

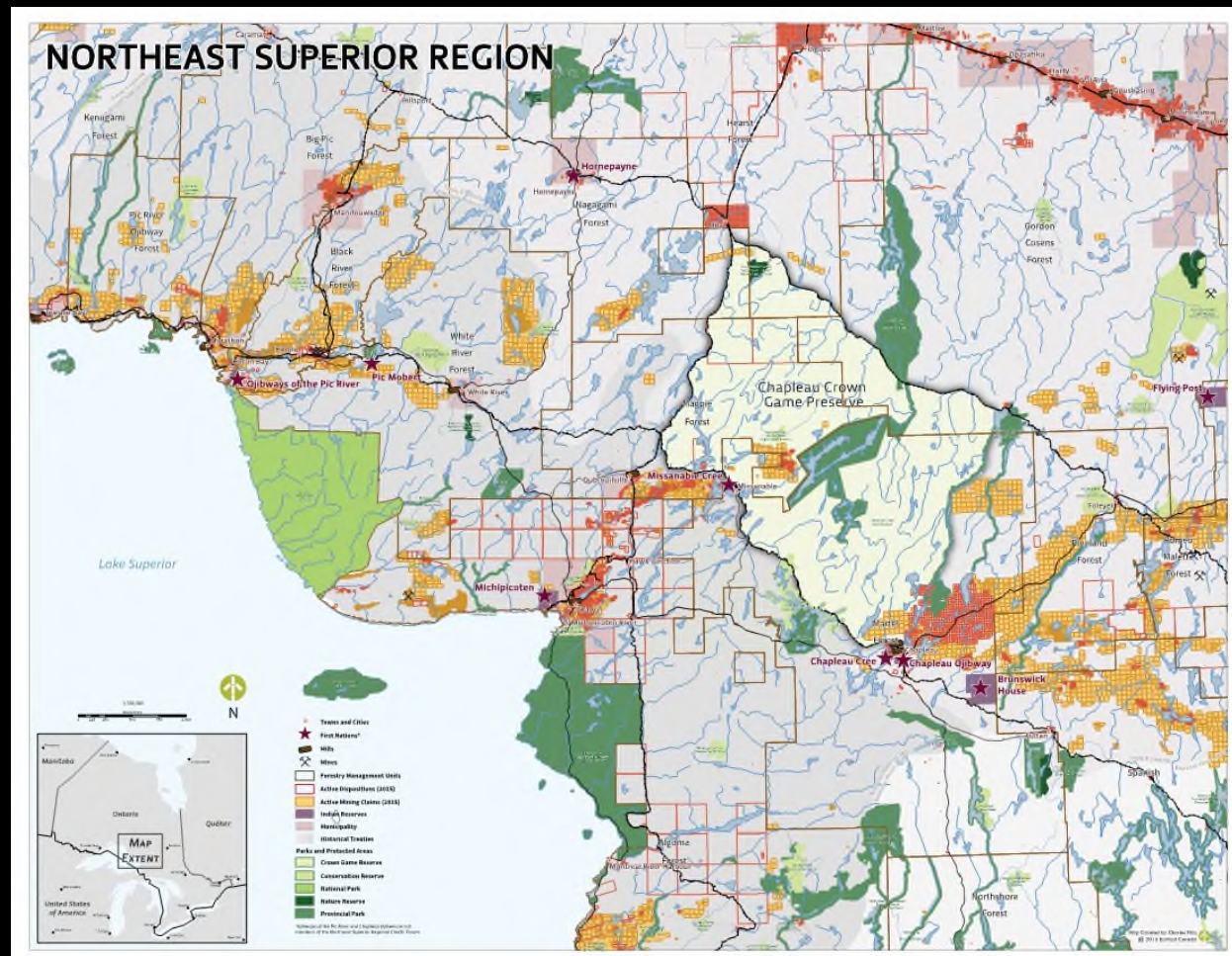


A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO CONSERVATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITH FIRST NATIONS

How the Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs Forum (NSRCF) advanced a
reconciliation approach to community development

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CONTEXT





NSRCF HISTORY

- Created in 2007 as a collective First Nation political advocacy body
- Guided by spirit and supported through ceremony
- Facilitated through an Indigenous traditional cultural lens
- Reconciliation based, fueled by the convergence agenda
- Advocates an adversarial approach only as a last resort



RECONCILIATION AND CONSERVATION

- Fundamentally, it is a return to balance through:
 - Holism: Everything is related to everything else
 - Humanism: Relationships and the return of the Feminine Spirit
 - Empowerment: Grassroots based movement
 - Spirituality: Follow the Golden Rule
 - Co-creation: Everything is done together



NSRCF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

Challenge: Resource decision-making is too far removed from local circumstances to be effective

Opportunity: Build inclusive regional collaborative relationships between First Nations and municipalities in support of greater regional resource stewardship autonomy

NSRCF STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT

- Build on international trends such as Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) and Centre of Excellence (CoE) best practices
- Integrated approach that links regional inter-sectoral economic, environmental, social, cultural, governance and fiscal needs
- Simplify the process by building various components independently
- Ensure that responsibilities and opportunities are shared equally
- Use Emotional Intelligence (EI) to support increased humanism

NSRCF CONSERVATION PRIORITY - MOOSE

- Moose represent primal feminine energies; the time is right
- CCGP Moose Recovery Strategy under development for ten years
- Science component framed around Cervidae Ecological Framework
- Traditional component precautionary; focused on personal responsibility

MOOSE INFORMATION COLLECTION

- Scientific workshop led to adaptive management approach
- Target: from 1200 to 1600 moose in CCGP within five years
- Literature review concluded the need for glyphosate ban
- First Nation historical use studies helped legitimize Aboriginal claims
- Enhanced forest resource inventory advanced to ground truth habitat facts
- Guardianship program poised to support compliance monitoring



RECOVERY STRATEGY COMPONENTS

- Moose recovery is a shared responsibility
 - Industry: voluntary glyphosate reduction, support for complete ban
 - OMNR: focus on late winter moose critical habitat and road planning
 - First Nation: 5 year harvesting moratorium
 - Municipal: comprehensive public education agenda required

OBSERVATIONS

- Conservation based initiatives are usually seen as economic threats
- Citizen apathy thwarts grassroots movement
- Need to shift from stakeholder based to principle based dialogue
- Adaptive management promotes change through continual improvement
- Extensive and ongoing relationship building is required to manage fear

CONCLUSIONS

- Government claims to represent all but behaves like a stakeholder
- Politics at all levels undermines transformative change
- Government-industry relations have an entrenched economic agenda
- A catalyst (usually crisis) is required to trigger transformative movement