

# Cumulative Effects Management Strategy The McMurray Métis

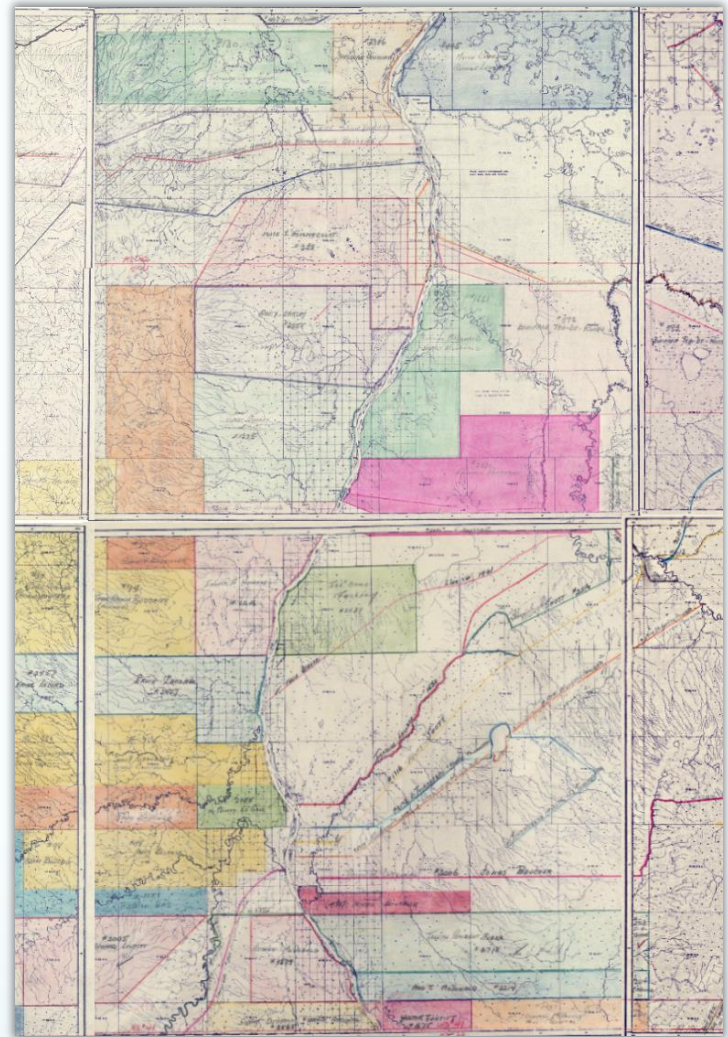
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Gillian Donald & Darcy Pickard



# McMurray Métis Cumulative Effects Strategy

- Introduction to McMurray Métis
- The Métis Community Cumulative Effects Model.?
- How might the McMurray Métis model be utilized by larger monitoring agencies to make better decisions.



Registered Fur Management Areas  
Circa 1960

Provincial Archives of Alberta



# The McMurray Métis: a Community Profile



- ▶ The McMurray Métis represent the historic Métis community currently living in Fort McMurray and its environs.
- ▶ Currently there approximately 300 members with an estimated 1,200 Métis people living in and around Fort McMurray.
- ▶ The McMurray Métis have been engaged with Industrial developers in the region since at least the early 2000s though regulatory engagement has increased since the mid 2000s with mixed results.



# The McMurray Métis: An Impacted Community

- ▶ In the last 50 years the McMurray Métis community has experienced a degree of change rarely felt in Canada.
  - ▶ The first Major Industrial Project Great Canadian Oil Sands initiated in 1964.
  - ▶ Community has grown from approximately 1,000 to 60,000 people.
- ▶ The Métis economy in Ft McMurray was transformed from a moditional (a mix of traditional and modern) to industrial.
- ▶ From 1964 development has transformed the Métis homeland; creating a cumulative impact on the community's social, cultural and environmental well-being



# Cumulative Impacts: A Métis Perspective



Katy Sanderson outside her Cabin, late-1970s.

<http://www.albertasource.ca/boreal/popup.html>

- ▶ From the 1960s forward the McMurray Métis have experienced the impact of development of many projects – Large and Small.
- ▶ Development permits are issued independently and rarely if ever are they considered as part of a whole.
- ▶ Further, when impacts are considered, they rarely take into account the collective rights of the Métis community or reflect the lived experience of community members.



# A Métis Cumulative Effects Analysis

## The Current Approach

- ▶ Project Specific– Fragmented, discipline–specific, rarely community driven.
- ▶ The western science approach of separating valued components and evaluating them independently does not provide holistic information to traditional knowledge holders, failing to reflect Metis and other indigenous worldviews and understandings of impacts and significance.

## The Proposed Approach

- ▶ Based upon cumulative effects analysis that assesses a project within the context of valued environmental and cultural components that support the community's ability to exercise constitutionally protected rights.

Métis Environmental and Cultural Components (MECC)



# Métis Environmental and Cultural Components (MECC)

- ▶ Cumulative effects as observed by community members will be identified using community-based research.
- ▶ Linking indigenous, social scientific and scientific tools, the community will be able to create a community-specific evaluation method articulated through a series of MECCs
- ▶ A community-driven cumulative effects analysis will assess the consequences of all impacts at a regional and local scale on the MECCs.



R.K Martin , Fur Buyer, Conklin Alberta 1950s.  
Glenbow Museum and Archives: pa-2218-210os



# Building a Métis Cumulative Effects Analysis Tool

What Matters? Shifting to a community based model

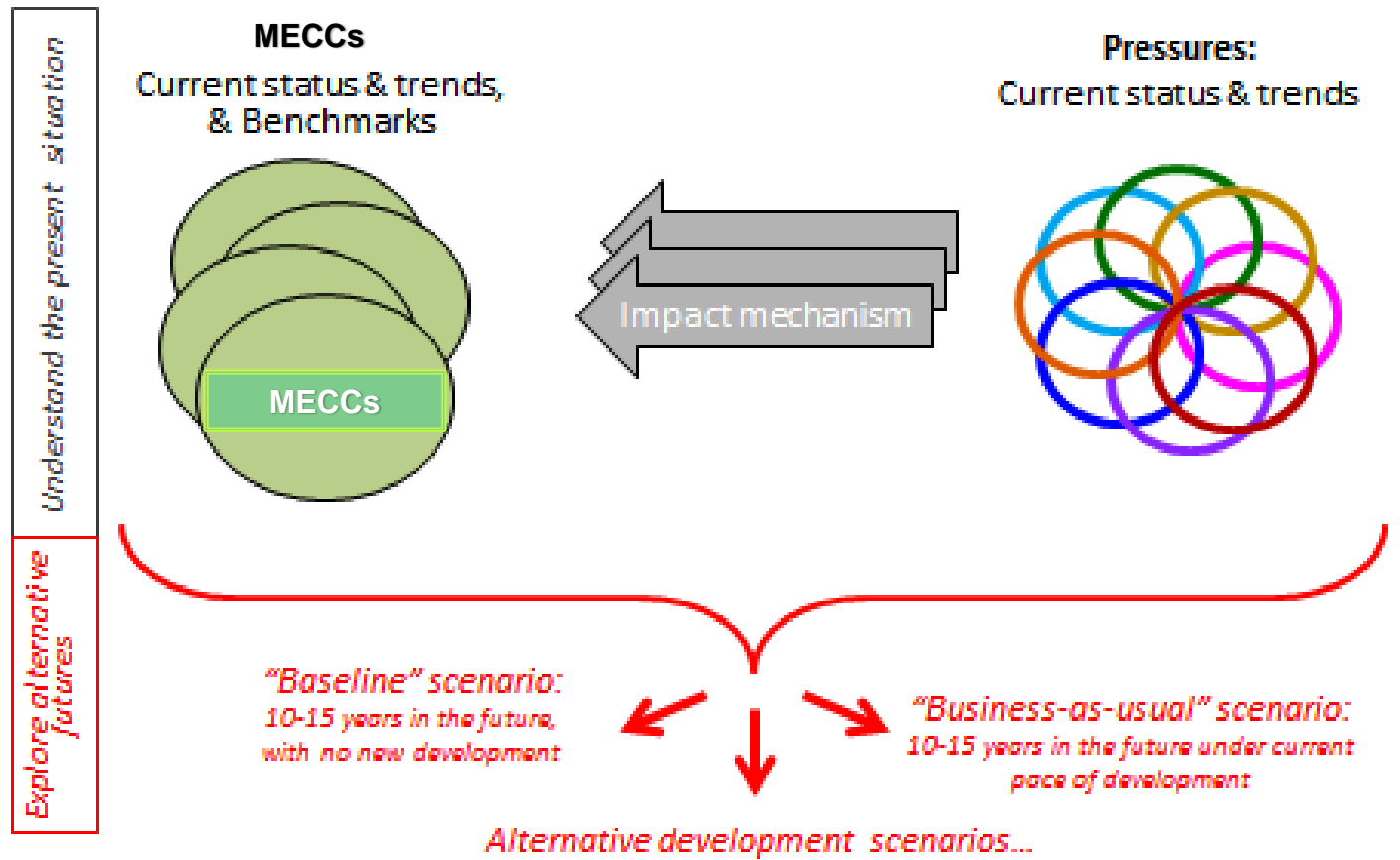
- A community-centric approach
  - A model that centres on what's important to the community and includes cultural, social and environmental indicators.
- An approach that unifies projects allowing the community to assist with the identification of indicators prior to project submission.
  - Comparing apples to apples.





# MECCs based approach

## An Enabling Framework for CEA

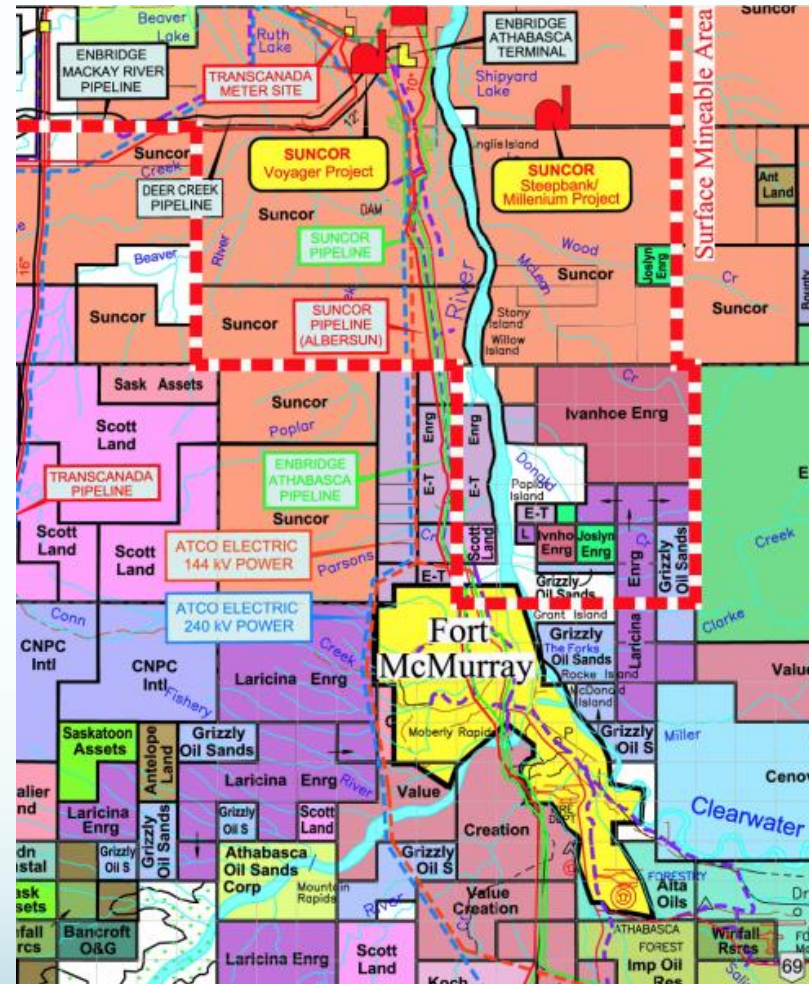


# Métis Cumulative Effects Strategy

## Three Main Drivers

- Prioritize McMurray Métis Lived Experience
- Remediating identified deficiencies in current policy
- Built upon CEAA – Draft Technical Guidance for assessing Cumulative Effects.

McMurray Métis are already in possession of information obtained through: TLU Studies, Cultural Impact Assessments, and other related research and community meetings.



Lease Map 2010



# An Example: Hunting

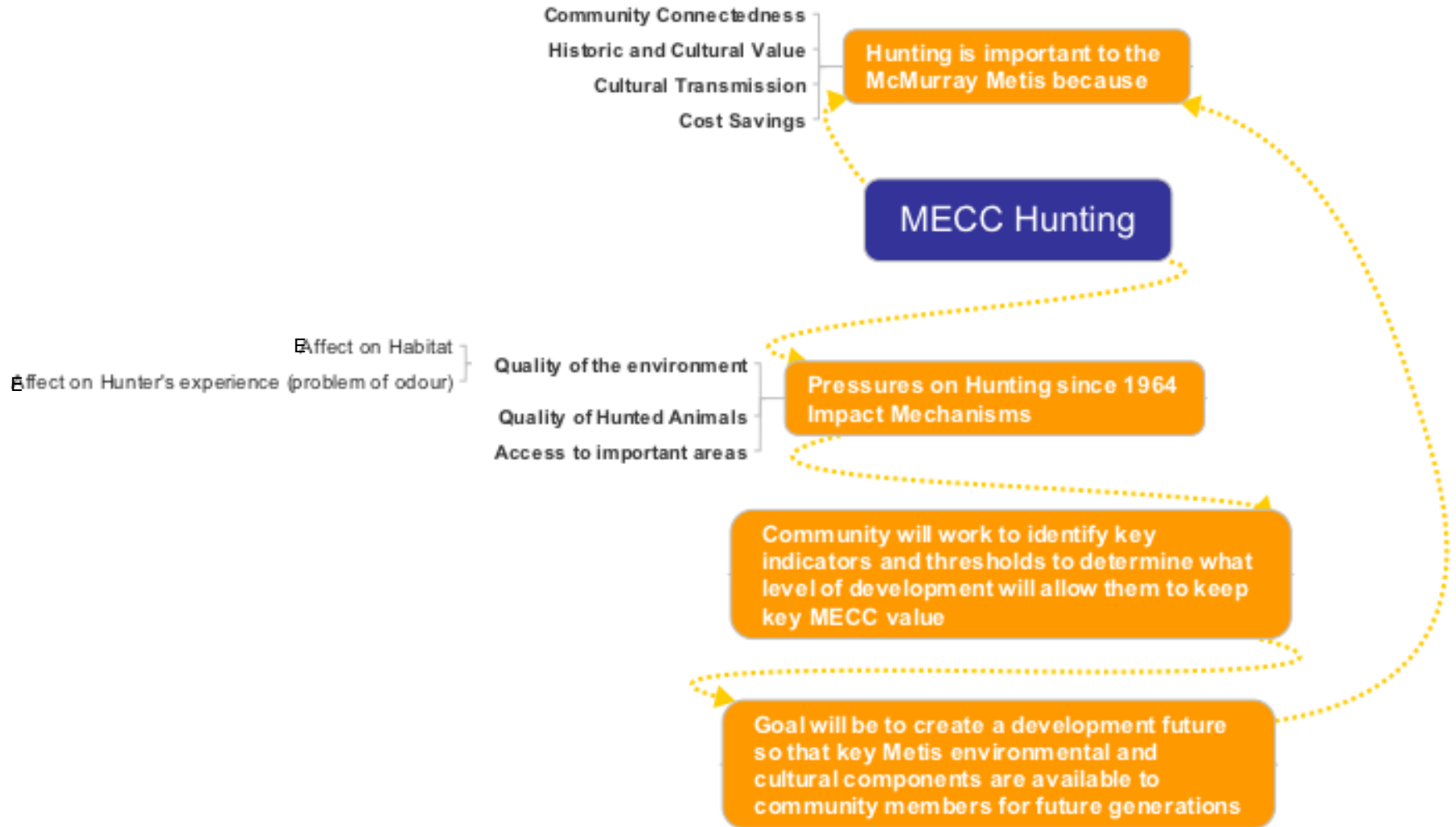


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Colin Fraser, Fort  
Chipewyan  
Alberta, Sorts  
more  
than \$35,000 in  
furs in the  
1890's.  
National Archives  
of Canada



# Understanding Community Concerns



# Discussion



P2008.210.1 Augers with fox fur, 1942-43.

Credit George Waniandy; Fort McMurray Historical Society



Massey Boucher's Trappers Cabin, 2015



# Discussion

- It will be important for Governments and the agencies that work for Governments to find meaningful ways to work with Indigenous communities to understand how cumulative impacts affect the their constitutionally protect rights.
- While it could be argued that this type of strategy is too community specific, many of the issues effect Indigenous communities similarly
  - As such as Indigenous communities develop individual strategies to manage cumulative effects, there is the potential to “merge” common features and implement them as part of a larger land use frameworks (LARP?)
- Such an adoption could help move Alberta toward fulfilling the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which was recently committed to by the new Government.



# Commitment in NDP Platform

## **A RENEWED PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES:**

- (5.21) We will implement the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and build it into provincial law.



# United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)

## *Article 28*

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.
2. Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories and resources equal in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress.





# United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)

## *Article 29*

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.
2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.
3. States shall also take effective measures to ensure, as needed, that programmes for monitoring, maintaining and restoring the health of indigenous peoples, as developed and implemented by the peoples affected by such materials, are duly implemented.



# The Opportunity Exist

- Indigenous communities are willing to work with both industrial and Government partners to understand and protect their rights.
- It is now for those partners to meaningfully engage and develop programs in cooperation with communities.
- The McMurray Métis Cumulative Effects Management Strategy provides one of these opportunities to accomplish this goal.



# For Further Information Please Contact

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Rabbit tracks on the Ells (Moose) River, Fort McKay Alberta.

