



Appendix M.1

Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study (MEKS) – 2016
Completed for the Updated 2021 Beaver Dam Mine EIS

Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study

Beaver Dam Gold Mine Expansion Project -
Beaver Dam Mines Road Marinette, NS

Prepared for Atlantic Gold Corporation
6479 Moose River Road,
RR2 Middle Musquodoboit, NS, B0N 1X0

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Mainland Mi'kmaq Development Inc.

The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM) Environmental Services is a program operated by the Lands, Environment, and Natural Resources, that provides fee for service in environmental consulting; this division is currently known as Mainland Mi'kmaq Developments Incorporated (MMDI). The CMM provides advisory services to seven Mi'kmaq communities in the province of Nova Scotia: Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation, Annapolis Valley First Nation, Bear River First Nation, Glooscap First Nation, Millbrook First Nation, Pictou Landing and Sipekne'katik First Nation.

The MMDI had been successful in the contract to complete a second Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study (MEKS) for the Beaver Dam Gold Mine Expansion Project, for The Atlantic Gold Corporation.

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1.2 Project Description

The Mainland Mi'kmaq Development Inc. has been selected to complete a second MEKS for the Beaver Dam Gold Mine Project Study of 2009. The project site is located in Halifax County, between Sheet Harbour and Upper Musquodoboit, off of Highway 224 near Cameron Flowage, near Beaver Lake IR #17.

The New Proponent, Atlantic Gold Corporation, has since replaced the Acadian Mining Corporation is the current proponent and an updated MEKS for 2016, includes the same study area as the original project area for the Expansion Project, with two additional road expansions near Beaver Lake (IR #17).

2.0 DEFINITION OF TERMS

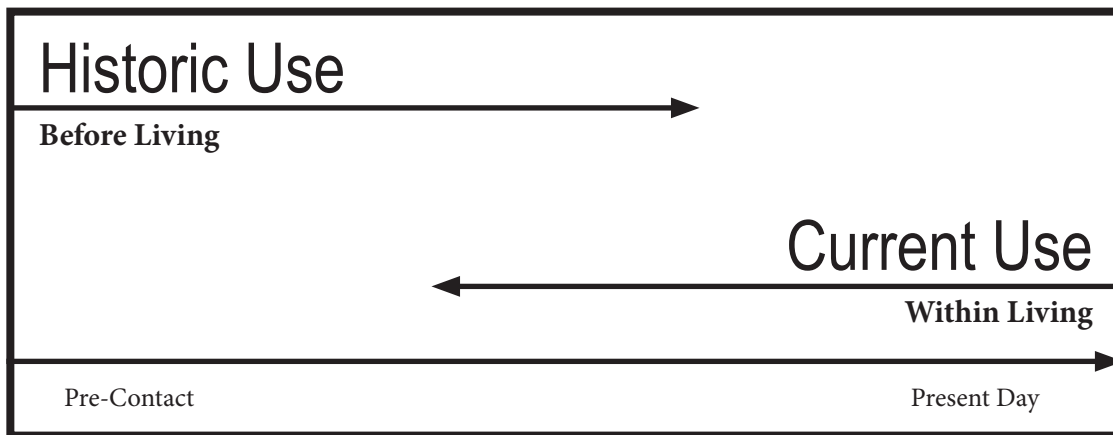
Living Memory is the memory of living Mi'kmaw. The period of time included in living memory varies from knowledge holder to knowledge holder. Living memory often extends to the parent and grandparent of the

knowledge holder and can be estimated at three to four generations.

Current Mi'kmaq Land and Resource Use occurred within living memory or is occurring at the present day (Figure 1)

Historic Mi'kmaq Land and Resource Use occurred before living memory (Figure 1)

Figure 1: Historic and Current Use Timeline



Mi'kmaw Ecological Knowledge (MEKS) is the collective body of knowledge which Mi'kmaq possess based on their intimate relationship with their natural surroundings, which involves exploitation, conservation and spiritual ideologies, and has been passed on from generation to generation, “*kisaku kinutemuatel mijuijij*”, elder to child.

Mi'kmaq Land and Resource Use Sites are locations where Mi'kmaq land and resource use activities have taken place or are taking place at present day. These sites may or may not display physical evidence of Mi'kmaq use.

Mi'kmaq/Mi'kmaw: *Mi'kmaq* means the Family and is an undeclined form. The variant form, *Mi'kmaw*, plays two grammatical roles: 1) it is the singular of Mi'kmaq and 2) it is an adjective in circumstances where it precedes a noun.

Mi'kma'ki is the Mi'kmaw homeland (Atlantic Provinces and Gaspé Peninsula)

Specific Land Claim arises when a First Nation alleges that the federal government has not honoured its treaties, agreements or legal responsibilities. According to federal policy, a valid specific claim exists when a First Nation can prove the government has an “outstanding lawful obligation”. The Mi'kmaq are currently pursuing several specific land claims in Nova Scotia.

Comprehensive Claim is based on underlying Aboriginal Title to traditional territory that has not been dealt with by treaty or other means. Aboriginal Title to lands exists as a legal right derived from First Nations

historical occupation and possession of their tribal lands. The process of negotiating the settlement of comprehensive claims, which is known as modern-day treaty making, clarifies access and ownership to land and resources. Currently, the Mi'kmaq has a comprehensive claim to all lands within the province of Nova Scotia including all inland and adjacent waters.

3.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE MI'KMAQ ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE STUDY

3.1 Purpose of the Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study

The purpose of the Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study is to support the integration of Mi'kmaq knowledge of use and occupation of Mi'kma'ki into development decisions via the environmental assessment process.

3.2 Scope of the Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study

The MEKS includes:

- 1) a study of historic and current Mi'kmaq land and resource use;
- 2) an evaluation of the potential impacts of the Project on Mi'kmaq use and occupation and constitutionally based rights;
- 3) an evaluation of the significance of the potential impacts of the Project on Mi'kmaq use and occupation; and
- 4) Recommendations to proponents and regulators that may include recommendations for mitigation measures, further study, or consultation with Mi'kmaq.

3.3 Not included in the scope of the Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study

3.3.1 *Section 35 Consultation*

This study is not consultation for justification of the infringement of constitutionally protected aboriginal and treaty rights. If the project involves possible infringements of Mi'kmaq constitutional rights, the MEKS recommends further action.

3.3.2 *Archaeological Screening and Resource Impact Assessment*

The study is not an Archaeological Screening or Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment. Results presented in the study can inform and be informed by archaeological screenings and assessments.

3.3.3 *Notification of Mi'kmaw individuals or communities of the Project*

The study is not intended to inform or notify Mi'kmaw individuals or communities of the Project, solicit the opinions or concerns of Mi'kmaw individuals or communities on the Project, or promote the Project to Mi'kmaw individuals or communities.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Historic Mi'kmaq Land and Resource Use

Historic Mi'kmaq land and resource use occurred before living memory. The study of historic land and resource use paints a broad portrait of Mi'kmaq use and occupation of Mi'kma'ki in centuries past.

4.1.1 *Study Area*

This study encompasses the area surrounding Cameron Flowage located in Beaver Dam, Halifax County, Nova Scotia. The study area is adjacent to Beaver Lake I.R. #17 and is located about 30 kms north of Sheet Harbour I.R. #36, which are part of the Millbrook First Nation. A broader scope of research has been included to show Mi'kmaq use and occupation within Halifax County. Included within the study area, are the lands adjacent to the road expansion projects, Moose River Cross road and the Beaver Dam Mine road.

4.1.2 *Methods*

Research was completed from within The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq research department library as well as external sources from the Nova Scotia Public Archives, Nova Scotia Museum, Cape Breton University's Mi'kmaq Resource Centre and the Colchester library. Secondary sources include Crown Land index sheets, church records, cemetery record, maps and published papers and books on Nova Scotia History.

4.1.3 *Limitations*

Recorded documents are the primary source of information for the study of historic Mi'kmaq land and resource use. There are no recorded documents in the pre-contact period and recorded documents in the post-contact period are not comprehensive. Furthermore, existing documentation has largely been written by people of a different culture. This means that information may either not be completely accurate or may be incomplete.

4.2 Current Mi'kmaq Land and Resource Use

Current Mi'kmaq land and resource use occurred within living memory or is presently occurring. The MEKS includes a study of:

- 1) Current Mi'kmaq land and resource use sites
- 2) Species of Significance to Mi'kmaq
- 3) Mi'kmaw Communities

4.2.1 Study Areas

The study areas are described in Figure 2.

4.2.1.1 Current Mi'kmaq Land and Resource Use Sites

The study area for current Mi'kmaq land and resource use sites is the proposed area of development – five-kilometer radius surrounding proposed project site.

4.2.1.2 Species of Significance to Mi'kmaq

Study areas are marked on Figure 2.

4.2.1.3 Mi'kmaw Communities

The study area for Mi'kmaw communities is a 5 km radius surrounding the proposed development area.

4.2.2 Methods

4.2.2.1 Current Mi'kmaq Land and Resource Use Sites

Mi'kmaq knowledge on current land and resource sites will be gathered through a review of information collected through oral interviews with Mi'kmaw knowledge holders.

All individuals, whom will be interviewed, will sign consent forms. Knowledge will be gathered in accordance within the spirit of the *Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Protocol*.

Knowledge collected is reported in a general format only. No names or specific locations are published. Collected knowledge will be digitized and compiled to allow for an analysis of potential impacts of the project on current Mi'kmaq land and resource use.

4.2.2.2 Species of Significance to Mi'kmaq

A system of stratified random sampling was employed to identify flora species present in the study areas of significance to Mi'kmaq. Plants were surveyed in the summer of 2016. Information collected is reported in a general format only. The names of the species are not recorded.

4.2.2.3 Mi'kmaw Communities

A review of outstanding specific land claims within the study area was undertaken by CMM. There are three specific land claims identified within the project area, however, the records of outstanding specific land claims are not currently fully researched.

4.2.3 *Limitations*

While every attempt was made to document all available Mi'kmaw knowledge, the knowledge gathering process may not have captured some available Mi'kmaw knowledge. It is also recognized that over generations of cultural and political suppression, much Mi'kmaq knowledge has been irretrievably lost.

5.0 RESULTS

Results of the study are divided into two categories:

- 1) Historic land and resource use, that is, use that occurred before living memory, and
- 2) Current land and resource use, or use that occurred within living memory or is occurring at the present day.

Land and resource use may be for hunting, burial/birth, ceremonial, gathering, or habitation purposes.

5.1 Historic Mi'kmaq Land and Resource Use

5.1.1 *Pre-Contact Introduction*

Mi'kmaq traditional use of the land in Nova Scotia involved semi-permanent and permanent settlements. Summer villages of the Mi'kmaq were usually located on the banks of streams or rivers. The most important factor in the choice of a site was the proximity of the site to a navigable body of water. Sites around the mouths of rivers with heavy spawning runs were highly favourable for use, as well as smaller rivers running back into a system of lakes.¹ It is therefore likely that the Mi'kmaq settled in the study area, which exhibits these types of natural features.

Beaver Dam lies within *Eskikewa'kik* or the "skin dressing territory". This particular district spans from Halifax County across to Guysborough County. Various authors and historians have differed in their description of how far this territory expands, but all have agreed that Beaver Dam lies within this district.

Eskikewa'kik lies within the Meguma Terrane in the Atlantic Uplands of Nova Scotia. The Meguma Zone occupies the southern mainland of Nova Scotia and extends seaward beneath younger sedimentary rocks.² It is a mix of fine sandstone, shale, quartz rich sand and mud. "The Mi'kmaq and their ancestors acquired an impressive knowledge of the geology of their land by using rocks and minerals to develop one of the first technologies – the working of stone."³ Certain stones would have been used as grinding tools on other types of stone, bone, antlers and wood. Other hard stones such as quartz would have been used as hammers, choppers, knives and arrowheads. (Natalie Stoddard; pg. 2)

The area contains a variety of spruce, fir, birch, ash, maple pine and shrubs inland, which would have been used in making baskets and building shelter. "Small mammal diversity is moderately high in well drained mixed and hardwood forest habitats, especially along rivers and streams";⁴ drawing lynx, moose, beaver, deer, marten and hare to the area, all harvested food by the Mi'kmaq.

There is no recorded archaeological activity recorded within the study area. A further investigation into areas that border Fifteen Mile Stream has been included later on in this report. Stephen Davis has commented on the lack of archaeological evidence with Maritime Coastal areas. "Unfortunately for the archaeologists, the shorelines of 10,000 to 5,000 years ago no longer exist. The demise was related to ongoing geological events."⁵ The harsh winters, strong winds, and erosion have left little evidence of early use and occupation.

Although little historical information has been written about Mi'kmaq inhabiting these areas in large numbers, there is some documentation that suggests that they mainly inhabited Halifax and Port Mulgrave. Bernard Hoffman has noted that there were seven main sites within *Eskikewa'kik*; including sites at Ship Harbour, Spry Bay Harbour and Liscomb Harbour near the study area.

Mi'kmaq cultures hunted land and marine mammals and fish for sustenance and some trading until the late sixteenth century, when traditional activities began to change in

- ¹ Donald M. Julien, Historical Perspective of Micmac Indians Pre & Post Contact Period, p. 3.
- ² Davis, Derek S and Sue Browne. Natural History of Nova Scotia, Volume 1: Topics, page 20
- ³ Davis, Derek S and Sue Browne. Natural History of Nova Scotia, Volume 1: Topics, page 322
- ⁴ Davis, Derek S and Sue Browne. Natural History of Nova Scotia, Volume 1: Topics, page 57
- ⁵ Davis, Stephen. The Micmac, page 12.
- ⁶ Davis, Derek S and Sue Browne. Natural History of Nova Scotia, Volume 1: Topics, page 368

response to contact with the Europeans.⁶ Settlements, although not permanent, were located near major waterways and harbours, providing accessibility to trade with the Europeans. The Mi'kmaq traveled inland through minor streams and rivers, either by canoe or on foot.

5.1.2 Post Contact

Nicholas Denys gives a brief description of the area “Bay de Toutes Isles” which would cover the area along the Eastern Shore know as the Bay of Islands running from Ship Harbour along the coast to Liscomb Harbour. “This bay has nearly four leagues of depth, and there are several rivers which discharge into it. These are small and are only, as it were, large brooks, [though] by them the Indians come and go.”⁷ He stated that there seems to be a large number of Indians living in that area in order to hunt the moose.

Mi'kmaq at Beaver Dam

The Mi'kmaq referred to this area as *Kopitewey Kwimuti*⁸ literally meaning Beaver Harbour. In 1852, 100 acres had been set-aside for Simon Francis on the Sheet Harbour Road at the head of Beaver Lake. There is little written prior to the setting aside of this reserve under Samuel Fairbanks' Return of Land report in 1866.

The reference plan from Natural Resources Canada shows a parcel of ten acres adjacent to the Beaver Dam reserve as being allotted to Peter Paul in 1930. The original letters patent and grant was not located, but Peter Paul's name again comes up in lands held by himself and his brother adjacent to the Sheet Harbour Reserve.

In the *Old Man Told Us* by Ruth Holmes Whitehead, reference is made to John Cope killing 18 moose at Beaver Dam and selling them to the men at Fifteen Mile Stream Goldmine in 1918.

In 1973, John Covert conducted another survey at Beaver Lake and found that the reserve contained 122 acres instead of the initial one hundred acres granted to Simon. The reserve was formally set-aside to Millbrook Band in 1960.

Mi'kmaq at Sheet Harbour

Around the seventeen hundreds, the Mi'kmaq lived along the eastern coast, at Spry Bay Harbour, Ship Harbour and Sheet Harbour. In 1762, Jonathan Belcher issued a proclamation protecting the traditional hunting and fishing territories of the Indians. This area included all that portion of Canso and running westerly as far as Musquodoboit.

Following the American Revolution in 1776, an influx of loyalists induced on settling in Nova Scotia, were given gratuitous land grants and most of the land laid out for the Indians was encroached upon. In 1783 a license of occupation was issued to the Indians for 11,520 acres in order to protect their fishing and hunting rights. James E. Rutledge

⁷ Ganong, William F. The Description and Natural History of Coasts of North America (Acadia) by Nicholas Denys p. 157

⁸ Stevens, Arlene. Mi'kmaq Place Names, pg.

⁹ Rutledge, James E. A History of Sheet Harbour, pg. 13

mentioned in his book *History of Sheet Harbour* that when a number of soldiers had moved to the area in 1784, “there was an encampment of Indians in the maple grove now the property of the heirs of Robert Rutledge at Watt Section”⁹. This in all likelihood was the section of land included within the license of occupation.

¹⁰ Speck, Frank G. *Beothuks and Micmac*, pg 86.

¹¹ Speck, Frank G. *Beothuks and Micmac*, pg. 103-105

A large portion of the areas given under these licenses, were encroached upon by European settlers but Mi’kmaq occupation continued at Sheet Harbour prior to the establishment of the formal reserve in 1915. The white settlers, angered by Belcher’s proclamation for protecting Mi’kmaq hunting territories, ignored his rule, and continued to settle there. The lands set aside for the Indians were eventually abandoned, but some continued to return there to hunt and fish.

In Frank Speck’s work, *Beothuk and Micmacs*, he describes the hunting territories. “The Micmac, like the rest of the northern and eastern Algonkian, whose subsistence was gained by hunting and fishing, had their country subdivided into more or less well recognized districts in which certain individual proprietors or families enjoyed the inherited privileges of hunting.”¹⁰

Contained within Speck’s list of territories, predominantly Cope surnames continued to hunt and fish at Ship Harbour, Jeddore, Ten and Fifteen Mile Lake, Sheet Harbour and Liscomb. See part of Speck’s list below.¹¹

Shubenacadie and Sheet Harbour Bands		
27	Frank Paul	Stewiacke river valley
28	John Newell Cope	Musquodoboit river between Middle Musquodoboit and Musquodoboit.
29	Andrew Francis	North of Ship Harbour lake, Gould Lake
30	Joe Cope	North of Jeddore
31	Young Joe Cope (Son of No. 30)	Northeast of Jeddore
32	Andrew Paul	Grassy lake north of Killag river
33	(Territory supposed to have belonged to Pauls).	
34	Sandy Cope	Tangier lake and Scraggy lakes
35	Frank Cope	Hunting lake, Governor’s lake, and Ten Mile lake
36	Peter Joe Cope	Fifteen Mile lake, Rocky lake
37	Michael Tom (Toney)	Moser River
38	Young Peter Joe Cope	Large district north of Sheet Harbour
39	Mathew Salome	Big Liscomb lake
40	Jim Paul	Hunting lake and Liscomb river
41	Abram Paul (son of No. 32)	Lake Mooin, back of Liscomb
46	Abram Gould	Neighbourhood of Sheet harbour, (He came originally from Cape Breton Island, where his family had territory and received a tract from the Cope family in Nova Scotia

Mi'kmaq at Ship Harbour

The Mi'kmaq referred to the area at Ship Harbour as *Tetmnipukwek*¹² meaning blunt harbour. In 1813, a petition came from Francis Coop for land at Ship Harbour for himself, his wife and seven children as outlined in document RG 20 A – Coop Francis. The petition stated that 200 acres of land be laid out for him, as he was sober and industrious, on the proviso that it could only be passed on to his children at the head of the Ship Harbour River.

In 1848, John Spry Morris laid out 500 acres of land in 100-acre lots, with a small lot measuring 47 acres being reserved for fishing. The five lots were laid off to Francis Paul, Joseph Paul, Lewis Paul, Lewis Newal and Lewis Brooks. Two additional lots were allotted to Francis Paul's sons, James Paul and Joseph Paul. A survey of the area in 1853 had referred to 700 acres of land but did not mention the 47 acres reserved for fishing.

After 1855 little correspondence is written about the Mi'kmaq living at Ship Harbour. There are a few bills for provisions and aid given to them in 1856 (MG 15 Volume 6 no. 14). Various requests for blankets had dropped from 1861 onward, as they believed that an outbreak of smallpox had serious effect on the numbers living at Musquodoboit, Sheet Harbour and Ship Harbour. Joseph Browner had requested that four dollars worth of blankets be sent to him for Indians living at Tangier, but no mention of Ship Harbour. (Journal of Assembly: 1863, No. 16, p.5.)

In 1893, J. Lewis & Sons inquired into the possibility of purchasing land at Ship Harbour Reserve in order to locate a factory and use the timber on the land. The Superintendent General then wrote to the Indian agent to inquire any Indians lived there, and would be willing to surrender the reserve. Joseph Cope's letter to the Superintendent General stated: "the said or supposed Reserve has been abandoned by the Indians thirty or forty years ago. Although a good number of us are there every summer for the [?] work purposes..."¹³.

In 1919, the government wanted to centralize the Mi'kmaq on two main reserves at Shubenacadie and Indian Brook. They had made several attempts with the Halifax County Indians to either settle permanently on Ship Harbour, or to dispose of the land. The property was eventually surrendered along with Sambro and Ingram River, but the Mi'kmaq continued to use that area as shown in Frank Speck's *Beothuks and Micmac*. He pointed out that Andrew Francis was allotted hunting territory #29 in 1922, which covered land at the Great Ship Harbour: whether or not that fell into the lands originally set aside as an Indian Reserve is unknown.

5.1.3 Archaeology

Nova Scotia Museum records did not contain any archaeological sites within the study area. The adjoining areas have had some activity recorded in the Maritime Archaeological Resource Inventory. The information collected from that research has shown that Mi'kmaq presence occurred all around the study area.

¹² Stevens, Arlene.
Mi'kmaq Place Names,
pg. 35
¹³ DIAND file 274/30-1,
Volume 1.

5.2 Current Mi'kmaq Land and Resource Use

The study of current Mi'kmaq land and resource use is comprised of a study of current Mi'kmaq land and resource use sites, species of significance to Mi'kmaq, and Mi'kmaw communities.

5.2.1 Current Mi'kmaq Land and Resource Use Sites

Current Mi'kmaq land and resource use activities are divided into five categories:

- 1) Kill/hunting
- 2) Burial/birth
- 3) Ceremonial
- 4) Gathering food/ medicinal
- 5) Occupation/habitation

Table 1 provides a description of activities undertaken at the sites.

Table 1: Description of Activities Undertaken in Current Mi'kmaq Land and Resource Use Site

TYPE OF SITE	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES IN STUDY AREA
HUNTING/KILL	Trout, Eel, Bear, Rabbit, Deer, Porcupine, Partridge, Coyote, Mink, Muskrat, Weasels, Raccoon, Fox, Otter, Beaver
BURIAL/BIRTH	Potential Burial sites
CEREMONIAL	
GATHERING	Wild Fruit, Berries, H2O, Food Plant, Specialty wood, logs, feathers, quills
HABITATION	Anchored boat, Travel route, Overnight Site

Potential Burial Sites were recorded within the study area on the Western side of the Beaver Dam Mine road, but not within the project area.

5.2.2 Species of Significance to Mi'kmaq present in study area

Species of significance to Mi'kmaq in the study area are divided into three categories:

- 1) Medicinal
- 2) Food/Beverage
- 3) Craft/Art

The following table describes the number of plants of significance present in the study areas during the summer survey of 2016.

Table 2: Number of Species of Significance to Mi'kmaq Present in the Study Areas Summer 2016

TYPE OF USE	NUMBER OF SPECIES PRESENT SUMMER 2016
MEDICINAL	49
FOOD/BEVERAGE	27
CRAFT/ART	11

5.2.3 *Mi'kmaw Communities*

There are two Indian Reserves located near the study area: these reserves were set aside under the Indian Act for the use and benefit of the Indians under federal legislation.

Beaver Lake is located in Halifax County along Highway 224 and is a satellite community belonging to Millbrook First Nation. The reserve was established on March 2, 1867, is approximately 49.4 hectares in size. There are a small number of homes and hunting camps located on the property. The estimated population on reserve is 22, with a total of five homes and 4 small cottages/camps.

Sheet Harbour is located along Highway #7, approximately 112 kms from Halifax, and is comprised of 2 lots amounting to 32.7 hectares. The land was purchased from William Tupper in 1915, for the purpose of creating an Indian Reserve. The reserve was set aside under the administration of Millbrook First Nation in 1960. There are approximately 75 members living on reserve with nine homes, and two trailers, as well as a community hall and a convenience/gas bar.

The following is a list of Mi'kmaq place names:

Nukumkiaq – Moser River (Gravelly Stream)

Ktuaqati – Quoddy Head (Place of War Whoop)

Nutaqati – New Quoddy (Place of Seal Hunting)

Kopitewey kwimuti – Beaver Harbour (literal translation)

Nikanaputik – Beaver Point (Foresight)

Waijuik – Sheet Harbour River (Deceitfully flowing)

Kiso'quetek – Sheet Harbour Road (Going up in the Country)

Kuimutijk – Spry Bay Harbour

Amaqopskikek – Tangier River (Tumbling over rocks)

Kisna Kopilk – Moose River

Tetmnikukwek – Ship Harbour

Eski'kewa'kik – Skin Dressers Territory

Sikna'qiknek – Taylor's Head (A spread sail)

6.0 POTENTIAL PROJECT IMPACTS ON MI'KMAQ LAND AND RESOURCE USE

The following table presents potential project impacts on historic and current Mi'kmaq land and resource use.

Table 3: Potential Project Impacts on Mi'kmaq Land and Resource Use

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON MI'KMAQ LAND AND RESOURCE USE	
6.01	The historic review of Mi'kmaq use and occupation documents historic Mi'kmaq use and occupation in the study area, and potentially the project area. A potential impact of the project is the disturbance of archaeological resources and Burial sites.
6.02	Several species of significance to Mi'kmaq have been identified in the study area. Permanent loss of some species is an impact of the project.
6.03	Current Hunting, Gathering and Trapping activities have been identified in the study area. Permanent loss of habitat is a potential impact.

7.0 SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL PROJECT IMPACTS ON MI'KMAQ LAND AND RESOURCE USE

The concept of significance in the Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study is distinct from the concept of significance under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* or the *Nova Scotia Environmental Assessment Regulations*. Significance to Mi'kmaq is evaluated only in accordance with the criteria listed below. The MEKS evaluation of the significance of the potential project impacts on Mi'kmaq should be used by regulators to inform their determination of the significance of the environmental effects of the Project.

7.1 Significance Criteria

The following criteria are used to analyze the significance of the potential project impacts on Mi'kmaq use:

- 1) Uniqueness of land or resource
- 2) Culture or spiritual meaning of land or resource
- 3) Nature of Mi'kmaq use of land or resource
- 4) Mi'kmaq constitutionally protected rights in relation to land or resource.

7.2 Evaluation of Significance

Table 4: Significance of Potential Project Impacts on Mi'kmaq Land and Resource Use

POTENTIAL IMPACT	EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE
<p>6.01 The historic review of Mi'kmaq use and occupation documents Mi'kmaq use and occupation in the study area, and potentially the project area. A potential impact of the project is the disturbance of archaeological resources and burial site.</p>	<p>7.2.01 Mi'kmaq archaeological resources are extremely important to Mi'kmaq as a method of determining Mi'kmaq use and occupation of Mi'kma'ki and as an enduring record of the Mi'kmaq nation and culture across the centuries. Archaeological resources are irreplaceable. Any disturbance of Mi'kmaq archaeological resources is significant. The potential Burial sites are not located within the proposed project site, therefore, impact of the project is not likely significant.</p>
<p>6.02 Several species of significance to Mi'kmaq have been identified in the study areas. Permanent loss of some specimens is an impact of the Project.</p>	<p>7.2.02 The plant species of significance to Mi'kmaq identified within the study area exists within the surrounding area. The destruction of some specimens within the study areas does not pose a threat to Mi'kmaq use of the species. The impact of the permanent loss of some specimens of plant species of significance to Mi'kmaq is evaluated as not likely significant.</p>
<p>6.03 Hunting, gathering and trapping activities have been identified in the study area. Permanent loss of habitat is an impact of the project.</p>	<p>7.2.03 The potential habitat loss located in and around the wetlands and lakes of the projects can be evaluated as significant.</p>

8.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.01 In the event that Mi'kmaw archaeological deposits are encountered during construction or operation of the Project, all work should be halted and immediate contact should be made Laura Bennett, Special Places Coordinator, at the Nova Scotia Museum, Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusagn Negotiation Office (KM-KNO) and the Sipekne'katik and Millbrook Community.
- 8.02 There are three identified potential claims within the project site according to The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq research department. The potential claims include loss of reserve lands, a department of highway road allowance, and a Nova Scotia Power easement. Locations of these potential claims are adjacent to the Beaver Lake IR #17 foot print. More research is needed on these potential claims.
- 8.03 The project includes two road expansion along the Beaver Dam Mine Road and the Moose River Cross road, which is located adjacent to Beaver Lake IR #17. Concerns of increased traffic, loss of wetland

habitat and the potential loss of areas with the study area including Tent lake and Cope Pond, Rocky, Otter, Como, Grassy and Beaver lakes, Killag River and the West River and the West River Sheet Harbour, where the majority of hunting, gather and trapping activity has and continues to take place. Any rights-based issues relating to loss of access to traditional use would have to involve the Kwilmu'ku Maw-klu-suaqn Negotiations Office, Sipekne'katik and Millbrook Communities.

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Figure 2: Map of Current Mi'kmaq Land and Resource Use Study Area

