

# Annex A4: Round 6 APEP Materials

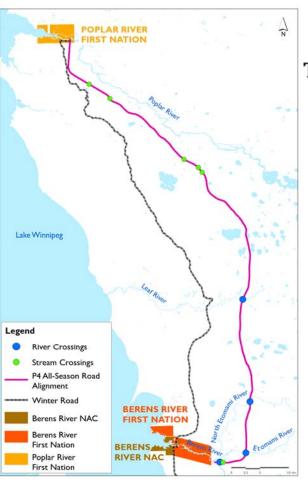


#### Annex A4-1:

Poster – Berens River First Nation Community Meeting (Round 6)

# AUGUST COMMUNITY MEETING

The East Side Road Authority (ESRA) is hosting a Community Meeting to discuss the proposed all-season road project between Berens River First Nation and Poplar River First Nation.



#### **Berens River School**

Thursday, September 10, 2015
Doors open 6:00 pm
Presentation 6:30 pm
Discussion until 8:30 pm



The Community Meeting is an opportunity to discuss the proposed all-season road project and potential mitigation measures as part of the Environmental Assessment process. We want to hear your views on this proposed all-season road.

For more information on the Community Meeting or the East Side Transportation Initiative, please contact:

www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca 1-866-356-6355





#### Annex A4-2:

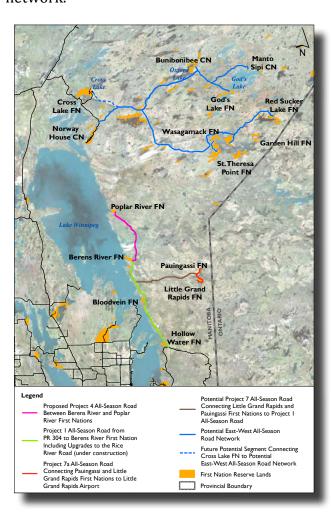
Newsletter Handout – Berens River First Nation Community Meeting (Round 6)

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2015

Every day is another step closer to an all-season road for families living on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. It has long been a dream for many residents to have an all-season road - improving access for such things as medical appointments, reducing the costs of goods like groceries and fuel, and making it easier for family and community members living away to visit. The proposed Berens River to Poplar River all-season road is just one piece of the proposed road network being planned, designed and built on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

#### Update on the East Side Transportation Initiative

In 2000, the communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg delivered a report to the Manitoba government called "Promises to Keep". The report provided recommendations on where government should focus their long-range planning activities for the east side of Lake Winnipeg including increased economic development opportunities and improvements to the transportation network.



The Manitoba East Side Road Authority (ESRA) has been mandated by the Manitoba government to oversee the planning and construction of the all-season road network on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. The new road network will provide improved, safe and more reliable transportation services to remote and isolated communities on the east side of the lake and provide economic opportunities for local residents. The proposed all-season road network for the region will be approximately 1,028 km in length and cost an estimated \$3 billion (2011 dollars).

To date, 50 km of all-season road has been built to Bloodvein along with four permanent bridges. An additional 92 kilometres of right-of-way clearing has been completed towards Berens River. Three modular steel bridges have been installed which dramatically extend the winter road season in the Island Lake area. In addition, 233 kilometres of exploratory clearing has been undertaken along future road alignments on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.





# RIVER ENS E E

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2015

#### What is the Berens River to Poplar River All-Season Road?

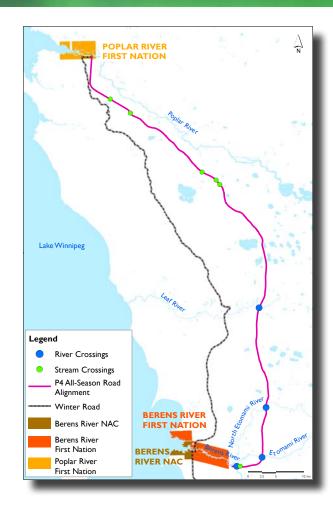
This section of the all-season road network is 94 kilometres long and will include four river crossings (Leaf River, North Etomami River, Etomami River, and Berens River), and six stream crossings.

ESRA has been working closely with First Nation leaders and community members in both Berens River and Poplar River to confirm the road alignment between the two communities. Local input and suggestions have been incorporated into the refinement of the proposed road alignment and into the design. For example, the proposed road alignment has been moved away from sensitive areas identified by the communities and other stakeholders.

#### **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required by federal and provincial government regulators for the all-season road. The EIA is used to predict the possible effects of the project on the environment and must be approved by the regulators before construction can start. The goal of the EIA is to identify ways of avoiding or minimizing potential negative effects of the project to the environment. The EIA considers many factors such as:

- Possible effects on wildlife, fish, birds and other species
- Possible disturbance to sensitive land
- Comments and ideas of local residents
- Potential interaction with community land use activities
- Ways the environment can affect the project like fire, floods and climate change.









# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2015

#### **Community Engagement**

Communities like Berens River and Poplar River play an important role in the EIA process for road projects on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. Community members have historical knowledge and understanding of their lands and environment which helps ESRA plan the best project possible. The Manitoba government has been interacting with communities on the east side of the Lake since 2000. A number of community meetings have been held this spring and summer in both Berens River and Poplar River to gather information from elders, Chief and council, and other community members. A meeting was also held in Winnipeg to reach out to community members who live in Winnipeg, as well as the general public.



#### Community Meetings - What We've Heard So Far

to the East Side Road Authority
Community Meeting
for the Berens River to
Poplar River All-Season Road



The communities of Berens River and Poplar River shared important information with the ESRA team during these meetings. This included:

- Moose and caribou and their habitats are important for the local communities
- There are sensitive areas that need to be avoided or protected and ESRA's proposed road alignment changes have been well received
- Hunting along the road alignment and during construction should be restricted while access to traplines should be maintained
- Bridges or other river/stream crossing structures should consider continued access by motorized boats, canoes, and snowmobiles
- Provide advance notice of construction to allow for cultural and traditional activities prior to start of work
- Ongoing communications with communities is important as the project moves forward.







# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2015

#### **Next Steps**

The input provided by communities and other stakeholders is important to ESRA and will be factored into the EIA and the design of the project. Another series of community and stakeholder meetings for the EIA are taking place this summer and fall. These meetings will provide the opportunity to engage community members, Chief and council, elders, trappers, harvesters, and other stakeholders. An additional meeting will be held in Winnipeg for those who are not able to attend the in-community meetings and for other stakeholders.



Discussions at these meetings will focus on:

- Providing updated project information
- Reviewing what we heard from you and others
- Discussing ways of avoiding or minimizing potential negative effects of the project.

Notices will be posted in communities in advance of the meeting dates.

#### Contact Us

We want to hear from you. Feedback and input from community members is critical to building the all-season road. Please provide your comments on the attached page.

Or if you have any questions or comments, please contact us at:



#### **Manitoba East Side Road Authority**

200 - 155 Carlton Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 3H8

Phone: 204-945-4900 in Winnipeg

Toll free: 1-866-356-6355

Fax: 204-948-2462

Email: eastside@gov.mb.ca

www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca





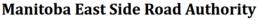


#### Annex A4-3:

Comment Sheet – Berens River First Nation Community Meeting (Round 6)

#### COMMENT FORM

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200 - 155 Carlton Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 3H8

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#### Annex A4-4:

Presentation – Berens River First Nation Community Meeting (Round 6)





# **EAST SIDE TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE Berens River to Poplar River All-Season Road**



Presentation to Berens River First Nation

September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015



#### Why are we here?

#### We are here today to:

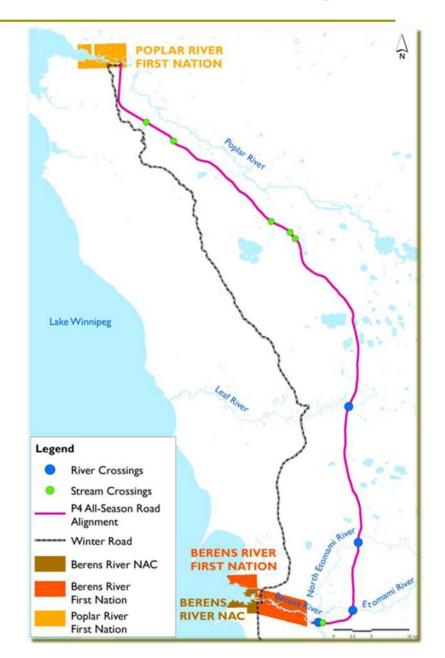
- Provide updated project information
- Review what we have heard from your community
- Discuss ways of avoiding or minimizing potential negative effects resulting from the project





#### **Overview of the Project**

- 94 km all-season road connecting Berens River with Poplar River includes:
  - Bridge crossings of 4 rivers:
    - Berens River
    - Etomami River
    - North Etomami River
    - Leaf River
  - Culvert crossings of 6 unnamed streams
  - Equalization culverts at multiple locations

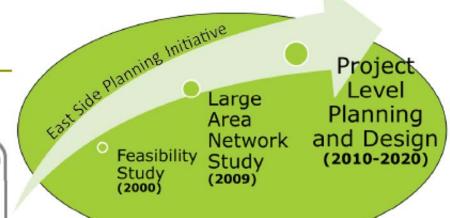




#### **History of Planning and Engagement**

Background Planning

- 2000 Feasibility Study assesses transportation options and the feasibility of a road network on the east side of Lake Winnipeg
- 2004 East Side Planning Initiative generates "Promises to Keep" that identify all-season road planning as a priority objective



Route Corridor

- 2009-2011 Large Area Network Transportation Study
- Assesses network options and recommends route corridors
- Identifies possible road alignments

Road Alignment

- 2012 2013 Road Alignment Selection
- Local communities and other stakeholders assist with the selection of preferred alignment to study in greater detail

Final Alignment

- 2013 2015 Environmental and Engineering Studies
- Environmental Impact Assessment to consider possible effects and mitigation
- Refinement of road alignment based on findings of baseline and engineering studies and community, stakeholder and public input





#### **Prior Community Discussions**

#### Previously ESRA has met with:

- the Berens River community
- the Poplar River community
- Asatiswisipe Aki Ma Ma
   Wichitowin Mutual Land
   Relationship Board & elders
- Winnipeg-based community members







# What We Heard at April & May 2015 Meetings

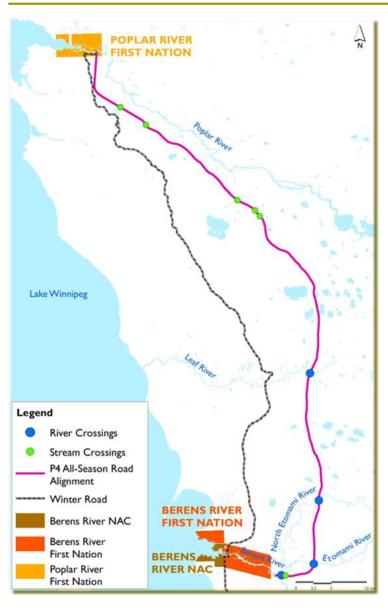
- Support to build the all-season road
- How to get information about job opportunities
- Provide advance notice of construction to allow for cultural and traditional activities prior to start of work
- On-going communication as the project progresses







# What We Heard at April & May 2015 Meetings



- How Traditional Knowledge discussed is used in the EIA
- Support for alignment changes made to address sensitive areas
- Travel routes (i.e. trails and waterways) and access to trap lines be maintained and protected
- Restrict hunting along the road alignment and during construction



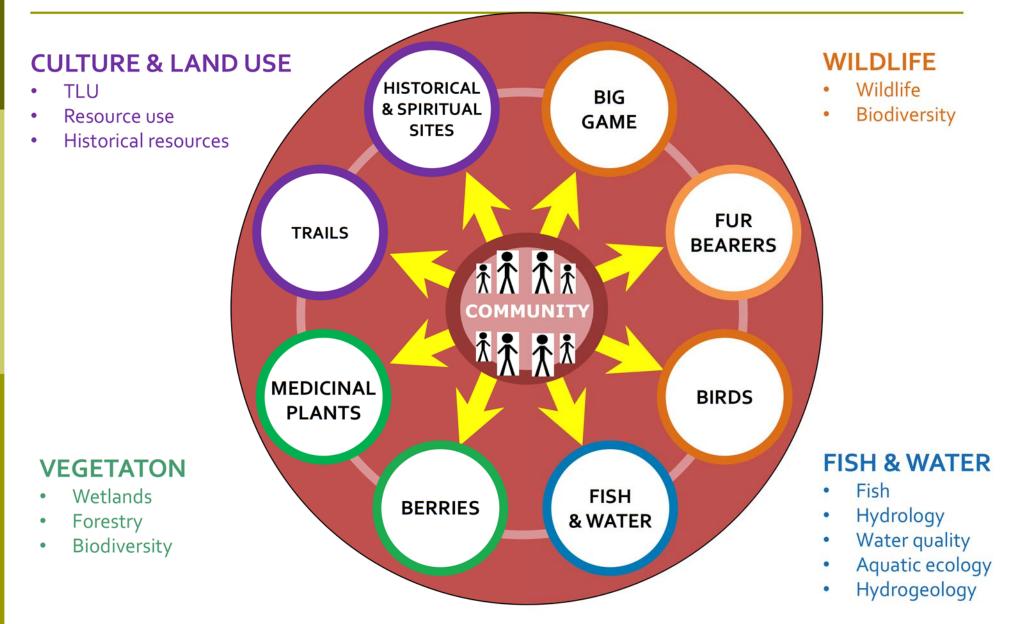
# What We Heard at April & May 2015 Meetings

- Protect sensitive sites and areas, prohibit access during construction
- Moose, caribou, and their habitats are important valued components
- Sensitive lifecycle stages (i.e. fish spawning) to be considered
- Potential effects of construction noise and blasting on sensitive areas



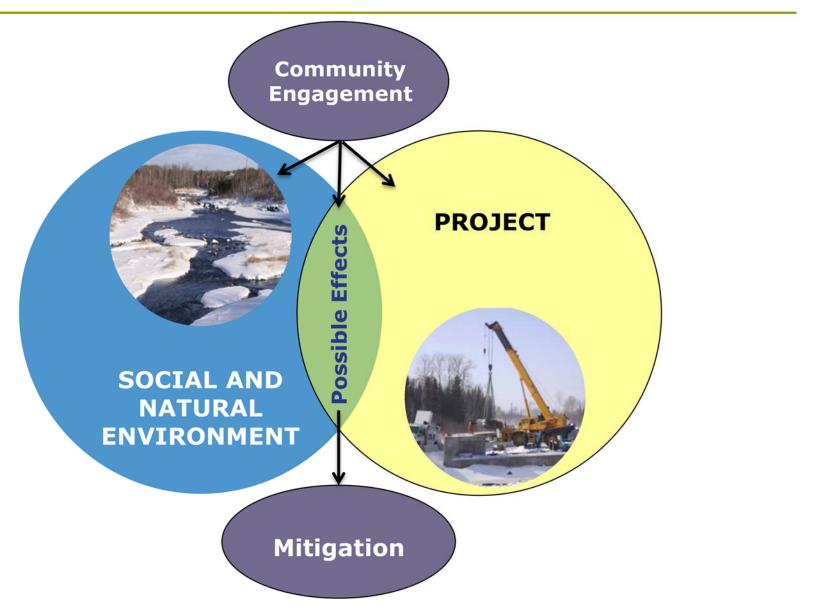


#### **Traditional Knowledge & Land Use**





#### What We Want to Talk About Today





#### **Options for Mitigation**

"Mitigation" means ways to:

# Avoid Reduce Repair Offset Monitor

potential negative effects of the project



Possible Changes

Suggested Mitigation



Minimize extent of clearing and maintain treed buffers

Change in habitat



Restrict timing of clearing to fall and winter



Revegetate disturbed areas with native plant species



Possible Changes

Restrict construction worker activity to project area only

Suggested Mitigation

Disturbance from construction activities



Restrict high-noise activities (e.g. blasting) during sensitive periods (e.g. calving)

Accidental collisions with vehicle



Maintain sightlines through mowing and brushing, reduce speed limits, and use signage



Possible Changes

**Suggested Mitigation** 



Restrict construction worker activity to project area only

Increased public access



Block and reclaim temporary access roads following construction



Possible Changes

**Suggested Mitigation** 



Maintain access to traplines and trails during and following construction

Increased public access



Restrict hunting from road



# Possible Effects & Mitigation – Aquatics

Possible Changes

Disturbance from construction activities



**Suggested Mitigation** 

Restrict construction worker activity to project area only



Avoid discharge and spills of sediment and fuel through proper management practices



Design culverts for unrestricted passage and natural flows



# Possible Effects & Mitigation – Aquatics & Birds

Possible Changes

**Suggested Mitigation** 

Disturbance from construction activities



Restrict high-noise activities (e.g. blasting) during sensitive periods



Avoid and protect active nesting/spawning areas and maintain undisturbed no-go zones



# Possible Effects & Mitigation – Vegetation & Traditional Activities

Possible Changes

**Suggested Mitigation** 

Minimize extent of clearing and maintain treed buffers

Removal of vegetation along alignment and borrow sites



Map important heritage and traditional use areas



Revegetate disturbed areas with native plant species



# Possible Effects & Mitigation – Vegetation & Traditional Activities

Possible Changes

Loss or damage to heritage, cultural, and or community use sites and objects from construction activities



#### Suggested Mitigation

Map important heritage, cultural, or community use sites and objects prior to construction



Identify and maintain undisturbed no-go zones and buffers



Relocate sites or objects

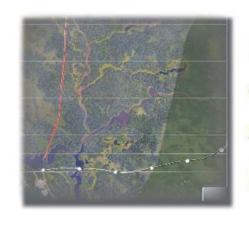


# Possible Effects & Mitigation – Vegetation & Traditional Activities

Possible Changes

**Suggested Mitigation** 

Loss of "At Risk" plant species



Map plant species of concern in baseline studies and implement protection plans

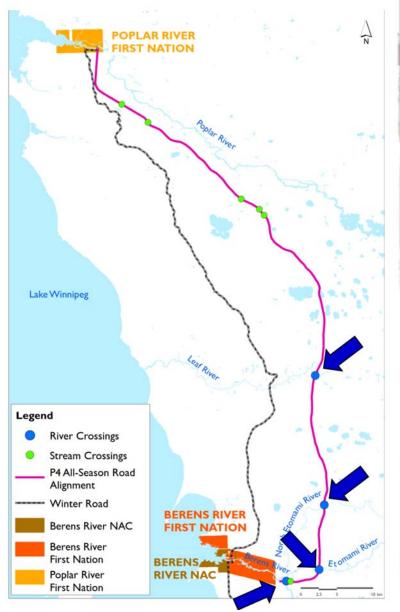
Changes to animal populations or distribution affecting harvest



Protect animal populations (see animal boards)



# Possible Effects & Mitigation – River Crossings





Construct multi-span bridge over Berens River to maintain travel routes



Construct clear-span bridges over Etomami, North Etomami, and Leaf rivers to maintain travel routes



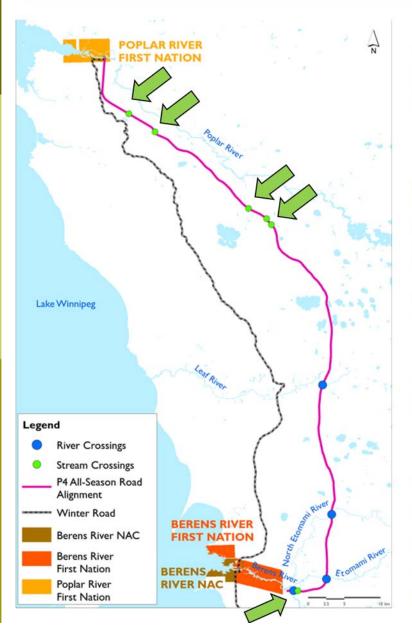
Restrict boat launch and snowmobile access points around bridges



Implement appropriate erosion and sediment control around bridges



# Possible Effects & Mitigation - Stream Crossings





Construct culverts to maintain travel routes over streams



Provide portage access points for travel by canoe



Restrict boat launch and snowmobile access points around bridges



Implement appropriate erosion and sediment control around culverts



#### **Schedule**

**East Side Large Area Transportation Study** 

2009-2011



Alignment Selection and Baseline Studies (Exploratory Clearing)

**Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** 

**Functional Design** 

**EIA Approvals** 

Other Environmental Approvals

**Detailed Design** 

**Road Construction** 

2012 - Fall 2015

April – Fall 2015

Fall 2015-Fall 2016

Fall 2015 - Jan 2019

2016 Onwards



- Meeting in Winnipeg with community members and public
- Finalize the EIA document and submit to federal and provincial regulators
- On-going communications and dialogue with the communities



### Please stay and talk with us

#### **Manitoba East Side Road Authority**

Toll free: 1-866-356-6355 Fax: 204-948-2462

Email: eastside@gov.mb.ca www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca





# Annex A4-5:

Display Boards – Berens River First Nation Community Meeting (Round 6)

#### PROJECT OVERVIEW Bunibonibee CN Manto **Red Sucke** Lake FN Lake FN Lake FN Norway Wasagamack FN House CN Garden Hill FN St.Theresa Point FN Poplar River FN **Berens River FN** Pauingassi FN Little Grand Rapids FN **Bloodvein FN** Hollow Water FN Legend Potential Project 7 All-Season Road Proposed Project 4 All-Season Road Connecting Little Grand Rapids and Between Berens River and Poplar Pauingassi First Nations to Project I River First Nations Project I All-Season Road from Potential East-West All-Season PR 304 to Berens River First Nation Road Network Including Upgrades to the Rice Future Potential Segment Connecting River Road (under construction) Cross Lake FN to Potential East-West All-Season Road Network Project 7a All-Season Road Connecting Pauingassi and Little First Nation Reserve Lands Grand Rapids First Nations to Little Grand Rapids Airport Provincial Boundary

This project consists of **94 km** of all-season road connecting Berens River First Nation to Poplar River First Nation.

#### There will be:

- 4 river crossings at:
  - Leaf River
  - North Etomami River
  - Etomami River
  - Berens River
- 6 stream crossings
- Equalization culverts at multiple locations



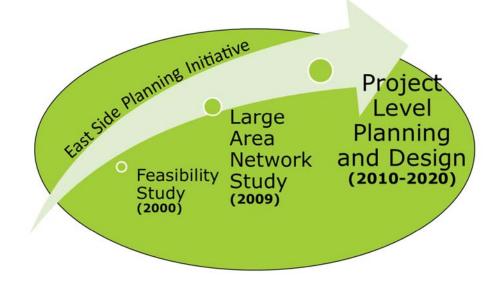


# ALL-SEASON ROAD PLANNING



The Manitoba government began engaging and planning for all-season roads with communities on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg through the 2000 Feasibility Study and the 2009 Large Area Network Study.

In 2015, as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, ESRA continues to engage and have conversations with communities, elders, Chief and council, other stakeholders, and the public.

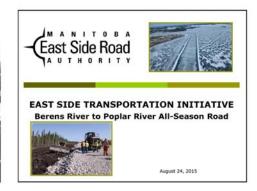












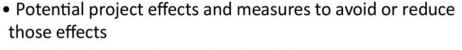


# EIA ENGAGEMENT



As part of the Berens River to Poplar River All-Season Road Project, ESRA is discussing the project in terms of:

- Refinement of proposed road alignment
- Valued Components to be considered
- Environmental site conditions



Construction employment and training











#### The most recent meetings were held with communities on:

Poplar River
April 23, 2015
May 26, 2015
August 24, 2015

April 30, 2015 May 21, 2015 September 10, 2015 Winnipeg-based community members and the general public May 28, 2015



# WHAT WE HEARD



#### Common topics discussed during the meetings included:

- Support to build the all-season road
- Questions about how to get information about job opportunities
- Request to provide advance notice of construction to allow for cultural and traditional activities prior to start of work
- Request for on-going project-specific communication provided as the project progresses
- Explanations about how Traditional Knowledge discussed is used in the EIA
- Support for alignment changes made to avoid sensitive areas



Traditional Knowledge



**Cultural Activities** 



Alignment Changes



**Job Opportunities** 



# WHAT WE HEARD



#### Common topics discussed during the meetings included:

- Request to protect sensitive sites and areas, consider setbacks, restrict access, and erect temporary barriers to prohibit access during construction
- Confirmation that moose, caribou, and their habitats are important valued components
- Request for sensitive lifecycle stages (i.e. spawning fish) to be considered
- Request for travel routes (i.e. trails and waterways) and access to traplines to be maintained and protected
- Support for restricting hunting along the road alignment and during construction
- Interest in the potential effects of construction noise and blasting on sensitive areas









**Access Restrictions** 

Caribou

**Nesting Areas** 

Travel Routes

#### MOOSE, CARIBOU, & FURBEARERS East Side Road APPLIES TO: IS THE SUGGESTED POSSIBLE CHANGES -> SUGGESTED MITIGATION MITIGATION FUR-MOOSE CARIBOU IMPORTANT TO YOU? **BEARERS** Minimize extent of clearing and maintain treed buffers YES MAYBE NO Restrict timing of clearing Change in habitat to fall and winter YES MAYBE NO Revegetate disturbed areas with native plant species YES MAYBE Maintain sightlines Accidental through mowing and collisions with NIGHT DANGER brushing, reduce speed vehicles limits, and use signage MAYBE YES NO

#### MOOSE, CARIBOU, & FURBEARERS East Side Road APPLIES TO: IS THE SUGGESTED POSSIBLE CHANGES → SUGGESTED MITIGATION MITIGATION FUR-MOOSE CARIBOU IMPORTANT TO YOU? **BEARERS** Restrict construction worker activity to project area only Disturbance YES MAYBE NO from construction Restrict high-noise activities activities (e.g. blasting) during sensitive periods (e.g. calving) YES MAYBE NO Block and reclaim temporary access roads following construction YES MAYBE Increased public access Restrict hunting from road MAYBE YES NO

#### BIRDS, FISH, REPTILES, & AMPHIBIANS East Side Road APPLIES TO: IS THE SUGGESTED POSSIBLE CHANGES - SUGGESTED MITIGATION MITIGATION REPTILES & **BIRDS** FISH AMPHIBIANS IMPORTANT TO YOU? Minimize extent of clearing and maintain treed buffers around waterbodies YES MAYBE NO Restrict timing of clearing Change in habitat to fall and winter YES MAYBE NO Restore disturbed areas with native plant species and construct new habitat to offset losses YES MAYBE Maintain sightlines Accidental through mowing and collisions with brushing, reduce speed vehicles limits, and use signage MAYBE YES NO

#### BIRDS, FISH, REPTILES, & AMPHIBIANS East Side Road APPLIES TO: IS THE SUGGESTED POSSIBLE CHANGES - SUGGESTED MITIGATION MITIGATION REPTILES & **BIRDS** FISH AMPHIBIANS IMPORTANT TO YOU? Restrict construction worker activity to project area only YES MAYBE NO Restrict high-noise activities (e.g. blasting) during sensitive periods Disturbance YES MAYBE NO from construction Avoid and protect activities active nesting/spawning areas and maintain undisturbed no-go zones YES MAYBE Design culverts for unrestricted passage and natural flows MAYBE YES NO

#### BIRDS, FISH, REPTILES, & AMPHIBIANS East Side Road APPLIES TO: IS THE SUGGESTED POSSIBLE CHANGES - SUGGESTED MITIGATION MITIGATION REPTILES & **BIRDS** FISH AMPHIBIANS IMPORTANT TO YOU? Avoid discharge and Disturbance from spills of sediment and construction fuel through proper activities management practices YES MAYBE NO Restrict construction worker activity to the project area only YES MAYBE NO Block and reclaim Increased public temporary access roads access following construction YES MAYBE Restrict hunting from road MAYBE YES NO

#### VEGETATION & TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES East Side Road APPLIES TO: IS THE SUGGESTED POSSIBLE CHANGES - SUGGESTED MITIGATION MITIGATION TRADITIONAL HERITAGE **VEGETATION** IMPORTANT TO YOU? USE Minimize extent of clearing and maintain treed buffers YES MAYBE NO Removal of vegetation along Map important heritage alignment and and traditional use areas at borrow sites YES MAYBE NO Revegetate disturbed areas with native plant species YES MAYBE Map plant species of concern in baseline Loss of "At Risk" studies and implement plant species protection plans MAYBE YES NO

Loss or damage

to heritage, cultural, and/

or community

use sites and

objects from

construction activities

Changes to animal

populations

or distribution

affecting harvest

# VEGETATION & TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES

East Side Road

## POSSIBLE CHANGES - SUGGESTED MITIGATION

Map important heritage, cultural, or community use sites and objects prior to construction



Identify and maintain undisturbed no-go zones and buffers



Relocate sites or objects



Protect animal populations (see animal boards)



APPLIES TO:

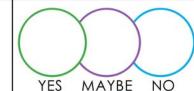
HERITAGE

VEGETATION



TRADITIONAL

USE



IS THE SUGGESTED

MITIGATION

IMPORTANT TO YOU?





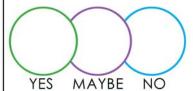












#### VEGETATION & TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES East Side Road APPLIES TO: IS THE SUGGESTED POSSIBLE CHANGES - SUGGESTED MITIGATION MITIGATION TRADITIONAL **VEGETATION** HERITAGE IMPORTANT TO YOU? USE Block and reclaim temporary access roads following construction YES MAYBE Restrict hunting from Increased public road access YES MAYBE Maintain access to traplines and trails during and following construction YES MAYBE

NO

NO

# RIVER CROSSINGS

# East Side Road

#### SUGGESTED MITIGATION





Construct multi-span bridge over Berens River to maintain travel routes



Construct clear-span bridges over Etomami, North Etomami, and Leaf rivers to maintain travel routes

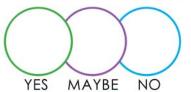


Restrict boat launch and snowmobile access points around bridges

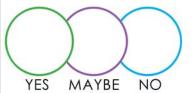


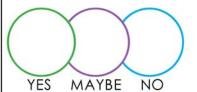
Implement appropriate erosion and sediment control around bridges















Lake Winnipeg

River Crossings

Stream Crossings P4 All-Season Road Alignment

Berens River NAC

Berens River

Poplar River

First Nation

**BERENS RIVER** 

FIRST NATION

RIVER NAC

Legend

# STREAM CROSSINGS

**POPLAR RIVER** 

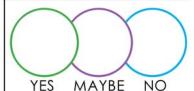
# East Side Road





Construct culverts to maintain travel routes over streams

IS THE SUGGESTED MITIGATION IMPORTANT TO YOU?











Provide portage access points for travel by canoe



Restrict boat launch and snowmobile access points around stream crossings



Implement appropriate erosion and sediment control around culverts

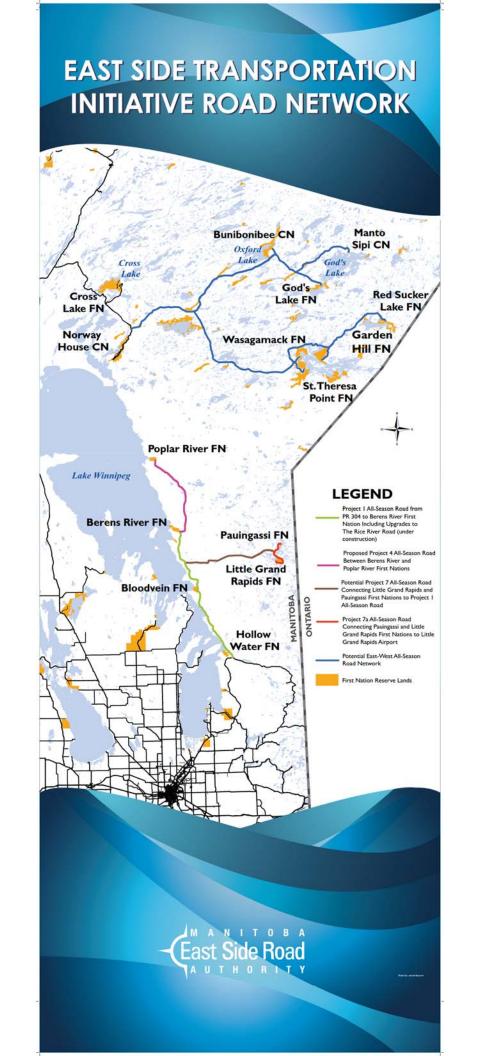




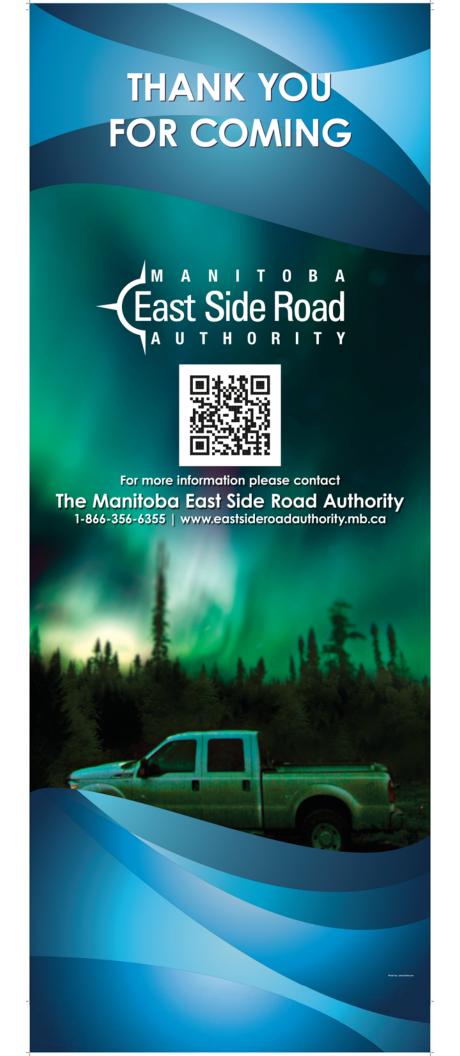
## Annex A4-6:

Welcome Boards – Berens River First Nation Community Meeting (Round 6)











# Annex A4-7:

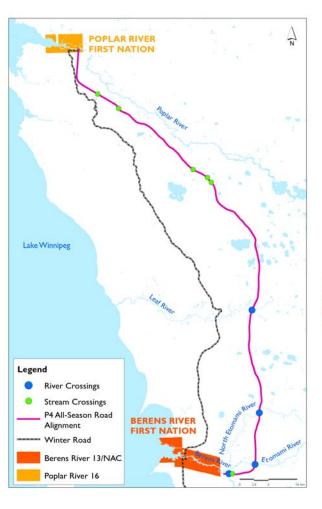
T-Shirt Proof – Berens River First Nation Community Meeting (Round 6)





# Annex A4-8:

Poster – Poplar River First Nation Community Meeting (Round 6) The East Side Road Authority (ESRA) is hosting a Community Meeting to discuss the proposed all-season road project between Poplar River First Nation and Berens River First Nation.



### **Poplar River School**

Monday, August 24, 2015
Doors open 6:00 pm
Presentation 6:30 pm
Discussion until 8:30 pm



The Community Meeting is an opportunity to discuss the proposed all-season road project and potential mitigation measures as part of the Environmental Assessment process. We want to hear your views on this proposed all-season road.

For more information on the Community Meeting or the East Side Transportation Initiative, please contact:

www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca 1-866-356-6355





# Annex A4-9:

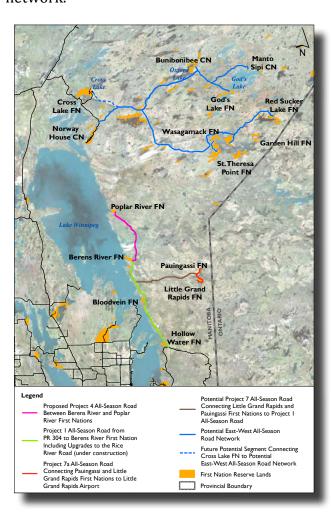
Newsletter Handout – Poplar River First Nation Community Meeting (Round 6)

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2015

Every day is another step closer to an all-season road for families living on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. It has long been a dream for many residents to have an all-season road - improving access for such things as medical appointments, reducing the costs of goods like groceries and fuel, and making it easier for family and community members living away to visit. The proposed Berens River to Poplar River all-season road is just one piece of the proposed road network being planned, designed and built on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

#### Update on the East Side Transportation Initiative

In 2000, the communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg delivered a report to the Manitoba government called "Promises to Keep". The report provided recommendations on where government should focus their long-range planning activities for the east side of Lake Winnipeg including increased economic development opportunities and improvements to the transportation network.



The Manitoba East Side Road Authority (ESRA) has been mandated by the Manitoba government to oversee the planning and construction of the all-season road network on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. The new road network will provide improved, safe and more reliable transportation services to remote and isolated communities on the east side of the lake and provide economic opportunities for local residents. The proposed all-season road network for the region will be approximately 1,028 km in length and cost an estimated \$3 billion (2011 dollars).

To date, 50 km of all-season road has been built to Bloodvein along with four permanent bridges. An additional 92 kilometres of right-of-way clearing has been completed towards Berens River. Three modular steel bridges have been installed which dramatically extend the winter road season in the Island Lake area. In addition, 233 kilometres of exploratory clearing has been undertaken along future road alignments on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.





# RIVER ENS E E

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2015

# What is the Berens River to Poplar River All-Season Road?

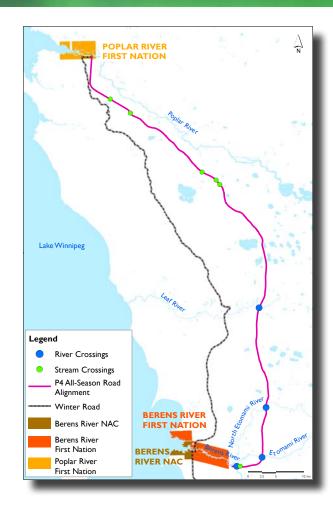
This section of the all-season road network is 94 kilometres long and will include four river crossings (Leaf River, North Etomami River, Etomami River, and Berens River), and six stream crossings.

ESRA has been working closely with First Nation leaders and community members in both Berens River and Poplar River to confirm the road alignment between the two communities. Local input and suggestions have been incorporated into the refinement of the proposed road alignment and into the design. For example, the proposed road alignment has been moved away from sensitive areas identified by the communities and other stakeholders.

#### **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required by federal and provincial government regulators for the all-season road. The EIA is used to predict the possible effects of the project on the environment and must be approved by the regulators before construction can start. The goal of the EIA is to identify ways of avoiding or minimizing potential negative effects of the project to the environment. The EIA considers many factors such as:

- Possible effects on wildlife, fish, birds and other species
- Possible disturbance to sensitive land
- Comments and ideas of local residents
- Potential interaction with community land use activities
- Ways the environment can affect the project like fire, floods and climate change.









# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2015

#### **Community Engagement**

Communities like Berens River and Poplar River play an important role in the EIA process for road projects on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. Community members have historical knowledge and understanding of their lands and environment which helps ESRA plan the best project possible. The Manitoba government has been interacting with communities on the east side of the Lake since 2000. A number of community meetings have been held this spring and summer in both Berens River and Poplar River to gather information from elders, Chief and council, and other community members. A meeting was also held in Winnipeg to reach out to community members who live in Winnipeg, as well as the general public.



#### Community Meetings - What We've Heard So Far

to the East Side Road Authority
Community Meeting
for the Berens River to
Poplar River All-Season Road



The communities of Berens River and Poplar River shared important information with the ESRA team during these meetings. This included:

- Moose and caribou and their habitats are important for the local communities
- There are sensitive areas that need to be avoided or protected and ESRA's proposed road alignment changes have been well received
- Hunting along the road alignment and during construction should be restricted while access to traplines should be maintained
- Bridges or other river/stream crossing structures should consider continued access by motorized boats, canoes, and snowmobiles
- Provide advance notice of construction to allow for cultural and traditional activities prior to start of work
- Ongoing communications with communities is important as the project moves forward.





# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2015

#### **Next Steps**

The input provided by communities and other stakeholders is important to ESRA and will be factored into the EIA and the design of the project. Another series of community and stakeholder meetings for the EIA are taking place this summer and fall. These meetings will provide the opportunity to engage community members, Chief and council, elders, trappers, harvesters, and other stakeholders. An additional meeting will be held in Winnipeg for those who are not able to attend the in-community meetings and for other stakeholders.



Discussions at these meetings will focus on:

- Providing updated project information
- Reviewing what we heard from you and others
- Discussing ways of avoiding or minimizing potential negative effects of the project.

Notices will be posted in communities in advance of the meeting dates.

#### Contact Us

We want to hear from you. Feedback and input from community members is critical to building the all-season road. Please provide your comments on the attached page.

Or if you have any questions or comments, please contact us at:



#### **Manitoba East Side Road Authority**

200 - 155 Carlton Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 3H8

Phone: 204-945-4900 in Winnipeg

Toll free: 1-866-356-6355

Fax: 204-948-2462

Email: eastside@gov.mb.ca

www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca







## Annex A4-10:

Comment Sheet – Poplar River First Nation Community Meeting (Round 6)

# COMMENT FORM

-			



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## **Annex A4-11:**

Presentation – Poplar River First Nation Community Meeting (Round 6)





# **EAST SIDE TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE**Berens River to Poplar River All-Season Road



Presentation to Poplar River First Nation

August 24, 2015



# Why are we here?

## We are here today to:

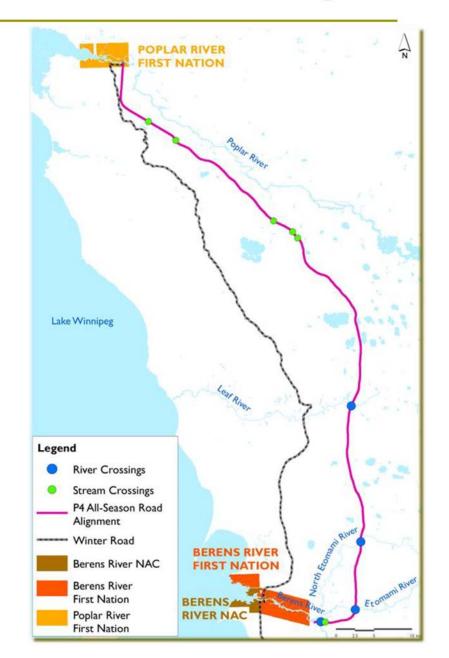
- Provide updated project information
- Review what we have heard from your community
- Discuss ways of avoiding or minimizing potential negative effects resulting from the project





# **Overview of the Project**

- 94 km all-season road connecting Berens River with Poplar River includes:
  - Bridge crossings of 4 rivers:
    - Berens River
    - Etomami River
    - North Etomami River
    - Leaf River
  - Culvert crossings of 6 streams
  - Equalization culverts at multiple locations
- 430m on-reserve access road on Poplar River First Nation

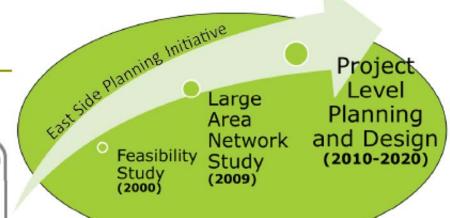




## **History of Planning and Engagement**

Background Planning

- 2000 Feasibility Study assesses transportation options and the feasibility of a road network on the east side of Lake Winnipeg
- 2004 East Side Planning Initiative generates "Promises to Keep" that identify all-season road planning as a priority objective



Route Corridor

- 2009-2011 Large Area Network Transportation Study
- Assesses network options and recommends route corridors
- Identifies possible road alignments

Road Alignment

- 2012 2013 Road Alignment Selection
- Local communities and other stakeholders assist with the selection of preferred alignment to study in greater detail

Final Alignment

- 2013 2015 Environmental and Engineering Studies
- Environmental Impact Assessment to consider possible effects and mitigation
- Refinement of road alignment based on findings of baseline and engineering studies and community, stakeholder and public input





## **Prior Community Discussions**

## Previously ESRA has met with:

- the Berens River community
- the Poplar River community
- Asatiswisipe Aki Ma Ma
   Wichitowin Mutual Land
   Relationship Board & elders
- Winnipeg-based community members







# What We Heard at April & May 2015 Meetings

- Support to build the all-season road
- How to get information about job opportunities
- Provide advance notice of construction to allow for cultural and traditional activities prior to start of work
- On-going communication as the project progresses







# What We Heard at April & May 2015 Meetings



- How Traditional Knowledge discussed is used in the EIA
- Support for alignment changes made to address sensitive areas
- Travel routes (i.e. trails and waterways) and access to trap lines be maintained and protected
- Restrict hunting along the road alignment and during construction



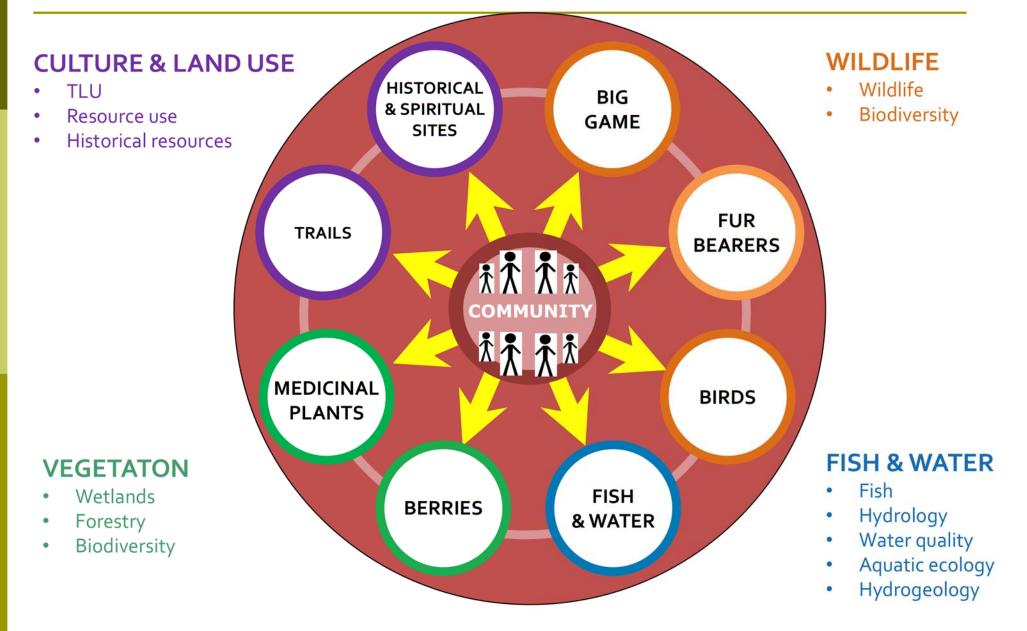
# What We Heard at April & May 2015 Meetings

- Protect sensitive sites and areas, prohibit access during construction
- Moose, caribou, and their habitats are important valued components
- Sensitive lifecycle stages (i.e. fish spawning) to be considered
- Potential effects of construction noise and blasting on sensitive areas



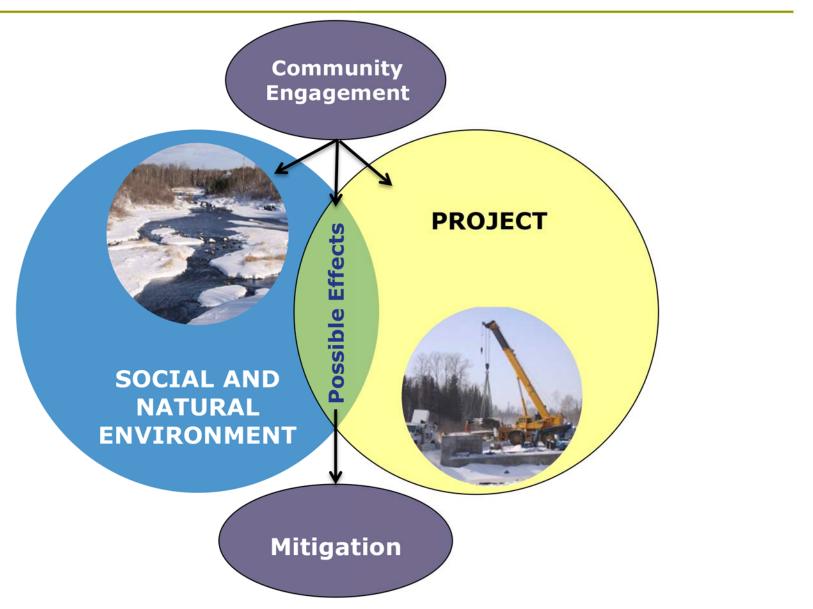


## **Traditional Knowledge & Land Use**





## What We Want to Talk About Today





## **Options for Mitigation**

"Mitigation" means ways to:

# Avoid Reduce Repair Offset Monitor

potential negative effects of the project



Possible Changes

Suggested Mitigation



Minimize extent of clearing and maintain treed buffers

Change in habitat



Restrict timing of clearing to fall and winter



Revegetate disturbed areas with native plant species



Possible Changes

**Suggested Mitigation** 

Disturbance from construction activities

Accidental collisions with vehicle



Restrict construction worker activity to project area only



Restrict high-noise activities (e.g. blasting) during sensitive periods (e.g. calving)



Maintain sightlines through mowing and brushing, reduce speed limits, and use signage



Possible Changes

**Suggested Mitigation** 



Restrict construction worker activity to project area only

Increased public access



Block and reclaim temporary access roads following construction



Possible Changes

**Suggested Mitigation** 



Maintain access to traplines and trails during and following construction

Increased public access



Restrict hunting from road



# Possible Effects & Mitigation – Aquatics

Possible Changes

Disturbance from construction activities

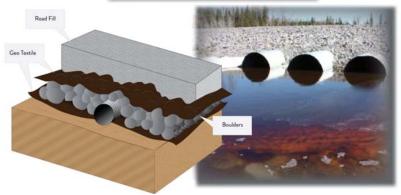


**Suggested Mitigation** 

Restrict construction worker activity to project area only



Avoid discharge and spills of sediment and fuel through proper management practices



Design culverts for unrestricted passage and natural flows



# Possible Effects & Mitigation – Aquatics & Birds

Possible Changes

**Suggested Mitigation** 

Disturbance from construction activities



Restrict high-noise activities (e.g. blasting) during sensitive periods



Avoid and protect active nesting/spawning areas and maintain undisturbed no-go zones



## Possible Effects & Mitigation – **Vegetation & Traditional Activities**

**Possible** Changes

**Suggested Mitigation** 

Removal of vegetation along alignment and borrow sites



Minimize extent of clearing and maintain treed buffers



Map important heritage and traditional use areas



Revegetate disturbed areas with native plant species



# Possible Effects & Mitigation – Vegetation & Traditional Activities

Possible Changes

Loss or damage to heritage, cultural, and or community use sites and objects from construction activities



## **Suggested Mitigation**

Map important heritage, cultural, or community use sites and objects prior to construction



Identify and maintain undisturbed no-go zones and buffers



Relocate sites or objects

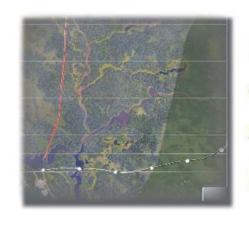


# Possible Effects & Mitigation – Vegetation & Traditional Activities

Possible Changes

**Suggested Mitigation** 

Loss of "At Risk" plant species



Map plant species of concern in baseline studies and implement protection plans

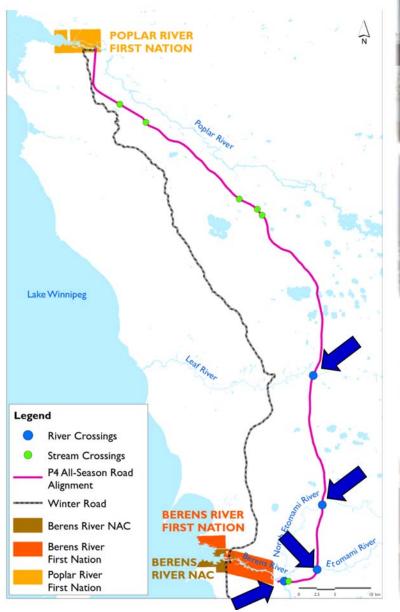
Changes to animal populations or distribution affecting harvest



Protect animal populations (see animal boards)



# Possible Effects & Mitigation – River Crossings





Construct multi-span bridge over Berens River to maintain travel routes



Construct clear-span bridges over Etomami, North Etomami, and Leaf rivers to maintain travel routes



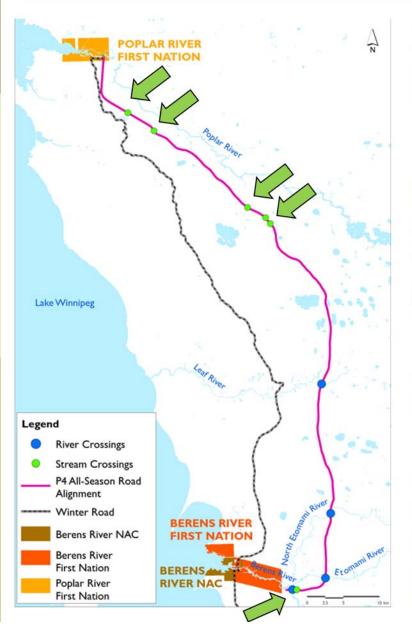
Restrict boat launch and snowmobile access points around bridges



Implement appropriate erosion and sediment control around bridges



# Possible Effects & Mitigation - Stream Crossings





Construct culverts to maintain travel routes over streams



Provide portage access points for travel by canoe



Restrict boat launch and snowmobile access points around bridges



Implement appropriate erosion and sediment control around culverts



# **Schedule**

**East Side Large Area Transportation Study** 

2009-2011



Alignment Selection and Baseline Studies (Exploratory Clearing)

**Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** 

**Functional Design** 

**EIA Approvals** 

Other Environmental Approvals

**Detailed Design** 

**Road Construction** 

2012 - Fall 2015

April – Fall 2015

Fall 2015-Fall 2016

Fall 2015 - Jan 2019

2016 Onwards



- Meeting in Winnipeg with community members and public
- Finalize the EIA document and submit to federal and provincial regulators
- On-going communications and dialogue with the communities



# Please stay and talk with us

#### **Manitoba East Side Road Authority**

Toll free: 1-866-356-6355 Fax: 204-948-2462

Email: eastside@gov.mb.ca www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca





## **Annex A4-12:**

Display Boards – Poplar River First Nation Community Meeting (Round 6)

#### PROJECT OVERVIEW Bunibonibee CN Manto **Red Sucke** Lake FN Lake FN Lake FN Norway Wasagamack FN House CN Garden Hill FN St.Theresa Point FN Poplar River FN **Berens River FN** Pauingassi FN Little Grand Rapids FN **Bloodvein FN** Hollow Water FN Legend Potential Project 7 All-Season Road Proposed Project 4 All-Season Road Connecting Little Grand Rapids and Between Berens River and Poplar Pauingassi First Nations to Project I River First Nations Project I All-Season Road from Potential East-West All-Season PR 304 to Berens River First Nation Road Network Including Upgrades to the Rice Future Potential Segment Connecting River Road (under construction) Cross Lake FN to Potential East-West All-Season Road Network Project 7a All-Season Road Connecting Pauingassi and Little First Nation Reserve Lands Grand Rapids First Nations to Little Grand Rapids Airport Provincial Boundary

This project consists of **94 km** of all-season road connecting Berens River First Nation to Poplar River First Nation.

#### There will be:

- 4 river crossings at:
  - Leaf River
  - North Etomami River
  - Etomami River
  - Berens River
- 6 stream crossings
- Equalization culverts at multiple locations



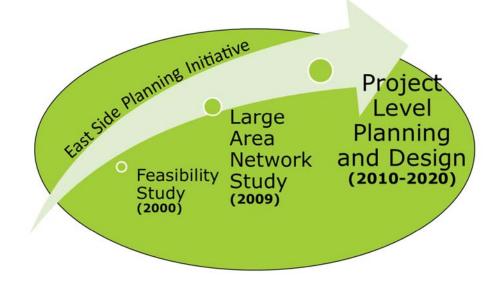


## ALL-SEASON ROAD PLANNING



The Manitoba government began engaging and planning for all-season roads with communities on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg through the 2000 Feasibility Study and the 2009 Large Area Network Study.

In 2015, as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, ESRA continues to engage and have conversations with communities, elders, Chief and council, other stakeholders, and the public.

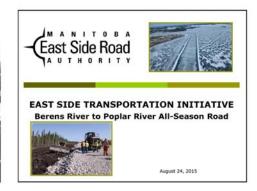












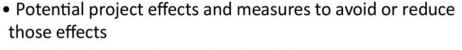


## EIA ENGAGEMENT



As part of the Berens River to Poplar River All-Season Road Project, ESRA is discussing the project in terms of:

- Refinement of proposed road alignment
- Valued Components to be considered
- Environmental site conditions



Construction employment and training











#### The most recent meetings were held with communities on:

Poplar River
April 23, 2015
May 26, 2015
August 24, 2015

April 30, 2015 May 21, 2015 September 10, 2015 Winnipeg-based community members and the general public May 28, 2015



## WHAT WE HEARD



#### Common topics discussed during the meetings included:

- Support to build the all-season road
- Questions about how to get information about job opportunities
- Request to provide advance notice of construction to allow for cultural and traditional activities prior to start of work
- Request for on-going project-specific communication provided as the project progresses
- Explanations about how Traditional Knowledge discussed is used in the EIA
- Support for alignment changes made to avoid sensitive areas



Traditional Knowledge



**Cultural Activities** 



Alignment Changes



**Job Opportunities** 



## WHAT WE HEARD



#### Common topics discussed during the meetings included:

- Request to protect sensitive sites and areas, consider setbacks, restrict access, and erect temporary barriers to prohibit access during construction
- Confirmation that moose, caribou, and their habitats are important valued components
- Request for sensitive lifecycle stages (i.e. spawning fish) to be considered
- Request for travel routes (i.e. trails and waterways) and access to traplines to be maintained and protected
- Support for restricting hunting along the road alignment and during construction
- Interest in the potential effects of construction noise and blasting on sensitive areas









**Access Restrictions** 

Caribou

**Nesting Areas** 

Travel Routes

#### MOOSE, CARIBOU, & FURBEARERS East Side Road APPLIES TO: IS THE SUGGESTED POSSIBLE CHANGES -> SUGGESTED MITIGATION MITIGATION FUR-MOOSE CARIBOU IMPORTANT TO YOU? **BEARERS** Minimize extent of clearing and maintain treed buffers YES MAYBE NO Restrict timing of clearing Change in habitat to fall and winter YES MAYBE NO Revegetate disturbed areas with native plant species YES MAYBE Maintain sightlines Accidental through mowing and collisions with NIGHT DANGER brushing, reduce speed vehicles limits, and use signage MAYBE YES NO

#### MOOSE, CARIBOU, & FURBEARERS East Side Road APPLIES TO: IS THE SUGGESTED POSSIBLE CHANGES -> SUGGESTED MITIGATION MITIGATION FUR-MOOSE CARIBOU IMPORTANT TO YOU? **BEARERS** Restrict construction worker activity to project area only Disturbance YES MAYBE NO from construction Restrict high-noise activities activities (e.g. blasting) during sensitive periods (e.g. calving) YES MAYBE NO Block and reclaim temporary access roads following construction YES MAYBE Increased public access Restrict hunting from road MAYBE YES NO

#### BIRDS, FISH, REPTILES, & AMPHIBIANS East Side Road APPLIES TO: IS THE SUGGESTED POSSIBLE CHANGES - SUGGESTED MITIGATION MITIGATION REPTILES & **BIRDS** FISH AMPHIBIANS IMPORTANT TO YOU? Minimize extent of clearing and maintain treed buffers around waterbodies YES MAYBE NO Restrict timing of clearing Change in habitat to fall and winter YES MAYBE NO Restore disturbed areas with native plant species and construct new habitat to offset losses YES MAYBE Maintain sightlines Accidental through mowing and collisions with brushing, reduce speed vehicles limits, and use signage MAYBE YES NO

#### BIRDS, FISH, REPTILES, & AMPHIBIANS East Side Road APPLIES TO: IS THE SUGGESTED POSSIBLE CHANGES - SUGGESTED MITIGATION MITIGATION REPTILES & **BIRDS** FISH AMPHIBIANS IMPORTANT TO YOU? Restrict construction worker activity to project area only YES MAYBE NO Restrict high-noise activities (e.g. blasting) during sensitive periods Disturbance YES MAYBE NO from construction Avoid and protect activities active nesting/spawning areas and maintain undisturbed no-go zones YES MAYBE Design culverts for unrestricted passage and natural flows MAYBE YES NO

#### BIRDS, FISH, REPTILES, & AMPHIBIANS East Side Road APPLIES TO: IS THE SUGGESTED POSSIBLE CHANGES - SUGGESTED MITIGATION MITIGATION REPTILES & **BIRDS** FISH AMPHIBIANS IMPORTANT TO YOU? Avoid discharge and Disturbance from spills of sediment and construction fuel through proper activities management practices YES MAYBE NO Restrict construction worker activity to the project area only YES MAYBE NO Block and reclaim Increased public temporary access roads access following construction YES MAYBE Restrict hunting from road MAYBE YES NO

#### VEGETATION & TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES East Side Road APPLIES TO: IS THE SUGGESTED POSSIBLE CHANGES - SUGGESTED MITIGATION MITIGATION TRADITIONAL HERITAGE **VEGETATION** IMPORTANT TO YOU? USE Minimize extent of clearing and maintain treed buffers YES MAYBE NO Removal of vegetation along Map important heritage alignment and and traditional use areas at borrow sites YES MAYBE NO Revegetate disturbed areas with native plant species YES MAYBE Map plant species of concern in baseline Loss of "At Risk" studies and implement plant species protection plans MAYBE YES NO

Loss or damage

to heritage, cultural, and/

or community

use sites and

objects from

construction activities

Changes to animal

populations

or distribution

affecting harvest

# VEGETATION & TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES

East Side Road

## POSSIBLE CHANGES - SUGGESTED MITIGATION

Map important heritage, cultural, or community use sites and objects prior to construction



Identify and maintain undisturbed no-go zones and buffers



Relocate sites or objects



Protect animal populations (see animal boards)



APPLIES TO:

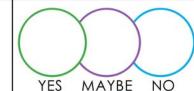
HERITAGE

VEGETATION



TRADITIONAL

USE



IS THE SUGGESTED

MITIGATION

IMPORTANT TO YOU?





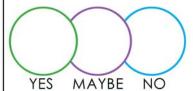












#### VEGETATION & TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES East Side Road APPLIES TO: IS THE SUGGESTED POSSIBLE CHANGES - SUGGESTED MITIGATION MITIGATION TRADITIONAL **VEGETATION** HERITAGE IMPORTANT TO YOU? USE Block and reclaim temporary access roads following construction YES MAYBE Restrict hunting from Increased public road access YES MAYBE Maintain access to traplines and trails during and following construction YES MAYBE

NO

NO

#### RIVER CROSSINGS

#### East Side Road

#### SUGGESTED MITIGATION





Construct multi-span bridge over Berens River to maintain travel routes



Construct clear-span bridges over Etomami, North Etomami, and Leaf rivers to maintain travel routes

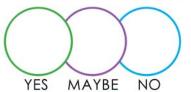


Restrict boat launch and snowmobile access points around bridges

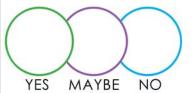


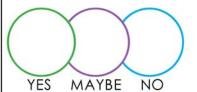
Implement appropriate erosion and sediment control around bridges















Lake Winnipeg

River Crossings

Stream Crossings P4 All-Season Road Alignment

Berens River NAC

Berens River

Poplar River

First Nation

**BERENS RIVER** 

FIRST NATION

RIVER NAC

Legend

#### STREAM CROSSINGS

**POPLAR RIVER** 

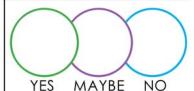
#### East Side Road





Construct culverts to maintain travel routes over streams

IS THE SUGGESTED MITIGATION IMPORTANT TO YOU?











Provide portage access points for travel by canoe



Restrict boat launch and snowmobile access points around stream crossings



Implement appropriate erosion and sediment control around culverts

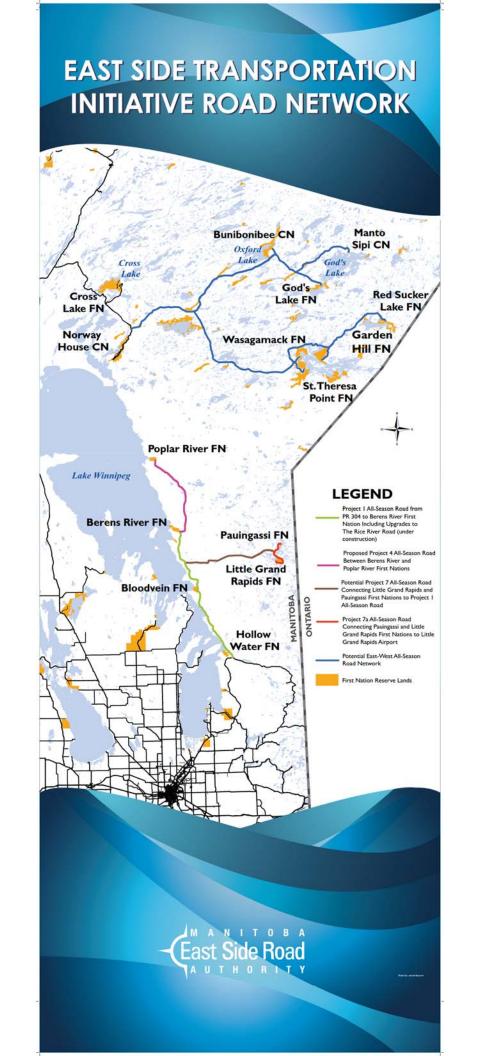




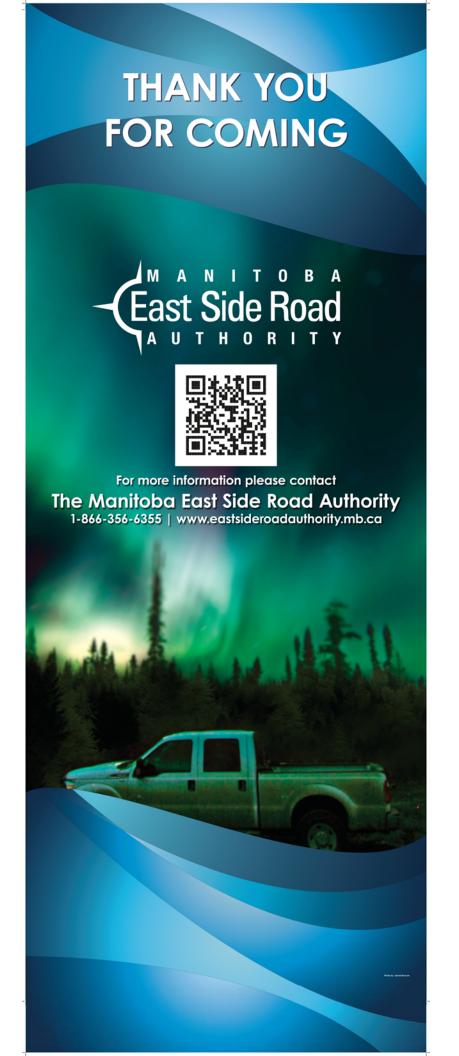
#### **Annex A4-13:**

Welcome Boards – Poplar River First Nation Community Meeting (Round 6)











#### **Annex A4-14:**

T-Shirt Proof – Poplar River First Nation Community Meeting (Round 6)





#### **Annex A4-15:**

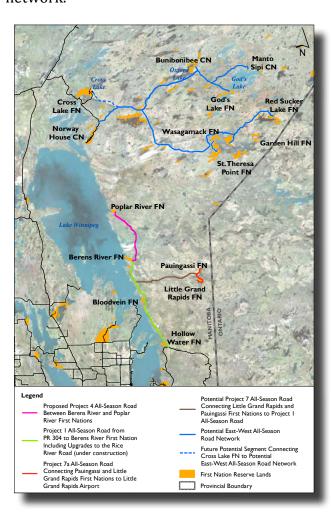
Newsletter Handout – Winnipeg Open House (Round 6)

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2015

Every day is another step closer to an all-season road for families living on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. It has long been a dream for many residents to have an all-season road - improving access for such things as medical appointments, reducing the costs of goods like groceries and fuel, and making it easier for family and community members living away to visit. The proposed Berens River to Poplar River all-season road is just one piece of the proposed road network being planned, designed and built on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

#### Update on the East Side Transportation Initiative

In 2000, the communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg delivered a report to the Manitoba government called "Promises to Keep". The report provided recommendations on where government should focus their long-range planning activities for the east side of Lake Winnipeg including increased economic development opportunities and improvements to the transportation network.



The Manitoba East Side Road Authority (ESRA) has been mandated by the Manitoba government to oversee the planning and construction of the all-season road network on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. The new road network will provide improved, safe and more reliable transportation services to remote and isolated communities on the east side of the lake and provide economic opportunities for local residents. The proposed all-season road network for the region will be approximately 1,028 km in length and cost an estimated \$3 billion (2011 dollars).

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# RIVER ENS E E

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2015

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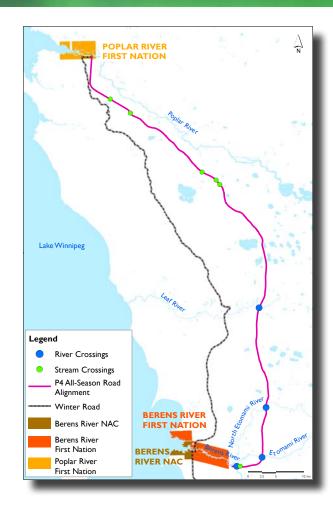
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- Possible effects on wildlife, fish, birds and other species
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- Comments and ideas of local residents
- Potential interaction with community land use activities
- Ways the environment can affect the project like fire, floods and climate change.









# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2015

#### **Community Engagement**

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#### Community Meetings - What We've Heard So Far

to the East Side Road Authority
Community Meeting
for the Berens River to
Poplar River All-Season Road



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- There are sensitive areas that need to be avoided or protected and ESRA's proposed road alignment changes have been well received
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- Bridges or other river/stream crossing structures should consider continued access by motorized boats, canoes, and snowmobiles
- Provide advance notice of construction to allow for cultural and traditional activities prior to start of work
- Ongoing communications with communities is important as the project moves forward.





# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2015

#### **Next Steps**

The input provided by communities and other stakeholders is important to ESRA and will be factored into the EIA and the design of the project. Another series of community and stakeholder meetings for the EIA are taking place this summer and fall. These meetings will provide the opportunity to engage community members, Chief and council, elders, trappers, harvesters, and other stakeholders. An additional meeting will be held in Winnipeg for those who are not able to attend the in-community meetings and for other stakeholders.



Discussions at these meetings will focus on:

- Providing updated project information
- Reviewing what we heard from you and others
- Discussing ways of avoiding or minimizing potential negative effects of the project.

Notices will be posted in communities in advance of the meeting dates.

#### Contact Us

We want to hear from you. Feedback and input from community members is critical to building the all-season road. Please provide your comments on the attached page.

Or if you have any questions or comments, please contact us at:



#### **Manitoba East Side Road Authority**

200 - 155 Carlton Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 3H8

Phone: 204-945-4900 in Winnipeg

Toll free: 1-866-356-6355

Fax: 204-948-2462

Email: eastside@gov.mb.ca

www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca







#### **Annex A4-16:**

Comment Sheet – Winnipeg Open House (Round 6)

#### COMMENT FORM

-			



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#### **Annex A4-17:**

Presentation – Winnipeg Open House (Round 6)





# **EAST SIDE TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE**Berens River to Poplar River All-Season Road



Winnipeg Community
Best Western Plus Charterhouse

September 15, 2015



#### Why are we here?

#### We are here today to:

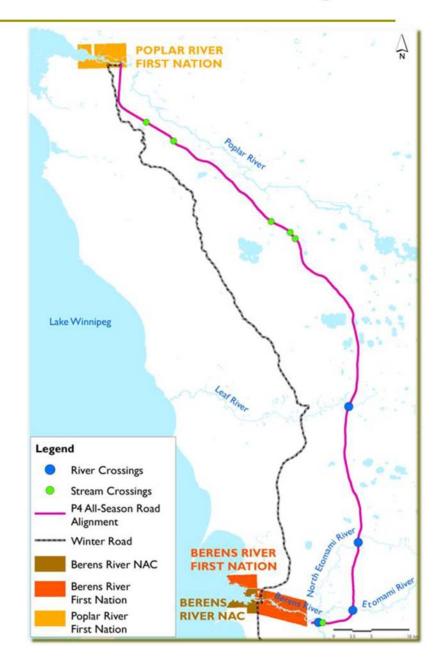
- Provide updated project information
- Review what we have heard from your community
- Discuss ways of avoiding or minimizing potential negative effects resulting from the project





#### **Overview of the Project**

- 94 km all-season road connecting Berens River with Poplar River includes:
  - Bridge crossings of 4 rivers:
    - Berens River
    - Etomami River
    - North Etomami River
    - Leaf River
  - Culvert crossings of 6 streams
  - Equalization culverts at multiple locations

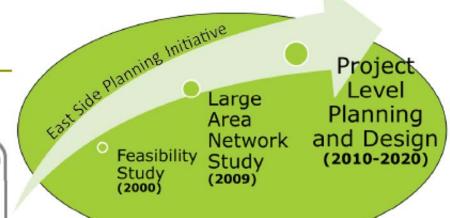




#### **History of Planning and Engagement**

Background Planning

- 2000 Feasibility Study assesses transportation options and the feasibility of a road network on the east side of Lake Winnipeg
- 2004 East Side Planning Initiative generates "Promises to Keep" that identify all-season road planning as a priority objective



Route Corridor

- 2009-2011 Large Area Network Transportation Study
- Assesses network options and recommends route corridors
- Identifies possible road alignments

Road Alignment

- 2012 2013 Road Alignment Selection
- Local communities and other stakeholders assist with the selection of preferred alignment to study in greater detail

Final Alignment

- 2013 2015 Environmental and Engineering Studies
- Environmental Impact Assessment to consider possible effects and mitigation
- Refinement of road alignment based on findings of baseline and engineering studies and community, stakeholder and public input





# Prior Community & Stakeholder Discussions

#### Previously ESRA has met with:

 Berens River, Poplar River, other communities of the East Side of Lake Winnipeg, MMF, Winnipeg-based community members, and other stakeholders

#### To discuss:

- Routes
- Project details
- Important factors to be considered in the EIA and project planning
- Possible effects
- Mitigation measures



Berens River First Nation/NAC



Poplar River First Nation



# What We Heard at April & May 2015 Meetings

- Support to build the all-season road
- How to get information about job opportunities
- Provide advance notice of construction to allow for cultural and traditional activities prior to start of work
- On-going communication as the project progresses







# What We Heard at April & May 2015 Meetings



- How Traditional Knowledge discussed is used in the EIA
- Support for alignment changes made to address sensitive areas
- Travel routes (i.e. trails and waterways) and access to trap lines be maintained and protected
- Restrict hunting along the road alignment and during construction



# What We Heard at April & May 2015 Meetings

- Protect sensitive sites and areas, prohibit access during construction
- Moose, caribou, and their habitats are important valued components
- Sensitive lifecycle stages (i.e. fish spawning) to be considered
- Potential effects of construction noise and blasting on sensitive areas





# What We Heard at August & September 2015 Meetings



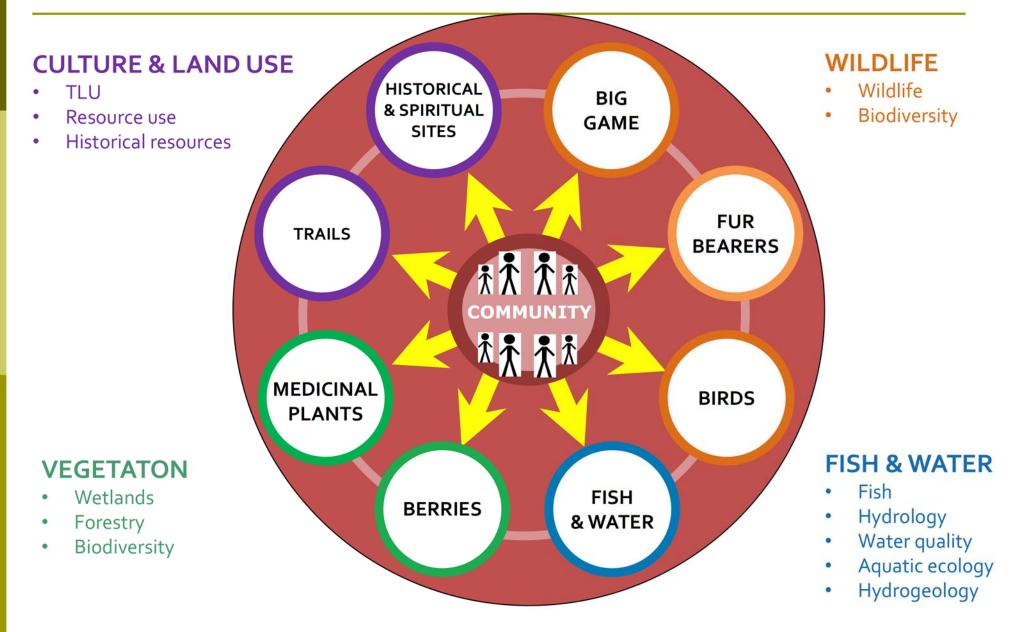
- Generally supportive for proposed mitigation measures, comments relating to location-specific items
- Engage with community to determine appropriate mitigation if cultural or heritage resources are found during construction



- Diverse opinions on restricting boat launch and snow mobile access points at river & stream crossings
- Diverse opinions on avoiding and protecting active nesting/spawning areas and maintain undisturbed no-go zones

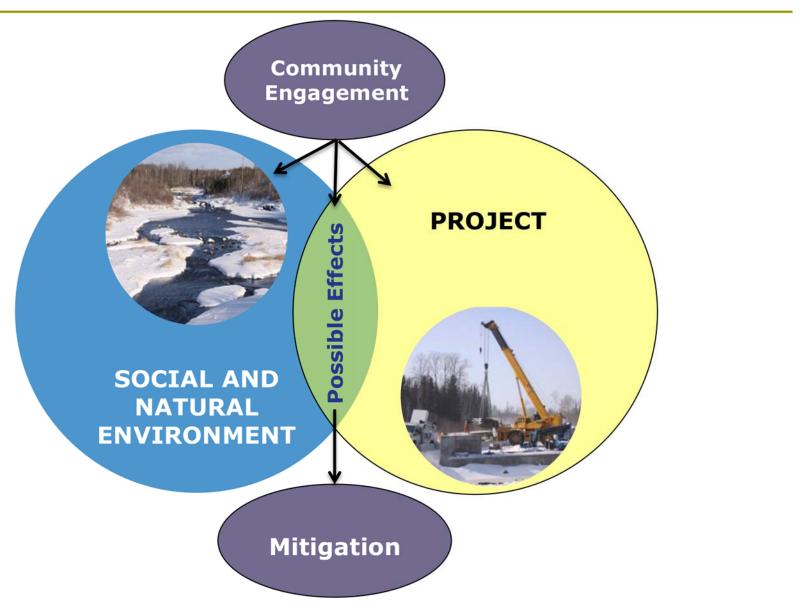


#### **Traditional Knowledge & Land Use**





#### What We Want to Talk About Today





#### **Options for Mitigation**

"Mitigation" means ways to:

# Avoid Reduce Repair Offset Monitor

potential negative effects of the project



Possible Changes

**Suggested Mitigation** 



Minimize extent of clearing and maintain treed buffers





Restrict timing of clearing to fall and winter



Revegetate disturbed areas with native plant species



Possible Changes

Disturbance from construction activities

Accidental collisions with vehicle



#### **Suggested Mitigation**

Restrict construction worker activity to project area only



Restrict high-noise activities (e.g. blasting) during sensitive periods (e.g. calving)



Maintain sightlines through mowing and brushing, reduce speed limits, and use signage



Possible Changes

**Suggested Mitigation** 

Increased public access



Restrict construction worker activity to project area only



Block and reclaim temporary access roads following construction



Possible Changes

**Suggested Mitigation** 



Maintain access to traplines and trails during and following construction

Increased public access



Restrict hunting from road



# Possible Effects & Mitigation – Aquatics

Possible Changes

**Suggested Mitigation** 

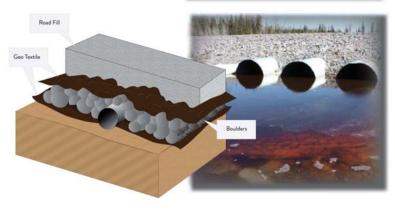


Restrict construction worker activity to project area only

Disturbance from construction activities



Avoid discharge and spills of sediment and fuel through proper management practices



Design culverts for unrestricted passage and natural flows



# Possible Effects & Mitigation – Aquatics & Birds

Possible Changes

**Suggested Mitigation** 

Disturbance from construction activities



Restrict high-noise activities (e.g. blasting) during sensitive periods



Avoid and protect active nesting/spawning areas and maintain undisturbed no-go zones

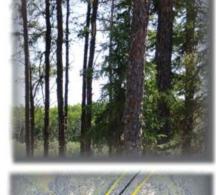


#### Possible Effects & Mitigation – **Vegetation & Traditional Activities**

**Possible** Changes

**Suggested Mitigation** 

Removal of vegetation along alignment and borrow sites



Minimize extent of clearing and maintain treed buffers



Map important heritage and traditional use areas



Revegetate disturbed areas with native plant species



# Possible Effects & Mitigation – Vegetation & Traditional Activities

Possible Changes

Loss or damage to heritage, cultural, and or community use sites and objects from construction activities



### Suggested Mitigation

Map important heritage, cultural, or community use sites and objects prior to construction



Identify and maintain undisturbed no-go zones and buffers



Relocate sites or objects

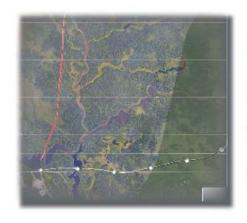


# Possible Effects & Mitigation – Vegetation & Traditional Activities

Possible Changes

**Suggested Mitigation** 

Loss of "At Risk" plant species



Map plant species of concern in baseline studies and implement protection plans

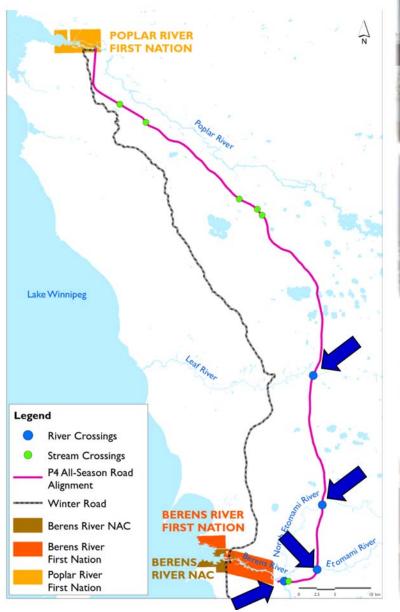
Changes to animal populations or distribution affecting harvest



Protect animal populations (see animal boards)



# Possible Effects & Mitigation – River Crossings





Construct multi-span bridge over Berens River to maintain travel routes



Construct clear-span bridges over Etomami, North Etomami, and Leaf rivers to maintain travel routes



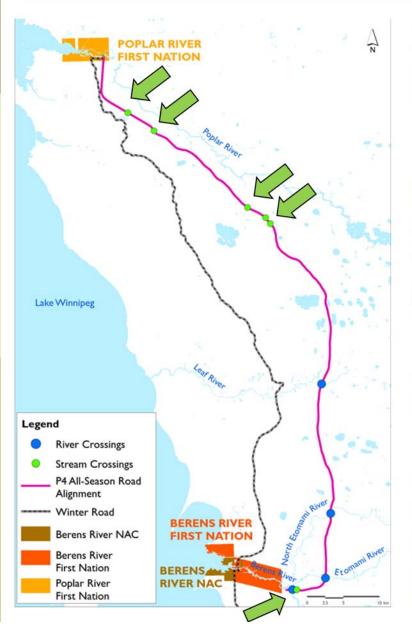
Restrict boat launch and snowmobile access points around bridges



Implement appropriate erosion and sediment control around bridges



# Possible Effects & Mitigation - Stream Crossings





Construct culverts to maintain travel routes over streams



Provide portage access points for travel by canoe



Restrict boat launch and snowmobile access points around bridges



Implement appropriate erosion and sediment control around culverts



## **Schedule**

2016 Onwards

**East Side Large Area Transportation Study** 

2009-2011

Alignment Selection and Baseline Studies

(Exploratory Clearing)

**Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** 

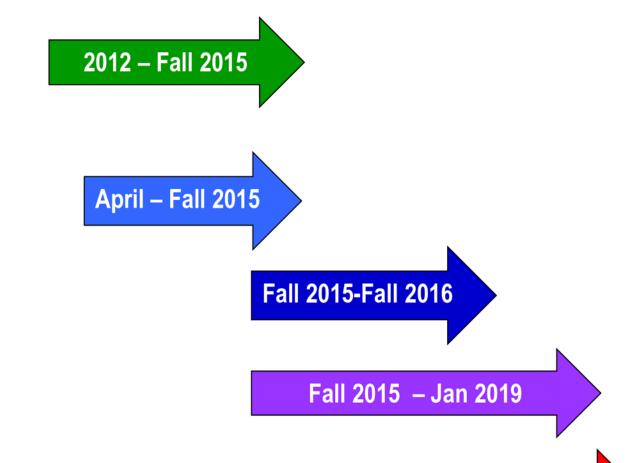
**Functional Design** 

**EIA Approvals** 

Other Environmental Approvals

**Detailed Design** 

**Road Construction** 







Finalize the EIA document and submit to federal and provincial regulators

On-going communications and dialogue with the communities



## Please stay and talk with us

#### **Manitoba East Side Road Authority**

Toll free: 1-866-356-6355 Fax: 204-948-2462

Email: eastside@gov.mb.ca www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca





## **Annex A4-18:**

Display Boards – Winnipeg Open House (Round 6)

#### PROJECT OVERVIEW Bunibonibee CN Manto **Red Sucke** Lake FN Lake FN Lake FN Norway Wasagamack FN House CN Garden Hill FN St.Theresa Point FN Poplar River FN **Berens River FN** Pauingassi FN Little Grand Rapids FN **Bloodvein FN** Hollow Water FN Legend Potential Project 7 All-Season Road Proposed Project 4 All-Season Road Connecting Little Grand Rapids and Between Berens River and Poplar Pauingassi First Nations to Project I River First Nations Project I All-Season Road from Potential East-West All-Season PR 304 to Berens River First Nation Road Network Including Upgrades to the Rice Future Potential Segment Connecting River Road (under construction) Cross Lake FN to Potential East-West All-Season Road Network Project 7a All-Season Road Connecting Pauingassi and Little First Nation Reserve Lands Grand Rapids First Nations to Little Grand Rapids Airport Provincial Boundary

This project consists of **94 km** of all-season road connecting Berens River First Nation to Poplar River First Nation.

#### There will be:

- 4 river crossings at:
  - Leaf River
  - North Etomami River
  - Etomami River
  - Berens River
- 6 stream crossings
- Equalization culverts at multiple locations



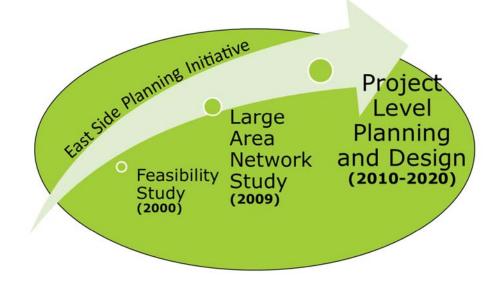


## ALL-SEASON ROAD PLANNING



The Manitoba government began engaging and planning for all-season roads with communities on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg through the 2000 Feasibility Study and the 2009 Large Area Network Study.

In 2015, as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, ESRA continues to engage and have conversations with communities, elders, Chief and council, other stakeholders, and the public.

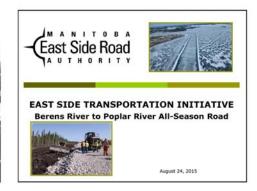












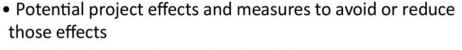


## EIA ENGAGEMENT



As part of the Berens River to Poplar River All-Season Road Project, ESRA is discussing the project in terms of:

- Refinement of proposed road alignment
- Valued Components to be considered
- Environmental site conditions



Construction employment and training











#### The most recent meetings were held with communities on:

Poplar River
April 23, 2015
May 26, 2015
August 24, 2015

April 30, 2015 May 21, 2015 September 10, 2015 Winnipeg-based community members and the general public May 28, 2015



## WHAT WE HEARD



#### Common topics discussed during the meetings included:

- Support to build the all-season road
- Questions about how to get information about job opportunities
- Request to provide advance notice of construction to allow for cultural and traditional activities prior to start of work
- Request for on-going project-specific communication provided as the project progresses
- Explanations about how Traditional Knowledge discussed is used in the EIA
- Support for alignment changes made to avoid sensitive areas



Traditional Knowledge



**Cultural Activities** 



Alignment Changes



**Job Opportunities** 



## WHAT WE HEARD



#### Common topics discussed during the meetings included:

- Request to protect sensitive sites and areas, consider setbacks, restrict access, and erect temporary barriers to prohibit access during construction
- Confirmation that moose, caribou, and their habitats are important valued components
- Request for sensitive lifecycle stages (i.e. spawning fish) to be considered
- Request for travel routes (i.e. trails and waterways) and access to traplines to be maintained and protected
- Support for restricting hunting along the road alignment and during construction
- Interest in the potential effects of construction noise and blasting on sensitive areas









**Access Restrictions** 

Caribou

**Nesting Areas** 

Travel Routes

#### MOOSE, CARIBOU, & FURBEARERS East Side Road APPLIES TO: IS THE SUGGESTED POSSIBLE CHANGES -> SUGGESTED MITIGATION MITIGATION FUR-MOOSE CARIBOU IMPORTANT TO YOU? **BEARERS** Minimize extent of clearing and maintain treed buffers YES MAYBE NO Restrict timing of clearing Change in habitat to fall and winter YES MAYBE NO Revegetate disturbed areas with native plant species YES MAYBE Maintain sightlines Accidental through mowing and collisions with NIGHT DANGER brushing, reduce speed vehicles limits, and use signage MAYBE YES NO

#### MOOSE, CARIBOU, & FURBEARERS East Side Road APPLIES TO: IS THE SUGGESTED POSSIBLE CHANGES → SUGGESTED MITIGATION MITIGATION FUR-MOOSE CARIBOU IMPORTANT TO YOU? **BEARERS** Restrict construction worker activity to project area only Disturbance YES MAYBE NO from construction Restrict high-noise activities activities (e.g. blasting) during sensitive periods (e.g. calving) YES MAYBE NO Block and reclaim temporary access roads following construction YES MAYBE Increased public access Restrict hunting from road MAYBE YES NO

#### BIRDS, FISH, REPTILES, & AMPHIBIANS East Side Road APPLIES TO: IS THE SUGGESTED POSSIBLE CHANGES - SUGGESTED MITIGATION MITIGATION REPTILES & **BIRDS** FISH AMPHIBIANS IMPORTANT TO YOU? Minimize extent of clearing and maintain treed buffers around waterbodies YES MAYBE NO Restrict timing of clearing Change in habitat to fall and winter YES MAYBE NO Restore disturbed areas with native plant species and construct new habitat to offset losses YES MAYBE Maintain sightlines Accidental through mowing and collisions with brushing, reduce speed vehicles limits, and use signage MAYBE YES NO

#### BIRDS, FISH, REPTILES, & AMPHIBIANS East Side Road APPLIES TO: IS THE SUGGESTED POSSIBLE CHANGES - SUGGESTED MITIGATION MITIGATION REPTILES & **BIRDS** FISH AMPHIBIANS IMPORTANT TO YOU? Restrict construction worker activity to project area only YES MAYBE NO Restrict high-noise activities (e.g. blasting) during sensitive periods Disturbance YES MAYBE NO from construction Avoid and protect activities active nesting/spawning areas and maintain undisturbed no-go zones YES MAYBE Design culverts for unrestricted passage and natural flows MAYBE YES NO

#### BIRDS, FISH, REPTILES, & AMPHIBIANS East Side Road APPLIES TO: IS THE SUGGESTED POSSIBLE CHANGES - SUGGESTED MITIGATION MITIGATION REPTILES & **BIRDS** FISH AMPHIBIANS IMPORTANT TO YOU? Avoid discharge and Disturbance from spills of sediment and construction fuel through proper activities management practices YES MAYBE NO Restrict construction worker activity to the project area only YES MAYBE NO Block and reclaim Increased public temporary access roads access following construction YES MAYBE Restrict hunting from road MAYBE YES NO

#### VEGETATION & TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES East Side Road APPLIES TO: IS THE SUGGESTED POSSIBLE CHANGES - SUGGESTED MITIGATION MITIGATION TRADITIONAL HERITAGE **VEGETATION** IMPORTANT TO YOU? USE Minimize extent of clearing and maintain treed buffers YES MAYBE NO Removal of vegetation along Map important heritage alignment and and traditional use areas at borrow sites YES MAYBE NO Revegetate disturbed areas with native plant species YES MAYBE Map plant species of concern in baseline Loss of "At Risk" studies and implement plant species protection plans MAYBE YES NO

Loss or damage

to heritage, cultural, and/

or community

use sites and

objects from

construction activities

Changes to animal

populations

or distribution

affecting harvest

## VEGETATION & TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES

East Side Road

### POSSIBLE CHANGES - SUGGESTED MITIGATION

Map important heritage, cultural, or community use sites and objects prior to construction



Identify and maintain undisturbed no-go zones and buffers



Relocate sites or objects



Protect animal populations (see animal boards)



APPLIES TO:

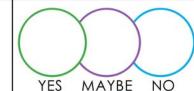
HERITAGE

VEGETATION



TRADITIONAL

USE



IS THE SUGGESTED

MITIGATION

IMPORTANT TO YOU?





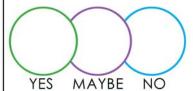












#### VEGETATION & TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES East Side Road APPLIES TO: IS THE SUGGESTED POSSIBLE CHANGES - SUGGESTED MITIGATION MITIGATION TRADITIONAL **VEGETATION** HERITAGE IMPORTANT TO YOU? USE Block and reclaim temporary access roads following construction YES MAYBE Restrict hunting from Increased public road access YES MAYBE Maintain access to traplines and trails during and following construction YES MAYBE

NO

NO

## RIVER CROSSINGS

## East Side Road

#### SUGGESTED MITIGATION





Construct multi-span bridge over Berens River to maintain travel routes



Construct clear-span bridges over Etomami, North Etomami, and Leaf rivers to maintain travel routes

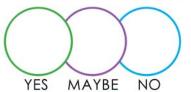


Restrict boat launch and snowmobile access points around bridges

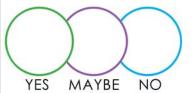


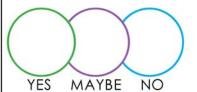
Implement appropriate erosion and sediment control around bridges















Lake Winnipeg

River Crossings

Stream Crossings P4 All-Season Road Alignment

Berens River NAC

Berens River

Poplar River

First Nation

**BERENS RIVER** 

FIRST NATION

RIVER NAC

Legend

## STREAM CROSSINGS

**POPLAR RIVER** 

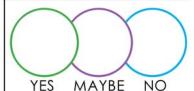
## East Side Road





Construct culverts to maintain travel routes over streams

IS THE SUGGESTED MITIGATION IMPORTANT TO YOU?











Provide portage access points for travel by canoe



Restrict boat launch and snowmobile access points around stream crossings



Implement appropriate erosion and sediment control around culverts





## **Annex A4-19:**

Welcome Boards – Winnipeg Open House (Round 6)



