it wishes to have considered by Manitoba in making the decision about the contemplated disposition, allocation or authorization.
- 4.6 Manitoba will consider any information provided by Fisher River.
- 4.7 Manitoba will advise Fisher River, in writing, of any decision made about the contemplated disposition, allocation or authorization, including advising how the information provided by Fisher River was considered by Manitoba in the decision-making process.
- 4.8 Where Manitoba receives a response from Fisher River within the time frames set out in subsection 4.4, and the Parties agree that Crown-Aboriginal consultation is appropriate, the Parties will follow the process set out under section 5.
- 4.9 Where Manitoba does not receive a response from Fisher River within the time frames set out in subsection 4.4, Manitoba will advise Fisher River of Manitoba's intent to make a decision about the contemplated disposition, allocation or authorization if Manitoba does not receive a response from Fisher River within twenty (20) working days of the date of receipt of the written notice.
- 4.10 Where Manitoba does not receive a response from Fisher River within the time frames set out in subsection 4.9, Manitoba will continue with its decision making process and will notify Fisher River, in writing, of its decision.

## **SECTION 5 - Crown-Aboriginal Consultation Process**

- 5.1 Manitoba recognizes it has a duty, grounded in the honour of the Crown, to consult in good faith in a meaningful way with First Nations (including Fisher River Cree Nation), Métis communities and other Aboriginal communities when any proposed provincial law, regulation, decision or action may infringe upon or adversely affect the exercise of a treaty or Aboriginal right of that First Nation, Métis community or other Aboriginal community, as recognized and affirmed

under s. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

- 5.2 Fisher River acknowledges that Manitoba's Crown-Aboriginal consultation processes are guided by its *Interim Provincial Policy on Crown Consultation with First Nations, Metis Communities and Other Aboriginal Communities and Guidelines on Crown Consultation with First Nations, Metis Communities and Other Aboriginal Communities*.
- 5.3 Where Manitoba and Fisher River agree that Crown-Aboriginal consultation is appropriate in respect of a Crown decision or action, including a proposed Crown land or resource disposition, allocation or authorization within Fisher River's Traditional Territory they:
  - (a) will work together to develop a consultation workplan and budget, and consultation protocol where necessary, which will set out the nature, scope and timing of each of the specific elements and activities that are to be undertaken as part of the Crown-Aboriginal consultation process with respect of the disposition, allocation or authorization in issue, and which may include the consideration of any potential adverse effects of the decision or action and of possible measures to address the adverse effects;
  - (b) where agreed, will enter into Crown-Aboriginal consultation participation funding agreements to provide for funding to enable Fisher River to participate in the consultation process in accordance with the consultation workplan; and
  - (c) will participate in the consultation process as set out in the consultation workplan.
- 5.4 Manitoba agrees that prior to any final decisions being made about a matter subject to consultation under this section, it will provide Fisher River with a written summary of the Crown-Aboriginal consultation process, including a description of:
  - (a) the concerns identified by Fisher River;
  - (b) the potential adverse effects of the proposed Crown land or resource disposition, allocation or authorization on the exercise of Aboriginal and treaty rights; and
  - (c) any proposed measures to address the adverse effects considered in the consultation process.
- 5.5 Fisher River will have a reasonable opportunity to consider the written summary and provide Manitoba with comments, in writing, or in a meeting between the

Parties before the decisions are made.

- 5.6 Manitoba will notify Fisher River, in writing, of any decisions or actions taken by Manitoba resulting from a Crown-Aboriginal consultation process.

#### **SECTION 6 - Fisher River Aboriginal and Treaty Rights Committee**

- 6.1 Fisher River has established a Fisher River Aboriginal and Treaty Rights Committee. This committee will review the notifications provided under section 4 of this Protocol and provide recommendations to Fisher River's Chief and Council and will participate in the Crown-Aboriginal consultation process under section 5 of this Protocol where directed to by Chief and Council.

#### **SECTION 7 - Non-Derogation**

- 7.1 Nothing in this Protocol shall be construed so as to abrogate or derogate from the existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada, as recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
- 7.2 Nothing in this Protocol precludes Fisher River or Manitoba from seeking any determination or remedy from a court of competent jurisdiction about a Crown-Aboriginal consultation process.

#### **SECTION 8 - Notice**

- 8.1 Any notice or other communication to Fisher River under this Protocol shall be in writing and shall be sent to:

Chief and Council and Community Coordinator  
Fisher River Cree Nation  
Box 367 Koostatak, MB R0C 1S0  
Fax: (204) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- 8.2 Any notice or other communication to Manitoba under this Protocol shall be in writing and shall be sent to:

Executive Director and Consultation Facilitator  
Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat  
200-500 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3X1  
Fax: (204) 945-3689  
Email: robert.wavey@gov.mb.ca

8.3 Any party may provide notice of change of address to the other parties in writing and thereafter all notices shall be sent to the new address.

### **SECTION 9 - Future Processes**

9.1 Manitoba and Fisher River are committed to pursuing discussions about funding for the community coordinator position referred to in section 3 of this Protocol.

9.2 Manitoba and Fisher River are committed to continuing to work together and entering into discussions to provide assistance to Fisher River with respect of Fisher River conducting a Traditional Land Use and Occupancy Study and Mapping Initiative as referred to in Section 2 of this Protocol.

### **SECTION 10 - General**

10.1 Any Party may terminate this Protocol by giving one hundred and eighty (180) days written notice to the other Party to this Protocol.

10.2 The termination of this Protocol will not affect any consultations about proposed decisions or actions of the Crown conducted before the date of termination, and, in the event of termination, Manitoba and Fisher River will address any consultation processes in good faith outside of this Protocol.

10.3 This Protocol may be amended by the Parties in writing.

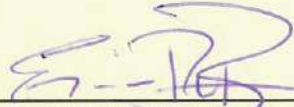
10.4 This Protocol may not be assigned by any Party.



This Protocol has been approved by the parties on the date noted below:

for **MANITOBA**

Date: AUG - 7 2013

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Honourable Eric Robinson

for **FISHER RIVER CREE NATION**

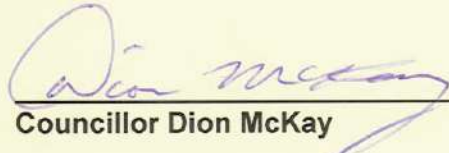
Date: AUG - 7 2013

  
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Chief David Crate

Date: AUG - 7 2013

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councillor Carl Cochrane

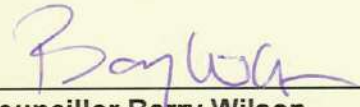
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Councillor Dion McKay

Date: AUG - 7 2013

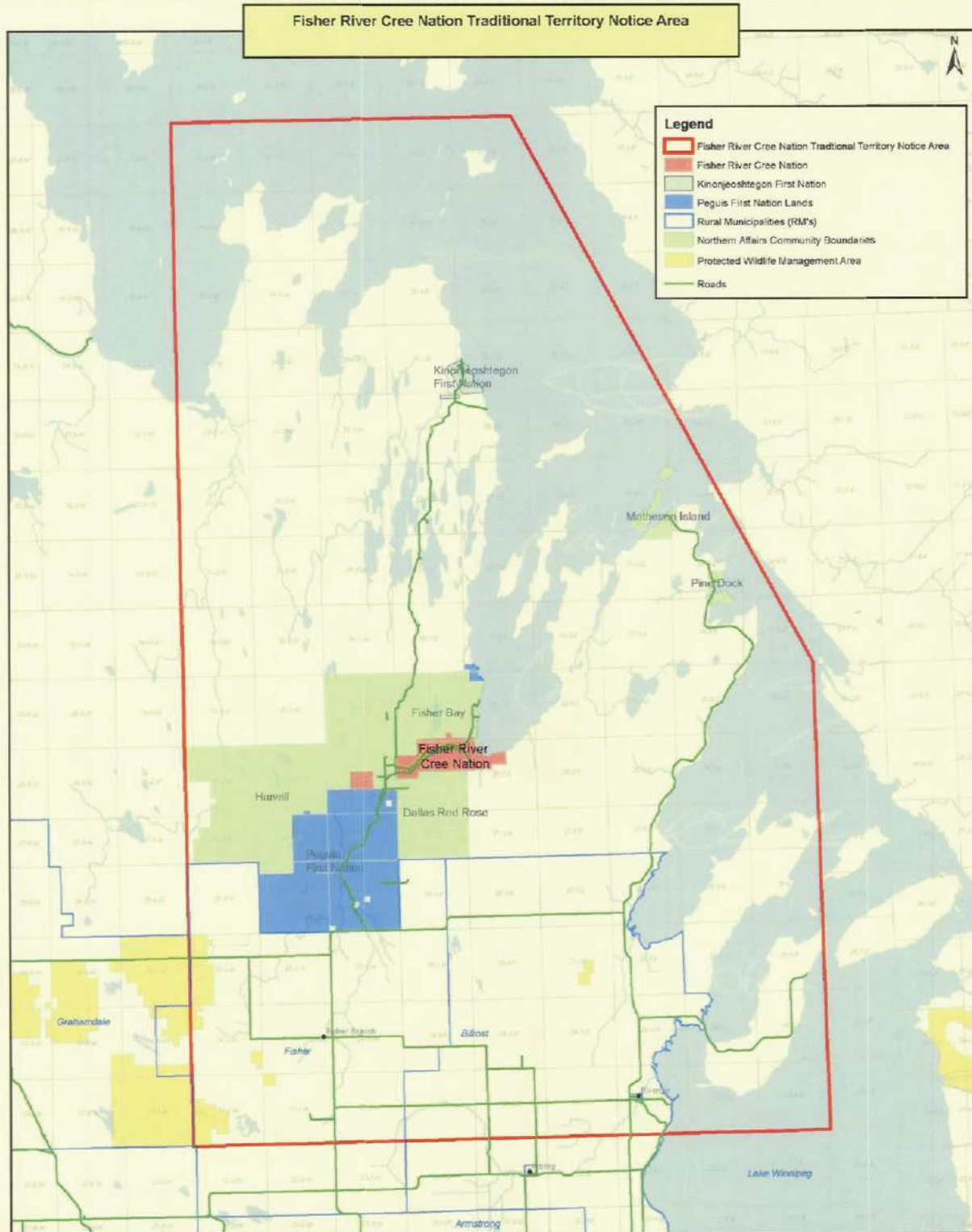
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councillor Darrell Thaddeus

Date: AUG - 7 2013

  
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Councillor Barry Wilson

# Schedule "A"

## FISHER RIVER CREE NATION TRADITIONAL TERRITORY NOTICE AREA MAP



# FRCN Conservation Areas Initiative

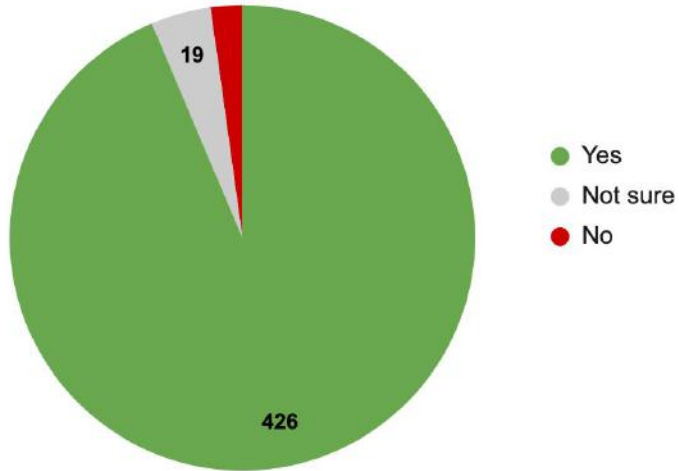
## Round 1 Rightsholder/Stakeholder Meeting Summary

DATE/TIME	GROUP
June 10, 2021	RM of Bifrost Council
June 22, 2021	MLA Amanda Lathlin
June 29, 2021	RM of Fisher Council
June 30, 2021	East Interlake Watershed District
July 16, 2021	Beaver Creek Residents Association (Barry Henry)
July 20, 2021	*Repeat meeting with RM of Fisher Council*
July 27, 2021	*Repeat meeting with RM of Bifrost Council*
July 28, 2021	Manitoba Conservation (Tim Harapiak)
July 29, 2021	*Prep meeting with Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association*
August 31, 2021	*Repeat meeting with RM of Bifrost Council*
Sept 13, 2021	Province - Integrated Resource Management Team group
Oct 5, 2021	Manitoba Lodges and Outfitters Association (DJ Seales)
Oct 7, 2021	Northern Association of Community Councils
Nov 30, 2021	Manitoba Wildlife Federation
Nov 30, 2021	Community Futures (East Interlake)
Nov 30, 2022	*Repeat meeting with RM of Bifrost Council*
Dec 1, 2021	Manitoba Métis Federation
Dec 1, 2021	Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association (Multi-stakeholder session)
Dec 20, 2021	EngageMB - Provincial Public Engagement Department
Jan 4, 2022	Bird Life International (Plover/Swan groups)
Jan 6, 2022	Interlake Tourism Association
Jan 6, 2022	Travel Manitoba
Jan 6, 2022	John Morgan (Prairie Habitats, Argyle MB)
Jan 18, 2022	Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada
Feb 15, 2022	Lake St.George/Lake St.Andrews Cottagers
Feb 16, 2022	*Repeat meeting with East Interlake Watershed District*
Feb 22, 2022	Central Interlake Chamber of Commerce
April 6, 2022	ANA Communities (IRNR consultants from Harwill, Matheson Island, Pine Dock, Dallas/Red Rose, Fisher Bay )
April 19, 2022	Lakeview Hecla Resort
May 18, 2022	*Repeat meeting with Manitoba Lodges & Outfitters Association (new Executive Director)*
June 22, 2022	Minister Jeff Wharton
	Minister Alan Lagimodiere
July 18, 2022	Dallas/Red Rose Community Council

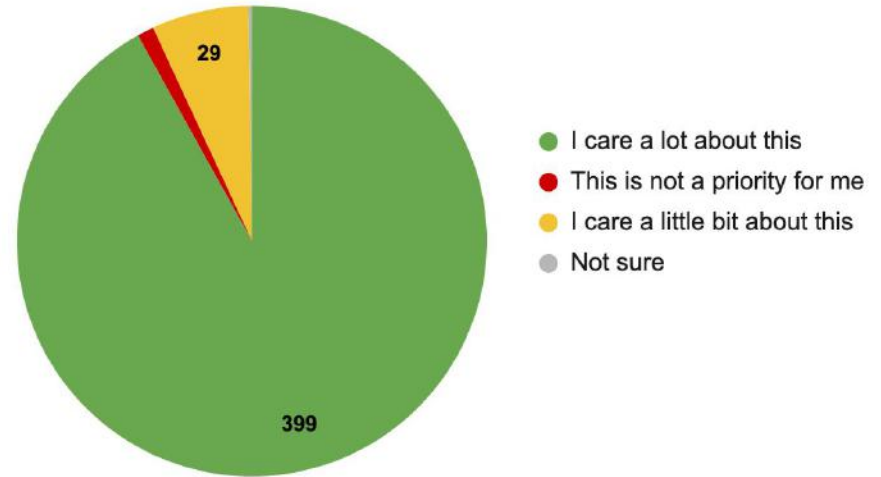
July 25, 2022	Harwill Community Council
Nov 16, 2023	Matheson Island/Pine Dock Community Councils
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>35 meetings with 28 individual stakeholders or organizations</b>

# Survey Results - Values

Do you support protecting land and water in this area?

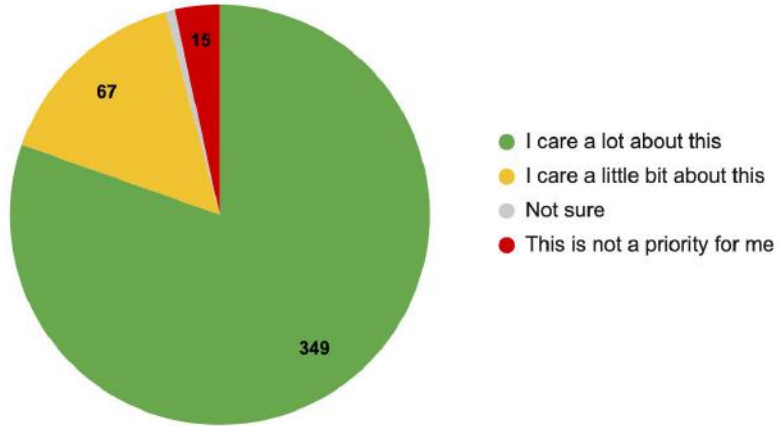


Protecting wildlife habitat

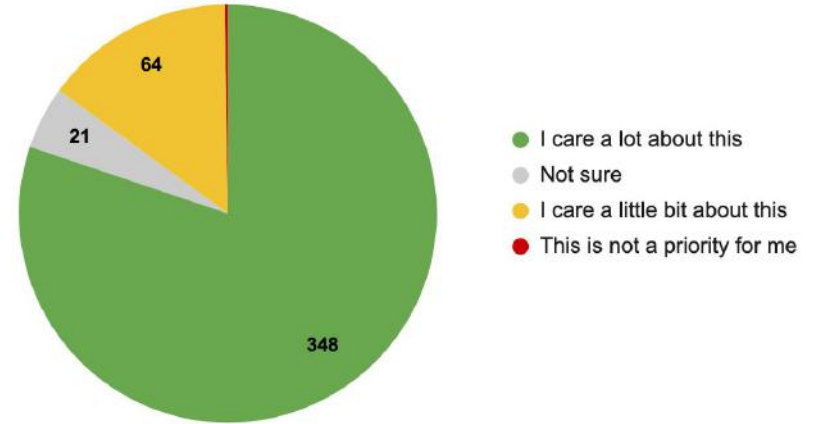


# Survey Results – Values

Protecting traditional activities such as berry picking, medicine gathering and trapping

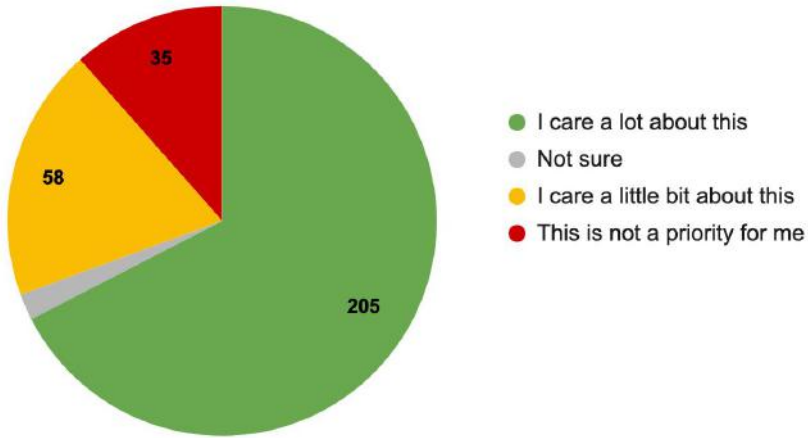


Enhancing land management practices

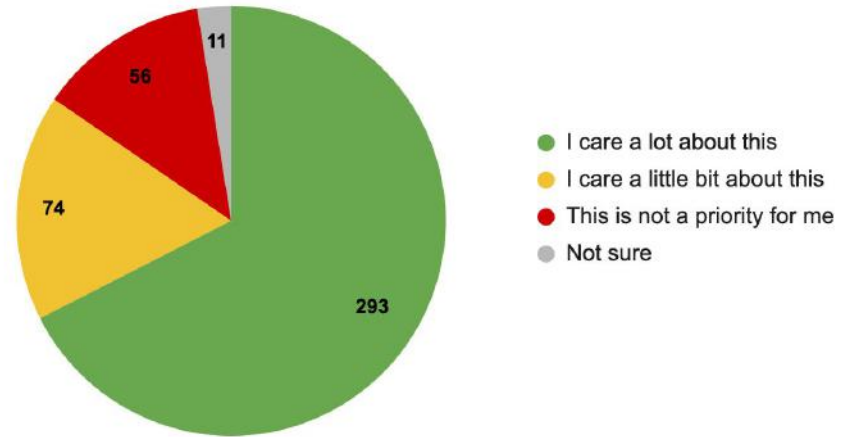


# Survey Results - Values

Ensuring angling (sport fishing) remains viable in the region

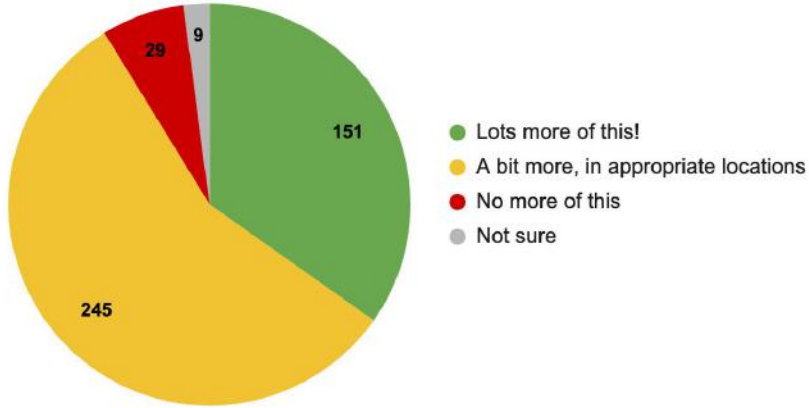


Ensuring hunting remains viable in the region

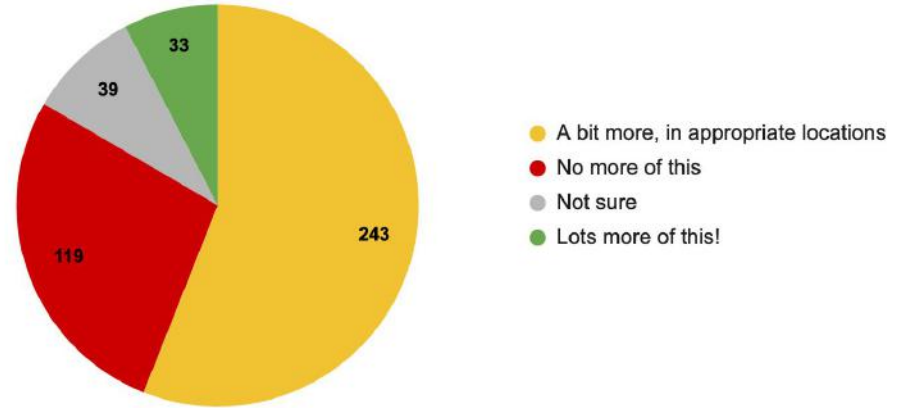


# Survey Results - Types of Development

Outdoor recreation or eco-tourism opportunities



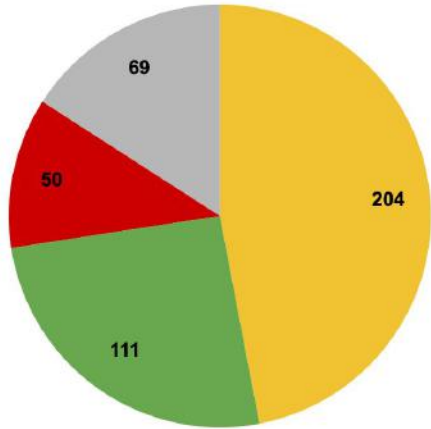
New cottage developments





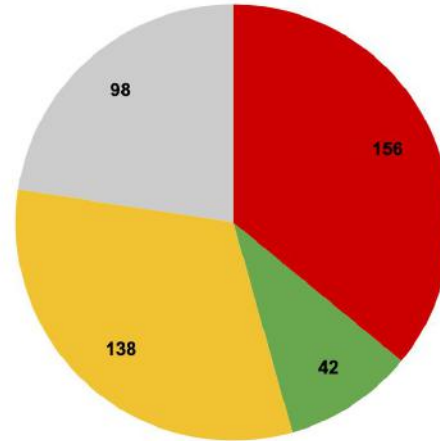
# Survey Results - Types of Development

Commercial fishing



- A bit more, in appropriate locations
- Lots more of this!
- Not sure
- No more of this

Peat moss harvesting

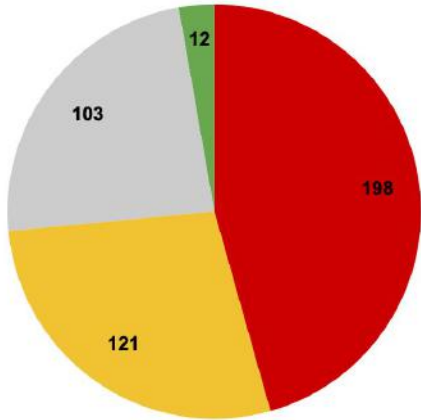


- No more of this
- Lots more of this!
- A bit more, in appropriate locations
- Not sure



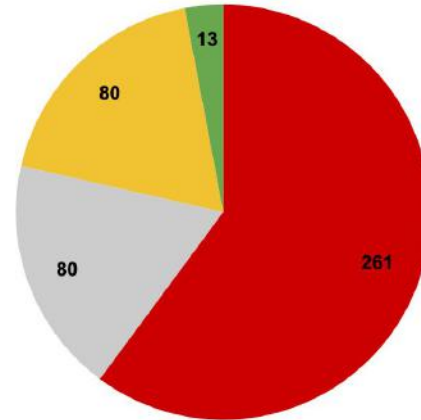
# Survey Results - Types of Development

Quarry mining



- No more of this
- A bit more, in appropriate locations
- Not sure
- Lots more of this!

Large scale mineral mining

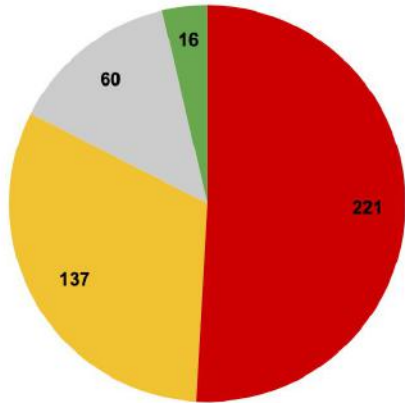


- No more of this
- Not sure
- A bit more, in appropriate locations
- Lots more of this!



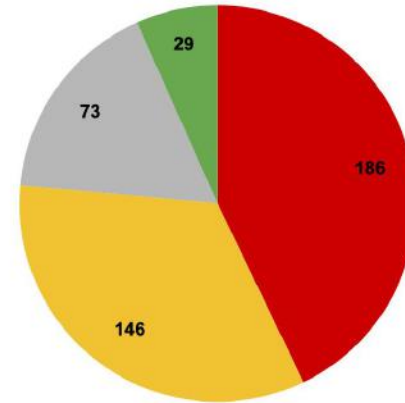
# Survey Results - Types of Development

Commercial logging



- No more of this
- A bit more, in appropriate locations
- Not sure
- Lots more of this!

Hydro development

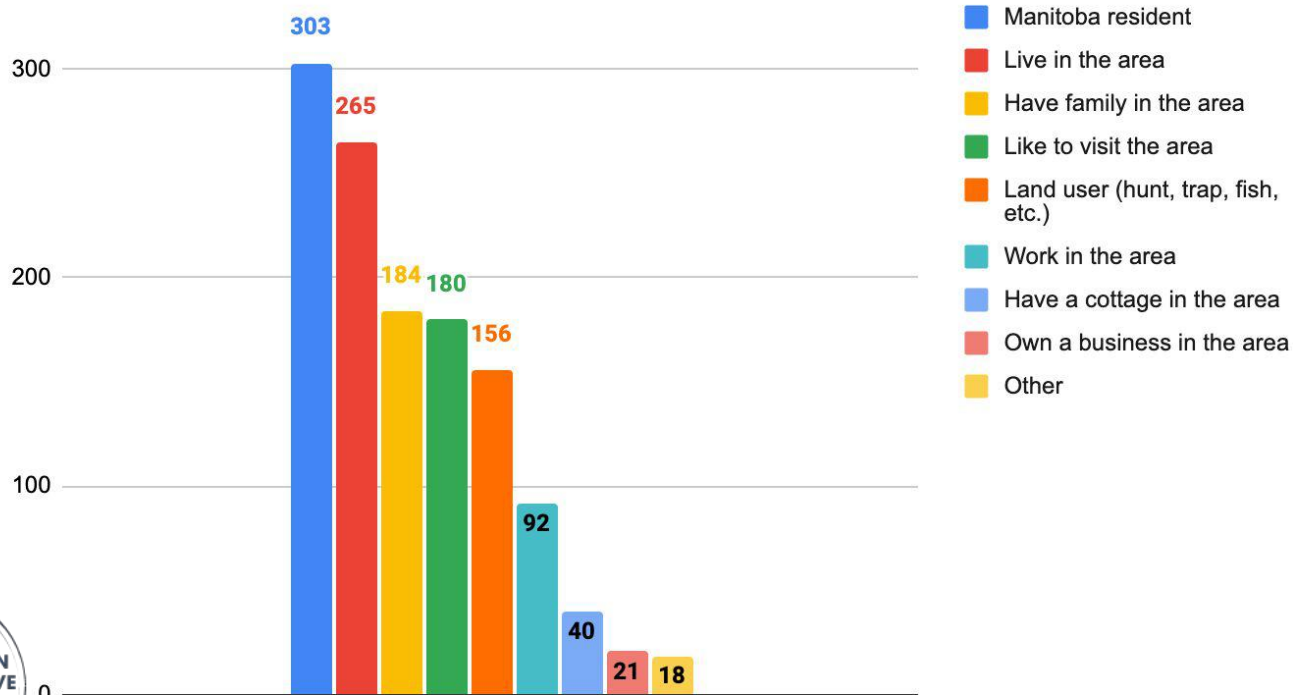


- No more of this
- A bit more, in appropriate locations
- Not sure
- Lots more of this!



# Survey Results – Who are we hearing from?

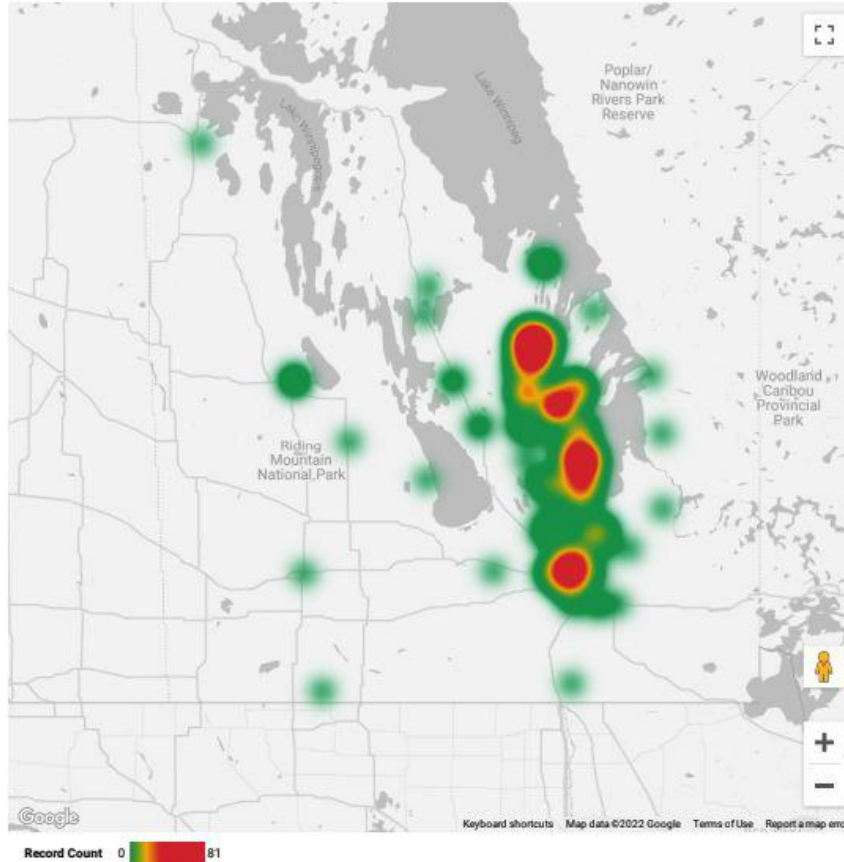
What is your relationship to the area? Choose all that apply\*



# Survey Results – Who are we hearing from?

Location	Record Count
1. Koostatak	81
2. Winnipeg	69
3. Gimli	56
4. Arborg	38
5. Peguis	33
6. Winnipeg Beach	17
7. Fisher Branch	16
8. Riverton	16
9. Arnes	10
10. Selkirk	9
11. Camp Morton	9
12. Komarno	7
13. Matlock	7
14. Sandy Hook	4
15. Poplarfield	4
16. Stonewall	4
17. Matheson Island	4
18. Dallas	4
19. Dauphin	4
20. Hodgson	3
21. Headingly	3
22. Inwood	3
23. Winnipeg	2
24. West Saint Paul	2
25. Petersfield	2
26. Anola	2
27. Oakbank	2

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# **Appendix D**

**Round 1 Verbatim Survey Comments**

**FRCN Conservation Areas Initiative**

If you want this area protected, tell us why. Are there particular activities or places you cherish and want to maintain? If you want to see development in this area, tell us what kind and/or where. Please let us know if these comments refer to a specific zone or area. Detailed maps are available in the map gallery.

1	the future depends on the things we do now we are responsible for those not yet born, we should try and get things headed in the right direction for the sack of those children so they will be prepared to take up the issue.
2	Hydro has already destroyed the lake with its decision to not allow the levels to fluctuate as it normally would. Wetlands are nearly gone. The LAST thing we need is more hydro developments, you can barely swim as it is.
3	We are all connected to the earth ... I visit the area often to sit quietly and fish and pick berries ...watch wildlife
4	not enough promotion or means of making the public aware of what is already out there for recreation, boating fishing, hunting, bird watchers, if public knows they will help boost local economy. Which is vital .
5	Pine Dock has some natural "caves" that have become quite popular. It would be great to see a trail going in that is marked and isn't on private property. The skating trail in Arborg is lovely, and well used.
6	Nope
7	As a sailor I have enjoyed the pristine wilderness that is Lake Winnipeg. The visiting of its unique harbours and villages is the highlight of our summer. We have a world class cruising ground that has been barely developed. The development and support of these harbours will make Lake Winnipeg a truly unique and World Class destination.
8	We have our summer cottage on the Lake Winnipeg shore, at Hnausa. There is a small creek on the north side of the road, which empties into the Lake. It is a nursery to waterfowl, a shelter for birds, a home for frogs, and a path for wildlife that offers shelter and sustenance. It is full of vegetation in good (non-drought) years. I always shudder when ATVs roar down the road beside the creek, and fume when ATVs use the shoreline as their drag strip.
9	Area 6 and 7 are known to be used by endangered bats and caves are in the area. I'm sure many more are unknown and could be threatened by increased quarrying.

<b>10</b>	I would like this area protected for future generations to enjoy. More eco-tourism locations, walk in camping sites with a lakefront or beach view. Do not allow atv's,dirt bikes, etc. on land near the lake. Do not allow jet skis or motor boats anywhere near a beach or camping area.
<b>11</b>	More things for our youth activities
<b>12</b>	Hydro development is still cleaner energy but also requires a massive outlay of public funds to build them. I do not know what the balance is.
<b>13</b>	Marshes, active bogs, Narcisse snake den areas
<b>14</b>	Areas used by family have been heavily impacted by peat mining - far less wildlife now. This activity and similar 'development' needs to stop. We support traditional Indigenous harvesting but that is it and would be compatible with any new protected areas.
<b>15</b>	For generations to enjoy
<b>16</b>	I just love natural beauty and wildlife. I want to see it thrive. I'm not a fan of hunting but I am not adverse to it when high numbers of wildlife suggest it would be beneficial.
<b>17</b>	I would like this area to remain a habitat for fish and wildlife. The commercial fishers need support to maintain their lively hood. I support continued restrictions on moose hunting in area 21a as the population has been completely depleted. I do not want anymore peat miss harvesting leases to be granted. 3 areas that are on #234 as of now is enough. Granted it has provided employment, however the traditional hunting has suffered with the disruption of muskege and activity. I do support limited cottage development only for the fact that more attention is needed in the roads, hydro services, telephone, cellular access and internet in this area. Possibly could give us more of a voice to address these problems if there is more "voices." I am speaking for area 6. Matheson island and the mainland, Islandview. Thank you
<b>18</b>	Clean up lake Winnipeg and get it healed, goes for the area surrounding it as well!
<b>19</b>	the arborg river trail ! amazing every winter
<b>20</b>	Wetland protection from farming runoff is huge issue. Also interruption of wildlife homes. You strip the land and waters, your wildlife cannot survive.
<b>21</b>	Yes want to see development in areas that are easy access to everyone. More parks and swim areas created.
<b>22</b>	Hecla/Grindstone is a beautiful area and unlike anywhere in the province. I have seen the most diverse animals in this area.
<b>23</b>	We recently moved onto 56 acres one mile of which is riverfront. We have connected with the EICD out of gimli about some projects for protection, rehabilitation and education. Any other partnerships on projects that could serve to heal land and educate younger generation we hope to use land in the most responsible and respectful way possible.
<b>24</b>	We have a lot of family memories here through the years, although tourism helps give sustainability, it's not what they give to land but what they take. The creator didn't intend it to be filled with water bottles and masks or careless campers fires that scorch the earth. I wish there was a way back to our beginnings, to protect our lands and our ecosystem from ourselves. It starts with you and me
<b>25</b>	I love natural nature. I want nature to be there for my grandchildren grandchildren. I want them to be able to fish, to go camping, to learn about wildlife and to be able to enjoy it all. Our spirits connect with nature and without it, our spirits and our land will get sick. I believe in sustainable economic development, but man is greedy and selfish.



26	Try to protect all areas for the sake of everyone's future especially the children and grandchildren Make good decisions now before it's too late Good decisions will be followed by our children and grandchildren
27	I think it important to keep the land the way it is !!!
28	Don't protect fuck all open hunting and fishing fre for all
29	I think the government needs to appreciate the untouched forests that we have, and instead of taxing landowners based on the fertility of their soil of the entire property (which is why many farmers remove all of the forested areas off farmland) , perhaps the government should give landowners green space credits for NOT removing trees from the land.
30	I enjoy all areas in the interlake. Love to swim, fish, go boating, hiking etc. It is a pleasure to be able to take the grandkids out on the land and show them nature at its finest. Cant not imagine not being surrounded by this natural beauty. We can already see the effects that over hunting and mining has had on this area.
31	I do not understand enough about developing areas and what are the best options for our area and how to do the best developing, so I trust that we have elected the right people into our local government to make the right decisions for us, the wildlife, our needs and for the land so it will be the best it can be for all of us including the future generations that will be counting on us to do our best for now and for the future.
32	I don't think my area qualifies. Live in Winnipeg Beach. Prefer less development, less fishing, less mining, more nature preservation and water conservation. I compost, recycle and conserve water. Trying to do my little part
33	I care about wildlife and plant protection, keeping water clean
34	My family and I enjoy hunting and fishing in the Interlake area, particularly Lake Winnipeg and other lakes (such as Lake St. Andrews, Montago Lake, Lake St George to name a few).
35	We need access to the beach toward Fisher Bay. A parking lot should be built and maintained along the beach. There needs to be some brushing/clearing, picnic tables, barbecue sites, bathroom/change rooms.
36	For the younger generation to learn from our elders roots
37	This land was made for you and me to sustain us, not to make the almighty buck
38	Protect this area because of it's natural state
39	All place's
40	Fishing, hunting, hiking,
41	I'm a resident of peguis first nation but have family in fisher river & jackhead & fisher branch. I prefer nature remains untouched for medicine harvest, berries & the like.
42	It doesn't matter where we live, we are all connected! This needs to be understood more and by everyone!
43	Camping and fishing camps for kids
44	Protect wild life and habitats
45	we need to protect what land is left in this world too much development and too much pollution caused by dev3lop.e t of mining etc.
46	No commercial uses should be made without careful study and planning.
47	We are losing so much wildlife / land and it's all to do with over development and pollution... we need to save these areas in order to keep some habitats and ways of life alive and not wiped out
48	?????

49	Destroying lands and natural habitats for other animals only benefits humans, and its important we ensure the stability of ecosystems for animals and insects.
50	I would have to say , we need to save our peat moss and stop removing the moss because an elder once said you take everything away and we will have nothing for Mother nature.
51	I trap in alot of the areas and I will want those areas open for my kids to use, that will benefit them and their children for generations to come .
52	I've stated this in my comments above.
53	Maintain sustainable areas for fish and wildlife
54	Hydro is killing our land. Investment should be made in eco power options.
55	Families live here. Generations will get sick
56	The area has been developed enough. Forested areas need to be protected for the birds and animals and for the practise of traditional livelihoods such as trapping, hunting and harvesting, as promised in the Treaties. Annuities and benefits are "on top of" what we already had which was ability to practise traditional livelihoods; in addition the promise to use and have access to Crown Lands has been shrinking. Treaty rights in this area needs protection too. Recreational angling needs to be better controlled and definitely limited. Lake Winnipeg needs to be cleaned up from debris, old nets, plastic, sewage, and invasive species. Shallow lakes need protected too from the spread of invasive species such as zebra mussels. We need stronger, enforceable environmental laws and joint management programs with the historical Treaty partners (Crown and First Nations) for all Crown Lands. Miigwech for your work. Ekosi.
57	Maintenance for wild life
58	All areas protected no more developing in the inter lake.
59	Our community needs a huge plot for farming also that includes everyone helps schools & community not all separated plots. We also need a nice camp ground besides the treaty grounds in the bush somewhere. Not so easily assessible to people walking. Also a beautiful big dock for all to fish, not a wooden one, Like Selkirk has. Thank you for reading.
60	Not sure
61	The agricultural areas and crown land (recently untouched natural) areas should be treated different from each other. We farm and live in the area and hope to do so as long as possible. We use the crown land areas for hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking, and residential firewood. It is important to me that access to these areas is maintained. We have friends and family that work on the peat moss farms so we recognize their economic importance. However, I was very surprised by the area of peat moss farms that is designated on the maps. If these areas all get developed the area would not be the same for anyone. A main reason I enjoy living in the area is because of the untouched natural areas. I have visited every zone on the map (except #1) and appreciate all accessible crown land areas that have not been developed. Three areas that stand out to me are the Moose Creek Wildlife Management area, the Mantagao River/Lake area (including High Rock), and Kinwow Bay with McBeth Point/Cat Head Point included. And of course all natural shore areas along lake Wpg.
62	Important to use and harvest natural resources in a sustainable manner respecting the needs and wishes of local residents and all Manitobans & Canadians. The development and use of non replaceable/non renewable resources must follow a national & provincial strategic plan that minimizes environmental disturbance for the benefit of local, provincial & national citizens.

63	My family relies on fishing right now and we also take our family out on outings on the lake and in the bushes.
64	Bottom line is to protect for the future and practice sustainable development in the area if need be. However, PERSONALLY I would like it left alone for many reasons.
65	We are at Hecla Grindstone and definitely want to stop peat mining. Everything needs to be done to protect our beautiful lake. Lake Winnipeg has always been a very important part of my life. Grand Beach as a young child camping or renting a cottage or Hecla camping weekends that eventually lead to seasonal camping draws so in Hope's of getting a seasonal site. We have stayed in the area with a cottage at Grindstone. It is God's gift to us.
66	Lake Winnipeg needs to have a major focus on water clean up, zebra mussel control and shoreline erosion. There needs to be a no chemical zone around the lake
67	We need to be cognizant of the balance between economic activity and protection of a healthy ecosystem. Meaningful consultation and cooperation between the keepers of the land, the environmental scientists and economic developers is essential. All the voices need to be heard -- and heeded.
68	Our community members have been fishing hunting and gathering since the signing of treaty though my life time in have witnessed significant changes to all of these and not for the good,
69	the central Interlake is in a free for all where interested parties are allowed to do what ever they please with out the public input and in a lot of situations not in the best interest for the local area residents where certain operations hinder business startup or expansion
70	I can't think of any particular areas specifically but I feel it should all be protected so that my generation and generations to come have the opportunity to discover these areas. With that being said, I do have a fondness for hunting and fishing.
71	Land management is where we r to manage n not let resources get ahold of these places to harm clear n mine.
72	Develope parks for camping, all seasons. No more blocking the edge of water access for some rich persons cabin.
73	We have already left far too big of a foot print on all the land!
74	Our land is sacred and what little we have already we should preserve, or we will lose its natural beauty, the medicines creator god has provided and our natural garden creator god has created for us to have nourishment. Preserve it all!
75	Zone 7. Protect the water source clean up river
76	we can not treat our lakes and rivers like sewers, if you poison the water , you poison the fish the birds the people, soon everything is gone ?
77	Around the Arnes area, towards Riverton. Too much disrespect trash being disposed of improperly.
78	These questions are vague and concentric for political gain I feel. I am not against using our Natural Resources as long as they are monitored in a way that is reasonable.
79	These are traditional lands that have been used by indigenous people for centuries while still keeping resources abundant. While some animal species may need extra protection (ie. moose, elk), wildlife populations have continued to thrive in these areas for a long time. Let's keep the traditional way of life that these indigenous peoples have used sacred to them and steer away from development in these areas.

80	It would be nice to protect the area for natural wild habitat and for the beauty of God's country. Right now there is too much trash in some areas. People are not taking care of the land.
81	I want to see less expansion of farmland , more and more areas of treed quarter sections are getting clear cut for farming and these are the natural habitats of a lot of wildlife and for hunting and trapping. If this is not limited in the future it will all just be open farmland by mega farming companies and you will have to drive very long distances just to find any forests
82	Protect the sweetgrass in Peguis if there is another drought, maybe watering will help. People are already not respectful in these areas, and to pick during a drought bothers me.
83	I just came from the Porcupine Mountains here in MB, and it looks sad with all the trees being chopped down and taken to her nearest tree shop!
84	Land development should be developed for outdoor physical activities, to help the preservation as much as we can.
85	Would like to see Prairie Grasses and marshlands protected; also whatever areas our deer need to thrive.
86	Regularly visit the Hecla area to hike and hope to explore more in the future. Would very much like to see the habitat preserved and any development to be done on a very considered and sustainable basis that will allow local communities to thrive.
87	I'm not sure how to answer some of the questions since I'm not very familiar with the area in question, but I strongly agree about fixing and keeping ecosystems healthy, preserving natural areas, and managing forests (and agriculture) more sustainably right across the province. I'd like to see an end to peat moss mining because of the irreparable damage it creates. Although I support some ecotourism, we need to be careful about it since recreational activities cause a lot of disturbance, such as motor boats, all terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, littering, etc. The pandemic has taught us that we need more public education about respecting the land, the animals, and the plants, etc., and we need politicians to do what is right rather than what is popular.
88	I believe we should just leave it as it is now...
89	As I said in my last writing answer. There already way to much natural habits going down. No need to add to it.
90	Land management is very important to me and my grandkids , an update surveys data on all our lots in fisher river , so our young people don't have to argue or have disagreements on there lots , we and know our fisher nation had passed the land code vote , so please give our young people the update issues in place. Continue to exercise our treaty rights to fish and hunt , in years to come. Lot cleaning should be done clean out lots .
91	A PARK !! VERY IMPORTANT TO HAVE A PROPER PLACE TO SIT AND LISTEN AND THIS WILL GIVE THE INDIVIDUAL TIME TO THINK PLAN AND PUT IN MOTION . LEARN, SEE , UNDERSTAND A PLACE WHERE ALL AGES CAN LEARN HOW TO START FIRES WITH FLINT AND STEEL SEE THE MEDICINES FIRST HAND IN THE FOREST OR FOR MYSELF DEVELOP A SPECIAL PLACE FOR MORE. I WOULD LIKE TO TRY AND BUILD THE CABIN EXPERIENCE WHERE PEOPLE CAN SPEND ONE NIGHT LIVING OFF THE LAND . START YOUR OWN FIRE BOIL YOUR OWN WATER PREPARE YOUR MEALS SPLIT WOOD EVERTHING OLD SCHOOL. TEACH THE BASICS OF DOWN HARD LIVIN' !!
92	Manitoba has still undeveloped boreal forests that should be allowed to flourish. Also wetlands must be protected as they guard our fresh water lakes.

<b>93</b>	Better access to fishing, hunting and camping on east side of Lake winnipeg...ferry service could be brought back to help.
<b>94</b>	Hudson line from peguis to pine dock road. There is so much wild life in that area that it seems that would be a great area to protect as u can see there has been some field being taken over and destroyed acres of land. Pushing or killing animals away from its native land.
<b>95</b>	Too much damage to the environment and wildlife
<b>96</b>	We need to protect as much as possible because of the life it gives us. Many things can be done as long as the laws of sustainable harvesting are followed. I harvest medicines in many areas on that map. The medicines are abundant but mining, making dams, destroying the peat moss, over harvesting the forest are all so detrimental to the intricate balance of all of this, for fish, animals, medicines. Our people have done it for thousands of years without leaving destruction.
<b>97</b>	Last summer, my wife and I took a number of drives around Lake Manitoba and explored up and down many gravel and dirt roads. The beaches were amazing and totally under-utilized. Protect these beaches in their rugged beauty, but make many of them more accessible for appropriate activities.
<b>98</b>	The wildlife management areas need to be taken care of properly and managed not just patrolled! It's pathetic the signs are missing or faded - no one clears brush or debris. I would volunteer if the tools would be supplied.
<b>99</b>	Fish lake area Lake Winnipeg
<b>100</b>	I just think with global warming and how quickly things are changing with our weather/temps, taking care of what we have and respecting what we have and not destroying nature is so important.
<b>101</b>	We need to start taking care of our land for future generations or there will be nothing left for them
<b>102</b>	I'm not too sure what I would like to see other than an improvement in the water clarity/health of lake Winnipeg.
<b>103</b>	Absolute necessity to protect boreal forest. Home to innumerable species.
<b>104</b>	framnes manitoba
<b>105</b>	I'm tired of seeing all these new developments destroying the land and raising the prices of everything. We need a more sustainable plan and protected areas so that these eco systems remain unspoiled.
<b>106</b>	Deforestation has already drastically affected the environment ,and peat mining continues. No consistency to stop it.
<b>107</b>	I love being able to live among the wildlife. Being able to see them in their natural habitat is wonderful. I would hate for development to ruin their homes.
<b>108</b>	Keep progress to a minimum.
<b>109</b>	The ones with not sure is because I'm in between no more and in a bit more in appropriate places. As a lover of nature and looking at the impact humans have on the planet. I Think we need more protected areas to prevent extinction of animals and insects not to mention our livelihoods such as mining and logging. Also with current changes in weather and such we need to preserve what we have to prevent our own extinction
<b>110</b>	With appropriate permission from Bloodvein First Nation, it would be interesting to explore the rebuilding of the ferry from Matheson Island to Bloodvein First Nation. This may allow easier access to Bloodvein First Nation and could result in Eco-Tourism initiatives for Bloodvein FN.

111	Many migrant and non migrant bird species nest in this area. Since the 70's bird populations for many species has plummeted. They're essential to nature as are many other animal species in the area. We need to protect natural habitat.
112	There's no such thing as "Sustainable development"
113	Around the beach area
114	Poplarfield area is where I live I'd like to see the wilderness in this region protected.
115	Lake Winnipeg needs protection from developers who don't care about the fragile ecosystem and only care about their bottom line When will governments and developers realize that we need clean water and green protected spaces.
116	Camping, hunting, fishing and any other activities that involve being in nature
117	I reside at Beaver Creek provincial park just 30mins south of Pine Dock area 8 and 9. Peat mining needs to stop in my area destroying the land, water and wild life habitat. Last year they destroyed several cottages at Beaver Creek due to a peat fire. They destroyed lots and forest too. 😞
118	Hiking trails , skidoo trails are needed for off road vehicles and for those who love to hike n pick medicine.
119	In Zone 10, west and east of Arborg in the sky lake area, there are many natural springs and beautiful trees. The old garbage dump used to be in this area, the worst place for a garbage dump. It has never been properly cleaned up. This land needs to be cleaned up and reforested. Human presence and farming should be reduced and monitored in the area.
120	I would like to see farming practices go back in time, on a smaller scale so there is less raping of the land and pollution to the water
121	I began gathering Saskatoon berries when I was a young girl. I loved, and still love, the spruce groves and mixed forests in the area. I love the large areas of undeveloped land, and the large farmlands that are responsibly farmed. I think that if cottages are developed, it is important to ensure lot sizes remain large enough to preserve brush on each lot, to allow for continuous throughways for game. Development must also be careful to ensure our aquifers are preserved, as well water is an important feature of clean, drinkable water in this area.
122	Just want more natural undisturbed areas, mixed with non-motorized activities, hiking, kayaking, canoeing in some areas leaving others undisturbed.
123	Wetlands are vital to this planet. We have two of the largest shoreline wetlands in North America here in MB. Be proud of this. Protect this. Share it with the planet, but not at the cost of short term exploitation.
124	I'd prefer if this area stayed much as it is now. I am concerned about the stripping of peat in zone 9 - it takes 1000s of years to replenish this - if we ever get it back. While we may need some of these resources, wholesale stripping of natural resources to make money (by people who live elsewhere) is never right. I also think we have enough cottage development. There are cottages now and beaches for people to enjoy, but let's not lose the beauty and history of the area to over development. The Hecla/Grindstone area is becoming as crowded as a mall at Christmas over the summer months now. Traffic is clogging the roads and it will degrade the whole area. Last spring, an open area near Pine Dock looked like the Polo Park Mall parking lot, with all the tourists traipsing over people's property to go to the lake and see the "caves". The natural areas here can't sustain these levels of tourist use. It is going to end up looking like Coney Island.

<b>125</b>	<p>There is too much focus on agriculture and the chemicals and spillage from the land draining into the lake.</p> <p>There is too much phosphates that drain into the lake. I am concerned about the chemicals used in farmland that harms the ecosystem.</p> <p>I am concerned about factory farms.</p> <p>I want to see the base of Lake wpg protected waters.</p> <p>I spend time north of gimli in the trails between hwy 6 and 9.</p> <p>Development north of Gimli for cabins or year round between the highway and lake would be good.</p> <p>Creating a wetland and protected environment area in the area for tourism.</p> <p>Allowing and creating a ATV year-round trail north of gimli.</p> <p>Maintaining and protecting the trail systems created and already established.</p> <p>Planting berry bushes in the treed areas north of Gimli to help wildlife.</p> <p>Having a stronger presence or base office for conservation and farmed animal protection</p>
<b>126</b>	Everything needs to be in balance to help conserve the land.
<b>127</b>	We can use the land instead of ruining it
<b>128</b>	I am concerned since our population is growing what are we going to do with the garbage that is massively accumulating. We will continue to use our land to deposit our garbage .
<b>129</b>	Fishing and trapping are a part of our lifestyle and should be protected by our people for our use for the future
<b>130</b>	I want this area protected because my ancestors walked and lived here and survived from the land and water. I would not be born if this area wasn't wiped away from construction, over used or made into a city. I wish to come back here and run through trails and camp in a tent or little solar panel cabin someday with my Son and Grandchildren.
<b>131</b>	If we need to go to net zero carbon by 2030 then how much more hydro does need to be depended upon and is this viable? Not sure.
<b>132</b>	I want protection for area for future generations
<b>133</b>	I live in the interlake and the peatmoss plants have taken over our forest area, which puts a big risk to the community if it is another summer like last. Only development should be something to improve the area but yet preserve its nature
<b>134</b>	I need more info for our area what is needed.
<b>135</b>	Keep the gorgeous forest free from any development
<b>136</b>	Our Juno and fishing trapping is important and should be protected
<b>137</b>	I feel we need to stop making a foot print on the land that doesn't sustain us, all these things do is makes the corporate bosses richer on the land, peat moss farming is not good due to the large filter for our clean drinking water it is there for a reason but that reason isn't going to be good enough until our water is contaminated. The land is important to our people but not all think this way all they see is dollars for how long will these dollars last? That is the question what is the impact on the wild life and medicines that are there for all to use? We seen enough of the damage in other provinces and different places around the world.
<b>138</b>	What about gold eye lake it was a place for hunting, trapping and hiking
<b>139</b>	I don't want to lose access to land for recreation. Hunting and fishing.

<b>140</b>	There are so many beautiful areas that are home to so much wildlife. These areas need protecting. With so much of the world crumbling and being on fire, these animals need someone in their corner fighting for them.
<b>141</b>	I need to learn more about the needs of these many industry sectors in order to make a comment. I do not think we need lots more of anyone industry but definitely as defined "in an appropriate area". Hydro controls lake levels except for this year since we had drought conditions. Hydro controlling water levels or elevation which causes a huge impact on preserving and protection of bird species and their habitats. High water levels cause shoreline damage for landowners.
<b>142</b>	Tourism opportunities enhanced to help local businesses.
<b>143</b>	We live in Wiñipeg Beach, a short wakk to the Lake and with Boundary Creek as our neighbour The health of the Lake and the Creek are important to our quality of life as well as to the plants, animals and birds that enrich our lives As the Lake's health deteriorates, it seems that the political process to make positive change is proceeding paunfully slowly not in keeping with the seriousness of the situation
<b>144</b>	Pelican Islands
<b>145</b>	Fishing, the river is really low and beginning to look scary ; what as land keepers should we do where do we start? beaches, rivers, lakes, marshes, deer and moose population, wildlife population is very important to all. Water is life and brings life and we need to start now. My child is only 10 and wants to help too.
<b>146</b>	I live in zone 10. We are beef farmers on a small farm. We have an environmental plan and intentionally leave quite a bit of forest on our land. InM concerned about the amount of deforestation and clearing going on in our area in the past few years. It is starting to look like the prairies. Farmers and clearing every last tree and draining every slough, and it's like we are creating our own desert. Some farmers are growing crops and spraying right up to the roads, not leaving a road allowance or taking into consideration runoff of chemicals, and no one is checking. We use chemicals on our crops too, but try to do it as responsibly as possible. Another thing I notice is that some people are clearing right along natural waterways, making quad trails and taking away the natural trees that prevent erosion. Three mile creek west of Arborg at the Ford crossing is one example. Along the River bank west of Arborg someone has built a huge dirt biking run. These things don't seem right to me. It seems like I'm twenty years, very few farms will have any natural landscape saved. It's not good for the environment, and aesthetically, it's just so ugly. Trees are what make our area beautiful.
<b>147</b>	I am concerned about water management - especially the effect of increased pig farming and contamination from the Red River and farming. We need better protection of the wetlands and money and research to help farmers be more friendly. We need to ensure any development uses top notch technology and practices that protect out water. Why not invest in cutting edge research when developing by supporting those who wish to develop the area and sponsor a think tank. Problem is many of the worst offenders are south of us.
<b>148</b>	Wooded areas in all districts especially along lakes and rivers.
<b>149</b>	Keep Grindstone/Hecla natural
<b>150</b>	Nature needs to be protected for the species that call it home to the people who enjoy spending time there and for future generations. We love to go on hikes and look for birds and wildlife in different areas from Oak Hammock Marsh to Nopiming Provincial Park and beyond. We are part of nature and it is our duty to protect and preserve it.
<b>151</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensuring the health of wildlife populations</li> <li>- Ensuring traditional and recreational activities have the foundation they need to be undertaken effectively</li> <li>- Protecting the peatlands as they are especially important in regard to climate change mitigation</li> <li>- Ensuring the landscapes that are most important to the health of Lake Winnipeg are safeguarded</li> </ul>



	- Ensuring the area's tremendous eco and cultural tourism opportunity is supported by protecting the lands and waters they depend on.
<b>152</b>	<p>We have really enjoyed participating in the turf hunt! It has enabled me to see new places in my own backyard that I would never have visited otherwise. I would love to participate in more! I am disappointed that Matheson island was taken off the hunt, as I was really looking forward to going up there. Maybe you could do another month and add it in?</p> <p>Thank you for hosting this really fun, family friendly activity. Especially in this time of covid where there is not a lot we can do with our kids. -Megster-</p>
<b>153</b>	I grew up in Peguis and have seen bird populations decline. Me and dad used to hunt geese and ducks where the sky would be blacked out with the sheer numbers of the flocks...I dont see that anymore. On my land right now the sandhill cranes return and stay every spring until the fall...farmers spray pesticides, herbicides which Im sure impact the health and well being of these birds..I would like that to stop. I would like to see some kind of action taken to protect the natural habitats of the cranes.
<b>154</b>	<p>As people of the earth all land and water is important. There are vast numbers of species of animals life, plants, medicine, insects water life all who live in each of these areas numbers are decreasing. As people if we do not start to look after the land and water we will all die we need the balance of understanding how we depend on plants animals water trees to live.</p> <p>Each part of land and water is important today and what we do today will it be enough for future generations</p>
<b>155</b>	Preserving the land is so important to the balance for all life in every section is a vast community of wildlife insects plants and waterways each has a purpose to fill when we destroy one all are hurt
<b>156</b>	Natural - to hunt game
<b>157</b>	<p>Zone 4 - the river is a spawning grounds for fish</p> <p>Zone 5 - has the bat caves which should be protected</p> <p>Zone 5 - has high rock another place that should be protected</p> <p>There should be designated trails throughout the zones 4 and 5 and 6 where the ATVers are consistently riding</p>

There are lots of different ways that people use the land and waters. Please share any additional issues of importance to you here:

1	gathering medicines harvesting berries and nuts sage sweet grass herbs for medicine
2	Over fishing or not following conservation rules ... people leaving their garbage and waste all over ... not giving back when taking.
3	Promoting more tourism for our current assets, fishing hunting, to level the over population of animals and birds that cause hardships for the landowners.
4	The ability to use the water for canoeing, paddleboarding and swimming is important to me. Keeping the waters as clean as we can, and water levels high enough for safe use are things I feel impact those activities.
5	Sailing Harbours
6	More and more people are going back to using traditional medicines,
7	just enjoying nature at its finest through all season.
8	Living in cottage country, I appreciate those lakefront homes that leave the shoreline untouched. Thankfully, manicured lawns are few, but the concept of manicured lawns bothers me a lot: usage of fertilizers, excess water, shoreline manipulation.
9	We have a cottage in Ponemah and want the land and water in our area to be kept clean and free from run off from fields and from invasive species in the lake.
10	Strong fisheries, introducing young ones to the outdoors
11	The largest known colony of hibernating little brown bats in Manitoba is in this area. It is also unique and essential habitat to snakes and other unique wildlife.

12	Science and monitoring. Need to know historical, current, and future scenarios from multiple ways of knowing.
13	By not dumping so much and stop polluting
14	I believe that the re-establishment or the maintenance of marshes is crucial to healthy water. Marshes are the natural filter that helps to keep water clean. I also believe that the City of Winnipeg is not doing as much as it should be doing to protect water quality. There should absolutely be no waste products or sewage entering the water streams in this province.
15	Foraging for mushrooms and berries
16	I would like to see less development in undisturbed areas. Unmitigated recreational development has negative impacts to the environment both aesthetically and unseen. Water quality, soil and plant health all suffer. There is so little land left to support native species health and biodiversity. In the 50 years of living in interlake (especially Gimli) the allowance of gigantic "cottages", lakeshore degradation and destruction of native riparian and grassland ecosystems has all led to the lake "dying ". The need for increased tax base and municipal development should not supersede the health of our environment for ALL living beings NOT just the super rich
17	Berries mushrooms wild herbs
18	Likelihood n seeing the natural wonders
19	Minimal development to keep the area natural but help nature when it needs it. Be careful and protect the land for future generations.
20	Water quality in Lake Winnipeg is important to me and protecting and restoring natural areas
21	Litter..... p/u your garbage and keep our natural resources clean!
22	I love fishing and the land I think we should be taking more care of our waters n land
23	people leaving garbage on the beach or fishing docks; maybe provide more garbage bins
24	I believe healthy wetlands are of the utmost importance. They sustain our ecosystem. Protecting them from runoff is vital.
25	Limiting pollution and litter into the water surrounding the area. Some of the water is so polluted it's black in colour and very sad to see.
26	Noise pollution and land damage and safety issues from ATV's and certain off-road motorized vehicles.
27	Nice for families jus to go out on the land and be on the land without coming across damaged areas due to company logging or seeing multiple fish nets on the lakes, commercial fishing, and be able to see wildlife, means protection in some areas that are low in game numbers. Also like seeing people enjoying nature it is meant for everyone, now days if you want that you have to go long ways from populated areas even rural areas. Our lakes should come first protection on fishing areas from commercial fishing low numbers on walleye in some areas and overfished areas creating stress in areas of lakes.
28	Hiking, canoeing and kayaking, birding

29	<p>My partner and I own and operate a counselling practice for youth in the Interlake of Manitoba. We work primarily with youth in care and utilize a land-based model and approach to our work. We partner with local elders to connect youth to the land in many ways to achieve healing and the building of relationships.</p> <p>Protecting, and being advocates for sustainable and healthy environmental policies and principles falls in line with our practice and teaching.</p> <p>Willing to support efforts however we are able,</p> <p><b>*Personal info redacted*</b></p>
30	The water be clean of contamination
31	Pollution..clean water to drink, sustainable resources..living off the land respectfully, equal rights..
32	Clean drinking water is a priority
33	Minimal development
34	<p>Just to try keep poison or waste from entering the lakes and rivers Too much poison algae etc that just keeps building up Companies spilling waste in the water legal or illegally should be given fines These wastes should be put through some kind of boiling or treatment before spilled in lakes or rivers Even mix the wastes with Javex or some kind of save friendly treatment</p>
35	I have and my ancestors (non aboriginal) have hunted and fished for survival and will continue so
36	<p>I like seeing people fishing at our government docks throughout the year, but the most disgusting issue is that many of these sport fishers defecate and urinate in the shrubs by the beach, in the lake and on the rocks. They leave their garbage and are causing a negative impact on the environment. In essence, sport fishers needs to be regulated and monitored more effectively.</p>
37	I love to watch the eagles. They are so abundant in this area we need to protect what is left. We love to eat the wild game(and only take what we need) as well as watch the animals in their natural habitat.
38	<p>I am not sure how to put into words, what I mean, but would like to see everyone who visits or uses the area, to respect the habitat, animals and the people that live there, so everyone can thrive and live in harmony. A good example of what I mean is, for example, this summer we had many wildlife come into our town, walking the streets along with us. Was it scary sometimes, yes it was especially when you are walking, but when you think of it, they were without food due to the lack of water in the area, that affected not only us humans, but also the animals which were lacking berries and other natural foods, so they came into town looking for any food that was available to them. There were a few caring towns people that started feeding them healthy foods at their own expense, not only to keep them closer to the edges of town, but to replace their lost food. I for one, even with the scares of coming close to some of these animals, didn't have an issue with them coming into town and am grateful to those who helped feed them.</p>
39	I worry about the chemicals washing off the farmers fields and worrying about water quality. I feel we should act now. I see so much building around the lakes. Sewage too! I am a fierce lover of nature!
40	Maintain diversity, protect species
41	By keeping the land and water clean of debris by not throwing your garbage in the waters or throwing the gabage on the land
42	Hiking in nature, swimming in clean water, being careful to protect the infinite beauty of our land

43	Natural medicines need protection too.
44	Commercial fishing swimming
45	I care about the amount of garbage that is being dumped every summer the beach we're are kids swim r there should be more garbage signs and bins at these areas 😊
46	Traditional based teaching and how to care for the land and the Resources available, how natural resources should be used in a good way, not to be used as a way to rich, but how these resources should be used to sustain life.
47	A lot of people love the land and waters by camping and commercial fishing. So these are very important to everyone, it's our way of life.
48	No setting fishing nets in our rivers
49	Garden's
50	Training on how to use the land in its natural state.
51	If we don't have land? What do we have? If we don't care for our land? What will we have? Land & water are our life! If we hurt it we endanger our lives!
52	Land base learning for our children /youth being able to learn survival skills and learn about natural habitat. Fishing, wood harvesting
53	Keep them pristine
54	Keeping the wilderness free of trash
55	keep it clean and sustainable project it as much as we can no nee development ts
56	Any kind of wildlife harvesting is against the true ideals of management of our planet. Trapping is hunting as is fishing and these pursuits alter the natural balance of our environment.
57	Protection against pollution
58	I dont know nothing
59	No 🙅
60	Protecting our trees and waters.Keeping of waters clean and not for wastes and pollution in our waters.
61	We are a family of hunters and trappers I want this land accessible to my children and grandchildren in the future this is very important to me/us!
62	I'm not one to believe in hunting. But I'm a strong believer in keeping our land safe. I believe we have to work harder at cleaning our community and picking up trash and disposing of it properly. Wild life should be properly protected by law and enforcement should be in place for all persons. Wildlife play a big part of our land everything has its purpose. Our waters need help as well as our community. The land needs to be cared for such as we do with our own gardens. I also believe that the cutting of our forest down with cause wild life to enter our communities and making it unsafe for children and domestic animals 💔. Hydro cuts alot of trees down for profit and should plant a tree for every tree they cut making it safer and drawing the forest more back. Trees help clean the air we breathe and houses our wildlife, which keeping them in their homes and away from ours.
63	Clearing and cleaning waterways should be apart of regular maintenance :)
64	Foraging and camping
65	Swimming. Family activities

66	Fasting and conducting ceremony on the land and near rivers and lakes are important. Making access to land and water for outdoor land based education for people of all ages. Safe canoeing without too many motor boats on rivers and small lakes.
67	Clean water and land for our children and grandchildren and so on
68	Hiking and exploring the natural landscape and forests is important to us. Protecting the forests and wetlands is also important for the environment.
69	Recreation with non motorized vehicles Out back camping Hiking back woods
70	The water needs to be cleaned up at the rapids, old cow verts in their and what not. Can't even drink the water anymore or swim in it anymore like long ago.
71	Not sure
72	<p>One issue of importance to me is work being done to increase the moose population in the area. The area has been shut down for the general moose license for a while now. I think it is important that we all follow this until the population increases. Also, It would be nice if we had more information available of what is actually going on with the moose population (ie population counts, disease issues, insect issues). MB Conservation has at least some of this information but it is not publicly available that I know of. You always seem to hear of the results from someone talking with someone. We have heard of moose spottings in a couple different areas here in the last year which is always nice.</p> <p>Another issue of importance to me is agriculture. The zones go by watersheds and I think that is completely unfair as the land use within some of these zones is highly variable and regulations could effect many different aspects of crop and animal agriculture. That being said, one thing that stands out to me is that there is a lot of land that seems to be getting bush cleared along the 325 hwy and in the whole proposed area in general. The economics of agriculture is promoting this and probably will continue to do so in the future even more. To me this is alarming and changing the area fairly fast. My primary source of income is farming and I recognize that this issue can get very complicated. I think that it is important to recognize this issue and at least inform land owners, specifically in sensitive areas.</p>
73	Hunting should be limited to residents only and not people from other countries
74	I use the resources available to me and my family, and we camp and do alot of nature hikes.
75	My husband is a commercial fishermen keeping our water & land clean means alot to our family. It's our way of life fishing.
76	The water is an important environmental feature. The lake is already in trouble, we can't let it get worse.
77	Protect the land and water by practicing sustainable development. Mainly speaking of the forests, soil, biodiversity, fossil fuels, minerals and water. Educating on these are vital for the future.
78	More people need to learn about the animals, plants, insects and the general beauty and balance of nature. So many have trouble with anxiety and stress that perhaps could be relieved by a visit to a nature center with knowledgeable interpreters. Would love for someone to show us what mushrooms are edible or teach us about the life of a bear or skunk and racoon etc. Developement of cottage lots is important for others who want to be with nature but more permanent.
79	Sustainable drinking water, conservation for moose populations in the future, flooding/water erosion control

80	The long-term economic viability of our lands and waters are important to me. Sustainable agriculture and a sustainable commercial fishery are key to maintaining decent standards of living for the people of the Interlake region as well as for all Canadians in their respective regions.
81	Ceremonial purposes and for traditional land us healing on the land is like no other and we become connected to all creation
82	study the Industrial size livestock operations and the environmental impact on water usage and disposal of the waste manure and what practices are in place to ensure adequate Clean ground water supply for area residents and how these operations are practicing waste disposal when the Lake Winnipeg can go to toxic water conditions during peak summer season.
83	Fishing, hunting and harvesting for sustenance is extremely important. Ensuring lands are protected so that wild life populations are healthy and that there is sufficient space to live and food to eat. Sustainable usage of natural resources like wood and minerals (mining and logging) where lands are restored when projects are completed.
84	Cabins where ppl can rent n boats to fish
85	I think we should replace trees we've lost.
86	We want everyone to enjoy their time fishing or hunting, but we must take in consideration of others and the future and do out practices safely and conservatively.
87	The Ecoli levels in lake wpg.
88	I just loving walking through the bush and enjoying the beautiful land. It's like going to Gods front door for a visit. Reconnected! 🙏
89	Private homes on reserve land and garbage dumping down river banks has to STOP!
90	I really do not appreciate all of our white tail species conservation efforts are being distorted by C.O's shooting mass amounts of their species out of Helicopters!
91	Unnaturally high water levels did to aggressive regulation by Manitoba Hydro l'd one of the most destructive factors affecting shoreline areas snd wetlands in our area. They have not been held accountable for any of the damage snd adverse effects to the environment and property, in spite of an acknowledgement in the original study that this would place an unfair burden on residents and property owners along the shores of lake Winnipeg. A more moderate and circumspect approach to regulation is needed to mitigate the negative impacts.
92	Hunting and fishing
93	we need to make camping a little more affordable, a young family can not afford thease crazy prices, senors should get discounts. not every one can book on line ? i have been to campgrounds , that are fully booked on line but only half full ?
94	Keeping the lake clean from pollution from garbage that is improperly disposed of to proper drainage from fields and ditches. Also to preserve marsh areas.
95	The waters are a place that make me reflect on life and rejuvenate myself
96	I don't think we need to eliminate logging, mining, etc to say we are protecting.  If ALL forests would go under this category then there would be no wood to build our houses so let's be realistic please.  I strongly believe we can allow logging and such alike in a fashion that supports long term Equity.

97	Agricultural practices, excessive nutrient runoff mainly phosphorus and nitrogen that are causing algal blooms on lake Winnipeg.
98	Native plant conservation. Invasive species management
99	For people to take care of the land and waterways so everyone can enjoy them.
100	Bird watching, frog n snake protection. Dragonfly. Lady slipper n tiger lily protection
101	Wilderness canoeing and camping.
102	Over hunting bad , the clear cut ting of trees area s for more farming is not cool and the over use of aresol pesticides used on crops that are toxic to wildlife and humans
103	Fishing and traveling..the lakes and rivers have been so low and dry in 2021.
104	I think that hunting needs to remain viable for the health of the ecosystem, but I do not support it personally.
105	There is not enough planning control or green space along the lake and in Ten years we are going to be striped of acres of bush . Let's protect the trees we have .
106	In the summer of 2021, we experienced a record breaking drought. I was worried about the condition of the sweetgrass in Peguis. I had enough from the previous year, but the drought probably affected the sweetgrass areas around Peguis, I hope people were considerate of this situation.
107	I am of Indigenous descent, learning that there is nothing more important right now than protecting our land and water for future generations. I just wish more people saw it this way as well and start making a difference to protect our land and waters.
108	Recreational
109	I'd like to see more done to protect the trees, both along our shoreline and those which line the ditches and roads.
110	keep our lakes and rivers clean
111	Hiking, boating, outdoor education
112	I care about supporting traditional activities, except for trapping. I'd like to see more done to combat poaching.
113	<p>Having more garbage and recycling bin in common traffic trails to prevent littering.</p> <p>Wenqould like so see that the peat moss plants in our area to be stopped. More and more keep coming up down highway 234. They are destroying so many home of wildlife, every year adds up. Its very concerning with all animals and all human safety and life's. As in the summer of 2020 a huge fire broke out across Beaver Creek. Thanks to the local peatmoss plant for working in such hazardous conditions. They ended up managing to burn down 1 shed and 6 cabins. Caused alot of other properties to get damaged, along with numerous amounts of treetops on of what already are sweeping away. It was so dry and windy the fire was so sporadic throughout the whole area! Super grateful no one was hurt and that I left when I did! Still not enough thanks in the world to all who helped get the fire incontroll and out! Still much damage we see to this day, it's very sad memory. Missing and will always miss some of the smiley faces that may not even return. In notes it still has left us all feeling uneasy that will unfortunately always continue.</p> <p>Myself and the other half actually met this lady who opening talked about her job up at the peat moss plant at Sun Gro. It all started about the weather and it turned into her telling us she worked at the peat</p>



	<p>moss plant that caught fire. She said it was her tractor that caught fire that day. She did said that they shouldn't have been working in the hazardous conditions there was but was told to continue to run. She was running one of the old tractors and the cage that covers the exhaust is what caught fire. She therefore explained she had no water in her bucket that was located in her tractor in which they are suppose to have at all times. She also had no service on her cell in that area and no one was in the shop to respond over radio to help. The time she made it to the shop where she managed to get service she then reach out for help and retrieved water.</p> <p>We did speak to the RCMP of Riverton who took our statement. We dont feel safe out here with these peatmoss plants that keep coming up over the years. They lack in so much safety precautions and continue to work in such hazardous conditions. They've risked life's and still continue to do so. Something needs to change!</p>
114	Climate change mitigation and preservation!
115	Land base education is important and I hope it continues in our education system for years to come , water is important but only ask why we as the First Nation have to pay for water???
116	There's a future yet to be seen by the next gen how will our River look then things can be done from the shore to strengthen it by building close to it giving people access just to sit by the river on benches through parks or work meaning gardening .
117	Farmers should be encouraged to not clear bushland for farming.
118	I think there should be more protected land for animals in the area. I see alot of trees and land being plowed down and it's heart breaking knowing they have just ruined alot of homes for all wild animals in that area. Especially the Hudson line and riverton area. So much has been taken and nothing has been given back to them. They should have to plant so many trees after destroying acres of land.
119	Because the land gives us life, sustains us, helps heal us, cleans the waters, gives us oxygen and so much more, we need to take care of all of it. Once we lose it, life as we know it will be drastically changed. We can benefit from the land by understanding sustainable harvesting of fish, animals and plants and being respectful and understanding of natural law. Being respectful, being responsible, understanding our relationships with the land and doing our part by giving back (reciprocity), are four cardinal laws we need to relearn and apply in our daily life.
120	- to hike, berry or mushroom pick, to find interesting things about nature and to see wildlife in natural settings. because I am an avid hunter, and regularly buy municipality maps, I know of Crown Land that can be explored. But when I tell non-hunting friends about my experiences, they don't usually know how to find out information about where to go.
121	I feel that we need to work with the farmers to help promote wildlife habitat
122	Natural areas for wildlife preserved from habitation Lake Winnipeg's pollution issues
123	Maintaining healthy waters with its healthy ecosystem (fish, no zebra mussels).
124	Hiking, educating, mushroom hunting, nature!
125	I love foraging and hunting for mushrooms, love fishing and canoeing and snow shoeing
126	There is a need for people to understand the health effects of the use of glyphosates.
127	None really
128	restoring swamps for water and carbon enhancement features

129	Boating and canoeing are important!
130	Ceremony and natural laws
131	To ensure fair hunting and fishing balanced regulations for all, giving wildlife opportunities to thrive without constant pressures
132	I hope that FRCN can protect and use the land the way that they see fit
133	People hunt the land and water for food to survive. It's a natural cycle. People in this area rely on hunting and gathering, especially in the fall for the long either months.
134	Hard to satisfy everyone. No one knows the future.
135	Finding more ways to get rid of litter. Additional garbage receptacles or receptacles from kid camps for recycling crafts.
136	Because I'm a birder and enjoy watching and photographing them I want to see their habitat protected and even enhanced if possible. I've been involved in Birds Canada Loon surveys and know that power boats and seadoos can cause devastation to nesting Loons since the nest is on the edge of the water where it can be washed away with harsh surf.. Awareness of this problem will hopefully help.
137	Ensuring there are areas for 'wilderness' activities, such as canoe trips.
138	wildlife viewing, flora viewing, hiking, canoeing, photography
139	Walking trails
140	Keep the landscaping as clean as possible.
141	We like to ride our horses and use areas to enjoy nature.
142	We use water for our ceremonies and these lands belong to the wildlife that live here , if there's a disruption to the natural laws of the land ,...there's an unbalance.
143	Although farming is essential for our existence, it should be done in a more environmentally friendly way. It's getting more difficult for farmers to make a go at it. And I am noticing that small bluffs and bushes are being cleared to increase their yields. It worries me for many reasons. These prairie trees are home to many animals, birds and insects, including beautiful butterflies. They also help to cut wind and provide snow barriers. Farmers need to be forced to do simple things to help our landscape and waterways. Summer following doesn't seem to be done anymore and rotivated borders around fields to provide a barrier from weeds should be used by all farmers to reduce the amount of chemicals needed to control weeds. They should be expected to plant a minimum number of trees every year and anything they clear should have to be applied for and approved before any trees or bushes are cleared. Aerial spraying should definitely be eliminated. I have seen it's affect on foliage and on insects and birds and our own health. Its reckless and dangerous for our environment. Butterflies and caterpillars along with birds and small rodents are disappearing. All of which are a part of the wildlife food chain. The Interlake area is beautiful but the landscape is changing quickly. Something needs to be done.
144	I keep my horses on our property, and hope to raise a sustainable flock of chickens and a two cows to raise meat for our families'and our freezers, as well as raise a garden to feed ourselves. It becomes a problem when our water tables become drained, and our hayfield and pasture is too dry to sustain our livestock. While I have friends who farm the land I wish the land was managed with less chemical and respectful of the natural water ways
145	I think it is important for people who live in this area to cherish and preserve the lands they live on. Our water and aquifers need to stay unpolluted. Our fish, a traditional source of food in this area, needs to thrive so they and we can all live healthy lives. Our wildlife needs large spaces to run on and thrive in.

	Hunting and trapping have been traditional sources of food and clothing in this area, and also need to be preserved.
146	Have fair equal hunting for tag purchasing inters compared to status and Métis hunters. Not enough animals for free for all on big game. No moose left and elk herds getting reduced by multiple kills of status hunting etc.
147	Drinking the fresh clear water from the natural springs.
148	I am concerned about water levels.
149	Everyone, regardless of background being able to enjoy the water, whether for life, recreationally, or casually, without fear of disease and toxic contamination. AND we all need to be aware of how we depend upon water and interact with the water so we do not further contaminate it.
150	Preservation of coastal wetlands, as well as fens and bogs and the wildlife that live there.
151	Maintaining biodiversity.
152	Phosphates emptied into the water, farming and agriculture leakage into the water, large culverts from farms emptying into the lake.
153	We hunt and fish to help feed our family. It's important to help keep the ecosystem in balance.
154	I love taking my dogs and going hiking and camping and when you leave no one knows you were there the piece and quite
155	Camping with the kids, as well as going to the beach. Canoeing, boating, etc.
156	I believe our natural habitat must be preserved to be sure we continue to understand the importance of nature to our mental health and well being
157	A big issue for me is water management. I live on Boundary Creek in the town of Winnipeg beach. Such waterways that feed the lakes need management to slow the flow and allow marshland utilize the high nutrient levels from up stream. While beaver try to do this they are not encouraged to do so by municipalities. The result s nutrient loading down stream. Government policy could provide management strategies in this area. Boundary Creek would be a great area so show case a water control structure. The area thrives with wildlife that includes frogs all forms of bird life fox raccoon muskrat beaver and otter. I feel lucky to have it so near and proud to share with the public. It needs our care.
158	I am not in favour of trapping I don't see the livelihood that once supported an income. Today I see it also as sportsmanship to gather trophies
159	Preserving natural areas is extremely important. Preservation also means responsible use such as cross country skiing, hiking, camping and prohibiting motorized vehicles that can cause a lot of damage.
160	I think for us whom are status should respect the provincial hunting and fishing guidelines, as a way to help manage the numbers of our wildlife and fisheries. Especially with big game animals, would be nice to have a moose population return to the interlake areas and for our elk to expand in numbers. As well as deer. There is lots of deer however it seems alot of people over-hunt and don't even use the meat the animal provides and just wanting the "trophy"
161	I've picked picked medicines here
162	A place we go that is Natural with no development what so ever
163	Water is life.

164	Children classes/ more land / water based knowledge for the children to be experts in conservation as many adults do not know about conservation to these lands and waters.
165	It is very disappointing to me that properties along the lake still dump their sewer and grey water into the lake. Why has this not been outlawed a long time ago?
166	Protecting the trees because they clean the air and provide food and protection for wildlife . The trees also hold soil and the earth together.
167	I grew up on the lake and enjoy going back home to enjoy the freshness of the land. It is so nice to enjoy nature, and the more ppl are killing it off is not healthy for the land. We need the nature and the countryside to enjoy and feel free
168	Indigenous views on land and water are key to its importance.
169	It is important to save our resources for generations to come, to teach and learn our younger generations,
170	I enjoy the water and land for its beauty and for hiking.
171	Our traditional medicine picking is very important to me as well.
172	Medicines
173	Land and culture training even the planting of trees in what kind of trees are used for for our younger generation
174	It is important to me because of the land I am able to support my family, also to have access to medicines that help people. I was brought up respecting the land for the land will sustain you as long as you respect it. Hydro electric isn't everything for me all it does is makes things easier and makes people lazy.
175	Mushroom foraging, small game trapping, hiking
176	Picking weka for medicinal purposes along with other medicines from the creeks.
177	Access to land for hunting and fishing.
178	Seems that there are still poachers/spot lighters in the area. Have heard several gunshot in Narcisse Mgmt area after dark.
179	It gets people outside
180	Advocating that yes indigenous people have rights . and your are in the right direction. The Fisher River peoples have the right leadership and guidance so that's great. And your working with your elders is great examples. But others do not care the same for the land and nature as you do sadly.. many times I have seen indigenous people exploit and harvest animals during spawning and breeding seasons.... and no one wins in that disbalance. very sad. we all have deep freezers so there's no need for that . And even night hunting like how dangerous. When challenged in court indigenous people claim its there right. so sadly who really looses is mother nature. Natural resources officers don't even want to charge an indigenous person when they are clearly going against the society rules. NRO's conservation officers are really just trying to protect people and natures balance.

	So try advocating to the bad apples of what their really doing when they fish and hunt in breeding seasons.
<b>181</b>	<p>Birders:  I actually saw two piping plover south of the Hnusa dock June of 2021 because of low water levels.  <a href="https://naturemanitoba.ca/piping-plover">https://naturemanitoba.ca/piping-plover</a>  <a href="https://gov.mb.ca/fish-wildlife/pubs/fish_wildlife/sar/pplover.pdf">https://gov.mb.ca/fish-wildlife/pubs/fish_wildlife/sar/pplover.pdf</a></p> <p>Issues/Management:  Quads &amp; side by sides and snowmobiles are on the beaches in the summer months which needs to be stopped.</p> <p>Sport anglers:  HUGE Issue with people needing rescuing because they are not educated and have no idea what Lake Winnipeg is like. The boats engine stops and they are stranded or the water gets rough or boat fills with water. (More education on boating for new boat owners)</p>
<b>182</b>	For recreation activities and to maintain the natural beauty of the region.
<b>183</b>	More hiking trails!

# HELP PROTECT OUR LANDS & WATERS



The southeastern Interlake is a bustling landscape of sandy shorelines, abundant forests, rich wetlands, and thriving communities.

We are working on a long-term plan to ensure the forests are full of moose to hunt, the rivers are clean and teeming with fish, and Lake Winnipeg's shoreline remains a place to build sandcastles and teach our children to swim.

The Fisher River Cree Nation Conservation Areas Initiative aims to develop a regionally-tailored conservation plan which will support sustainable economic developments.

Take action to protect one of Manitoba's most popular destinations.

Tell the government you care about the health of the Interlake.

This initiative is led by Fisher River Cree Nation in partnership with Peguis First Nation and the Manitoba chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS).

The initiative has the support of the province of Manitoba and the government of Canada.

learn more at:

**[www.frcnconservation.ca](http://www.frcnconservation.ca)**

contact:

**[info@frcnconservation.ca](mailto:info@frcnconservation.ca)**



Dear Premier of Manitoba:

I am writing to express my support for the Fisher River Cree Nation Conservation Areas Initiative.

I support the initiative's goal: to protect the health of the southeastern Interlake's thriving natural landscape so it can continue to provide sustainable economic opportunities and to support cherished lifestyles and cultures.

I appreciate that the province has provided ongoing support to the initiative since its inception.

Manitoba needs to protect the beauty and natural richness of the region for future generations of people and wildlife as a fundamental component of ensuring prosperous communities.

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Name (please print)

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Signature

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Postal Code

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Email address



Premier of Manitoba  
204 Legislative Building  
450 Broadway  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

100% post-consumer  
recycled paper.



AUGUST 2023 | FISHER RIVER CREE NATION CONSERVATION AREAS INITIATIVE

# Community Voices

why do you love the  
southeastern Interlake?



For centuries, Indigenous people have utilized the southeastern Interlake region's resources while maintaining its well-being. The area has provided a home and livelihood to the Fisher River Cree Nation (FRCN) for many generations.

FRCN is leading the effort and neighbouring Peguis First Nation and CPAWS Manitoba are partners. The initiative has the support of the province of Manitoba and the government of Canada.

**These are the words of  
the southeastern  
Interlake community.**







# THE INTERLAKE IS OUR HOME, AND THESE ARE OUR VOICES.

**IN MANY PARTS  
OF SOUTHERN  
CANADA, PIECEMEAL  
DEVELOPMENTS HAVE  
ALTERED ENTIRE  
REGIONS LEAVING  
ONLY SCRAPS BEHIND  
FOR NATURE.**

**The result is dozens of  
endangered wildlife species  
and reduced opportunities  
to embrace outdoor  
lifestyles.**

While Manitoba's southern Interlake region landscape has been significantly developed, many natural areas and healthy wildlife populations remain. We have a time-limited opportunity to get the balance right by planning for the long-term now.

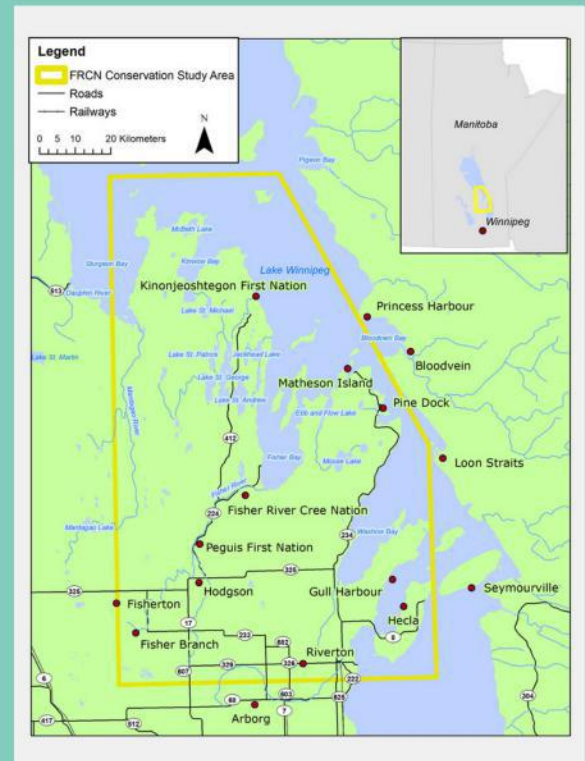
The traditional territory of Fisher River Cree Nation and Peguis First Nation territory within Manitoba's southeastern Interlake is part of the treasured Boreal forest ecosystem. It lies just a few hours north of Winnipeg on the west shore of Lake Winnipeg.

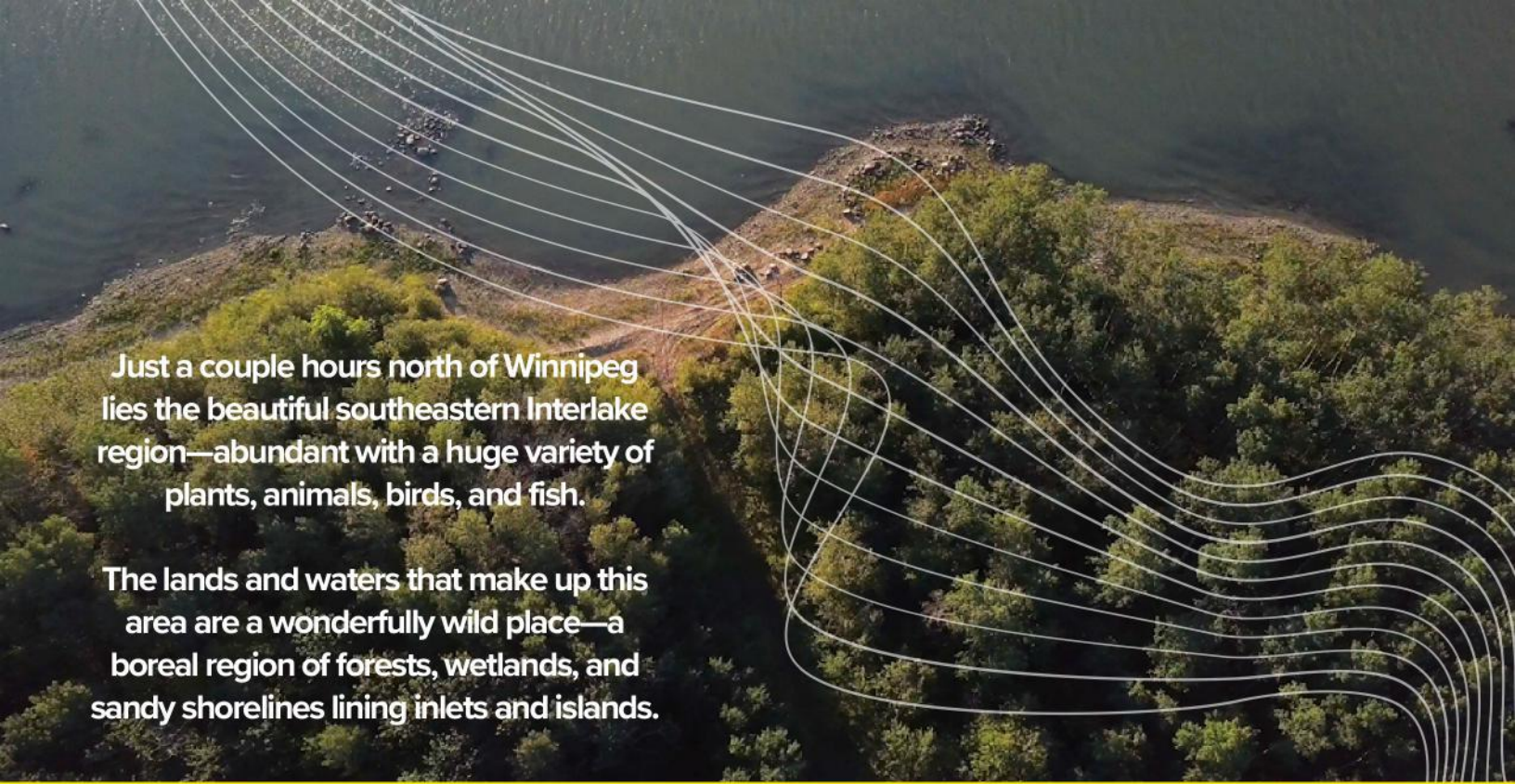
We need a long-term plan to balance industrial extraction interests with conservation so the forests are full of moose to hunt, the rivers are clean and teeming with fish, and Lake Winnipeg's shoreline is once again a place to build sandcastles and teach our children to swim.

The Conservation Areas Initiative aims to develop a conservation plan for our region which will support watershed management goals – as defined by the plans of local Watershed Districts – and spur sustainable economic development.

The goal of the FRCN Conservation Areas Initiative is to protect the health of Manitoba's southeastern Interlake's thriving natural landscape so it can continue to provide sustainable economic opportunities and support cherished lifestyles and cultures. The aim is to establish a network of protected areas for future generations of people and wildlife.

We asked area residents to share their love for the Interlake with us on Facebook. These are their words.





Just a couple hours north of Winnipeg lies the beautiful southeastern Interlake region—abundant with a huge variety of plants, animals, birds, and fish.

The lands and waters that make up this area are a wonderfully wild place—a boreal region of forests, wetlands, and sandy shorelines lining inlets and islands.

### **ALEX BOGUSAT**

It is possible for humans to form climate positive relationships to the land that are centered around regenerative practices rather than extractive.

### **VERONICA THOMAS**

A lot of people love the land and waters by camping and commercial fishing. So these are very important to everyone, it's our way of life.

### **GREG DISBROWE**

Protect the land and water by practicing sustainable development. Mainly speaking of the forests, soil, biodiversity, fossil fuels, minerals and water. Educating on these are vital for the future.

### **ALYSSA PRATT**

We depend on the fertile land and having a source of clean water, not only to provide ourselves with sustenance, but also a source of income, and a way to provide fresh healthy food for our community.

### **MELAIN HOFER**

The Interlake takes you away from the hustle and bustle, and puts you straight back into nature. It's important the Interlake is protected for generations to come.

### **WANDA SPARKES**

Hiking and exploring the natural landscape and forests is important to us. Protecting the forests and wetlands is also important for the environment.

### **BROOKE SIGURDSON**

People hunt the land and water for food to survive. It's a natural cycle. People in this area rely on hunting and gathering, especially in the fall for the long winter months.

### **ANDREA MCKAY-MASON**

I am of Indigenous descent, learning that there is nothing more important right now than protecting our land and water for future generations. I just wish more people saw it this way as well and start making a difference to protect our land and waters.

## **WILLIAM BIRD**

I'm a resident of Peguis First Nation but have family in Fisher River & Jackhead & Fisher Branch. I prefer nature remains untouched for medicine harvest, berries & the like.

## **JEN ETTER**

We are losing so much wildlife / land and it's all to do with over development and pollution... we need to save these areas in order to keep some habitats and ways of life alive and not wiped out.

## **CHERYL LYNN MURDOCK**

We need to save our peat moss and stop removing the moss because an elder once said you take everything away and we will have nothing for Mother Nature.

We need to protect as much as possible because of the life it gives us.

Many things can be done as long as the laws of sustainable harvesting are followed.

I harvest medicines in many areas on that map. The medicines are abundant but mining, making dams, destroying the peat moss, over harvesting the forest are all so detrimental to the intricate balance of all of this, for fish, animals, medicines.

Our people have done it for thousands of years without leaving destruction.

## **KATHY BIRD**




## **CLAIRE SUTTON**

Manitoba has still undeveloped boreal forests that should be allowed to flourish. Also wetlands must be protected as they guard our freshwater lakes.

## **ROD BERSCHIED**

Wetlands are vital to this planet. We have two of the largest shoreline wetlands in North America here in Manitoba. Be proud of this. Protect this. Share it with the planet, but not at the cost of short term exploitation.





**We need to start taking care of our land for future generations or there will be nothing left for them.**

**SANDY SINGBEIL**

**ELVA SIMUNDSSON**

**We need to be cognizant of the balance between economic activity and protection of a healthy ecosystem.**

**Meaningful consultation and cooperation between the keepers of the land, the environmental scientists and economic developers is essential.**

**All the voices need to be heard -- and heeded.**



**SHELLEY SPRING**

I love to watch the eagles. They are so abundant in this area we need to protect what is left. We love to eat the wild game (and only take what we need) as well as watch the animals in their natural habitat.

**CORRINA SINCLAIR**

Destroying lands and natural habitats for other animals only benefits humans, and it's important we ensure the stability of ecosystems for animals and insects.

**BROOKE SIGURDSON**

I love being able to live among the wildlife. Being able to see them in their natural habitat is wonderful. I would hate for development to ruin their homes.

---

**DEANNA PENNEY**

**Maintain  
diversity, protect  
species.**

**I care about wildlife and plant protection,  
keeping water clean.**

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**GERRY VERRIER**

I love natural nature. I want nature to be there for my grandchildren's grandchildren. I want them to be able to fish, to go camping, to learn about wildlife and to be able to enjoy it all. Our spirits connect with nature and without it, our spirits and our land will get sick.

**SVAVA SIMUNDSSON**

Absolute necessity to protect boreal forest. Home to innumerable species.





### **ALEXANDRA SHIER**



I love the Interlake, and grew up here, and still live in the Interlake and something I love about it is all the little wonderful nooks and special spots scattered everywhere for the public to enjoy, and the beauty of nature to be taken in and experienced!

### **DEVE PICO RICO**



I love the Interlake, I live here for 45 years. Close to everything, fishing, swimming, close to Winnipeg too.

### **DOLLY COCHRANE**



I enjoy all the outdoor activities and we should protect our lakes and land so that future generations can enjoy it as much as we did.

### **JOCELYN CANDACE COCHRANE**



We cherish the beaches, that our children get to enjoy by swimming. Our waters in my point would be the main focus of protecting, because we are still able to swim knowing the water is still somewhat safe and clean.

### **SHANNON STADNEK**



I live in the Interlake and have been a fisherwoman all my adult life and want to keep the peace and solitude I've enjoyed since childhood. I grew up along Lake Winnipeg and visit the lake often camping. Please keep the lake as it is for future generations to enjoy!



# Clean drinking water is a priority.

*Gord Frovich*

## **MARY JANE MCCARRON**

I am concerned about water management. We need better protection of the wetlands, and ensure any development uses top-notch technology and practices that protect our water.

## **JANET MAY-HEWSON**

I believe healthy wetlands are of the utmost importance. They sustain our ecosystem. Protecting them from runoff is vital.

## **HEATHER WESTOVER**

The ability to use the water for canoeing, paddleboarding and swimming is important to me. Keeping the waters as clean as we can, and water levels high enough for safe use are things I feel impact those activities.

## **IRIS GRIFFIN**

Water quality in Lake Winnipeg is important to me and protecting and restoring natural areas.



# **Eco tourism brings economy to the area and demands conservation of all things beautiful**

I love the uniqueness of frozen Lake Winnipeg...

This led my partner and I to build this ice cabin and place it on this stunning seasonal environment.

Mark Myrowich, Riverton





### **CAROL SPENCE**

If we don't have land? What do we have? If we don't care for our land? What will we have? Land & water are our life! If we hurt it we endanger our lives!

### **KEA YORK**

Indigenous views on land and water are key to its importance.



### **SHELLEY SPRING**

I enjoy all areas in the Interlake. Love to swim, fish, go boating, hiking etc. It is a pleasure to be able to take the grandkids out on the land and show them nature at its finest. Can't imagine not being surrounded by this natural beauty.



### **JANET MAY-HEWSON**

Wetland protection from farming runoff is huge issue. You strip the land and waters, your wildlife cannot survive.

### **ELVA SIMUNDSSON**

The long-term economic viability of our lands and waters are important to me. Sustainable agriculture and a sustainable commercial fishery are key to maintaining decent standards of living for the people of the Interlake region as well as for all Canadians in their respective regions.

### **CLAUDINE SINCLAIR**

It is important to save our resources for generations to come, to teach and learn our younger generation.

### **SHERRY GAUTHIER**

I enjoy the water and land for its beauty and for hiking.

### **CAROL RADWAY AND PAUL CHORNEY**

We live in Winnipeg Beach, a short walk to the Lake and with Boundary Creek as our neighbour. The health of the Lake and the Creek are important to our quality of life as well as to the plants, animals, and birds that enrich our lives.

The future depends on the things we do now. We are responsible for those not yet born, we should try and get things headed in the right direction for the sake of those children so they will be prepared to take up the issue.

LINDSAY MCIVOR



## How You Can Help Protect the Southeastern Interlake



Send a letter to Manitoba's Premier using our easy letter-writing tool to express your support for the Fisher River Cree Nation Conservation Areas Initiative.

Take action to protect one of Manitoba's most popular destinations. Tell the government you care about the health of the Interlake.

[frcnconservation.ca](http://frcnconservation.ca)

Financial support for the initiative was provide by:



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada



THE  
CONSERVATION

A Manitoba Conservation Program  
Initiated by the Manitoba Heritage Commission