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SOLUTIONS

Algonquin Knowledge and Land Use Study for the Quebec Timiskaming Dam-Bridge Replacement Project

May 2021

What is an Indigenous Knowledge and Land Use Study?

Study to do two main things:

- Map where community members use the land and have knowledge of the land
- Document stories, legends, traditions, perspectives on the project

Let's see how it is done:

<https://youtu.be/aweezpKy51k>





What is the Algonquin Knowledge and Land Use Study (AKLUS) Used For?

- Determine probable impacts of development
- Document Elders' Knowledge and Oral History
- Provide information for community planning
- Determine shared use areas and solve boundary conflicts
- Provide evidence for Aboriginal Rights and Title
- Negotiate protection measures and benefits from industrial development
- And more!

(Tobias, 2009)



What is the Goal of the AKLUS?

- Preserve Cultural Knowledge for future generations
- Identify areas near the TQDR site used by Algonquin Knowledge Holders and Land Users
- Identify concerns and hopes for the TQDR site
- Support AOO in documenting the stories about Algonquin relationship with the lands and waters
- Help assert Algonquin Rights and Interests within the unceded Settlement Area

What is Involved in the AKLUS?

- Face to face interviews where we map your use of the lands and waters:
 - Places where you harvest plants, animals or natural materials
 - Places you stay overnight on the land
 - Important cultural or spiritual sites
 - Places you know of that are habitats for plants and animals
 - Environmental changes that may have impacted how you use the lands and waters
 - Algonquin place names
- We will also ask questions about your thoughts on the TQDR project



Trapper's camp in Algonquin Park.

Credit: Jane Lagassie



Fred Hunter, a sought-after fishing guide at Baptiste Lake and Silent Lake. Credit: Stephen Hunter.



A juvenile lake sturgeon. Credit: USFWS Midwest Region.



Spruce grouse. Credit: musubk, licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.



Hawthorn berries. Credit: Jane Lagassie



Who Should Participate?

- Algonquin Elders and non-elders*
- Over 18 years of age
- Land user and knowledge holders with use near to the TQDR site
- All genders

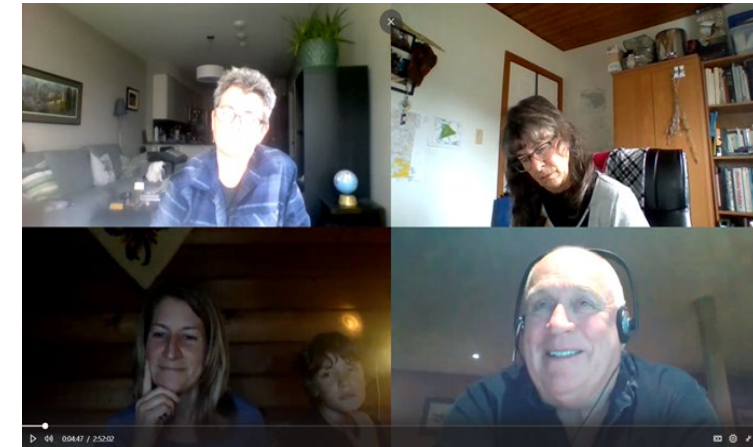
*This is an AOO Information Session, however, Antoine First Nation and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation are undertaking their own consultation and engagement processes with PSPC for this Project (including separate AKLUS).

Members of these communities are welcome to attend this session and participate in the AKLUS, but please reach out to your respective ANRs for more information on these separate processes.

Who Will Conduct Interviews?

Due to COVID19, interviews will be conducted remotely by AOO Community Researcher Jane Lagassie and SVS Researchers Leah Culver, Marnie Benson, Joanne Shantz, Laura Taylor, and Allie Mayberry

“In a time of self-isolation, I found the interview itself to be a welcomed opportunity to communicate with caring individuals. A situation where I could share the stories and learned teachings of my Elders. Even working within the restrictions of a computer-mediated get-together, I believe we were able to make a communicated connection which I found to be both healing and cathartic.” – Algonquin Knowledge holder, Algonquin Knowledge and Land Use Study



Screen shot from previous AKLUS. Image used with permission.

Confidentiality

Keeping your information confidential is important

- Your name will always remain confidential in reporting
- Algonquin Information Governance Protocol
- You have ultimate control over your information

**You will receive an information package with a permission form and all interview questions before your interview so you have plenty of time to think about what you would like to share

INFORMATION GOVERNANCE PROTOCOL

The AOO developed the Information Governance Protocol to set clear guidelines for how Algonquin knowledge and land use data will be collected, stored, owned and shared

Past AKLUS Completed by the AOO

The AOO Completed an AKLUS in 2020 for the Nuclear Power Demonstration Site (NPD) and the Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF)

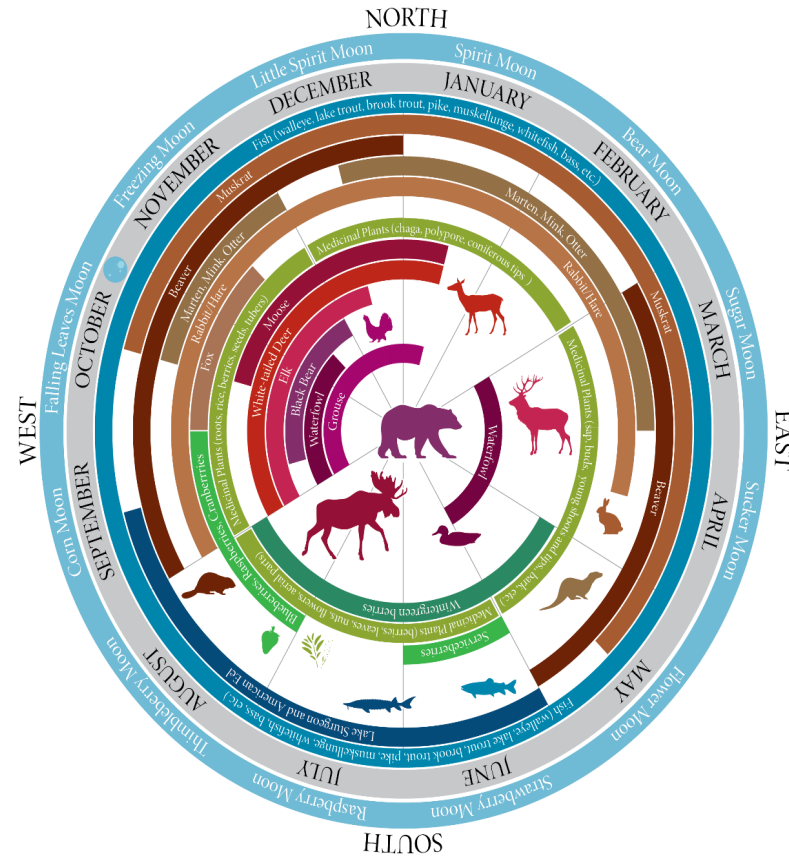
- Determined how the NSDF and NPD projects would impact Algonquin Aboriginal Rights and Interests
- Interviewed 31 Algonquin Knowledge Holders
- Identified 93 unique species considered significant
- 817 features mapped
- Documented participant identified concerns and suggestions for the project

AKLUS Results – Seasonal Round

Algonquin Seasonal Round Diagram*

The seasonality of Algonquin land use is depicted by the coloured bars (not the animal silhouettes) in the image below. Algonquins know the months by the 13 moons that make up the year and harvest according to them. These moons correspond to the calendar months and are depicted as the outermost circle below. The timing of the thirteenth moon, known as the "Big Spirit Moon" or "Blue Moon", changes annually. In 2020, it falls in October.

Algonquins use the Thunderbird drum to support seasonal use of the lands and waters. The Thunderbird drum was given to the Algonquins by the Creator, who made all of the animals, fish, trees and berries, to give back to the earth that sustains the traditional way of life, and to give thanks to the creator for these gifts. The timing of drumming aligns with the seasonality of land use and the East, South, West, and North doors.



AKLUS Results - Story Maps:

“Esri Story Maps let you combine authoritative maps with narrative text, images, and multimedia content. They make it easy to harness the power of maps and geography to tell your story.”

Welcome to our Story Map

As the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO), we are on a journey of survival, rebuilding, and self-sufficiency – a journey of reconciliation. An important part of our journey towards reconciliation is documenting the stories about our relationship with the lands and waters. We wish to use these to help assert our rights and interests in the face of natural resource development within our unceded Settlement Area, and to celebrate our way of life and culture.

Algonquins of Ontario



Benefits of a Story Map

- Use it as a tool to assert jurisdiction
- Communicate your territory and rights to future proponents



“It's an honour to be Algonquin, and I know that a lot of past generations went through a hard time. They tried to take the Algonquin out of the people. Part of the circle of the medicine is that we are joining, and as human beings we are all coming together and healing and this means a lot to me, not just as an Algonquin but as a human. Much like the pandemic, it affected the world and the world had to connect together to beat it. This is what I believe we can heal from society and learn from each other, not only our medicines but every aspects of life. We all hold a piece of the big puzzle and that piece makes a bigger picture, the complete picture of what we have to do in life.”



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We hope you will consider participating in an interview!

“So the bigger picture is, as the Algonquin Nation, we’re recapturing who we are, and we’re proud of who we are, and now it’s safe to say who we are. And we want to be able to practice our ways and our beliefs and our spirituality and our ceremonies, and our hunting and fishing and gathering. All that stuff that makes us who we are. So our connection to the land is critical, it’s just critical.”

ALGONQUIN KNOWLEDGE HOLDER (AKLUS for NPD and NSDF)