

# Fox Lake Cree Nation



October 2013

# Fox Lake Cree Nation



Fox Lake Cree have resided in our traditional territory for years before contact with the European people

There has been written history that is wrong - stating that Fox Lake Cree were newcomers to this area during the 1920s - we always lived in this area



# Fox Lake Cree Nation



The Fox Lake people are referred to as the Swampy Cree, the Lowland Cree or Coastal Cree in various historical documents

We are “Ininew-wuk” which is a indigenous or aboriginal people in the Cree Language



# Fox Lake Cree Nation



Fox Lake was a part of a large network of people and communities in the North which extended from Hudson Bay coast down to the area where Split Lake is now located

The people traveled from areas that could sustain their families and communities

# Fox Lake Cree Nation



The Fox Lake people as well as our relations lived on the land and water, and sustained their communities and provided for all their needs to ensure their survival: hunted game for food and used the natural resources to make products to assist in their daily lives. ex) birch bark for canoes, animal bones for tools, animal hide for clothing

# Fox Lake Cree Nation



The Fox Lake people were instrumental in assisting in the development of the Fur Trade and we shared our knowledge of living our way of life with the Europeans which included sharing how to survive winters and knowing how the animals migrated on the land

# Fox Lake Cree Nation



H.A. Innes stated “This culture assumed a thorough knowledge of animal habits and the ability of the peoples concerned to move over wide areas in pursuit of a supply of food” (The Fur Trade in Canada)

Victor Lytwyn stated “the fur trade records clarify that the Lowland Cree groups already occupied well defined territories when Europeans first arrived in the area” (1821)

# Fox Lake Cree Nation



The way of life began to change after the arrival of the Europeans and the Hudson Bay Company.

We began to participate in the Fur Trade and spending more time on the coast, providing labor services for the traders and being middlemen in the economy



# Fox Lake Cree Nation



The large group of people were mainly situated into family groupings or clans and continued to live their way of life - on the land and water

After a period of difficult times for the Cree - the downsizing of the Fur Trade - a new development would further alter the Cree way of life

# Fox Lake Cree Nation



In the early 1900s - the Cree had wanted to sign a Treaty with Government - but were refused after many requests

The Cree were concerned with the changes coming - the effects on the land and way of life





# Fox Lake Cree Nation



The development of the Railway was the reason Treaties were signed with the Cree in Northern Manitoba

The people then became separated through the creation of two 'Bands' - Split Lake - 1908 and Fort York - 1910

# Fox Lake Cree Nation



The Treaty provides for protection of our hunting and fishing Rights, as well as a Right to education and health and to lands for our benefit and use

Over the years, our Elders have passed down the terms of the treaties and its guarantees

# Fox Lake Cree Nation



The railway was planned to be built right through the traditional territory of Fox Lake - the railway crosses the Nelson River at Kettle Rapids - a traditional crossing point for the Fox Lake people

The railway was to be ended at Port Nelson but was changed to end at Churchill and was finished in 1929

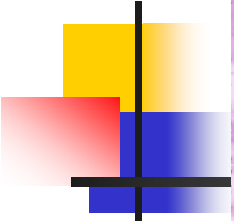


# Fox Lake Cree Nation



Our people began to work on the railway, throughout the construction and maintenance of the rail line

Many Fox Lake people began to settle at Kettle Rapids, in Gillam and along the bayline - at the same time continuing to utilize the lands and water to sustain their families



# Fox Lake Cree Nation



During this period, our people were already functioning as a government - choosing a leader to deal with the Indian Agent and the Government

The Fox Lake Cree were recognized as the Gillam Band in approximately 1939 and began to request a Reserve in the Gillam area



# Fox Lake Cree Nation



The Fox Lake Cree Nation became a recognized Band in 1947 when we signed Adhesion to Treaty 5 and split from Shamattawa and York Factory - Fort York Band

Many people were left off the registries due to some people being out on the traplines or out of range of the Indian Agents

# Fox Lake Cree Nation



Today, the large network of people are known as the:

Fox Lake Cree Nation, Shamattawa First Nation, the War Lake First Nation, Tataskwayak Cree Nation and York Factory First Nation:

as recognized through the Indian Act (1967)

# Fox Lake Cree Nation



Many more changes began to occur in the area from the 1930' s to the 1950' s

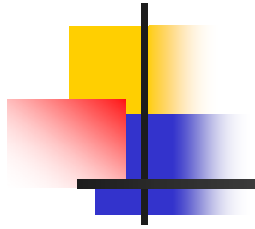
The registered trapline system was introduced - our people were now being restricted to certain areas for hunting and fishing purposes after utilizing the land for many years

# Fox Lake Cree Nation



The Fox Lake people have always maintained that the Reserve in Gillam promised to us was never fulfilled due to future hydro development plans and costs to establish reserves

Various measures were taken to ensure the land in Gillam would not become a Reserve for Fox Lake



# Fox Lake Cree Nation



In 1930, the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (NRTA) was signed - land and its administration was transferred to the Manitoba from Canada - without consulting First Nations

# Fox Lake Cree Nation



There is much correspondence between Indian Affairs, the Province of Manitoba and Fox Lake Cree Nation regarding the request for Reserve from the period of 1939 to 1966



# Fox Lake Cree Nation

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Manitoba created the Local Government District (LGD) of Gillam in 1966

Fox Lake people were considered by the Government to be ‘squatters’ in our own land

# Fox Lake Cree Nation



The homes of families were bulldozed for the development of the Gillam Trailer Court - we were considered to be a short-term problem

Families displaced and moved without proper consultation - Indian Affairs provided funding to construct homes in a new area in Gillam, minimal resources





# Fox Lake Cree Nation

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The Water Power Reserve was identified and the area extended from Norway House to Hudson Bay. The Water Power Act was passed in 1967

In 1968, the Province states there will be no reserve in the townsite or in LGD boundaries



# Fox Lake Cree Nation

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In the end, Fox Lake Cree Nation was provided with 26 Federal Crown lots within the Gillam townsite – just recently designated as Reserve Land

Canada agreed to pay a grant in lieu of taxes to the LGD of Gillam for the lots



# Fox Lake Cree Nation

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Then came the dams:

Kettle Generating Station;

Long Spruce Generating Station; and

Limestone Generating Station

# Fox Lake Cree Nation



The mega hydro development over the years has had a damaging effect on the Fox Lake Cree - our way of life was changed forever

We no longer had access to the land -  
Were evicted from our homes -  
Waterways were changed ...

# Fox Lake Cree Nation

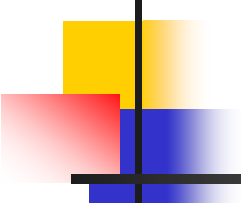


## Kettle Generating Station

Began in 1966 throughout 1975 when producing at full capacity

54,000 acres of land was flooded, large influx of workers, waterways diverted, Converter Stations and transmission lines were constructed





05/15/2005

# Fox Lake Cree Nation



## Influx of Workers during Construction Years and Operational Base

1961 -	<b>332</b>
1966 -	<b>356</b>
1969 -	1800 plus 1500 at Camp = <b>3300</b>
1971 -	1920 plus Camp = <b>3420</b>
1976 -	2840 plus Camp Sites = <b>5500</b> (approx)
1991 -	<b>1890</b>
1996 -	<b>1535</b>
2001 -	<b>1178</b>
2002 -	<b>1100</b>

(Source: MB Health)



# Fox Lake Cree Nation



## Long Spruce Generating Station

Began in approx. 1973 until producing at full capacity in 1978

3400 acres of land flooded, 8 miles of dykes to contain flooding, influx of workers in town and camp, Henday Converter Station constructed to link Long Spruce to Radisson and Henday





# Fox Lake Cree Nation

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## Limestone Generating Station

Construction began in 1976, suspended in 1979 and restarted in 1985, and was completed in 1992

500 acres of land flooded, transmission lines built, Sundance townsite and work camp constructed, large influx of workers





05/13/2007

# Fox Lake Cree Nation



## Northern Flood Agreement

The NFA was signed in 1977 with five First Nations: Split Lake, Norway House, Cross Lake, York Factory and Nelson House - dealt with effects of Hydro Development

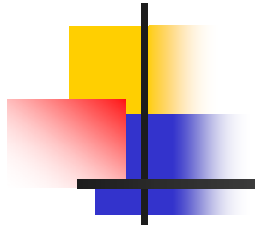
Fox Lake was not part of the NFA, due to not having any 'designated' land or reserve - but three dams were built in our backyard

# Fox Lake Cree Nation



Our way of life was changed significantly and continues to affect our members today

There are many examples of the social, physical and health impacts / violations of our people throughout the years



# Fox Lake Cree Nation



Being displaced and removed from  
our homes / homeland

Restrictions on the land to hunting,  
gathering and fishing / no access to  
traditional areas

Alcohol / drug related issues

Crime / Justice Issues

# Fox Lake Cree Nation



Discrimination – personal level, employment,  
from services in community, from  
Government, in the school,

Abuse/Violations - women experienced

Our Children - discrimination within school,  
recreational activities

Racism - all Fox Lake people experienced  
from all levels of services / government





# Fox Lake Cree Nation



## Impact Settlement Agreement

Between: Fox Lake Cree Nation, Manitoba Hydro and Province of Manitoba

\* signed on December 6, 2004

\* was a avenue for Fox Lake to move forward – not to forget the experiences, to begin dealing with the issues

# Fox Lake Cree Nation



On September 9, 2009 – Fox Lake Cree Nation acquired reserve land in Gillam – 3.21 acres on Kettle Crescent

“A Kwis Ki Mahka” Indian Reserve means “where it turns around” – referring to the train

# Fox Lake Cree Nation



Currently, Fox Lake Cree Nation has a small reserve at Bird and continues to occupy Crown lots / Reserve in Gillam

We continue to fight for our promised land in Gillam, some land now designated as reserve

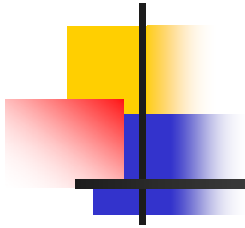
Our population is approximately 1100 and we are preparing for the new change that is once again coming







# Future site of Conawapa Generating Station



# Fox Lake Cree Nation



Today, we, the Fox Lake Cree Nation is asserting its voice and showing its strength and resilience - we have endured enough to destroy a people - but we have survived as a people and will be a part of all activities on our land and in our traditional territory