



# INDIGENOUS

RELATIONS LIAISON COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT



# Who are we?

CHAIR

Dan Elliott (Zone J)

MEMBERS

Maya Basdeo (Zone J)  
Tom Brooke (Zone E)  
Ed Giffin (Zone F)  
Stephen Huntley (Zone G)  
Rick Moore (Zone A)  
Matt DeMille (Staff Liaison)



# Interim Enforcement Policy

Last year we had MNRF's Director of Enforcement Branch join us to discuss the Interim Enforcement Policy (IEP) and its application for Indigenous Peoples. We were informed that a conservation officer's approach with Indigenous and non-Indigenous people is the same, with the exception of onsite decisions decision making (more often occurs later). The Indigenous person must produce identification, declare the activity they are involved in and claim rights. The officer gathers the required information and follows the IEP process. MNRF decides upon the best action to be taken.



# Ring of Fire

The Ontario government is dealing with the nine First Nation Communities on an individual basis as it relates to the Ring of Fire. The move is intended to speed up development of the mining project after a decade of talks and negotiations by the previous government. This new approach is intended to address specific community needs and opportunities with willing First Nation communities.



# R. v. Green (Saskatchewan)

Recently, a Saskatchewan Provincial Court decision in R. v. Green confirmed that “Indian persons” in Canada are permitted to hunt for food on unoccupied public lands in Saskatchewan without a licence. The decision marks the court’s latest rejection of the province’s ongoing efforts to limit Indigenous Peoples’ ability to exercise their constitutionally - protected right to hunt. Note: The accused were two individuals from Six Nations in Ontario.

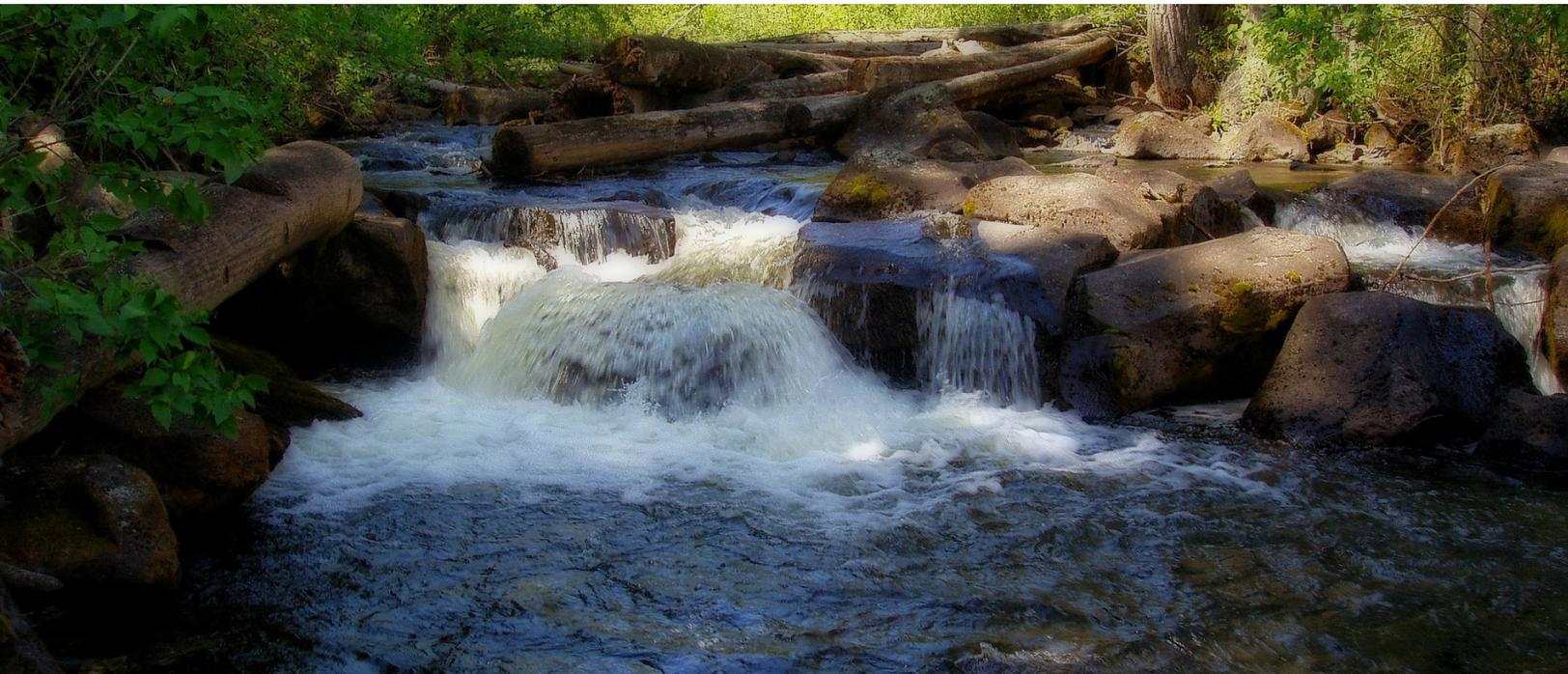
The court held that Indian persons have a right to hunt for food on unoccupied Crown lands to which they have a right of access pursuant to the Saskatchewan Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (NRTA) signed in 1930, regardless of whether they also hold a treaty right to hunt in Saskatchewan. The decision affirms Indigenous Peoples’ long-standing position that the numbered treaties are not subject to or limited by provincial boundaries.

This decision goes hand in hand with the decision in the Desautel Case where the courts upheld a lower court decision that the Canadian Constitution may extend to Indigenous Peoples who have been separated from their ancestral territories by the creation of international boundaries.



# Understanding the Wet'suwet'en Pipeline Issue in British Columbia

Government and industry negotiated through consultation with elected chiefs of Wet'suwet'en First Nations an agreement to establish a Pipeline through Wet'suwet'en ancestral territory. Not all of the hereditary chiefs and elders were involved in the consultation and negotiation process or agreed with the elected chiefs' decisions. Subsequently, there was an adversarial response from some community elders and hereditary chiefs that received strong support from First Nations across Canada. Unfortunately, government does not recognize hereditary chiefs and elders in the Canadian Constitution, consultation and negotiation process.



# Lake Huron Stocking

The MNRF is currently undertaking consultation on the development of a plan for stocking in Lake Huron. This consultation will include discussions with the Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON), Metis Nation of Ontario, other First Nations, FMZ 13/14 council, and the general public. The goal is to merge these five consultation streams together to finalize these two plans. The hope is to do this within 36 months. The MNRF continues to advise all stakeholders and First Nation communities involved to exercise patience and participate in these discussions with an open mind and willingness to find a path forward.

The MNRF Upper Great Lakes Management Unit is now benefitting from two Indigenous advisors who are working to improve relationships between the MNRF and First Nations with a particular focus on Lake Huron.

