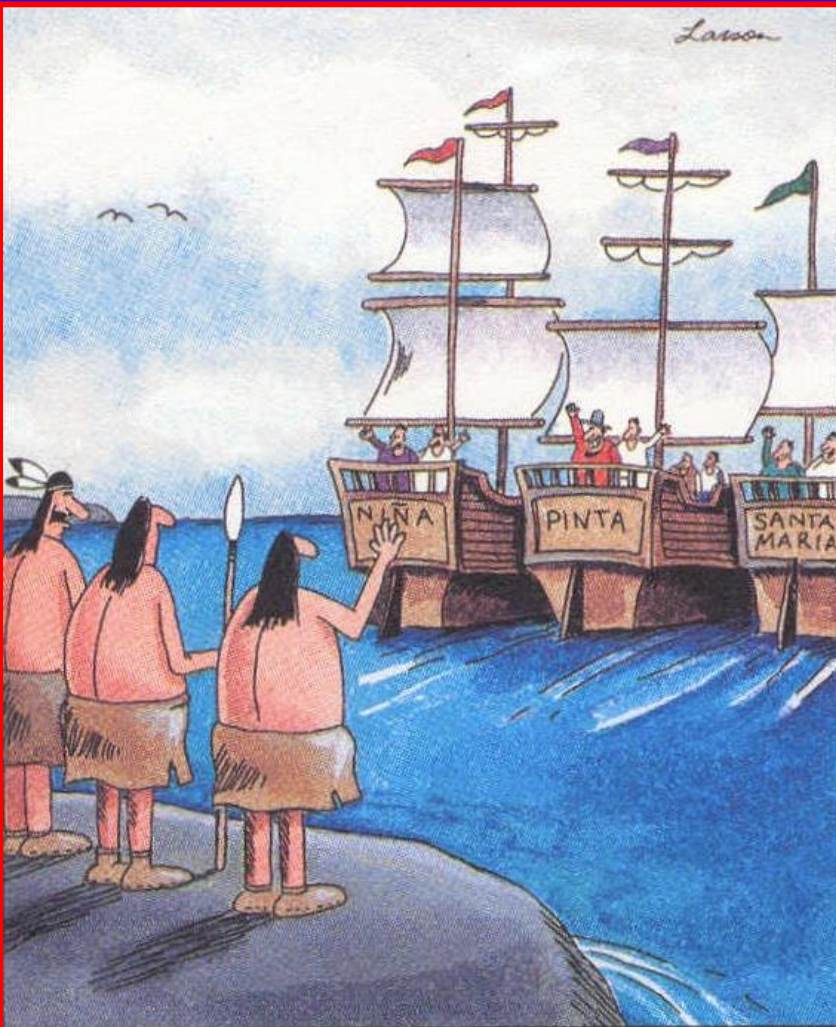


There goes the neighborhood: Recent history of the Upper Great Lakes, 1630 to 1930

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"Did you detect something a little ominous in the way they said, 'See you later'?"

Culture contact between European newcomers and Indigenous nations.

- economic, social, diplomatic, & military collaboration.
- Initial Aboriginal 'power' slowly eroded over time.
- Unhappy legacy continues to impact modern Canada.
- **Lessons for contemporary Canada & USA?**

N American Colonial Competition: late 1500s to mid-1700s.

- Imperial warfare
- Agricultural colonies.
- Fur trade 'cash economy'.
- Aboriginal control of early fur trade.
- Exclusive French trade in Great Lakes, Mississippi & e. prairies until mid 1700s.
- 1670 Hudson's Bay Company established.
- 1760 British conquest of New France.
- British North American trade until early 20th Century



‘The people of the Countrie
came flocking aboard, and
brought us... Bevers
skinnies, and Otters
skinnies, which wee bought
for Beades, Knives...
Hatchets, [and other]
trifles’ ...

Robert Juet, 1607

... Hatchets, [and other] trifles.

—Robert Juet, 1609

WHERE TWO WORLDS MEET

Who was using Whom?

‘The English have no
sense; they give us
twenty knives like this
for one Beaver skin’

a Montagnais Indian, 1634



Gilman 1982:5

1. ENGRAVED CARTOUCHE, 1777. A trading transaction was represented on William Faden's "Map of the Inhabited Part of Canada, from the French Surveys." C-35062/Public Archives Canada.

Colonial French trade monopoly until 1670.

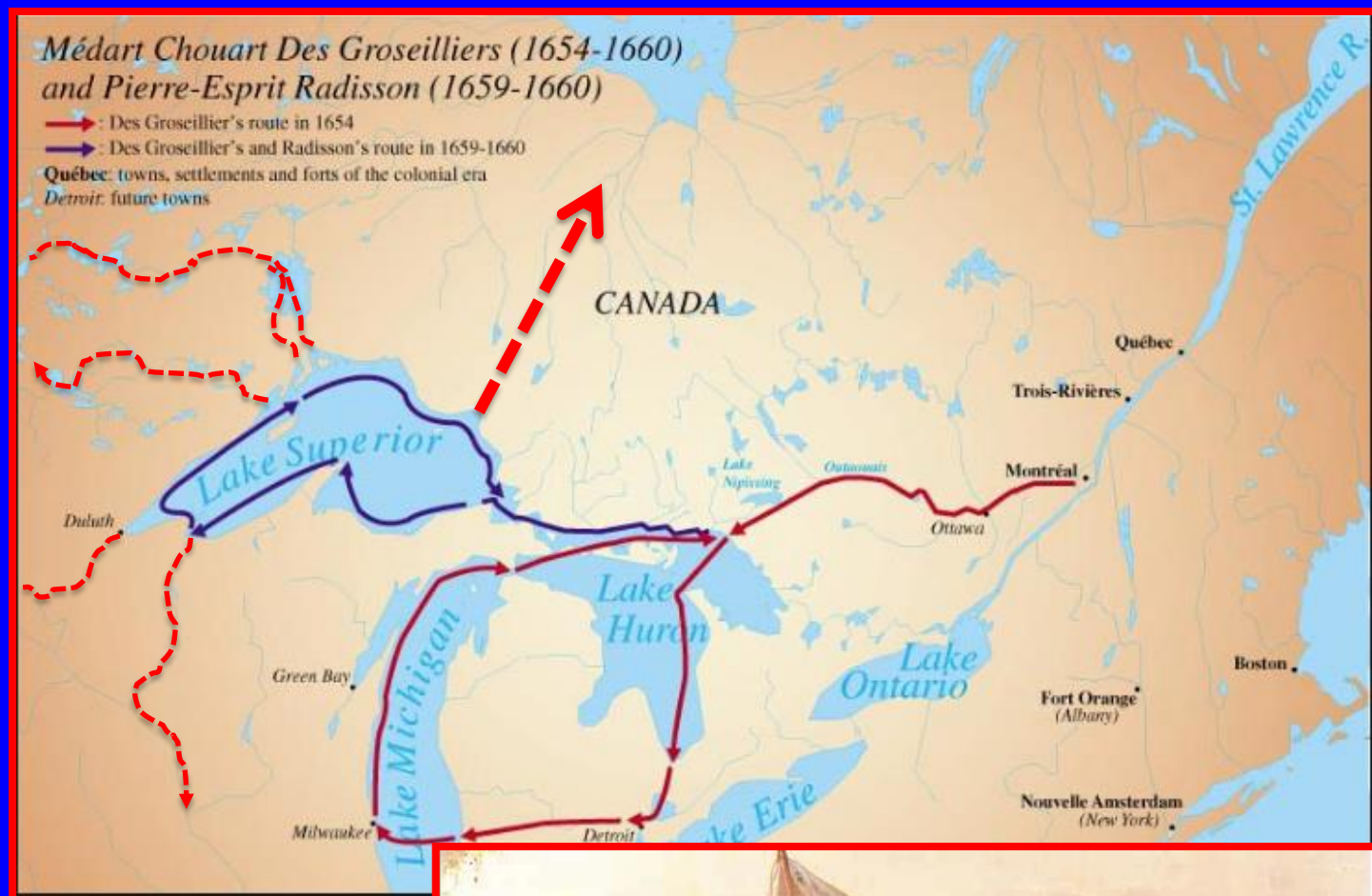
Licensed & unlicensed traders throughout interior.

Radisson & Groseilliers.

Traded in upper Great Lakes

Learned of water routes north to James Bay from Cree trade partners (likely into Moose-Missinaibi R. system.

R&G shared info with English, leading to establishment of Hudson's Bay Company.





Seven Years War: defeat of France, loss of New France.

Role of **Pontiac's War** in Treaty formulation and **Royal Proclamation of 1763**.

- 'Nation-to-Nation' Treaty, constraint on European settlement (13 Colonies, Québec).
- Aboriginal autonomy in Great Lakes & west of Appalachians (Indian Territory).

Historic events overtook this vision (American Revolution, Canadian Confederation).

But still legal basis of subsequent Treaties, influence on Canadian Constitution (Duty of the Crown).

- By mid 1760s British fur trade **expanded rapidly** throughout n. North America.
- HBC (red) and NWC (green) routes.
- Intense trade competition (esp. ca. **1768-1821**).



St. Lawrence Trader used Grand Portage and Ft. William as administrative and transshipment depots.

- Water-based transport, but many portages.
- Large freighter canoes & batteaux.
- Specialized skills of Aboriginal origin.
- Aboriginal trappers dominate production.



Newman 19889:112

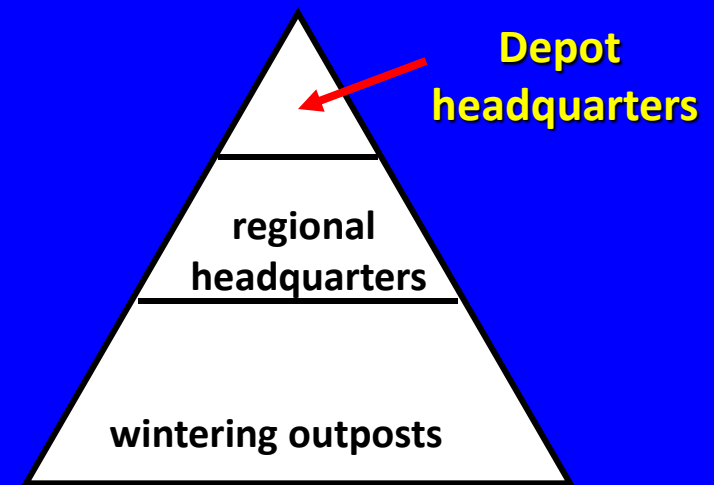


Montreal trade: integration of British Industrial Revolution & capitalization, coupled with French Canadian 'Country Skills' learned from 150 years of inland trade.



Up: Grand Portage, the first inland depot of NWC (west coast of L. Superior).

Down: Rocky Mountain Fort, a Peace River wintering outpost, east slope Rocky Mtns.

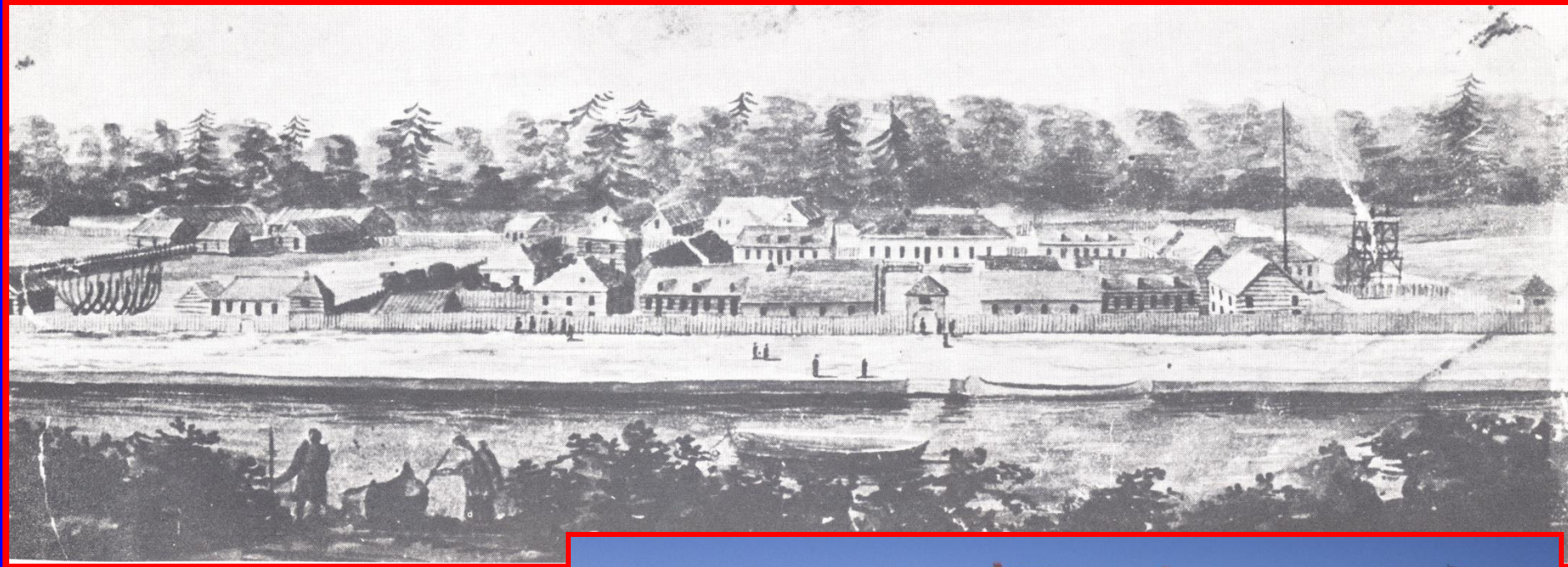


Trade Post Hierarchy

- Depots & regional headquarters (admin. & industrial centres, led by senior officers).
- Wintering outposts: small, temporary, occupied by junior clerks & labourers.

Post layout & facilities reflect logistical & administrative 'function'.

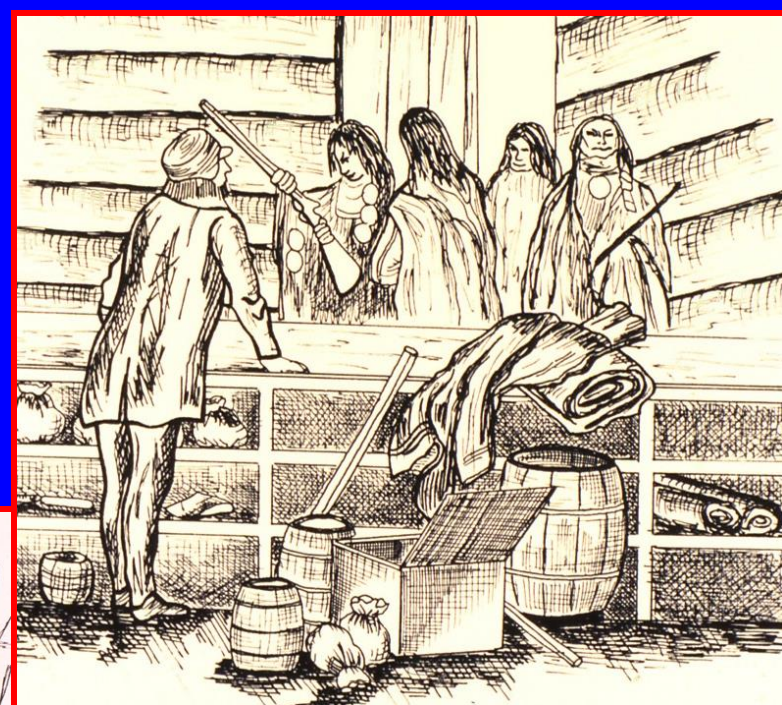
Fort William: NWC's major rendezvous & inland depot



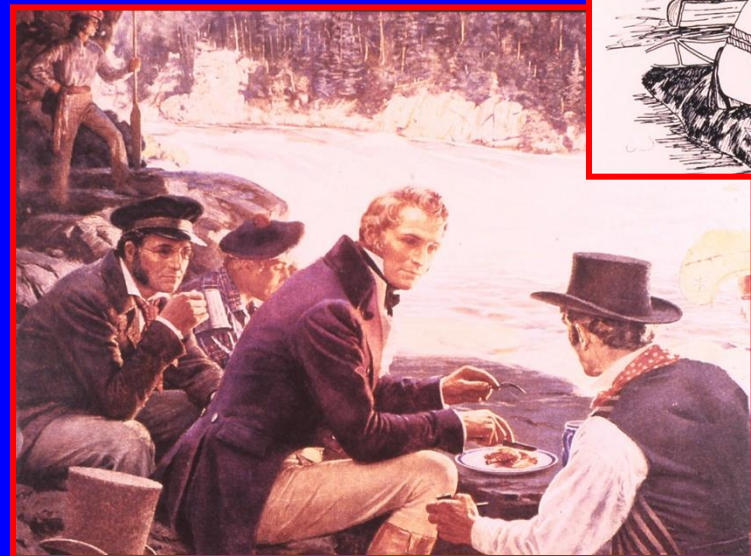
- Height of NWC power.
- Administrative & logistical centre.
- Extensive compound noted for symmetry & elegance of the primary buildings (**corporate showcase**).

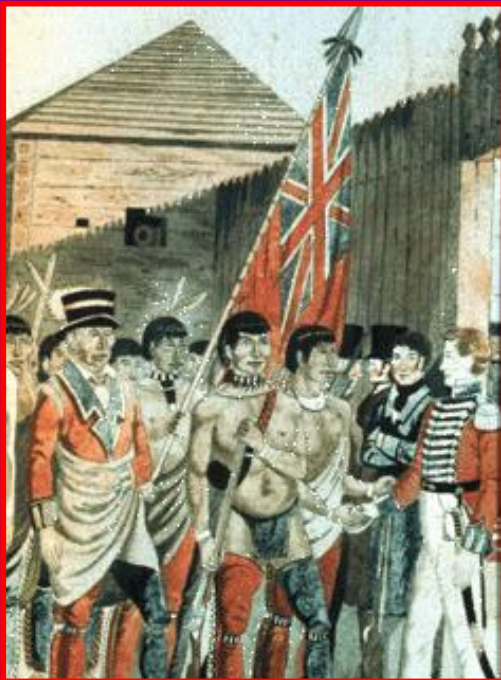


Great Hall & wintering partners' quarters, reconstructed Ft. William.

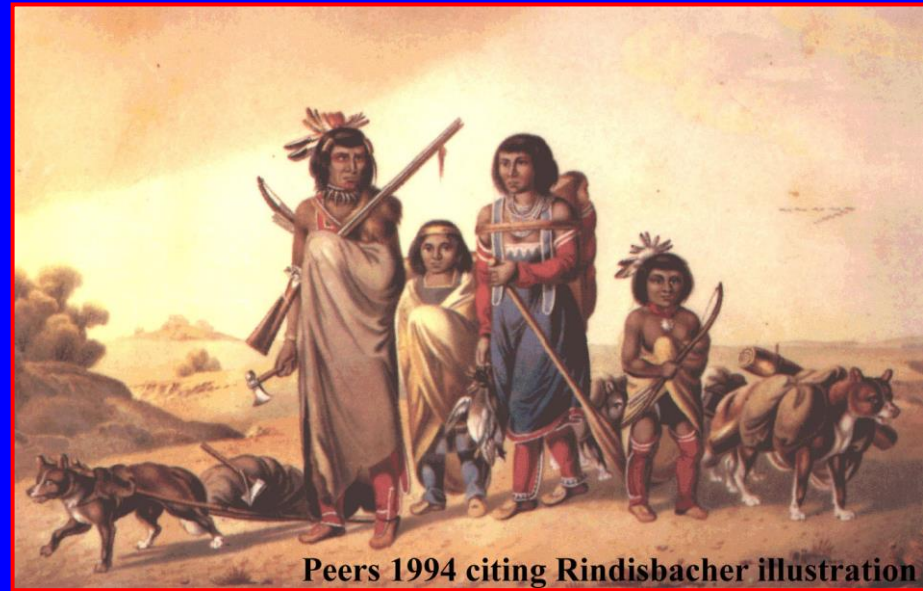


Life and work in the 18th Century Canadian Fur Trade





***"It seemed like
a good idea at
the time..."***



Peers 1994 citing Rindisbacher illustration

**1600s to early 1800s, fur trade
growth over nw N. America.**

Cumulative effect:

- Erosion of of Aboriginal bargaining power.
- European competition, unchecked expansion and harvest.
- Ecological & epidemiological crisis.
- Rapid cultural transformation.
- Fur trade 'boom & bust' by early 1800s.

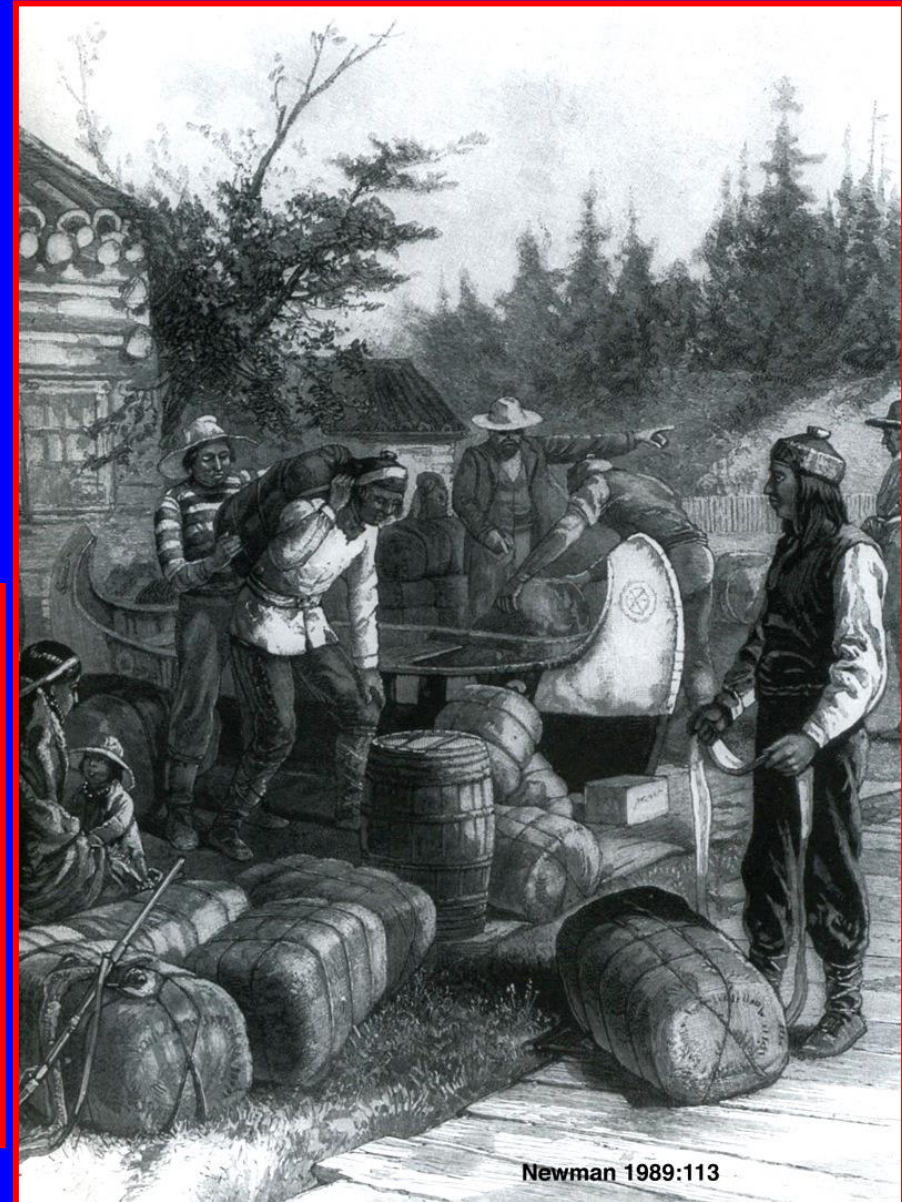
More Europeans = more communicable disease, waves of epidemics.

Lots of trade opportunities = collapse of fur and food resources

By early 1800s **impending crisis**:

- 1821 Amalgamation of main companies
- retrenchment of operations,
- erosion of Aboriginal economic power.

Aboriginal trapping income supplemented with work as seasonal 'trip men', hunters and fishermen.



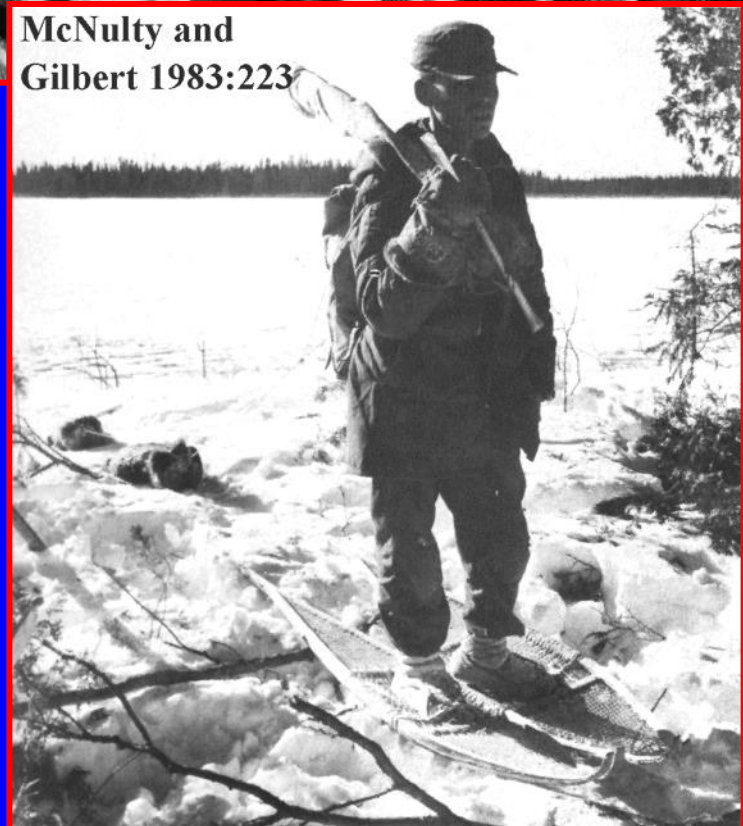


Macfie and Johnston 1991:56

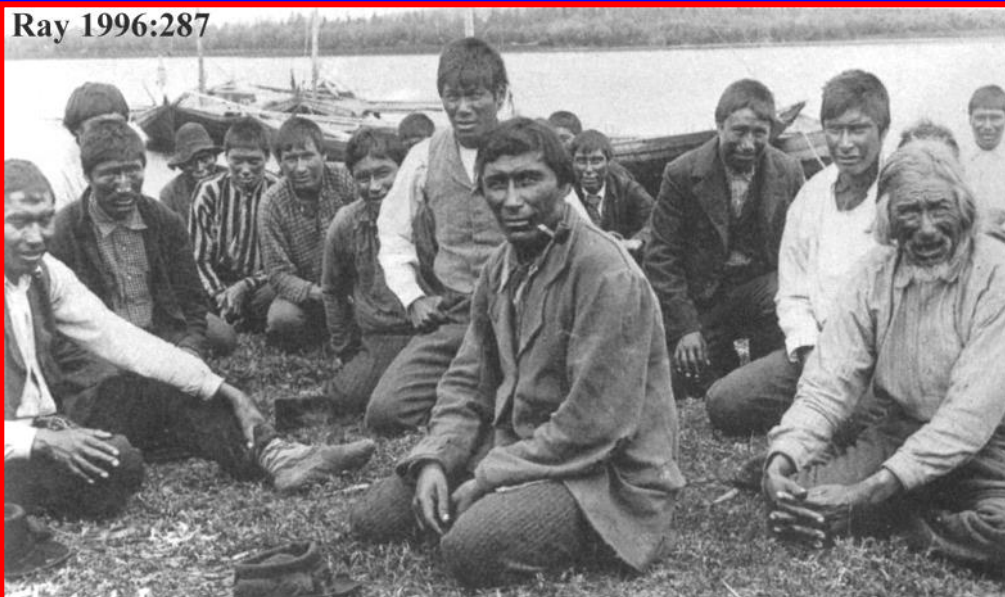


19th to mid 20 Century northern Aboriginal life: mix of foreign technology, trapping & wage labour while practicing 'traditional' lifestyles.

McNulty and Gilbert 1983:223



Ray 1996:287

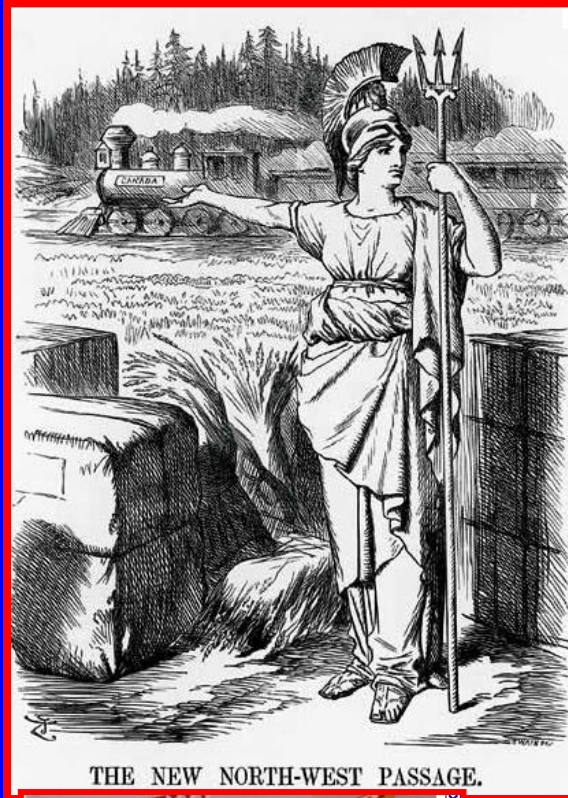




Life on the Trap line flourished, but began to decline after early 1950s.

- Spring and summer gatherings at good fishing places and at trade posts.
- Winter families scattered on trap lines.





THE NEW NORTH-WEST PASSAGE.

Meanwhile, in the south...

1867 Canadian Confederation & 1870 purchase of Rupert's land.

New vision: immigrant agricultural settlement, country linked by railways.

Fur trade remains important only in north...

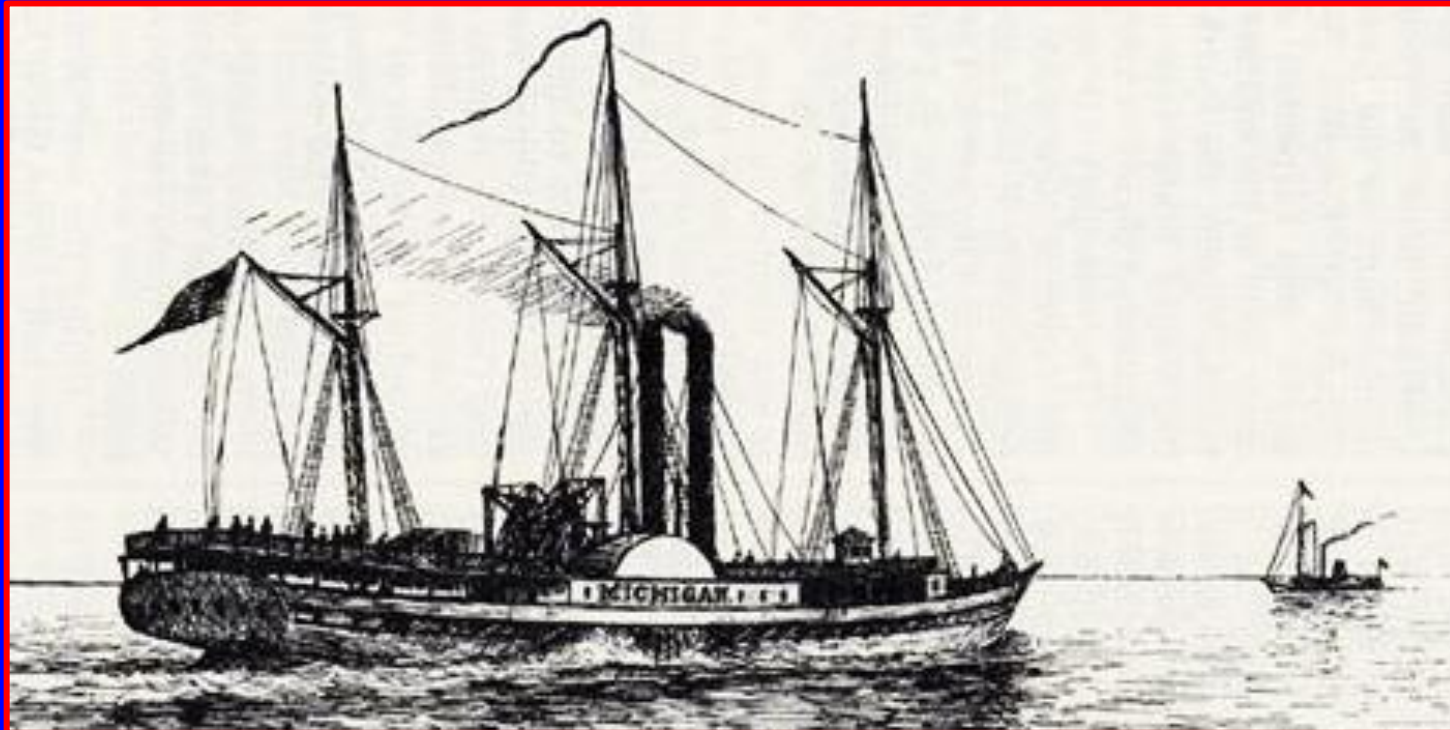


The Confederation Bargain

- British colonies integrated as Canada.
- Promise of a trans-continental railway.
- Impede USA annexation interest.
- Efficient transport of immigrants, agricultural produce & goods.
- Enormous cost & engineering challenges.
- **Initial plan:** steam ships through Great Lakes, and then railway to the west.

Railway to replace
water routes to
west.

**Fort William &
Prince Arthur's
Landing & Nipigon**
compete for
'railhead'

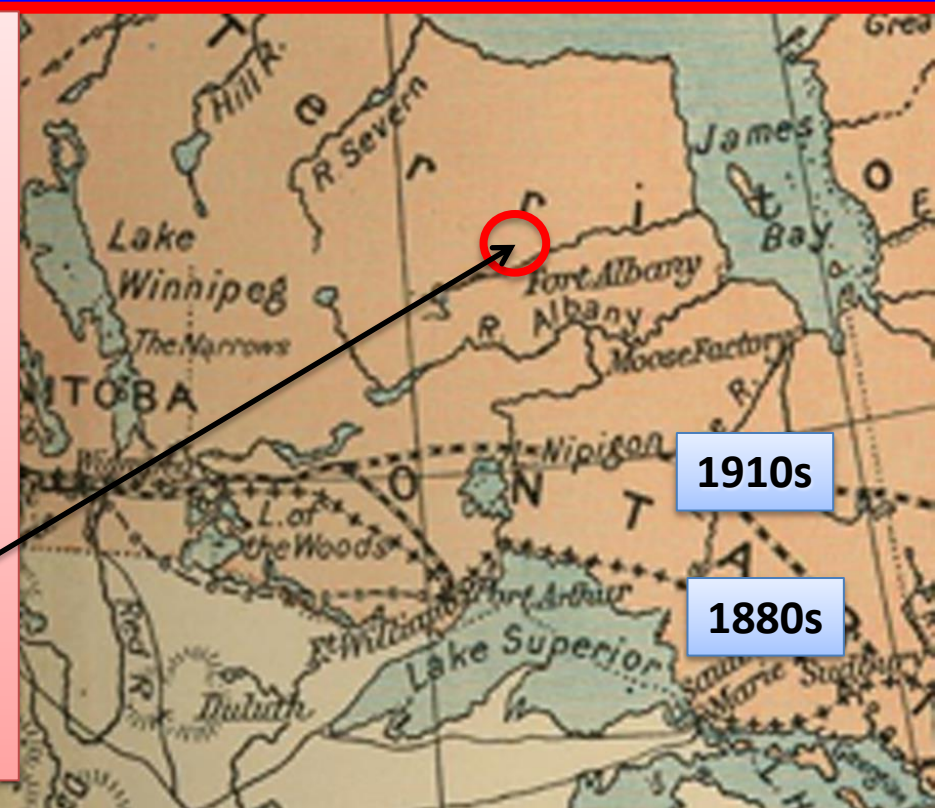


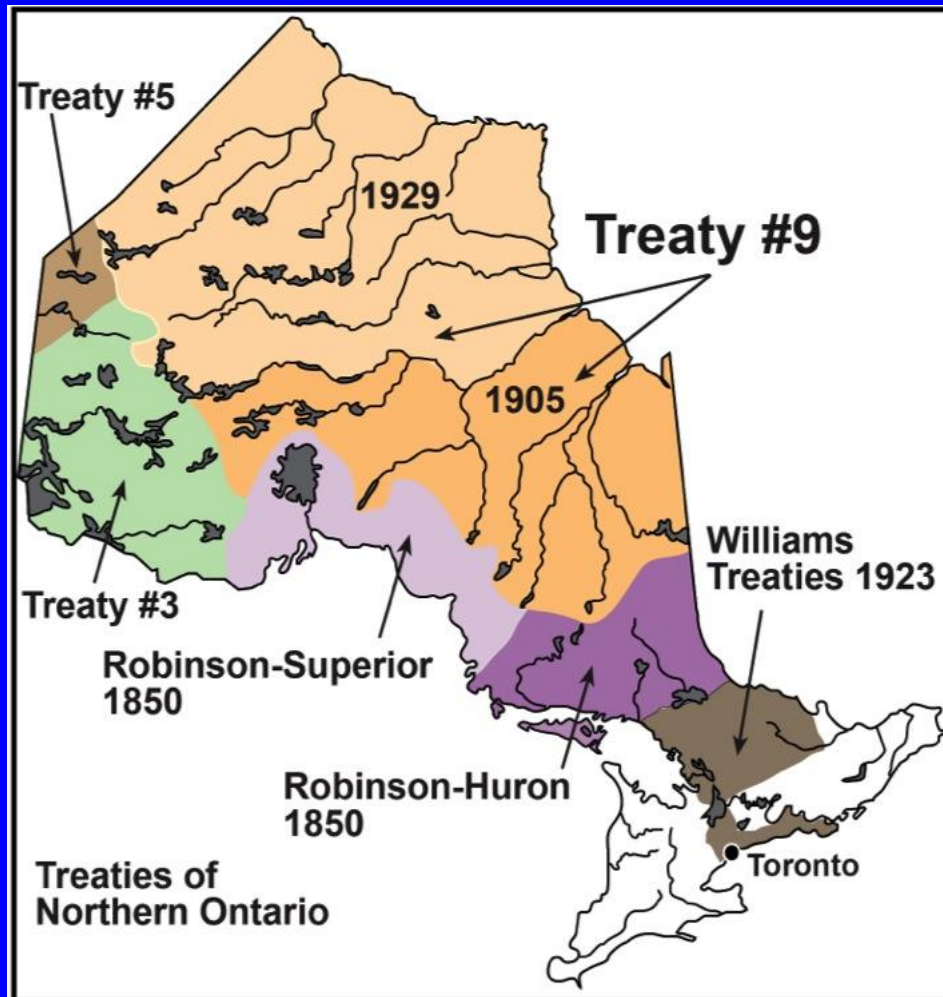
Lake Superior strategic for Canadian development.

Euro-Canadian immigration, forestry & mining led **Aboriginal leaders to seek Treaty in 1850** to protect their interests.

Railroads & steam ships enabled development of 'near-northern' natural resource frontier.

'Ring of Fire' is still far north of transportation infrastructure built in early 1900s.

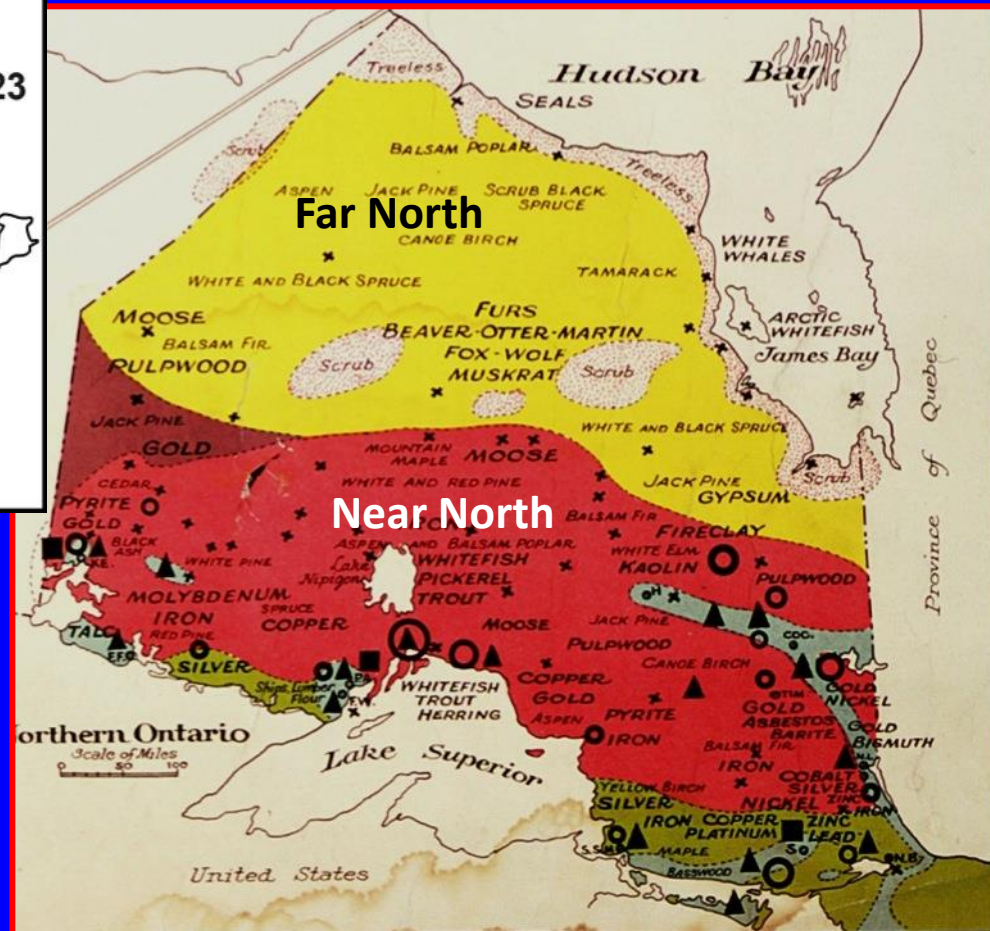




Six Treaties affect Northern Ontario.

Some First Nations are relatively recent signatories.

Much of far northern Ontario remains accessible only by water, air or winter roads.



Mineral discoveries & railroads enabled early 20th Century settlement and industrial development of 'Near North'.

Traditional economy of foraging, trapping and commercial fishery dominated the far north into the 1960s.



Modest Beginnings

Colonel Wolseley's
Camp, Prince Arthur's
Landing, 1870,
(Archives of Canada
1969-3-1-1)

Prince Arthur's Landing ca. 1872.

Mining hamlet in
1860s, but rapidly
expanded as terminus
for Dawson Road to
Red River Colony
(modern Red River
Road).

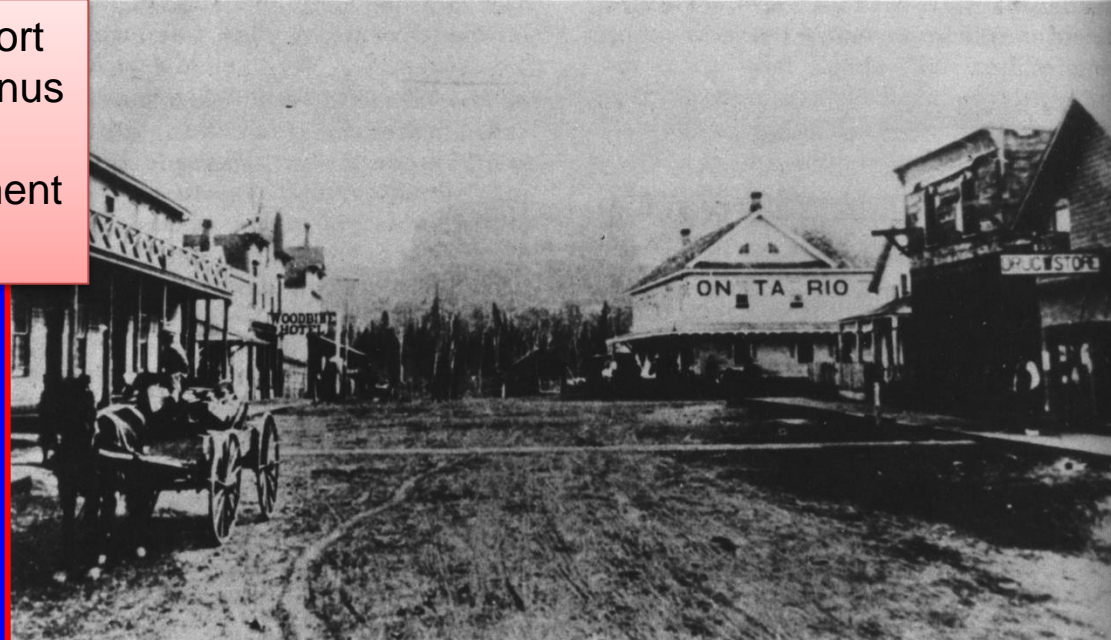
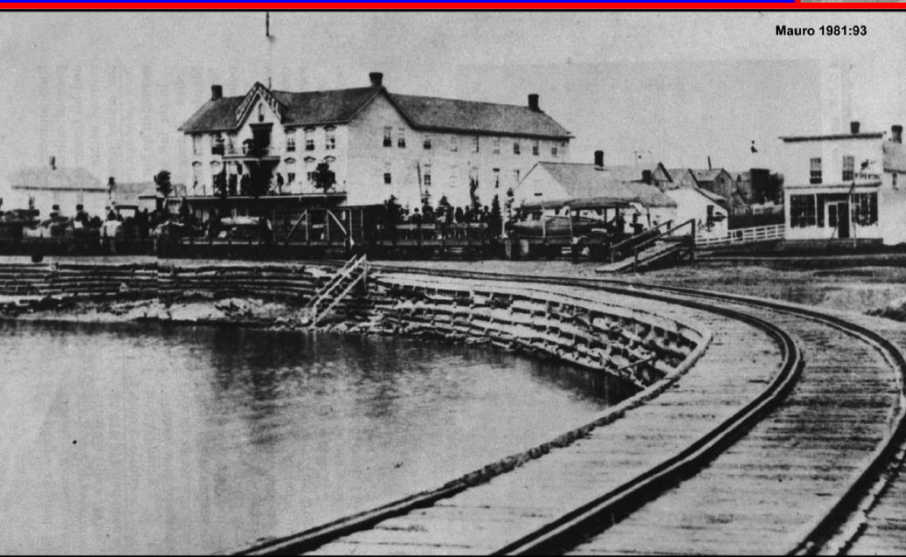




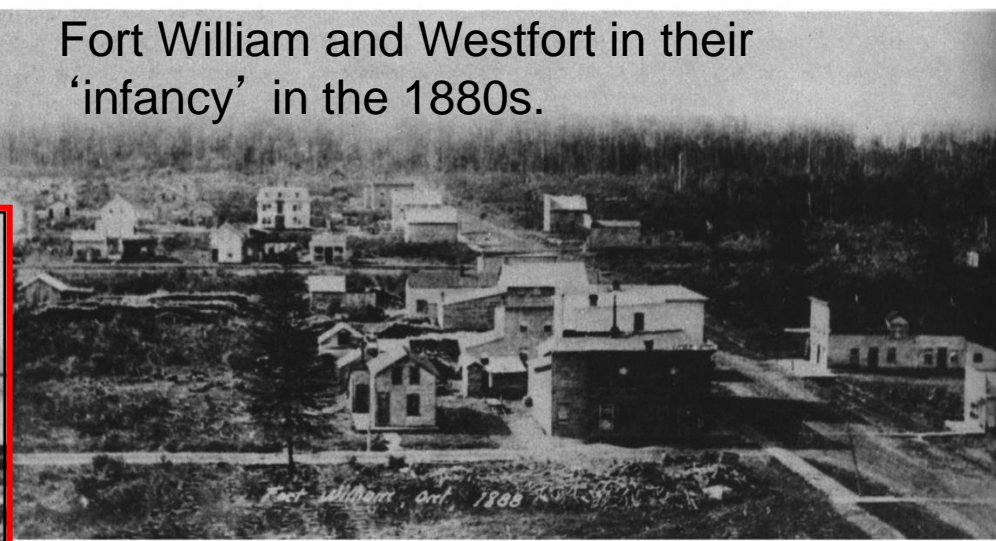
Ottawa selection of Fort William as CPR terminus triggered a wave of speculative development of the **Westfort** area.

Prince Arthur's Landing

businessmen financed a spur line to the Mark's wharf (below), and shipped the first Manitoba grain (Fort William terminus not ready).



Fort William and Westfort in their 'infancy' in the 1880s.



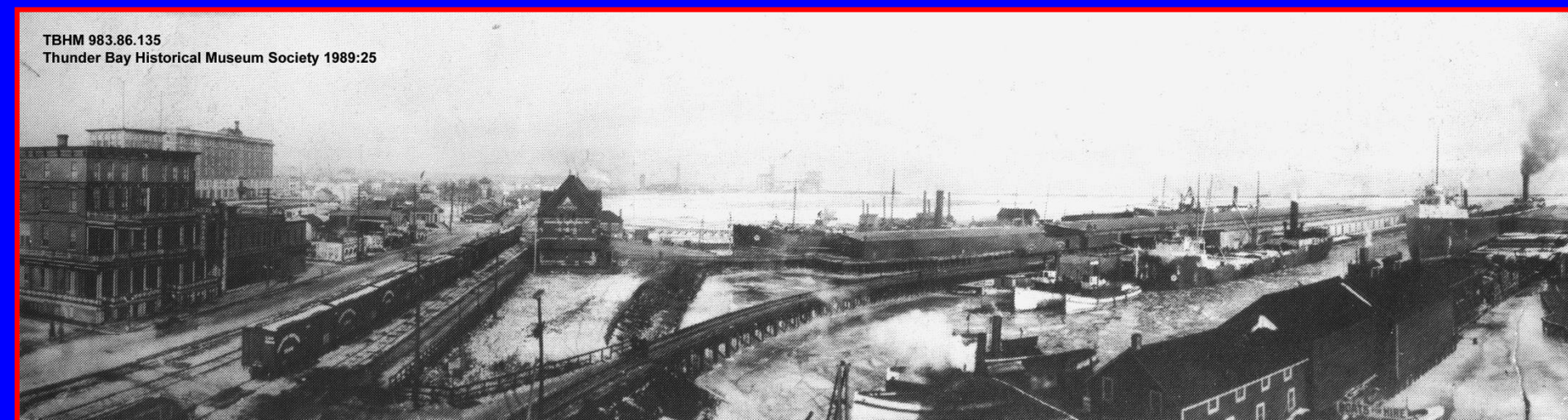
Rivalry continues into the modern period



CNR station
built on pilings
overlooking
the beach.

Railway spurs
out onto the
docks are all
built up on
wharf pilings.

TBHM 983.86.135
Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society 1989:25



The next great boom: 1905 establishment of CNR station.

Right: Port Arthur waterfront in the 1920s.

Rapid development of large-scale shipping.

Down: Port Arthur port at its height: early 1950s (before St. Lawrence Seaway).

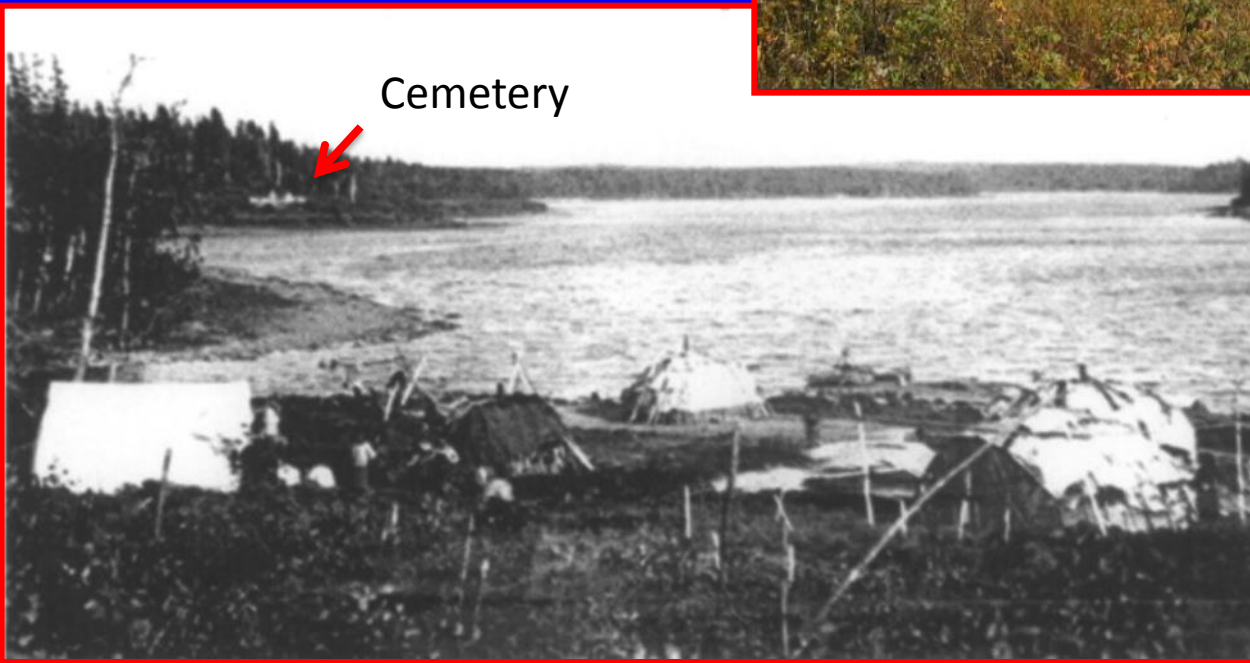
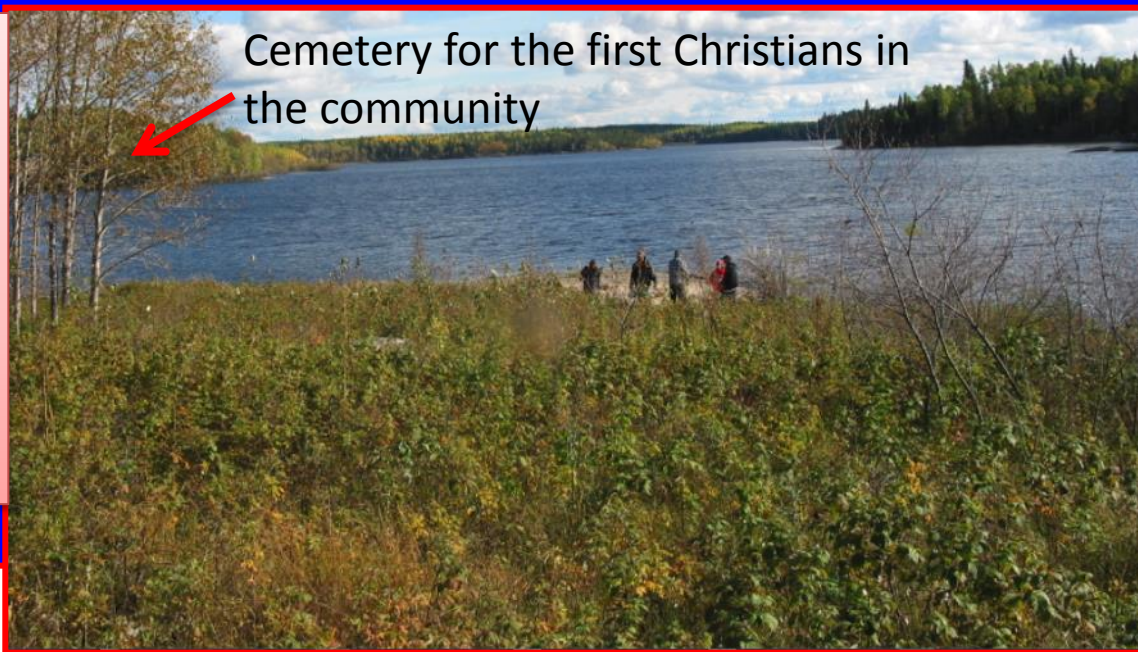
Currently in redevelopment and re-purposing.



Barton Lake Narrows village,
Berens River.

Seasonal villages until 1950s,
then slowly abandoned in favour
of modern Reserves.

**Aboriginal people retain strong
connection to traditional lands.**



Right: Conjuring drum, 1930s. Traditional spirituality
persisted into mid 20th Century among the more
conservative people of the upper Berens River.



Nibinamik FN territory relative to Greater Toronto Area.

Hinterland for ca 800 people is \pm 3,400 km².

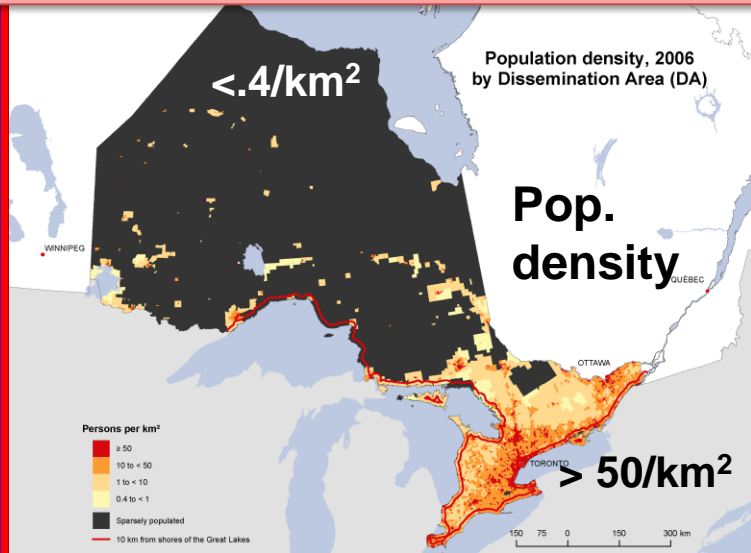
Social Justice Issues: How do poorest communities in Canada protect their interests?

Do outsiders comprehend complex Aboriginal issues re. northern development?

A vast & empty wilderness?

How do governments, developers, environmental NGOs view northern lands?

Are sparsely populated lands unused? How do we 'value' Indigenous land use and occupancy?





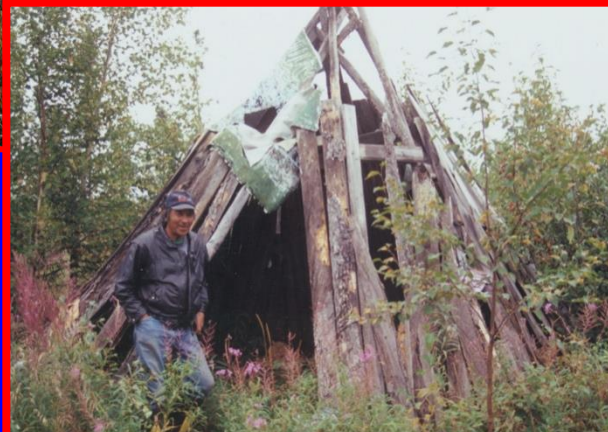
Elder Leo Moonias (Neskantaga FN) works with Northern Superior Resources to identify sensitive places prior to mineral exploration.



Chapleau Cree FN members document land use.

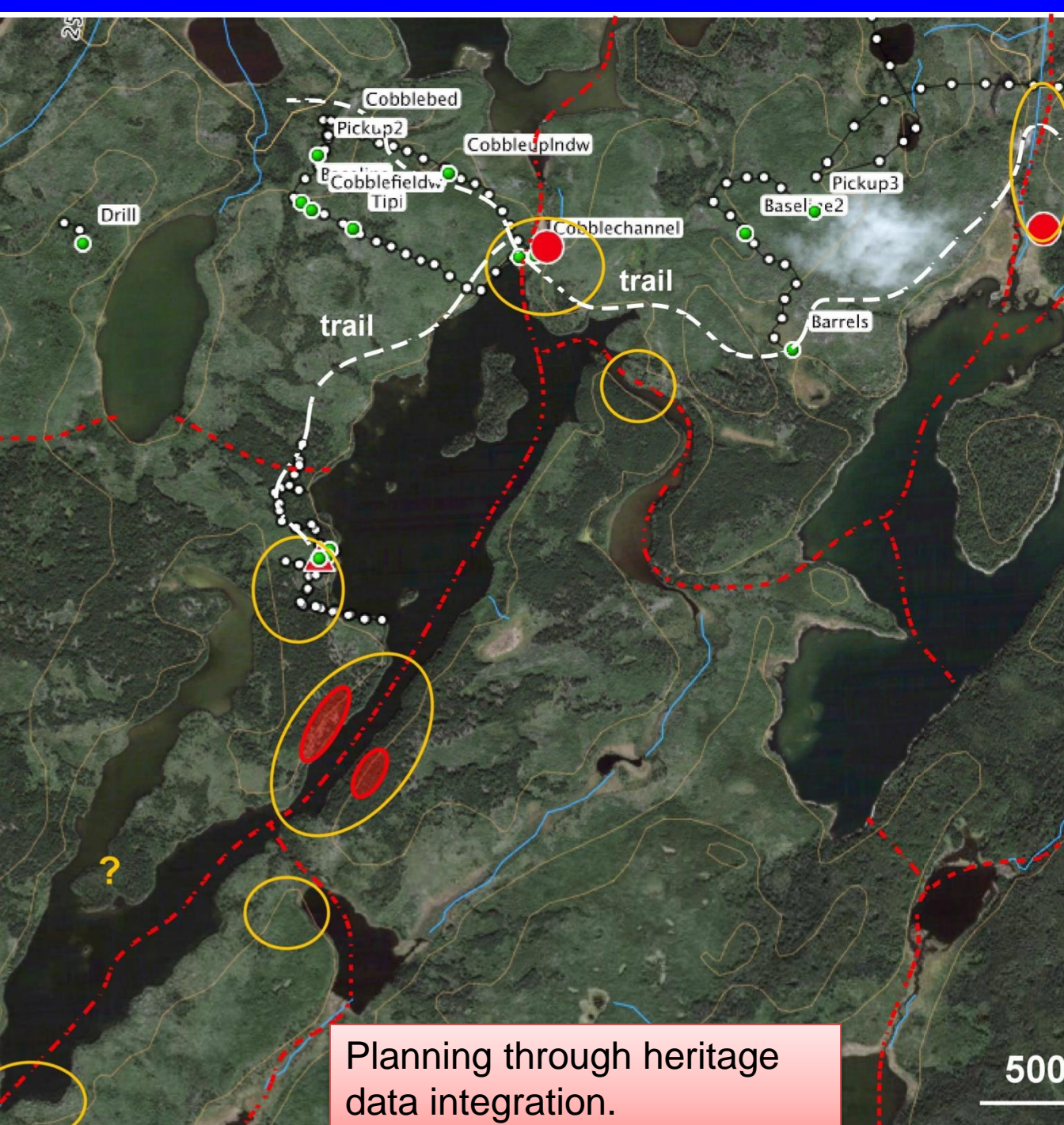


Wawakapewin FN Elders' workshop to document traditional land use.



'Lived memories' resonate in ethnographic & archaeological record.





Aboriginal Engagement & mineral exploration:

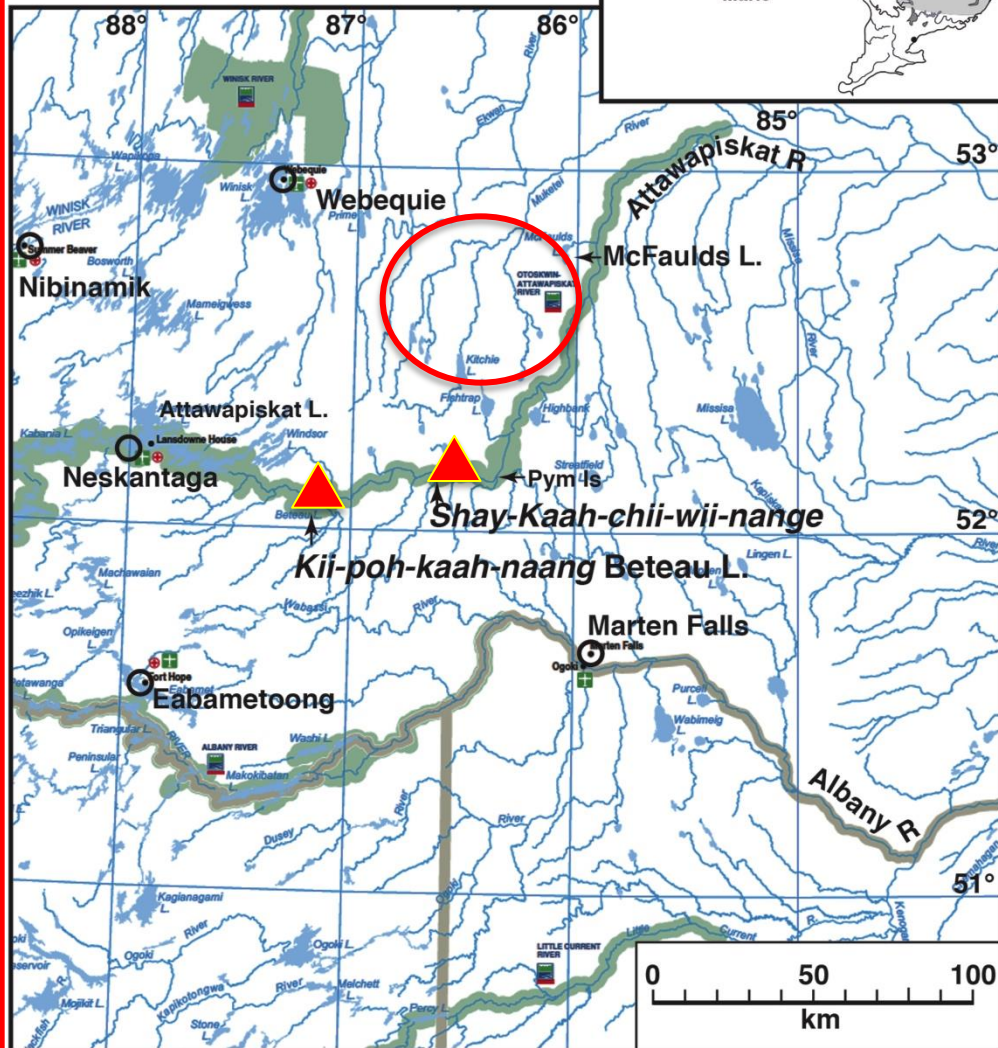
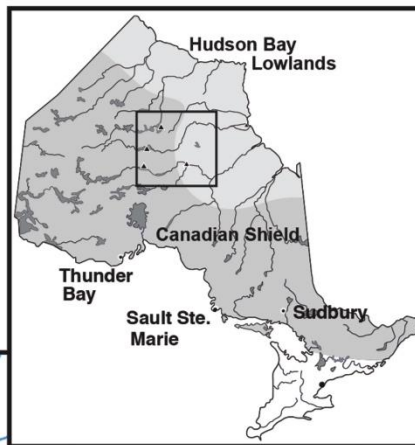
‘integrated planning’.

Neskantaga FN & Northern Superior Resources work to identify potential impacts.

What areas are likely to be disturbed? (drill pads, access trails, etc).

How to assess, avoid or mitigate potential impacts prior to development?

Intensive mineral exploration within the 'Ring of Fire' (circle) impacts several First Nations.



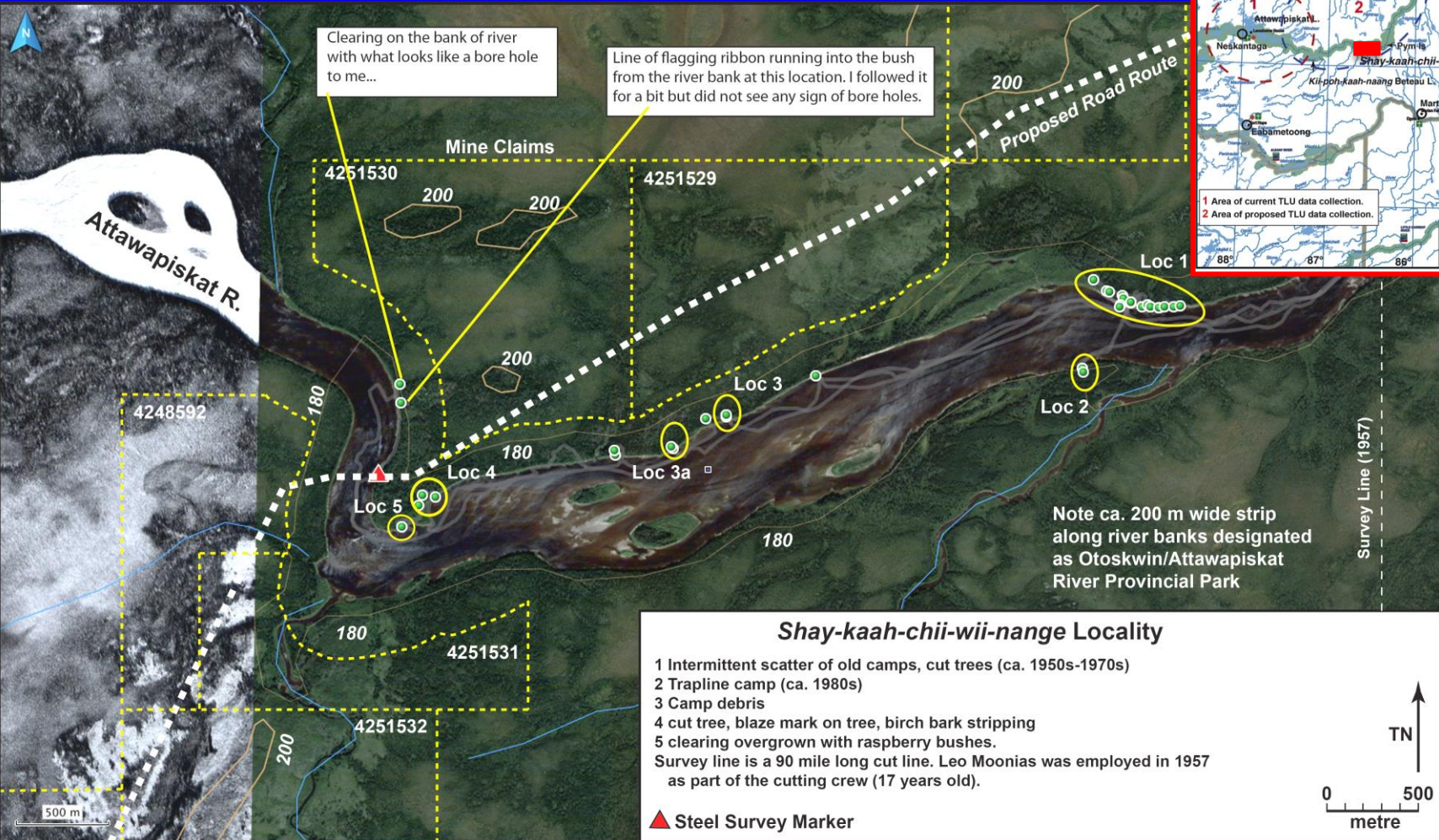
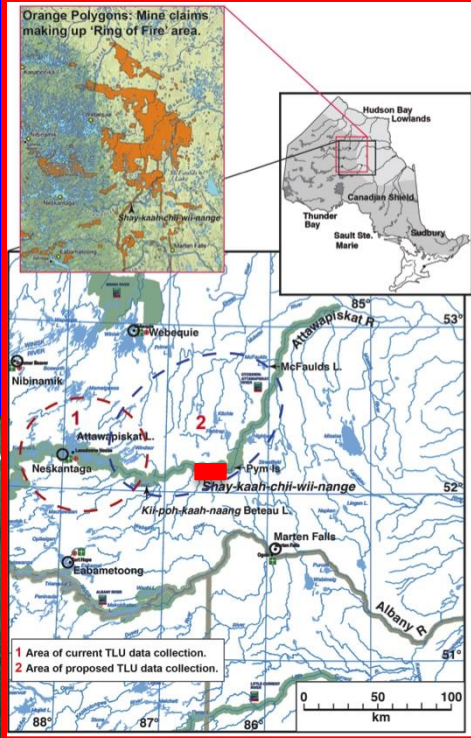
How to address constitutionally protected rights?

- Who has interests where?
- Complex history of overlapping territorial interests.
- ▲ Two known historic hamlets used by Neskantaga families abandoned about 40 years ago .
- Such places are remembered by Elders, but unreported in documents used for planning and negotiations.
- How to deal with environmental concerns, historic land use and occupancy interests, and modern harvest activities.

A seasonal village where proposed transportation route crosses Attawapiskat R (red rectangle).

Site visit to amplify Traditional Knowledge.

A place documenting community interest, historical family and community values, plus at least one burial.





Thank you