



*Swan River First Nation
Consultation*



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Swan River consultation
site assessment
Analysis

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Rights of SRFN and Scope of Operations

- 1. Swan River First Nation is a signatory to Treaty No.8., and as such SRFN has inherent Treaty and Aboriginal rights, including rights to their culture and way of life. These rights are collectively known as Section 35 rights which are affirmed and protected by the *Constitution Act, 1982*. It is the authority and priority of the Chief and Council of SRFN to ensure that SRFN Section 35 rights are protected and continuously exercised in preferred manner by their Members.**

- 2. It is, therefore, beyond the study scope to provide a complete assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed project that is in the area that is currently and historically used by SRFN Members for the exercise of their Section 35 rights and is integral to the continuance of SRFN culture and way of life for the current and future generation**

- 3. Similarly, this report does not present a complete suite of recommendations on how any such negative impacts may be avoided, mitigated or positive benefits maximized. It is therefore imperative that the Project impacts to SRFN rights and interests be identified and assessed in an appropriate and fulsome manner in order to develop a responsive mitigation and accommodation plan, to be developed between SRFN, the Proponent and if necessary the Crown**

- 4. Nothing in this report should be construed as:**
 - a. ▪ To limit, define or otherwise constrain or prevent SRFN from bringing forward additional information to what is presented in this report;**
 - b. ▪ To define, limiting or otherwise constraining the extent of SRFN and their Members' traditional land and resource use, traditional knowledge, Treaty and Aboriginal rights;**
 - c. ▪ Evidence of SURF's support for the Project or any of the activities of the Proponent with respect to the Project;**
 - d. ▪ Reducing or limiting the legal obligation of the Crown in right of Alberta or Canada to accommodate the rights and interests of SRFN in relation to impacts, effects or infringements on SRFN rights.**

Overview

SRFN field crews conducted a site visit on September 21, 2022, while on site it was noted that this site largely resembles an old cut block or harvest area.

SRFN found evidence leading us to believe that there is animal activity in the area, we found tracks, trails and scat.

The area is made up of mixed woods and the tree growth seems to be very recent 5 years or so, among many grass types and willows and various other plant life we did come across very small amounts of berry bushes.

When it comes to harvesting berries or medicines SRFN has concerns when it comes to the history of the area specifically if there was herbicide sprayed in this location in the past.

Conclusion

At this time SRFN does not have any critical concerns with the area in question, due to the previous disturbances in the area and the potential presence of herbicide and other contaminants we will not be harvesting in the area for health reasons.

