

Review of Alamos Gold Inc's Proposed Changes to the Lynn Lake Gold Project – MacLellan Site

Manitoba Métis Federation

November 12, 2025



1.0 Introduction

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) notified the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) – the National Government of the Red River Métis – about Alamos Gold Inc.’s proposed changes to the MacLellan site of the Lynn Lake Gold Project (The Project). The Lynn Lake Gold Project is located within the National Homeland of the Red River Métis, in the MMF’s Thompson Region, and therefore has the potential to impact the exercise of Red River Métis s.35 rights, claims and interests. As such, the IAAC has requested the MMF to provide comments on the Draft Analysis Report and the Recommended Amended Decision Statement that have been prepared by the IAAC.

2.0 Background—The Red River Métis and the MMF

The Red River Métis

The Red River Métis is an Indigenous collectivity and Aboriginal People within the meaning of section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

Since 1982, Métis rights have been recognized and affirmed by section 35 and protected by section 25 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. These rights were further confirmed and explained by the Supreme Court of Canada ("SCC") in *R. v. Powley*, 2003 SCC 43. Manitoba Courts also have recognized Red River Métis rights in *R. v. Goodon*, 2008 MBPC 59. These decisions have affirmed that the Métis hold existing Aboriginal rights throughout their traditional territories. Our Citizens and harvesters rely on and use the lands, waters, and resources of our traditional territory throughout the Province of Manitoba and elsewhere within the historic Northwest, to exercise the Red River Métis constitutionally protected rights and to maintain their distinct Red River Métis customs, traditions, and culture.

Red River Métis’ Rights, Claims, and Interests

Based on its emergence as a distinct Indigenous People in the Northwest prior to effective control by Canada and the creation of the province of Manitoba, the Red River Métis holds rights, claims, and interests throughout and beyond the Province of Manitoba consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the right of self-determination and the inherent right of self-government.

The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) – the National Government of the Red River Métis is mandated to promote, protect, and advance the collectively held Aboriginal rights of the Red River Métis. Through this mandate, the MMF engages with governments, industry, and others about potential impacts of projects and activities on the Red River Métis. In 2007, the MMF Annual General Assembly adopted Resolution No. 8, which provides the framework for engagement, consultation, and accommodation with the Red River Métis. Designed by Red River Métis, for

Red River Métis, Resolution No. 8 sets out the process that is to be followed by governments, industry, and other proponents when developing plans or projects that have the potential to impact the section 35 rights, claims, and interests of the Red River Métis. It was unanimously passed by Red River Métis Citizens and mandates a "single-window" approach to consultation and engagement with the Red River Métis through the MMF Home Office.^[1]

^[1] More information about Resolution No. 8 is available online at: <http://www.mmfm.ca/docs/2013-Resolution%208%20Booklet-VFinal.pdf>

In engaging the MMF, on behalf of the Red River Métis, the Resolution No. 8 Framework calls for the implementation of five phases:

- Phase I: Notice and Response;
- Phase II: Research and Capacity;
- Phase III: Engagement and Consultation;
- Phase IV: Partnership and Accommodation; and
- Phase V: Implementation

This Project has the potential to impact Red River Métis rights, claims, and interests and as such, engagement and consultation with the MMF, through the process set out above, must be followed. The “postage stamp province” of Manitoba was the birthplace of the Red River Métis. We currently have an outstanding claim flowing from the Federal Crown's failure to diligently implement the land grant provision of 1.4 million acres of land promised to the Red River Métis as a condition of helping to bring Manitoba into Confederation. It is set out in section 31 of the *Manitoba Act, 1870* and must be resolved in accordance with the honour of the Crown.^[2]

Prior to the creation of Manitoba, the Red River Métis had always exercised its right of self-determination and developed its own self-government structures and institutions centered around the Red River Settlement and throughout the Northwest. As described by Louis Riel in his 1885 memoirs, Métis self-government was well-established and functioning when Canada came to the Red River Métis in the late 1800s:

When the Government of Canada presented itself at our doors it found us at peace. It found that the Métis people of the North-West could not only live well without it . . . but that it had a government of its own, free, peaceful, well-functioning, contributing to the work of civilization in a way that the Company from England could never have done without thousands of soldiers. It was a government with an organized constitution whose junction was more legitimate and worthy of respect, because it was exercised over a country that belonged to it.

Red River Métis self-government has evolved and changed over time to better meet the needs of the collectivity. Today, the MMF is the recognized, democratically elected, National Government of the Red River Métis. On November 30, 2024, the Red River Métis and Canada signed the Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty. The Treaty recognizes the MMF as the government of the Red River Métis.

Since 1967, the MMF has been authorized by the Red River Métis through a democratic governance structure at the Local, Regional, and National levels. As part of this governance structure, the MMF maintains a Registry of Red River Métis Citizens.^[3]

By applying for Red River Métis Citizenship, individuals are confirming the MMF is their chosen and elected representative government for the purposes clearly set out in the MMF Constitution,^[4] including as related to the collective rights, claims, and interests of the Red River Métis.^[5]

The MMF Constitution confirms that the MMF has been created to promote the political, social, cultural, and economic rights and interests of the Red River Métis. The MMF is authorized to represent the Red River Métis' collective rights, interests, and claims. This authorization is grounded in the MMF's democratic processes that ensures the MMF is responsible and accountable to the Red River Métis.

The MMF governance structure includes a centralized MMF President, Cabinet, Regions, and Locals. There are seven (7) Regions and approximately 135 Locals throughout Manitoba (Figure 1). There are thousands of Citizens who live outside of Manitoba. All Red River Métis Citizens are Members of a Local. Locals and Regions work together to authorize and support the MMF Cabinet, and the MMF's various departments and offices. Through elections held every four years, Citizens choose and elect the MMF Cabinet consisting of the MMF President, who is the leader and spokesperson for the MMF, a Vice-President of each Region, and two Regional Executive Officers from each Region. The MMF Cabinet also includes the spokeswoman for the Infinity Women Secretariat. Each Local's Membership elects a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary and a Treasurer (or a Secretary-Treasurer, as the case may be) to serve the Local for a four-year term.

Consistent with the direction of our Citizens back in 2014, the MMF removed the arbitrary provincial borders from our Constitution that separated Red River Métis who live outside of Manitoba from those within. Today, the MMF represents Red River Métis Citizens within the provincial borders of Manitoba, and thousands more across our National Homeland, and around the world.

The MMF, as the duly authorized government of the Red River Métis, has been recognized by both the federal and provincial governments in agreements, policies, and legislation. For example, in 2002, *The Child and Family Services Authorities Act* recognized the MMF for the devolution of child and family services to MMF institutions. This Act establishes a series of Child and Family Services Authorities to administer and provide the delivery of services to various distinct Indigenous communities in Manitoba. It creates a Métis Child and Family Services Authority, the directors of which are appointed by the MMF.

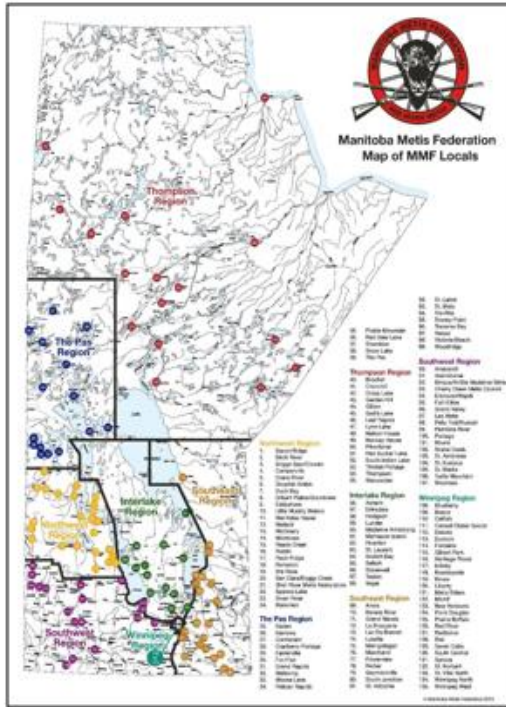


Figure 1. Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) Regions.

In 2008, the courts in Manitoba further recognized that "[t]he Métis community today in Manitoba is a well-organized and vibrant community. Evidence was presented that the governing body of Métis people in Manitoba, the Manitoba Métis Federation, has a membership of approximately 40,000, most of which reside in southwestern Manitoba."¹⁶¹ In 2010, the Manitoba Government adopted a Manitoba Métis Policy, and stated that:

The Manitoba Métis Federation is a political representative of Métis people in Manitoba and represents in Manitoba the Métis who collectively refer to themselves as the Métis Nation. ... Recognition of the Manitoba Métis Federation as the primary representative of the Métis people is an important part of formalizing relationships.¹⁷¹

In 2012, the *MMF-Manitoba Harvesting Agreement (2012)* negotiated between the MMF, and the Manitoba Government recognized some of the collective section 35 harvesting rights of the Red River Métis and relied on the Citizenship processes of the MMF as proof of belonging to a rights-holding Indigenous collectivity:

For the purposes of these Points of Agreement, Manitoba will recognize as Métis Rights-Holders, individuals who are residents in Manitoba and who hold a valid MMF Harvesters Card, issued according to the MMF's Laws of the Hunt. [. . . and will] consult with the MMF prior to implementing any changes to the current regulatory regime that may infringe Métis Harvesting Rights.¹⁸¹

In 2013, the SCC recognized the "collective claim for declaratory relief for the purposes of reconciliation between the descendants of the Métis people of the Red River Valley and Canada." It went on to grant the MMF standing as the "body representing the collective Métis interest" in the *MMF Case*.¹⁹¹ Additionally, in 2016, the *MMF-Canada Framework Agreement* stated:

the Supreme Court of Canada recognized that the claim of the Manitoba Métis Community was "not a series of claims for individual relief" but a "collective claim for declaratory relief for the

purposes of reconciliation between the descendants of the Métis people of the Red River Valley and Canada" and went on to grant the MMF standing by concluding "[t]his collective claim merits allowing the body representing the collective Métis interest to come before the court". [and that] "Canada is committed to working, on a nation-to-nation, government-to-government basis, with the Métis Nation, through bilateral negotiations with the MMF. "^[10]

The MMF signed the *Manitoba Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement* (MMSGRIA) on July 6, 2021. This marked a major step forward in reconciliation between the Red River Métis and Canada. The MMSGRIA, among other things, immediately recognized the MMF as the National Government of the Red River Métis and sets out a path forward towards the completion of a modern Treaty. As noted above, that Treaty was signed on November 30, 2024. Once Implementation Legislation is in place, the Treaty will become fully effective and will have constitutional protection, further strengthening the relationship between the Red River Métis and Canada.

^[2] *Manitoba Métis Federation Inc. v. Canada (Attorney General)*, 2013 SCC 14, [2013] 1 SCR 623 ("MMF Case"). The Supreme Court of Canada recognized that this outstanding promise represents "a constitutional grievance going back almost a century and a half. So long as the issue remains outstanding, the goal of reconciliation and constitutional harmony, recognized in s. 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982 and underlying s. 31 of the *Manitoba Act*, remains unachieved. The ongoing rift in the national fabric that s. 31 was adopted to cure remains unremedied. The unfinished business of reconciliation of the Métis people with Canadian sovereignty is a matter of national and constitutional import" (para. 140).

^[3] MMF Constitution, Article III outlines the citizenship definition and application process. This definition ("Métis" is defined to mean " a person who self-identifies as Métis, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry, is distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples and is accepted by the Métis Nation ") aligns with the definition of what constitutes a section 35 rights-bearing Métis community as outlined by the Supreme Court of Canada in *Powley* at para. 30.

^[4] *Newfoundland and Labrador v. Labrador Métis Nation*, 2007 NLCA 75 at para 47: "Anyone becoming a member of the [Labrador Métis Nation] should be deemed to know they were authorizing the LMN to deal on their behalf to pursue the objects of the LMN, including those set out in the preamble to its articles of association. This is sufficient authorization to entitle the LMN to bring the suit to enforce the duty to consult in the present case."

^[5] *Behn v. Moulton Contracting Ltd.*, 2013 SCC 26 at para 30: "[A]n Aboriginal group can authorize an individual or an organization to represent it for the purpose of asserting its s.35 rights."

^[6] *R. v. Goodon*, 2008 MBPC 59 para 52. Note that the number of MMF Citizens (40,000) identified by the Court was as of 2007. .

^[7] Manitoba Métis Policy, September 2010 at 4, 12, online (PDF): http://www.gov.mb.ca/imr/ir/major-initiatives/pubs/Métispolicy_en.pdf

[8] MMF-Manitoba Harvesting Points of Agreement (September 29, 2012), ss. 3, 6-7.

[9] *MMF Case*, *supra* note 6 at para 44.

[10] MMF-Canada Framework Agreement on Advancing Reconciliation, November 15, 2016, Preamble.

3.0 MMF Feedback

3.1 MMF Feedback on IAAC's Drafted Analysis Report

The following section contains the MMF's feedback on IAAC's "Draft Analysis of Proposed Changes to the Lynn Lake Gold Project – MacLellan Site".

The MMF agrees with the conclusions made by ECCC, DFO, NRCan, and IAAC on water quality, water quantity, and fish and fish habitat. The MMF would like to be updated on the implementation of the Payne Lake, Dot Lake, and Minton Lake outlets as monitoring locations, as well as the addition of cobalt to the list of contaminants. Red River Métis citizens regularly fish for Walleye, Lake Trout, Northern Pike and White Sucker in the Keewatin River, Cockerham Lake, Burge Lake, and Goldsand Lake within 10km of the MacLellan Site, as seen in Figure 1. The proposed increase in water flow entering the unnamed tributary of the Keewatin River has the potential to increase contaminated levels in fish consumed by Red River Métis Harvesters. Additionally, the potential drying out of fish-bearing wetlands could impact important fish habitat and fish populations relied upon by the Red River Métis. The proponent's habitat offsetting plan must be appropriately implemented to account for the potential losses in fish habitat.

Red River Métis Citizens also harvest Moose within 10km of the MacLellan Site and harvest Caribou, Spruce Grouse, Black Bear, Ptarmigan, Goose, Duck, Snowshoe Hare, Beaver, and firewood within 40km of the site, as shown in Figures 1 and 2 in Appendix 1. Figure 1 demonstrates that a variety of berries, mushrooms, and medicines are also gathered within 10km of the site. The proposed increase in mine life from 13 to 17 years and the 20-year increase in the mine's post-closure timeline will extend the period during which Red River Métis Harvesters will be impacted.

Under Section 3.1 of the Draft Analysis Report under "Proponent's engagement with Indigenous groups", the MMF is not in agreement with the proponent's claim that it engaged with the 13 Indigenous groups named in the Decision Statement through the established Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC). The MMF dropped out of the Proponents EAC for the Lynn Lake

Gold Project because of concerns of the check box approach that was taken by the Proponent with their EAC. The MMF would like to express that they were not provided appropriate capacity to be meaningfully engaged with by the proponent on the Lynn Lake Gold Project. Additionally, the MMF was not provided access to the document for the Notice of Change on the Proposed Amendments to the Lynn Lake Gold Project -MacLellan Site, which was indicated in the Draft Analysis Report.

3.2 MMF Feedback on IAAC's Proposed Amendments to the Decision Statement

The following section contains the MMF's feedback on IAAC's Proposed Amendments to the Decision statement to Alamos Gold for the Lynn Lake Gold Project.

The MMF agrees with the amendments proposed by the IAAC. However, the MMF would like to propose additional changes to the Decision Statement for consideration.

On page 2 of the Decision Statement under "Consultation with Indigenous groups", the MMF is not in agreement that "the concerns and interests of Indigenous groups are appropriately accommodated". As mentioned above, the MMF was not adequately engaged with on the Lynn Lake Gold Project, or on the Proposed Amendments to the Lynn Lake Gold Project – MacLellan Site and is no longer part of the Proponents' EAC. The MMF has expressed concerns with Alamos Gold and encouraged them to use a distinctions-based approach when engaging with Indigenous Nations, much like the one they have made with Marcel Colomb First Nation and Matthias Colomb Cree Nation.

3.3 MMF Concerns

This report outlines the MMF's significant concerns regarding the proposed changes to Alamos Gold's Lynn Lake Gold Project and provides evidence of the continued and ongoing land use by the Red River Métis within the project area. The Lynn Lake Gold Project is positioned to operate for decades and to generate substantial economic returns. However, with the proposed modifications aimed at increasing production capacity and extending the operational lifespan of the project, there is a corresponding and substantial increase in the potential adverse effects on the section 35 Rights, interests, and traditional land use of the Red River Métis.

Despite the project's expanded scale and the foreseeable cumulative impacts, Alamos Gold has failed to meaningfully engage with the MMF, the democratically elected government of the Red River Métis, whose citizens will be directly affected by these changes. This lack of proper, respectful, and distinctions-based engagement contravenes both the spirit and intent of reconciliation and undermines the Crown's duty to consult and accommodate. The failure of Alamos Gold and the Province to involve the MMF in a substantive and timely manner

demonstrates a continued pattern of exclusion that disregards Red River Métis-specific concerns, knowledge, and rights.

The MMF reiterates that engagement with the Red River Métis must not be treated as a procedural formality or delegated solely to the province or industry. As a rights-bearing Indigenous government, the MMF must be directly consulted and its concerns meaningfully addressed throughout all phases of project planning, modification, and operation. The MMF therefore urges the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) to ensure that the obligations set out in the Decision Statement are fully upheld and enforced. These obligations clearly require Alamos Gold to engage with the Red River Métis through the MMF in a manner that is transparent, ongoing, and consistent with the Crown's constitutional and legal responsibilities.

Appendix 1: Red River Métis Land Use

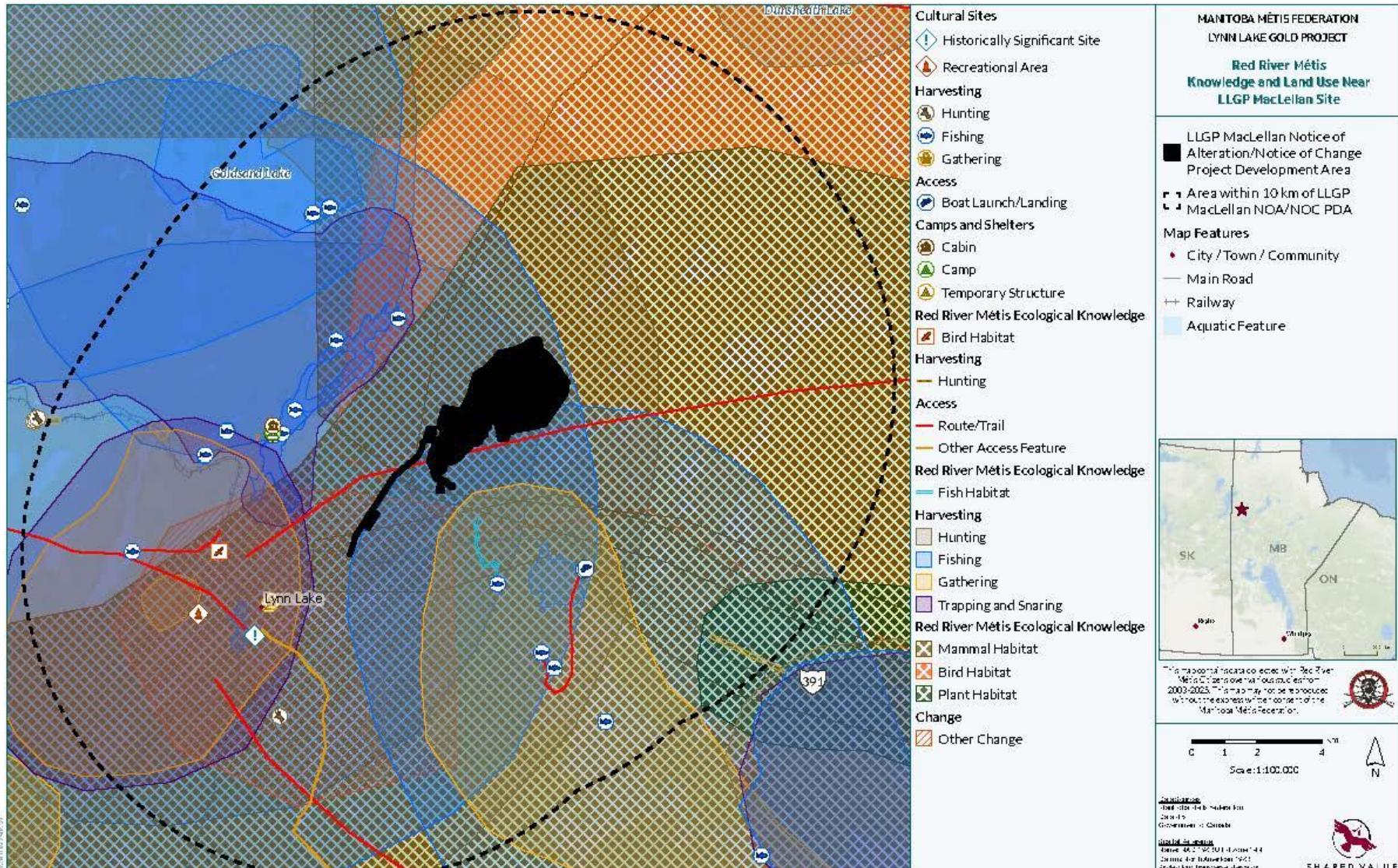


Figure 1. Map of Red River Métis Land Use within 10 KM of the Lynn Lake Gold Project – MacLellan Site.

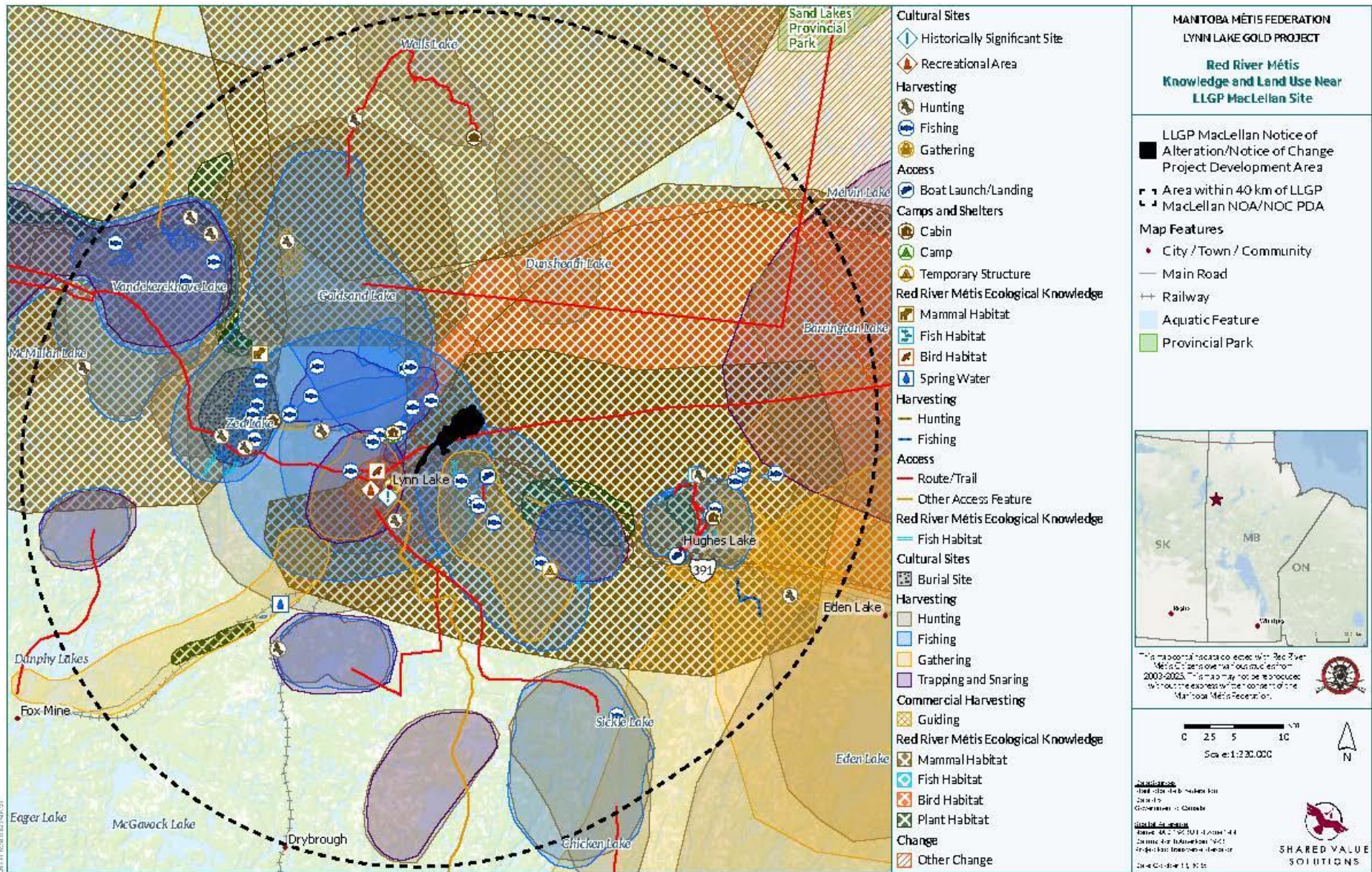


Figure 2. Map of Red River Métis Land Use within 40 KM of the Lynn Lake Gold Project – MacLellan Site