

## **Annex A3:** Round 5 APEP Materials

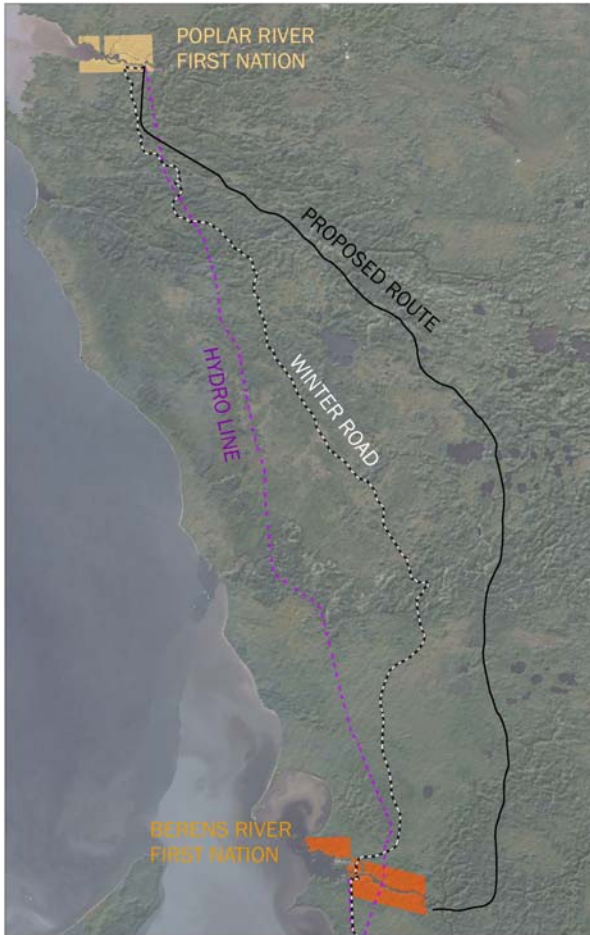
**Annex A3-1:**  
Poster – Berens River First Nation  
Community Meeting (Round 5)

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# BERENS RIVER TO POPLAR RIVER ALL-SEASON ROAD

## 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.



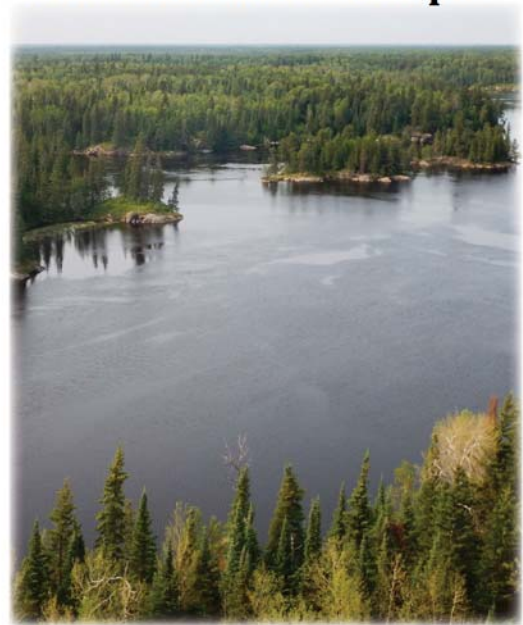
## Berens River School

**Thursday, May 21, 2015**

**Doors open at 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 discuss what you think is important to consider in the Environmental Assessment. 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 visit

**[www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca](http://www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca) 1-866-356-6355.**



**Annex A3-2:**  
Handout – Berens River First Nation  
Community Meeting (Round 5)

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# BERENS RIVER TO POPLAR RIVER ALL-SEASON ROAD

## EAST SIDE TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE

In 2009, the Government of Manitoba introduced the Manitoba Floodway Authority Act. It officially expanded the mandate of the Floodway Authority to assume responsibility for the construction and maintenance of an all-season road on the east side of Lake Winnipeg – this became the basis for the East Side Road Authority (ESRA). ESRA is currently undertaking the East Side Transportation Initiative (ESTI), a strategic initiative to provide improved, safe and more reliable transportation service for the remote and isolated communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

The East Side Transportation Initiative consists of:

### Community Economic Development

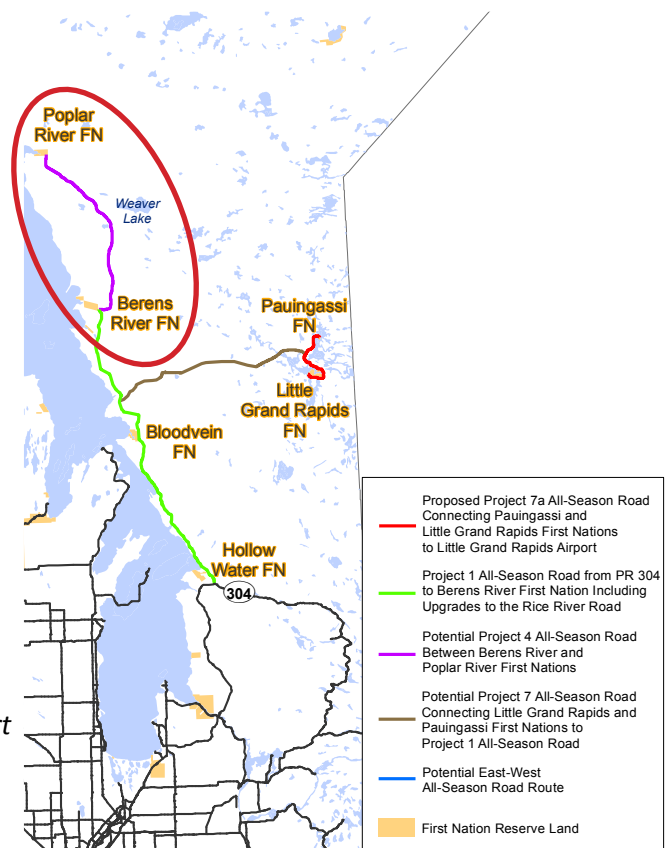
A key focus of the initiative is to ensure that local residents participate in and benefit from the construction of all-season roads and other network improvements through jobs, training and economic development opportunities. Community benefits agreements are in place with 13 east side communities including Poplar River and Berens River.

### Implementing the East Side Large Area Transportation Network Study

Improvements to the transportation network focus on the development of all-season roads connecting the communities to the provincial highway network, construction of interim pioneer roads and enhancements to winter road reliability. Priority projects include:

- Construction of a 156 km all-season road from Provincial Road 304 to Berens River First Nation is underway.
- Planning and environmental assessments to support the construction of pioneer and all-season roads in prioritized locations is ongoing.
- Interim winter road enhancements are underway with a focus on crossing improvements.

Currently, ESRA is working on the Environmental Assessment for the Berens River to Poplar River All-Season Road Alignment. The proposed road, approximately 94 kms in length, would connect Berens River First Nation and Poplar River First Nation to the wider provincial highway system. The project team is currently meeting with stakeholders and community members to outline potential road alignments, receive input into valued community heritage and cultural locations, and discuss how to mitigate any potential impacts that the road may have on the communities.



# BERENS RIVER TO POPLAR RIVER ALL-SEASON ROAD

## PROJECT BENEFITS

The East Side Road Initiative has many community benefits and economic development opportunities including:

- Providing alternative transportation to the increasingly unreliable winter road network
- Reducing transportation costs for goods and services
- Improving linkages between isolated and remote communities
- Enhancing access to emergency, health, and social services
- Creating construction employment, training, and economic opportunities
- Enhancing opportunities for local sustainable economic development

The East Side Road Authority (ESRA) is committed to working with local communities to generate economic development opportunities related to the construction of the all-season road.

As part of this commitment, ESRA will invest approximately \$315 million (35% of the overall road construction budget) into jobs, training and economic development opportunities for local residents, over the next fifteen years.

To achieve this objective, ESRA has developed an Aboriginal Benefits and Tendering Strategy that consists of Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs) and local hiring and procurement requirements in construction tenders.



**ESRA is entering into Community Benefit Agreements with First Nation communities located in the vicinity of the proposed all-season road. The purpose of these agreements is to provide jobs, training and economic opportunities related to road construction and maintenance. In particular, these agreements are designed to ensure hiring of residents from the east side communities, provide appropriate training and mentoring, and encourage community enterprises and capacity building.**

A Community Benefit Agreement was signed with Berens River First Nation in 2009, and with Poplar River First Nation in 2010.

**Annex A3-3:**  
Comment Sheet – Berens River First  
Nation Community Meeting (Round 5)

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**Annex A3-4:**  
Presentation – Berens River First Nation  
Community Meeting (Round 5)

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# **EAST SIDE TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE**

## **Berens River to Poplar River FN Road Network**



### **Possible Effects and Mitigation**

**Presentation to  
Berens River First Nation**

May 21, 2015

## Why are we here?

### We are here today to:

- Provide information about the road project
- Communicate what we heard from you and others
- Review potential effects and mitigation measures
- Hear from you about what you value, so that it can be considered in the environmental impact assessment (EIA) and addressed in the project design.



## Description of Project

- 94 km of All Season Road joining Poplar River to Berens River

Includes:

- 4 major water crossings:
  - Leaf River
  - North Etomami River
  - Etomami River
  - Berens River
- 6 possible minor crossings or culverts, and
- Equalization culverts



## Prior Community Discussions

- Since 2008, ESRA has met with the Berens River community on:
  - May 5, 2009
  - July 6, 2009
  - June 13, 2010
  
  - Traditional Knowledge Workshop
    - April 22, 2015
  
- For this project, the first series of meetings (Round #1) were held on:
  - April 23, 2015 Poplar River
  - April 30, 2015 Berens River



## Summary of What We Heard – Round #1 Meetings

- What we heard from you:
  - Revised road alignment has been moved away from community sensitive areas, and was well received;
  - Communities have an interest in how information for Traditional Knowledge Studies are used;
  - Improve project communications between ESRA and the communities;
  - Protect waterway travel routes;
  - Moose, caribou, furbearers and their habitat are valued components for the communities;

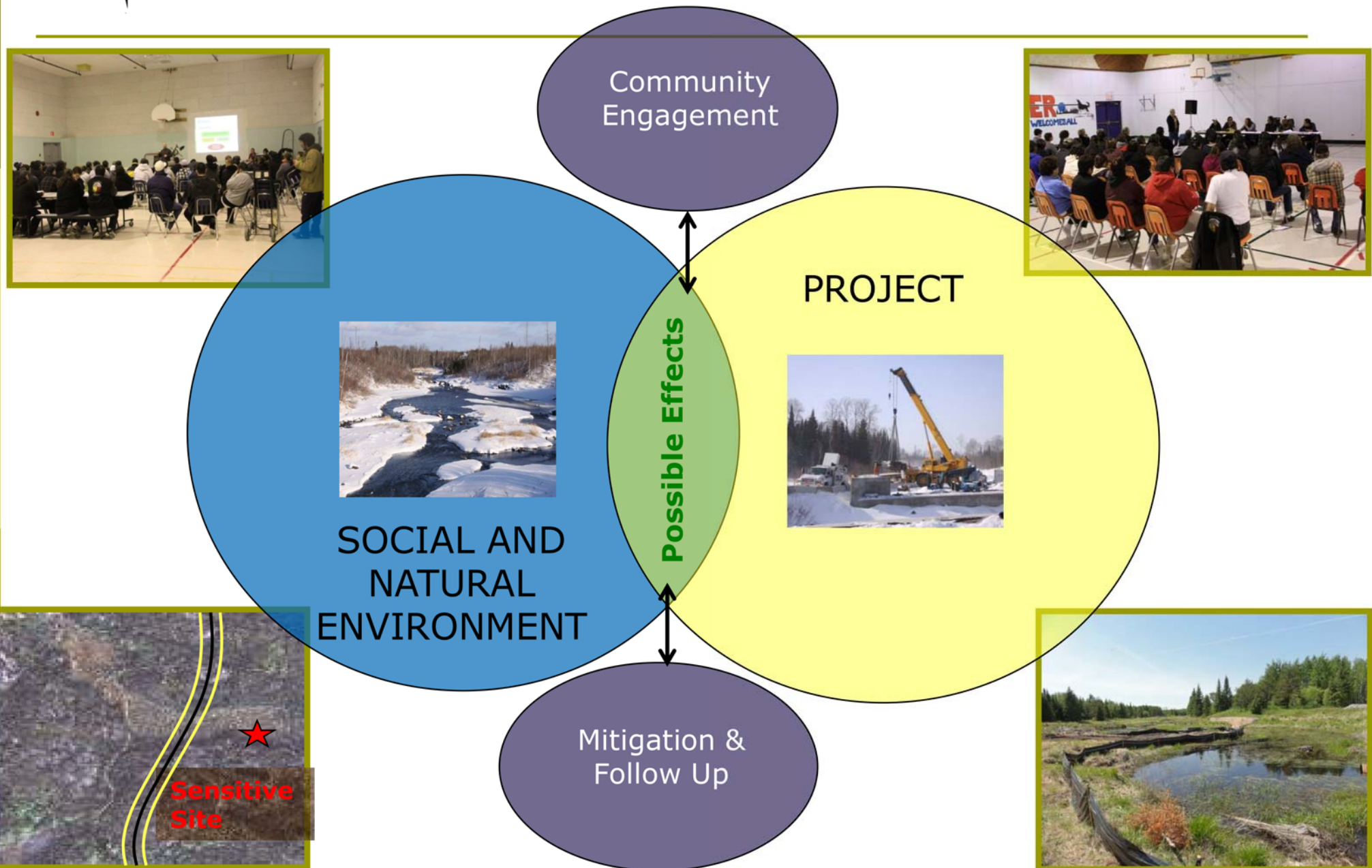


## Summary of What We Heard – Round #1 Meetings

- What we heard from you (continued):
  - Ensure travel routes and access to trap lines are maintained;
  - Consider setbacks, restricting access, and temporary barriers to protect sensitive sites;
  - Interest in the potential effects of construction noise and blasting on sensitive areas;
  - Restrict hunting along the road alignment and during construction; and,
  - Concerns over how a provincial or federal election may impact the project.



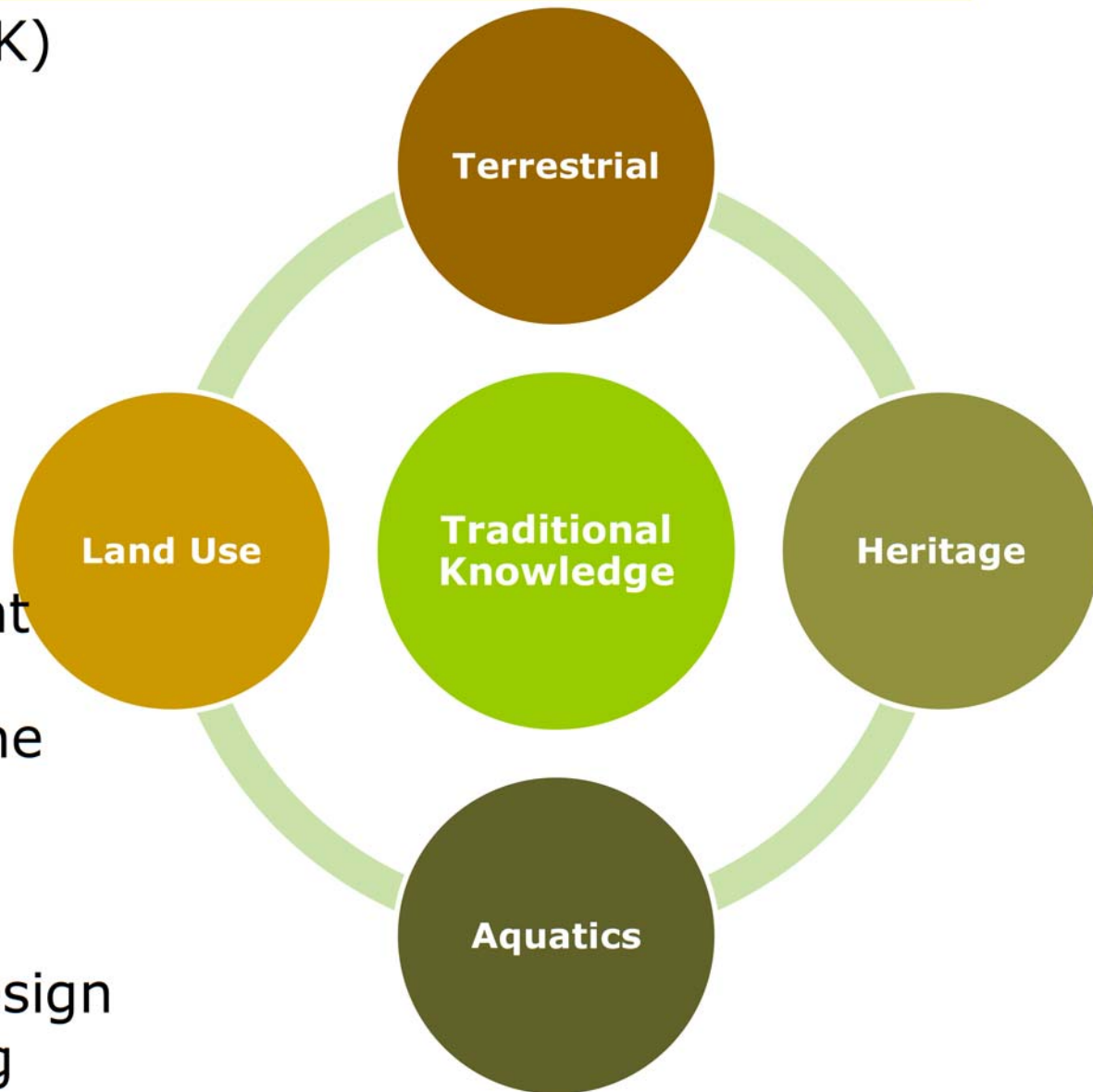
# What is Environmental Impact Assessment?



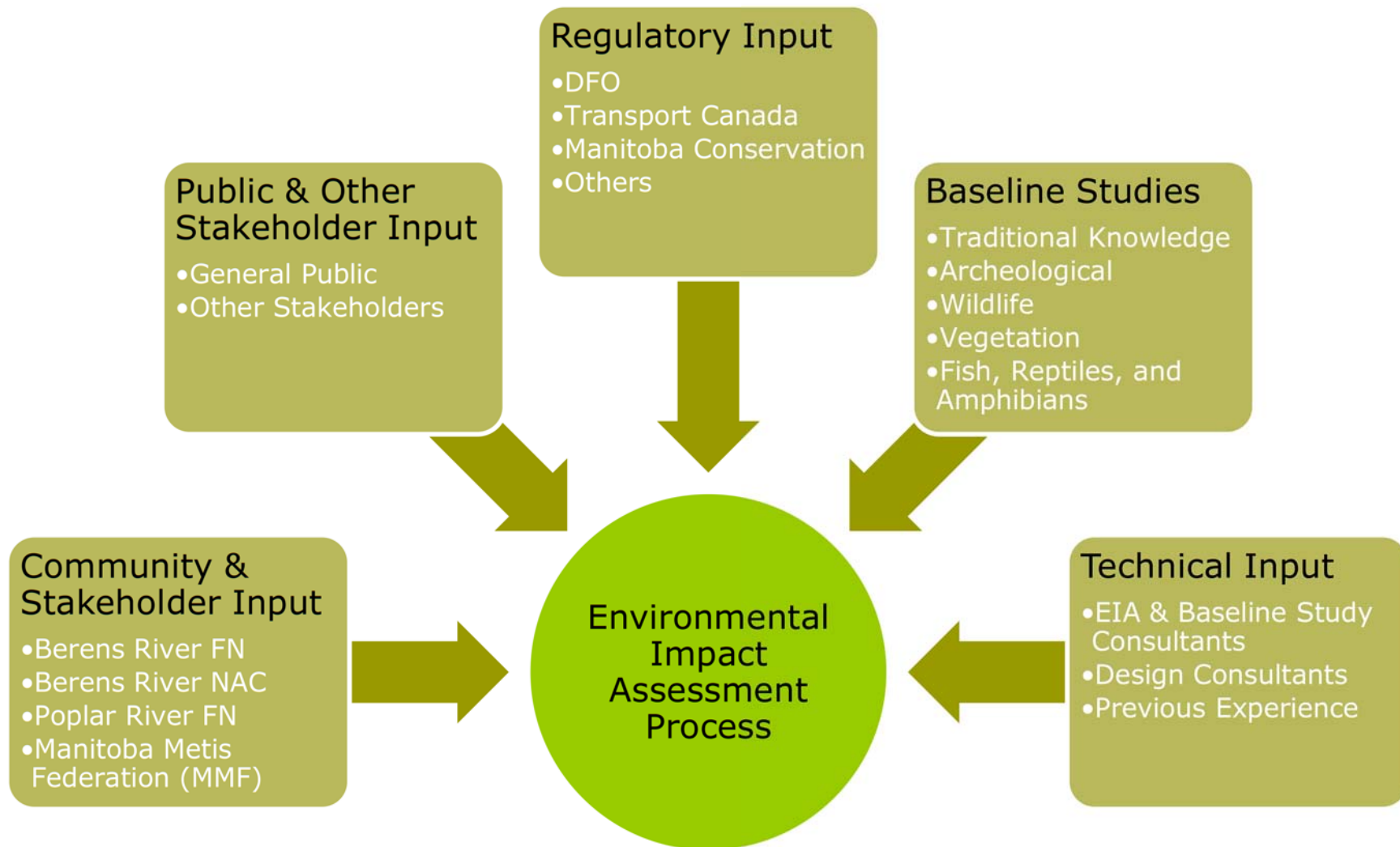


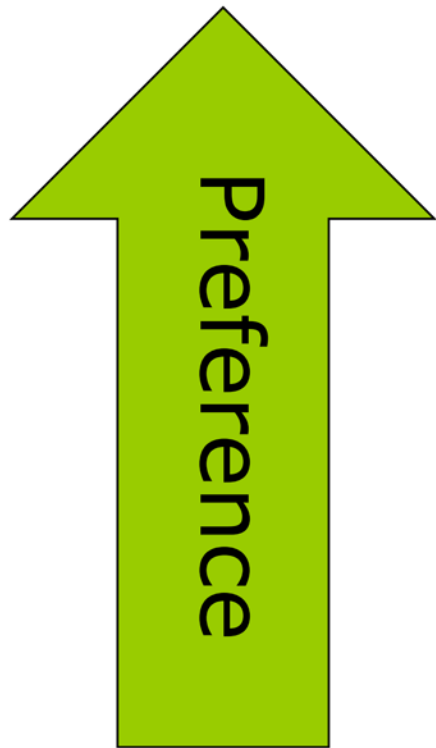
# Baseline Data

- ❑ Traditional Knowledge (TK)
- ❑ Biophysical studies to augment TK studies
  - Fisheries and habitat
  - Vegetation
  - Wildlife surveys
  - Archaeological studies
- ❑ Used to confirm alignment
- ❑ Provide information for the Environmental Impact Assessment
- ❑ Referenced for project design and construction planning



# Inputs into the Environmental Impact Assessment Process





- "Spectrum of Preference":
  - **Avoid**
  - **Minimize**
  - **Restore**
  - **Reduce or Eliminate**
  - **Offset**
  - **Monitor**

POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

Change in habitat

Disturbance from construction

Accidental moose-vehicle collisions

Increased access



MITIGATION IDEAS

Road design: improved sightlines, reduced speed, and signage on road

Limit construction worker activity to project area

Restrict hunting in construction contracts

Block temporary access roads after construction

Maintain habitat, encourage natural re-vegetation and planting with native species

POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

Change in habitat

Disturbance from blasting

Accidental caribou-vehicle collisions

Increased access



MITIGATION IDEAS

Road design: improved sightlines, reduced speed, and signage on road

Limit construction worker activity to project area

Limit blasting during calving season in sensitive areas

Block temporary access roads after construction

Maintain habitat, encourage natural re-vegetation and planting with native species

# Furbearers

POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

- Change in habitat
- Disturbance and displacement from construction
- Accidental vehicle collisions
- Increased access



MITIGATION IDEAS

Block temporary access roads after construction

Minimize extent of vegetation clearing

Maintain buffer around active dens and high quality habitat

Design equalization culverts to provide an alternate means of access for furbearers


Improve sightlines, reduced speed, and signage on road

Maintain camp standards to avoid creating wildlife attractants

Burn slash piles during first winter to limit furbearer use

Maintain habitat, encourage natural re-vegetation and planting with native species


# Waterfowl & Birds of Prey

POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

Change in habitat

Disturbance and displacement from noise

Disturbance of existing nests

Increased access



Minimize extent of vegetation clearing

No work below high water mark in spring to prevent accidental nest disturbance

Maintain riparian buffer zones along water's edge

Identification and protection of critical nesting sites during construction

Restrict construction worker activity to project area

Restrict hunting in construction areas

Block temporary access roads after construction

MITIGATION IDEAS

# Heritage & Cultural Sites

POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

Loss or damage to heritage sites and objects

Damage to cultural (sacred) sites

Damage to community use sites



MITIGATION IDEAS

Route road away from known heritage sites

Maintain buffers and temporary fencing around heritage sites

Conduct appropriate community and cultural activities prior to construction activities or disturbance of the land

Block temporary access roads after construction

Limit equipment and workers to construction areas



# Vegetation

POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

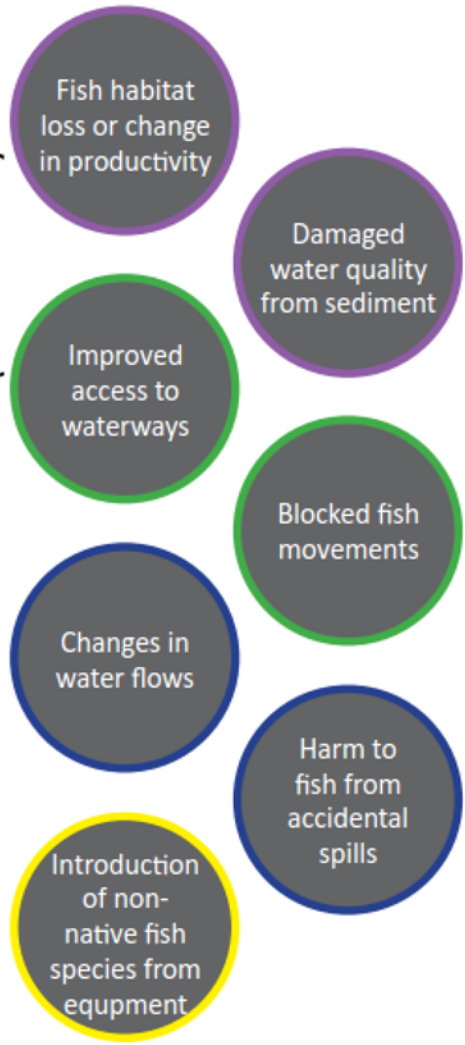


MITIGATION IDEAS

- Minimize extent of clearing to ROW, quarries, and borrow pits
- Block access roads after construction
- Survey for species of concern before clearing and initiate protection plans
- Prohibit equipment outside of construction areas
- Control herbicide use
- Restore ground cover in ditches with native species
- Reclaim disturbed areas not required for road operation and maintenance

# Fish, Reptiles & Amphibians

POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)



MITIGATION IDEAS

Block access roads after construction

Avoid critical reproduction areas

Limit clearing near watercourses and restore vegetation

Use erosion protection and sediment control

Design culverts for passage and natural flow

No work below the high water mark in spring

Protect water quality through proper equipment maintenance and fuel storage

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Prohibit use of herbicides near watercourses

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# Traditional Resource Activities

POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

Loss of traditionally used plants from clearing

Change to moose distribution affecting hunting

Change to furbearer distribution affecting harvesting

Change in fishery harvest

Change in traditional collection of aquatic plants and fish eggs



MITIGATION IDEAS

Map important traditional use areas for project planning and design

Protect moose and caribou  
*(see boards)*

Protect furbearers  
*(see board)*

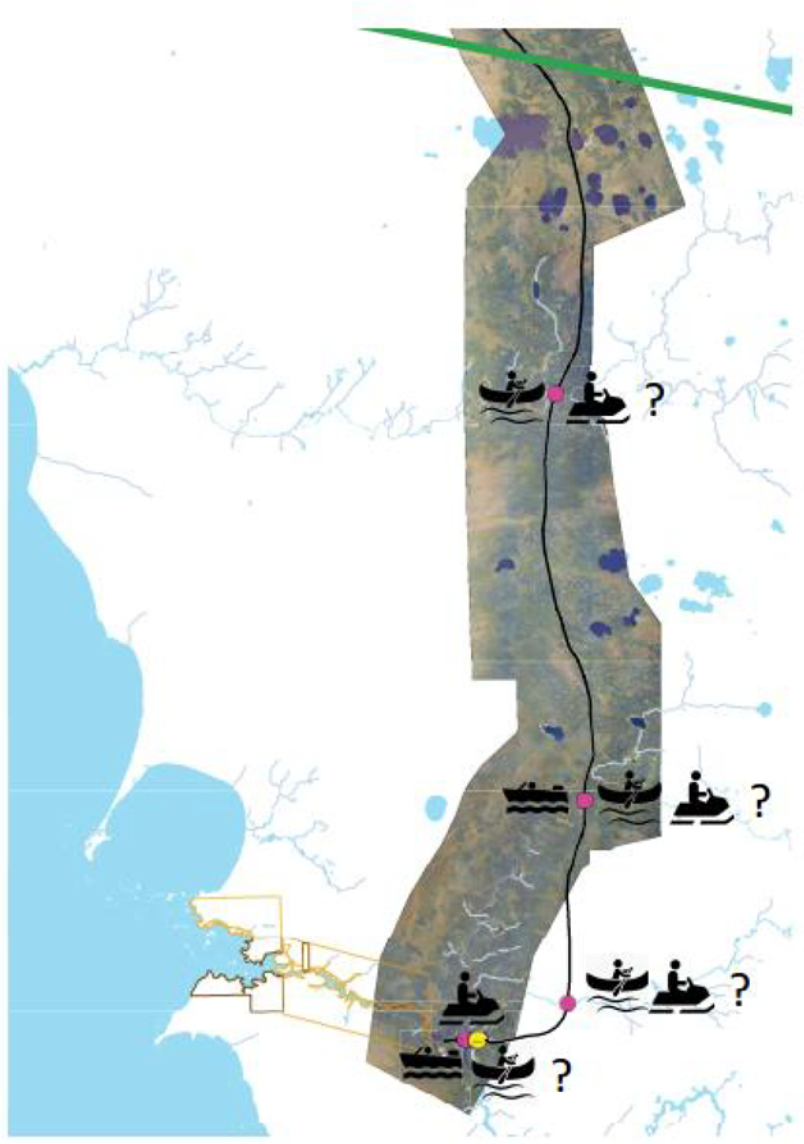
Protect fish, reptiles, amphibians  
*(see board)*

Maintain access to traplines and trails during construction

Design trail crossings to maintain trapper access and trails

Block temporary access roads after construction

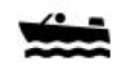
# River Access & Crossings : South



Construct bridges and culverts to maintain travel routes



Provide portage access points for travel by canoe



Restrict boat launch points at river crossings

MITIGATION IDEAS



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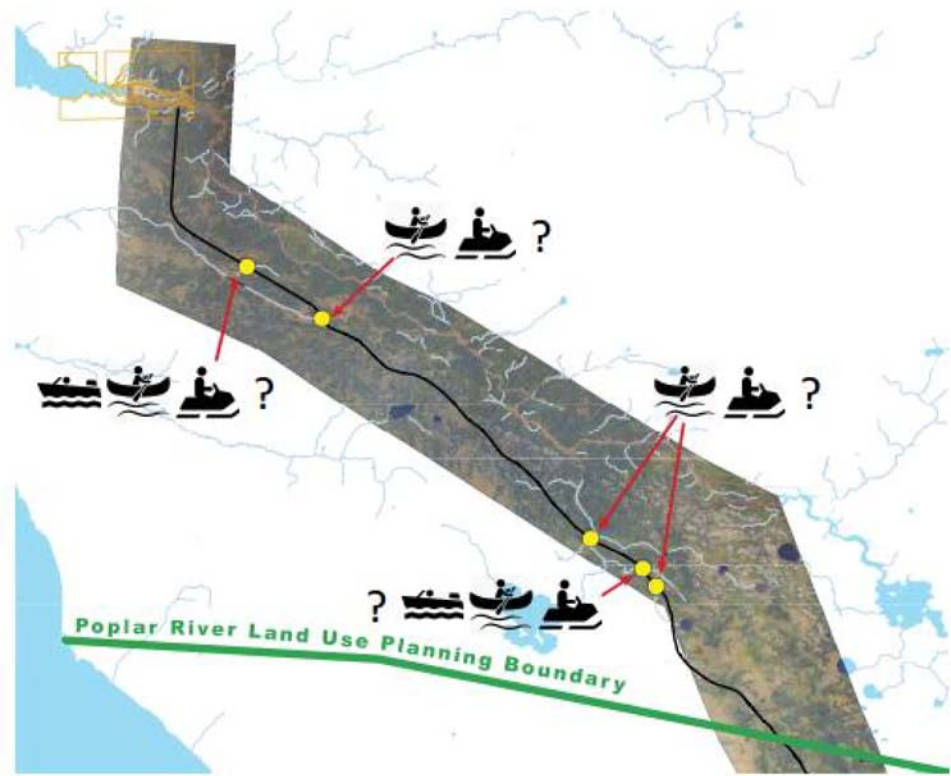
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# River Access & Crossings : North



Construct bridges and culverts to maintain travel routes



Provide portage access points for travel by canoe



Restrict boat launch points at river crossings

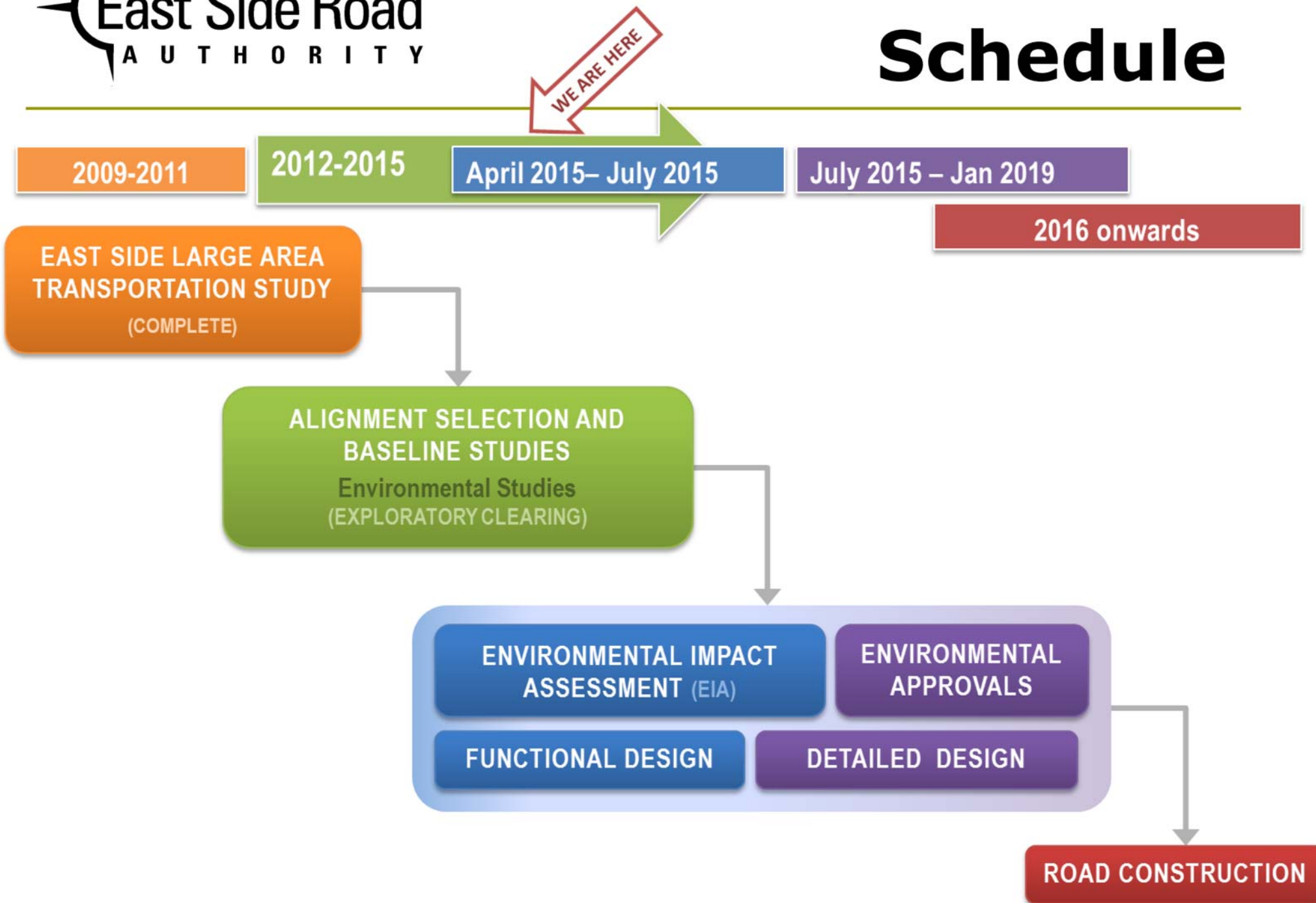
MITIGATION IDEAS







# Schedule



# Table Talks!

- We want to hear and learn from you
- Write on boards what is important to you, and what should be considered

## We will be back to meet with you to discuss the following:

- **Early Summer 2015:** To confirm findings of the environmental assessment with the community

***Please stay and talk with us!***



# Next Steps

Berens River to Poplar River All Season Road Environmental Impact Assessment <i>Tentative Schedule of Engagement Events</i>			
Date	Meeting / Event	Location	Purpose
23-Apr	In-Community Meeting #1	Poplar River	Project Information, Baseline, Valued Components
30-Apr	In-Community Meeting #1	Berens River	Project Information, Baseline, Valued Components
21-May	In-Community Meeting #2	Berens River	Communicate what we heard, the results of environmental studies to date, potential effects and potential mitigation measures
26-May	In-Community Meeting #3	Poplar River	Communicate what we heard, the results of environmental studies to date, potential effects and potential mitigation measures
28-May	Other Stakeholders #1	Winnipeg - Indian & Metis Friendship Center	Project Information, Baseline, Valued Components, What we heard from Berens River and Poplar River communities
Weeks of 15 June / 22 June (TBC)	In-Community Meetings #3	Berens River and Poplar River	Communicate the results of the environmental studies, Preferred Alternative for Road Alignment, Mitigation of Potential Impacts
2 weeks after Round #3 In Community Meetings	Other Stakeholders #2	Winnipeg	Communicate the results of the environmental studies, Preferred Alternative for Road Alignment, Mitigation of Potential Impacts, What we heard from Berens River and Poplar River



***Thank you for your participation!***

**Contact Information**

**The East Side Road Authority**

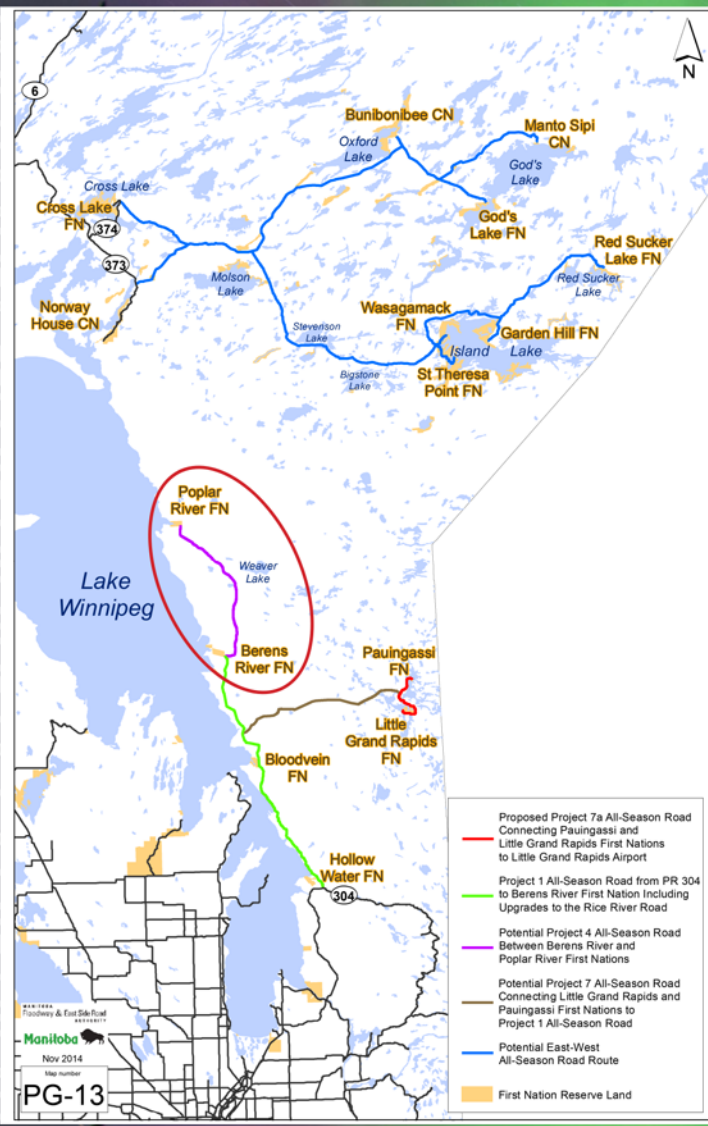
*Phone: (204) 945-4900*  
*Toll-Free 1-866-356-6355*  
*Fax: (204) 948-2462*



**Annex A3-5:**  
Display Boards – Berens River First Nation  
Community Meeting (Round 5)

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# PROJECT OVERVIEW



This project consists of **94 km** of All-Season Road joining Berens River First Nation to Poplar River First Nation.

There will be 4 major water crossings or bridges at:

- Leaf River
- North Etomami River
- Etomami River
- Berens River

Up to 6 possible minor crossings or culverts

Equalization culverts at multiple locations



# WHAT WE HEARD

As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, ESRA is conducting a series of meetings with communities in the area to inform and shape the process. Continued dialogue with and input from the communities, Elders, and Chief and Council are critical to the overall process.

## The first series of meetings (Round #1) were held with the communities on:

April 23rd, 2015 in Poplar River First Nation  
April 30th, 2015 in Berens River First Nation



## The purpose of the Round #1 meetings was to:

- Provide an overview of the proposed All Season Road project;
- Inform the community of the overall Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process;
- Discuss how the proposed road alignment has evolved based on feedback to avoid community sensitive areas; and,
- Dialogue with the community about which Valued Components should be included or highlighted in the EIA process.

# WHAT WE HEARD

## During these meetings, the communities of Poplar River First Nation and Berens River First Nation shared the following with the ESRA team:

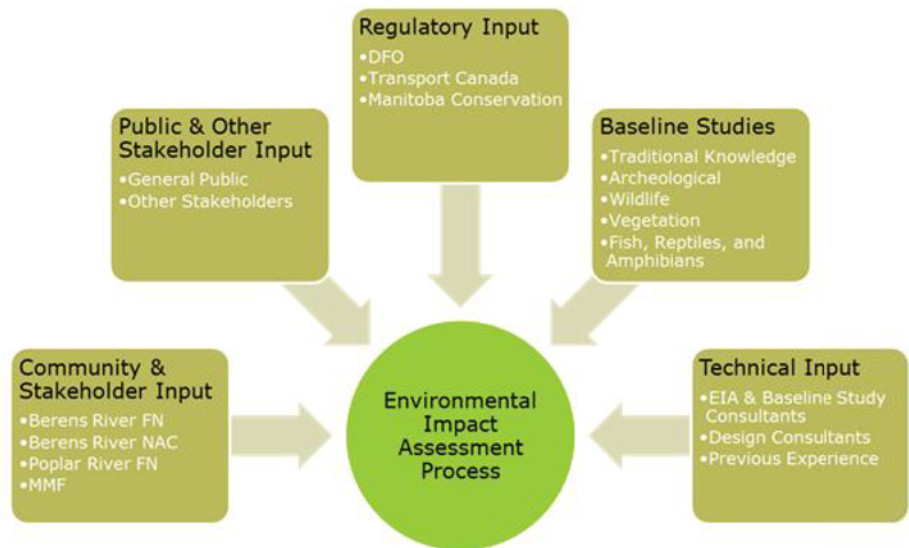
- Communities have interest in how information for Traditional Knowledge Studies are gathered and used;
- Appropriate community and cultural activities should occur prior to any construction activities or disturbance of the land;
- Communication between ESRA and the communities should be improved;
- Bridges or other structures should be designed to allow for continued access by boats, canoes, and snowmobiles;
- Moose and moose habitat are Valued Components for the communities;
- Caribou and caribou habitat are Valued Components for the communities;
- The communities noted increased presence of wolverines nearby in the past few years;
- Ensure travel routes are maintained;
- The revised proposed road alignment has been moved away from community sensitive areas based on feedback, and was generally well received;
- To protect cultural and heritage sites, consider setbacks, restrict access, and erect temporary barriers to prohibit access during construction;
- Interest in effects around the impacts of construction noise and blasting on or around moose hunting and calving areas;
- Restrict hunting along the road alignment and during construction;
- Respect and maintain access to trap lines during construction;
- Road alignments that will avoid community sensitive areas were identified to the ESRA team;
- Concerns about how upcoming provincial or federal elections may impact the project.



# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

As part of the East Side Transportation Initiative and its various road projects, environmental impact assessments (EIAs) are required. An environmental impact assessment is a process to predict environmental effects of proposed initiatives or projects before they are carried out. They identify potential effects of a project, propose measures to mitigate those effects, predict whether impacts will remain after mitigation is implemented, and follow up to test the effectiveness of mitigation. As a planning and decision-making tool, an EIA aims to minimize or avoid adverse environmental effects before they occur, and incorporate environmental factors into the decision making process.

An environmental impact assessment involves a variety of factors, including the proposed project, the existing social and natural environment, community engagement, and mitigation and follow up on possible effects.



The environmental impact assessment process involves a wide variety of **inputs** from a diverse range of sources, including input from community & stakeholders in the immediate project area, the general public and other stakeholder groups, regulatory agencies, baseline studies, technical input from consultants, and previous experience.

**Mitigation** measures are actions that can be done to reduce (mitigate) or avoid the effects or impacts that a project could have on the environment. In terms of mitigating potential impacts, the environmental impact assessment utilizes a 'spectrum of preference' approach. In order of preference, these actions include:



- **Avoiding** the impact altogether
- **Minimizing** impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation
- **Restore** by applying rehabilitation techniques after the impact may have occurred, such as revegetation of disturbed areas
- **Reduce or Eliminate** the potential over time by preservation and maintenance operations
- **Offset** potential impacts through measures such as off-site habitat creation or tree replacement planting programs
- **Monitor** the project overtime to identify and reduce potential impacts

# MOOSE

## POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

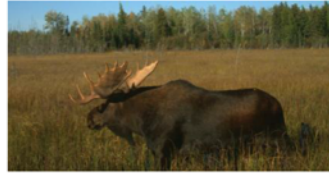
Change in habitat



Disturbance from construction



Accidental moose-vehicle collisions



Increased access



## MITIGATION IDEAS

Road design: improved sightlines, reduced speed, and signage on road

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Limit construction worker activity to project area

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Restrict hunting in construction contracts

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Block temporary access roads after construction

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Maintain habitat, encourage natural re-vegetation and planting with native species

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# CARIBOU

## POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

Change in habitat



Disturbance from blasting



Accidental caribou-vehicle collisions



Increased access



## MITIGATION IDEAS

Road design: improved sightlines, reduced speed, and signage on road

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Limit construction worker activity to project area

Blank lined box for notes

Limit blasting during calving season in sensitive areas

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Block temporary access roads after construction

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Maintain habitat, encourage natural re-vegetation and planting with native species

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# FURBEARERS

## POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

Change in habitat



Disturbance and displacement from construction



Accidental vehicle collisions



Increased access



## MITIGATION IDEAS

Block temporary access roads after construction

Improve sightlines, reduced speed, and signage on road

Minimize extent of vegetation clearing

Maintain camp standards to avoid creating wildlife attractants

Maintain buffer around active dens and high quality habitat

Burn slash piles during first winter to limit furbearer use

Design equalization culverts to provide an alternate means of access for furbearers

Maintain habitat, encourage natural re-vegetation and planting with native species

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Blank lined box for notes

# WATERFOWL & BIRDS OF PREY

## POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

Change in habitat

Disturbance and displacement from noise

Disturbance of existing nests

Increased access



## MITIGATION IDEAS

Minimize extent of vegetation clearing

No work below high water mark in spring to prevent accidental nest disturbance

Maintain riparian buffer zones along water's edge

Identification and protection of critical nesting sites during construction

Restrict construction worker activity to project area

Restrict hunting in construction areas

Block temporary access roads after construction

Minimize clearing in spring and summer

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# HERITAGE & CULTURAL SITES

## POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

- Loss or damage to heritage sites and objects
- Damage to cultural (sacred) sites
- Damage to community use sites



## MITIGATION IDEAS

Route road away from known heritage sites

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Maintain buffers and temporary fencing around heritage sites

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Conduct appropriate community and cultural activities prior to construction activities or disturbance of the land

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Block temporary access roads after construction

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Limit equipment and workers to construction areas

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# VEGETATION

## POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

Removal of trees and shrubs in construction areas



Loss of species of concern from clearing activities



Change in habitat for key species

Spread of invasive and non-native species

Change in subsurface water flow

Increased access



## MITIGATION IDEAS

Minimize extent of clearing to ROW, quarries, and borrow pits

Maintain subsurface water flows

Block access roads after construction

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Survey for species of concern before clearing and initiate protection plans

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Prohibit equipment outside of construction areas

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Control herbicide use

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Restore ground cover in ditches with native species

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Reclaim disturbed areas not required for road operation and maintenance

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# FISH, REPTILES, & AMPHIBIANS

## POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

- Fish habitat loss or change in productivity
- Damaged water quality from sediment
- Blocked fish movements
- Harm to fish from accidental spills
- Changes in water flows
- Improved access to waterways
- Introduction of non-native fish species from equipment



## MITIGATION IDEAS

Block access roads after construction

Limit clearing near watercourses and restore vegetation

Design culverts for passage and natural flow

Protect water quality through proper equipment maintenance and fuel storage

Prohibit use of herbicides near watercourses

Avoid critical reproduction areas

Use erosion protection and sediment control

No work below the high water mark in spring

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Blank lined box for notes

# TRADITIONAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

Loss of traditionally used plants from clearing

Change to moose distribution affecting hunting

Change to furbearer distribution affecting harvesting

Change in fishery harvest

Change in traditional collection of aquatic plants and fish eggs



MITIGATION IDEAS

Map important traditional use areas for project planning and design

Protect moose and caribou  
*(see boards)*

Protect furbearers  
*(see board)*

Protect fish, reptiles, amphibians  
*(see board)*

Maintain access to traplines and trails during construction

Design trail crossings to maintain trapper access and trails

Block temporary access roads after construction

Confirm setbacks and other mitigation measures with communities

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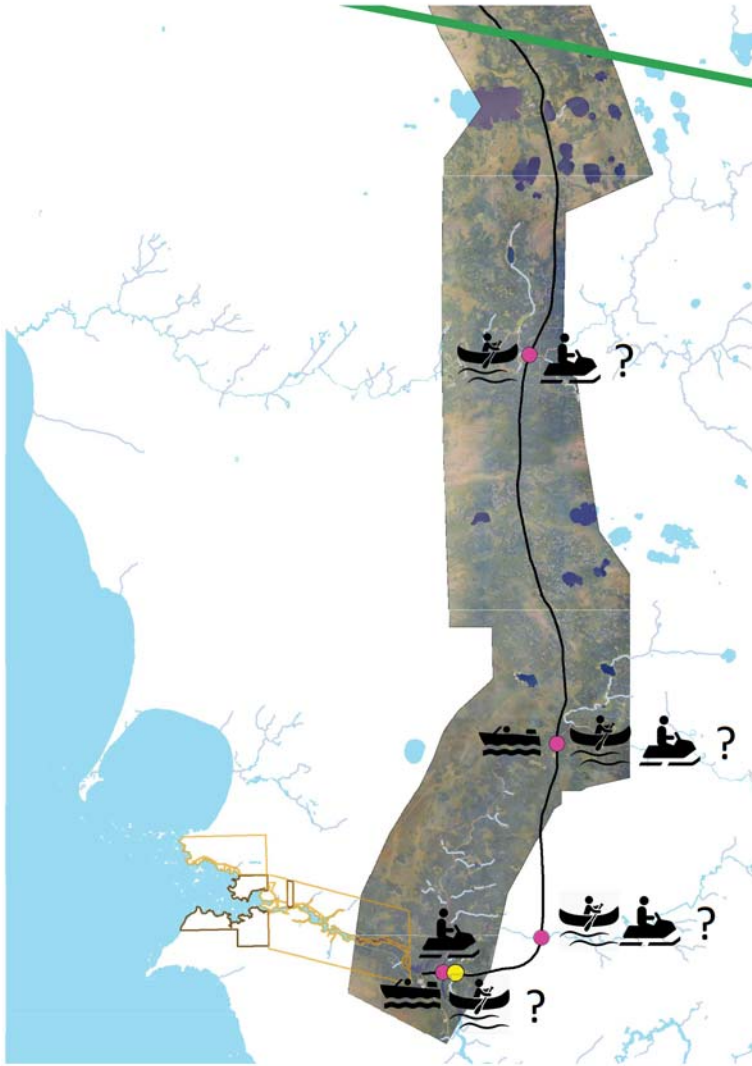
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# RIVER ACCESS & CROSSINGS: SOUTH



Construct bridges and culverts to maintain travel routes



Provide portage access points for travel by canoe



Restrict boat launch points at river crossings

MITIGATION IDEAS




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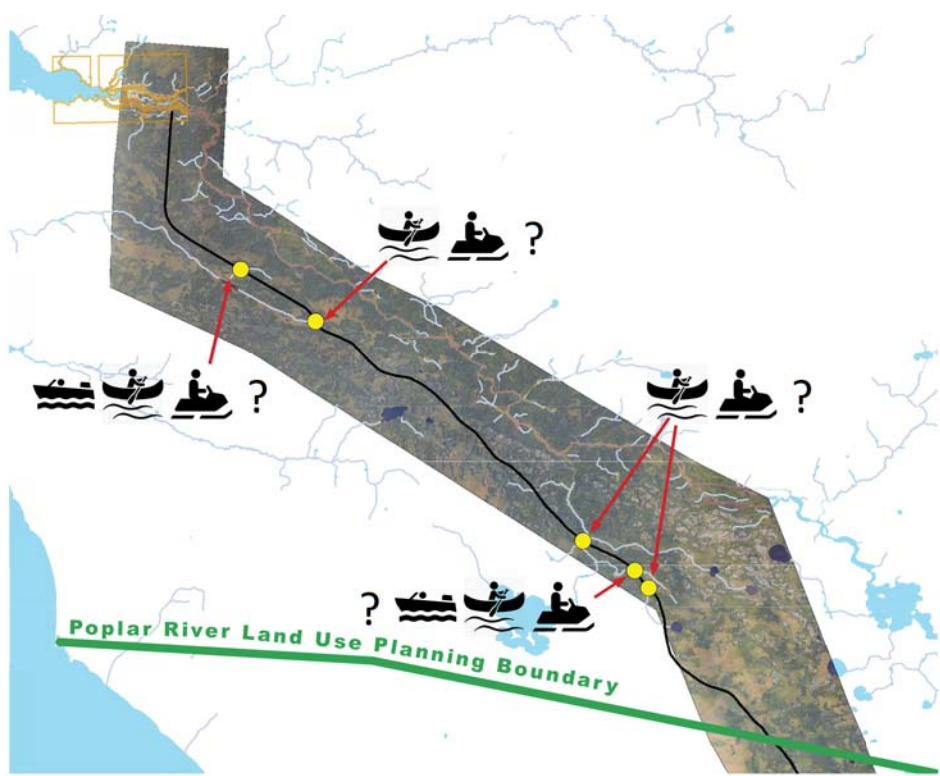
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# RIVER ACCESS & CROSSINGS: NORTH



Construct bridges and culverts to maintain travel routes



Provide portage access points for travel by canoe



Restrict boat launch points at river crossings

MITIGATION IDEAS









# ALL-SEASON ROAD CONSTRUCTION STEPS



ASR PLANNING & DESIGN



CONSTRUCTION



MAINTENANCE



# HOW SHOULD WE COMMUNICATE WITH YOU?



Community Radio



NCI Radio



Newsletter



Posters



Flyers

Please check the boxes of the methods you prefer

1-866-356-6355

[www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca](http://www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca)



Facebook and Twitter



Website



Email Distribution list



Temporary signage on road in advance of activities

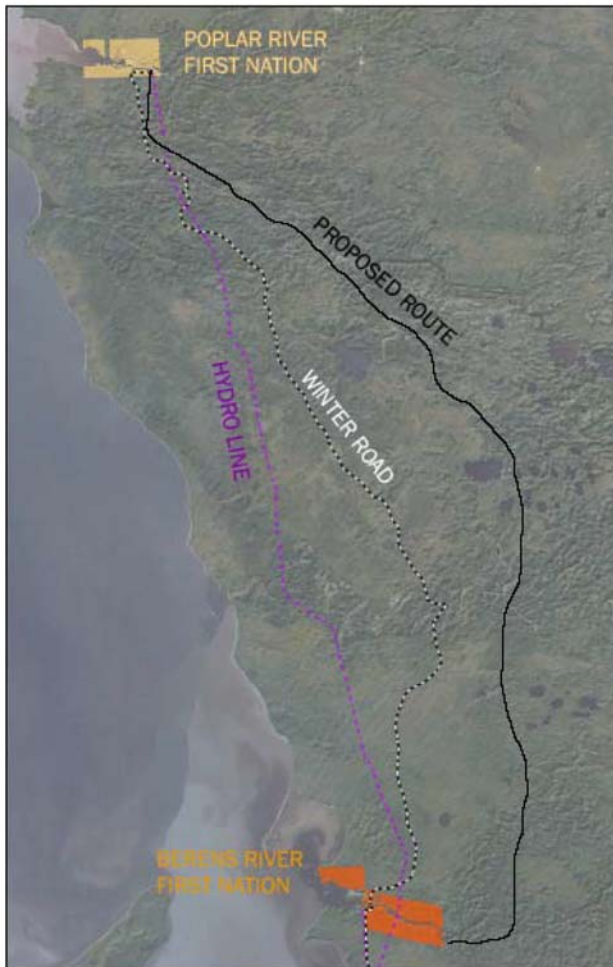
**Annex A3-6:**  
Poster – Poplar River First Nation  
Community Meeting (Round 5)

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# BERENS RIVER TO POPLAR RIVER ALL-SEASON ROAD

## 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.



## Poplar River Elementary School

Tuesday, May 26, 2015

Presentation 6:00pm

Discussion until 8:30pm



The Community Meeting is an opportunity to discuss the proposed all-season road project and discuss what you think is important to consider in the Environmental Assessment. 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 visit

[www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca](http://www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca) 1-866-356-6355.



**Annex A3-7:**  
Handout – Poplar River First Nation  
Community Meeting (Round 5)

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# BERENS RIVER TO POPLAR RIVER ALL-SEASON ROAD

## EAST SIDE TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE

In 2009, the Government of Manitoba introduced the Manitoba Floodway Authority Act. It officially expanded the mandate of the Floodway Authority to assume responsibility for the construction and maintenance of an all-season road on the east side of Lake Winnipeg – this became the basis for the East Side Road Authority (ESRA). ESRA is currently undertaking the East Side Transportation Initiative (ESTI), a strategic initiative to provide improved, safe and more reliable transportation service for the remote and isolated communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

The East Side Transportation Initiative consists of:

### Community Economic Development

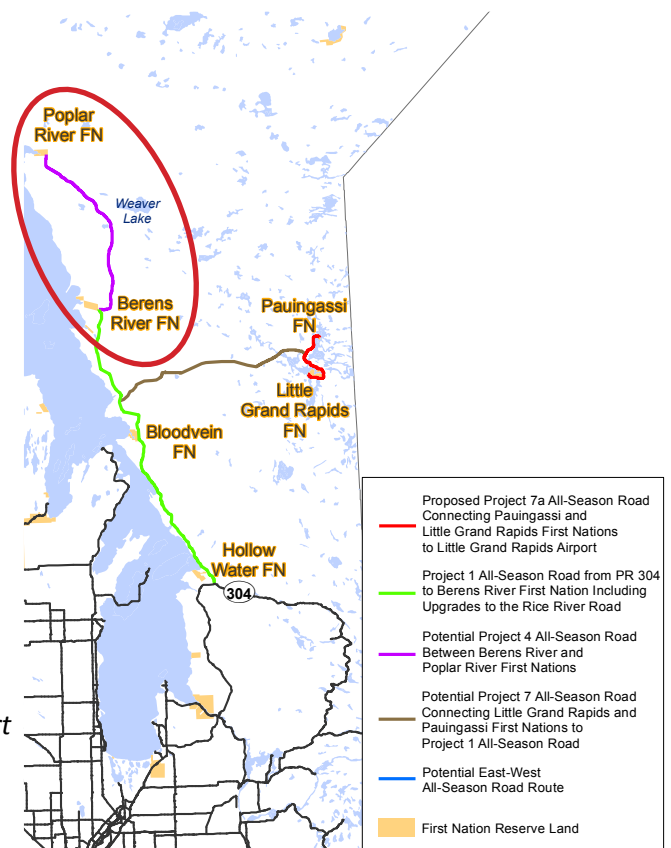
A key focus of the initiative is to ensure that local residents participate in and benefit from the construction of all-season roads and other network improvements through jobs, training and economic development opportunities. Community benefits agreements are in place with 13 east side communities including Poplar River and Berens River.

### Implementing the East Side Large Area Transportation Network Study

Improvements to the transportation network focus on the development of all-season roads connecting the communities to the provincial highway network, construction of interim pioneer roads and enhancements to winter road reliability. Priority projects include:

- Construction of a 156 km all-season road from Provincial Road 304 to Berens River First Nation is underway.
- Planning and environmental assessments to support the construction of pioneer and all-season roads in prioritized locations is ongoing.
- Interim winter road enhancements are underway with a focus on crossing improvements.

Currently, ESRA is working on the Environmental Assessment for the Berens River to Poplar River All-Season Road Alignment. The proposed road, approximately 94 kms in length, would connect Berens River First Nation and Poplar River First Nation to the wider provincial highway system. The project team is currently meeting with stakeholders and community members to outline potential road alignments, receive input into valued community heritage and cultural locations, and discuss how to mitigate any potential impacts that the road may have on the communities.



# BERENS RIVER TO POPLAR RIVER ALL-SEASON ROAD

## PROJECT BENEFITS

The East Side Road Initiative has many community benefits and economic development opportunities including:

- Providing alternative transportation to the increasingly unreliable winter road network
- Reducing transportation costs for goods and services
- Improving linkages between isolated and remote communities
- Enhancing access to emergency, health, and social services
- Creating construction employment, training, and economic opportunities
- Enhancing opportunities for local sustainable economic development

The East Side Road Authority (ESRA) is committed to working with local communities to generate economic development opportunities related to the construction of the all-season road.

As part of this commitment, ESRA will invest approximately \$315 million (35% of the overall road construction budget) into jobs, training and economic development opportunities for local residents, over the next fifteen years.

To achieve this objective, ESRA has developed an Aboriginal Benefits and Tendering Strategy that consists of Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs) and local hiring and procurement requirements in construction tenders.



**ESRA is entering into Community Benefit Agreements with First Nation communities located in the vicinity of the proposed all-season road. The purpose of these agreements is to provide jobs, training and economic opportunities related to road construction and maintenance. In particular, these agreements are designed to ensure hiring of residents from the east side communities, provide appropriate training and mentoring, and encourage community enterprises and capacity building.**

A Community Benefit Agreement was signed with Berens River First Nation in 2009, and with Poplar River First Nation in 2010.

**Annex A3-8:**  
Comment Sheet – Poplar River First  
Nation Community Meeting (Round 5)

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**Annex A3-9:**  
Presentation – Poplar River First Nation  
Community Meeting (Round 5)

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# **EAST SIDE TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE**

## **Berens River to Poplar River FN Road Network**



### **The Environmental Assessment**

**Presentation to  
Poplar River First Nation**

April 23, 2015

## Why are we here?

### We are here today to:

- Provide information about the road project
- Review the options that have been considered
- Hear from you about what you value, so that it can be considered in the environmental assessment (EA) and addressed in the project design.



## EAST SIDE TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE

- Provide alternative transportation to the increasingly unreliable winter road network
- Reduce transportation costs for goods and services
- Improve linkages between isolated and remote communities
- Enhance access to emergency, health & social services
- Construction employment, training & economic opportunities
- Enhanced opportunities for local sustainable economic development



1. Construction of an all-season road from Provincial Road PR 304 to Berens River First Nation

*Status: The project has received environmental authorizations and approvals from federal and provincial regulators and construction is underway on the 156 km all-season road from PR 304 to Berens River First Nation.*

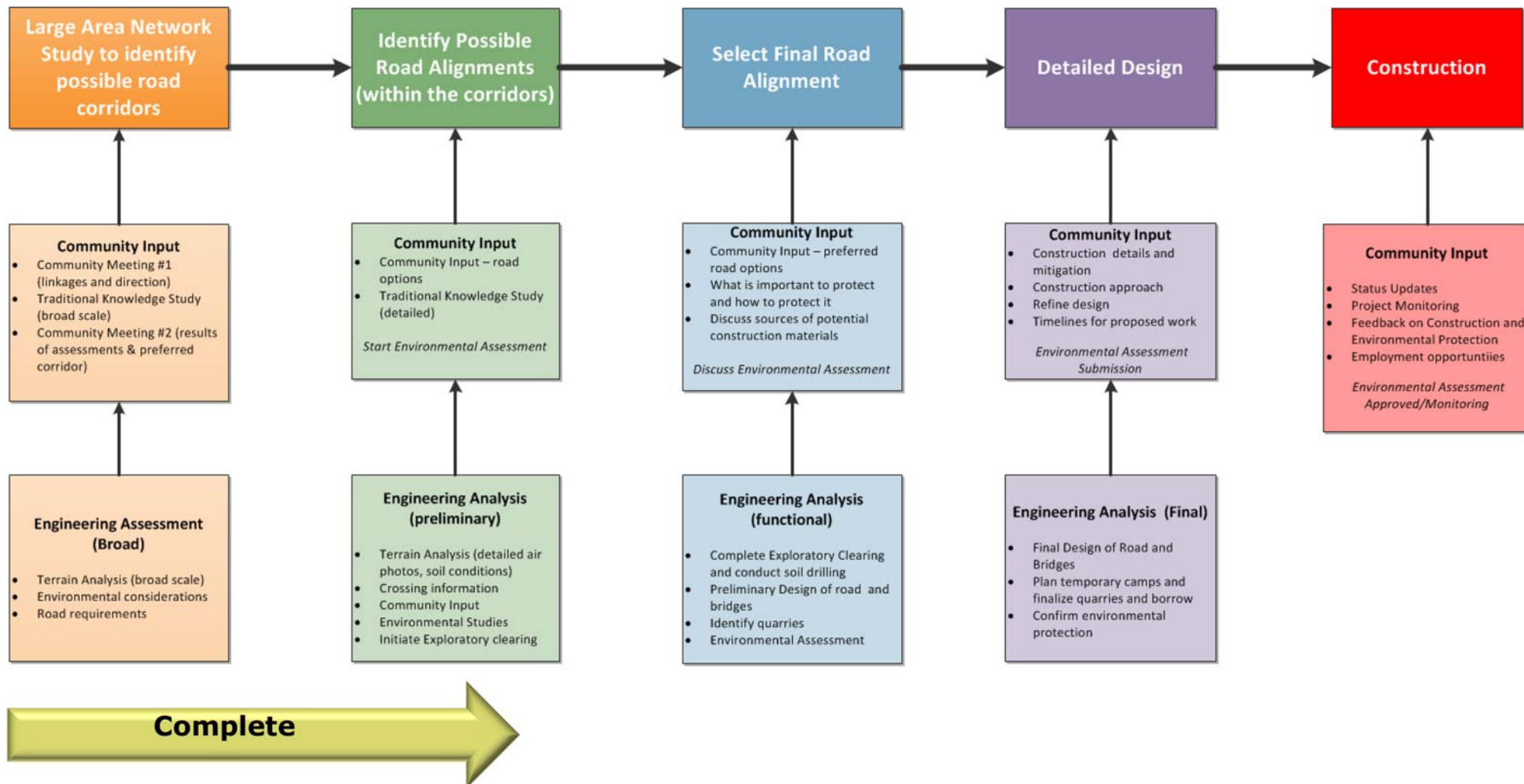
2. East Side Large Area Transportation Network Study

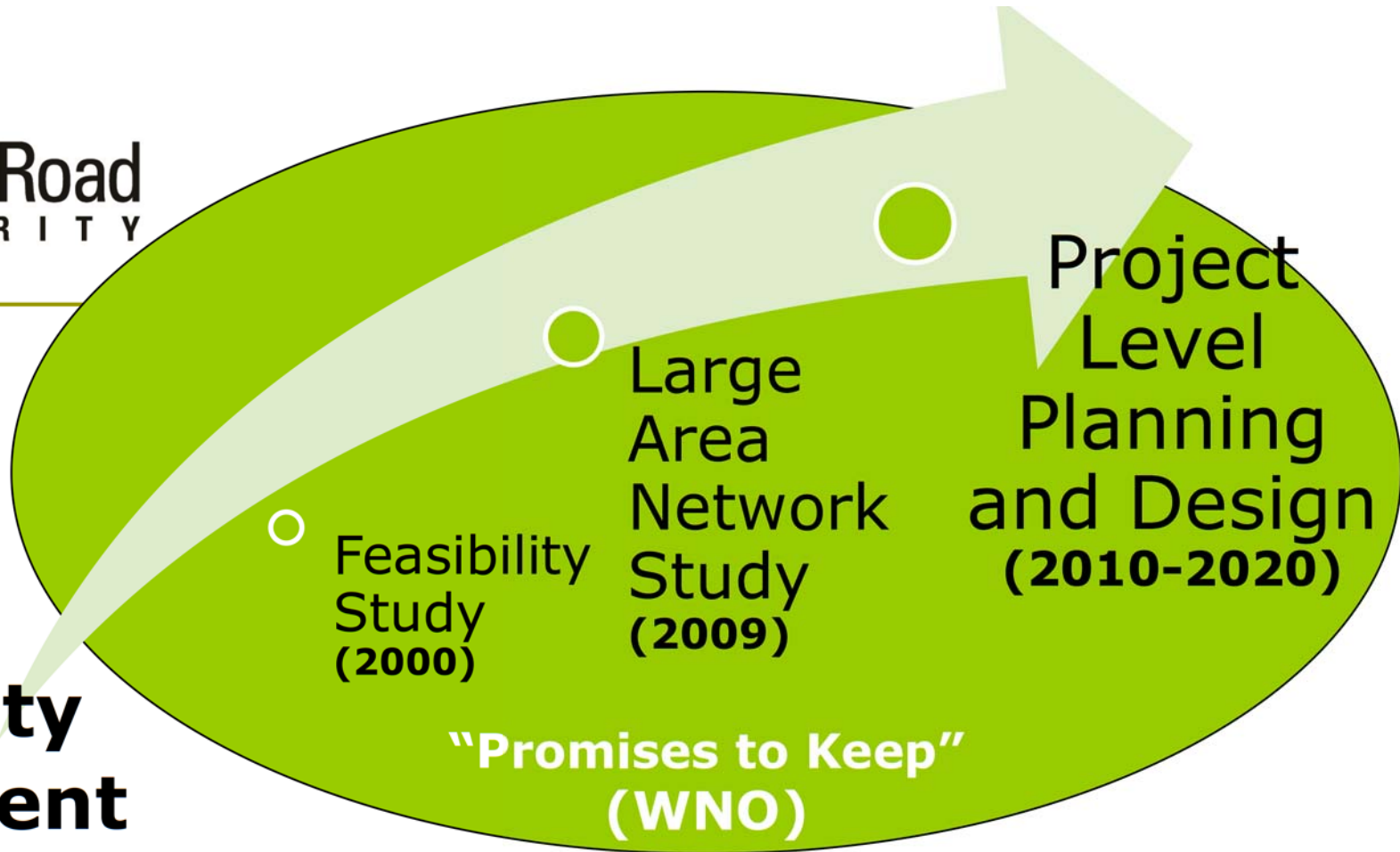
*Status: Interim winter road enhancements are underway with planning and environmental assessments to support the construction of pioneer and all season roads occurring in prioritized locations.*

3. Community Economic Development

*Status: Community benefits agreements are in place with 13 east side communities including Poplar River and Berens River.*

# Steps to Select, Design & Construct an All Season Road





## Community Engagement

- Community input is key to developing a good project
- ESRA will meet and discuss the project:
  - environmental site conditions;
  - potential impacts;
  - measures to avoid, reduce or eliminate impacts; and
  - construction employment and training.



## Prior Community Discussions & Agreements

- Since 2009, ESRA has met with the Poplar River community to discuss the project and select the best road location
  - Community Meetings
    - February 9, 2012
    - December 2, 2009
    - April 2, 2009
  - Asatiswisipe Aki Ma Ma Wichitowin Mutual Land Relationship Board & elders
    - February 25, 2014
    - November 26, 2012
    - September 24, 2012 (Elders)
    - March 12, 2012



## Prior Community Discussions & Agreements

- ❑ Past discussions resulted in changes in the potential route away from sensitive areas, based on community concerns
- ❑ Memorandum of Understanding and Community Benefits Agreement Signed in 2010



## Description of Project P4

A) 94 km of All Season Road joining  
Poplar River to Berens River

Includes:

4 major water crossings:

- Leaf River
- North Etomami River
- Etomami River
- Berens River

6 possible minor crossings or  
culverts, and

Equalization culverts

B) On Reserve Access Road

- 430m on Poplar River First Nation



# Road Route Refinements (overall)

- Original route concept has been refined several times based on:
  - community feedback and knowledge of the land
  - results of traditional knowledge, archeology, soils and wildlife investigations



# Evolution of Road Route Refinements

- Two route options originally identified –
  - Coastal Route
  - Inland Route
- Considered topographic, physiographic, geological, social-economic and natural environmental information
- Moved route from muskeg areas near Lake Winnipeg further inland to suitable terrain for constructability



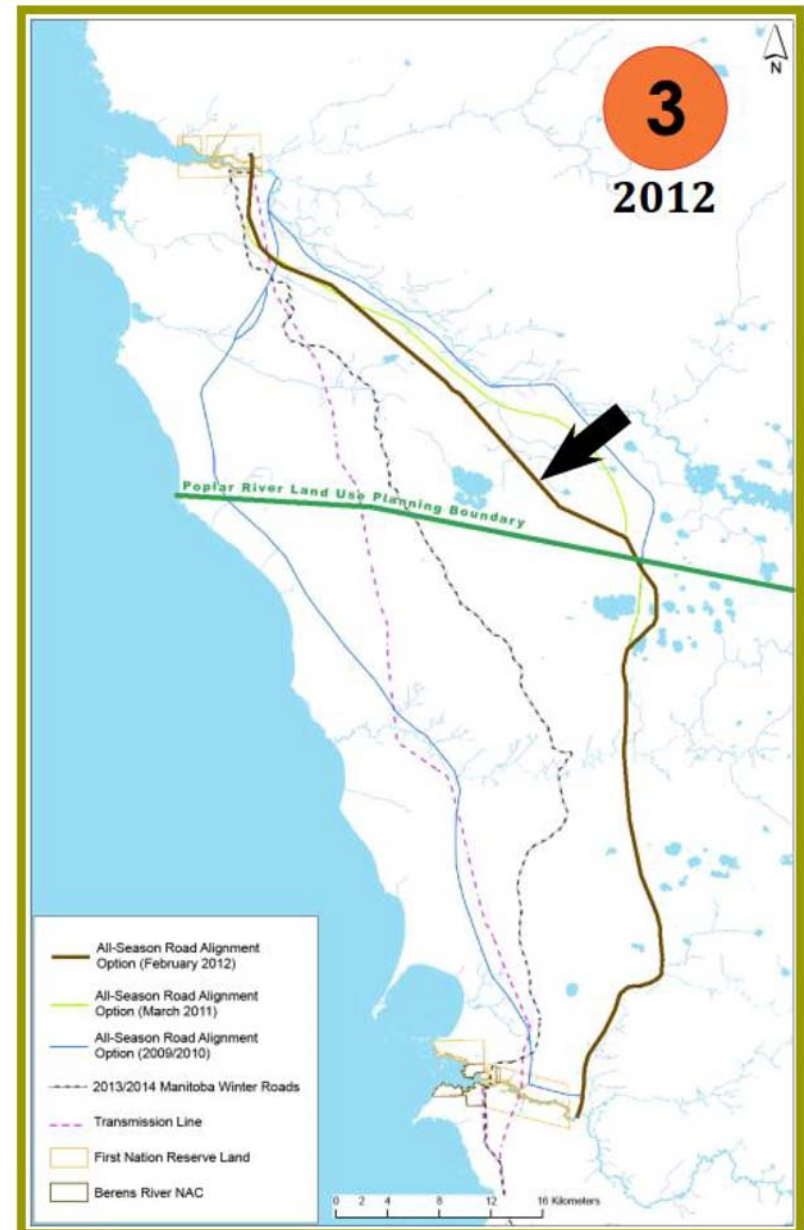
# Evolution of Road Route Refinements

- ❑ Moved route from muskeg areas near Lake Winnipeg further inland for constructability
- ❑ **Moved portion of route to west away from Poplar River traditional use areas**
- ❑ Moved portion of route to east away from sensitive habitat and traditional use areas near Etomami River



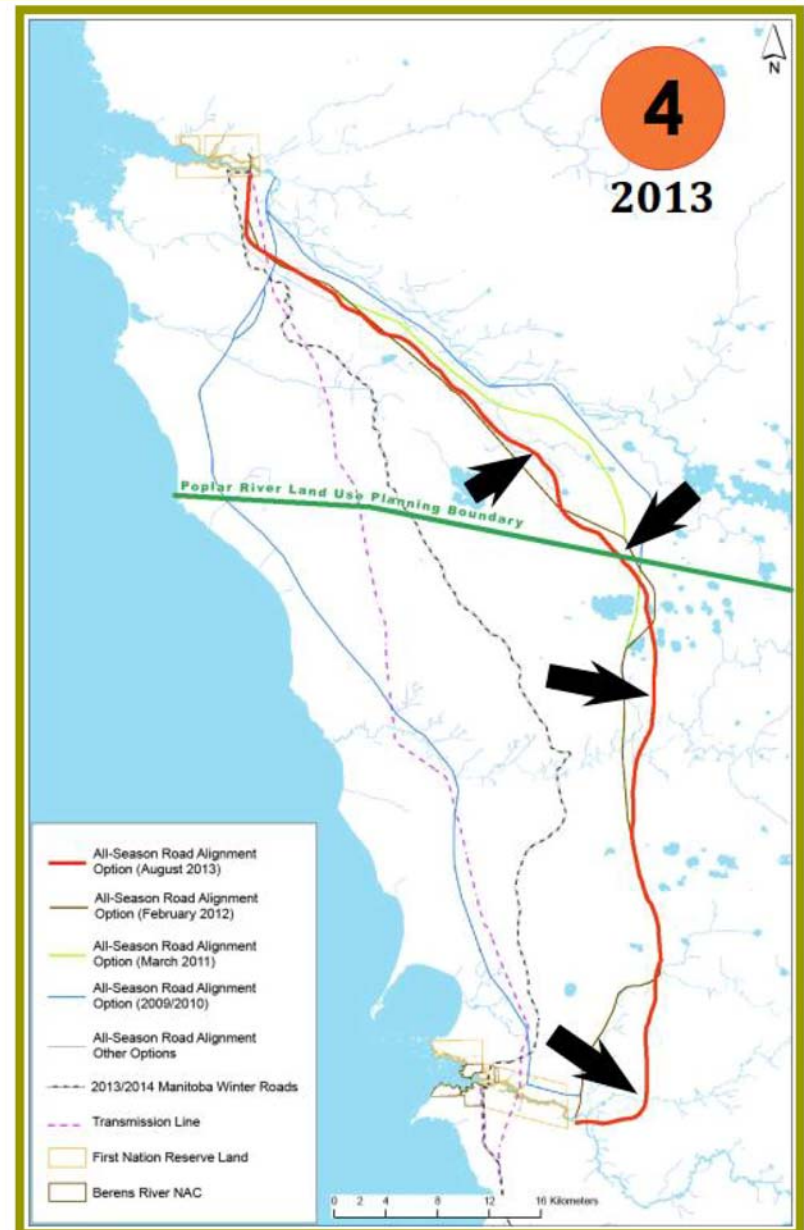
# Evolution of Road Route Refinements

- ❑ Moved route from muskeg areas near Lake Winnipeg further inland for constructability
- ❑ Moved portion of route to west away from Poplar River traditional use areas
- ❑ Moved route further to the west to avoid sensitive sites



# Evolution of Road Route Refinements

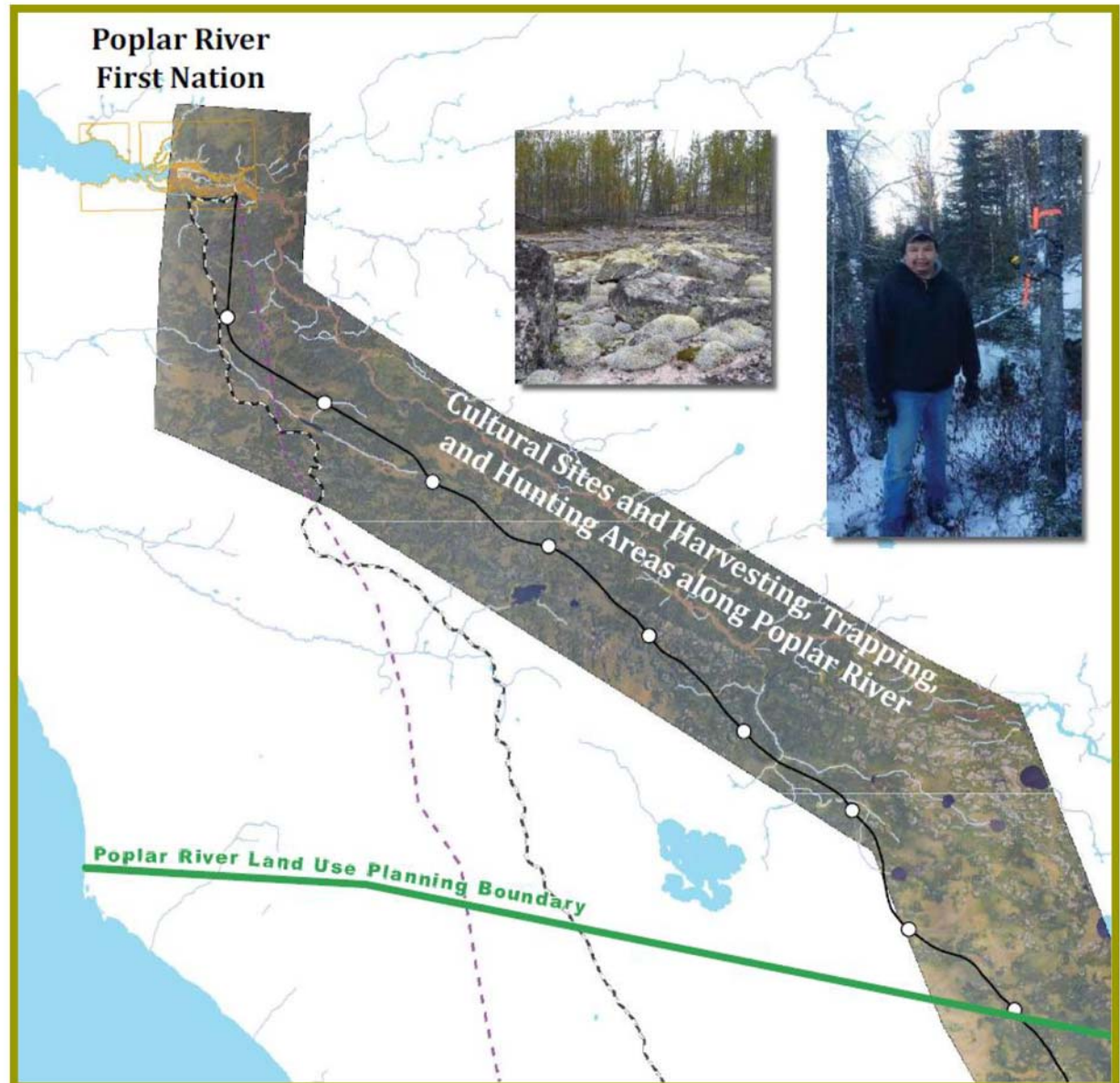
- ❑ Moved route from muskeg areas near Lake Winnipeg further inland for constructability
- ❑ Moved portion of route to west away from Poplar River traditional use areas
- ❑ Moved route further to the west to avoid sensitive sites
- ❑ **Moved portion of route to east away from sensitive habitat and traditional use areas near Etomami River**





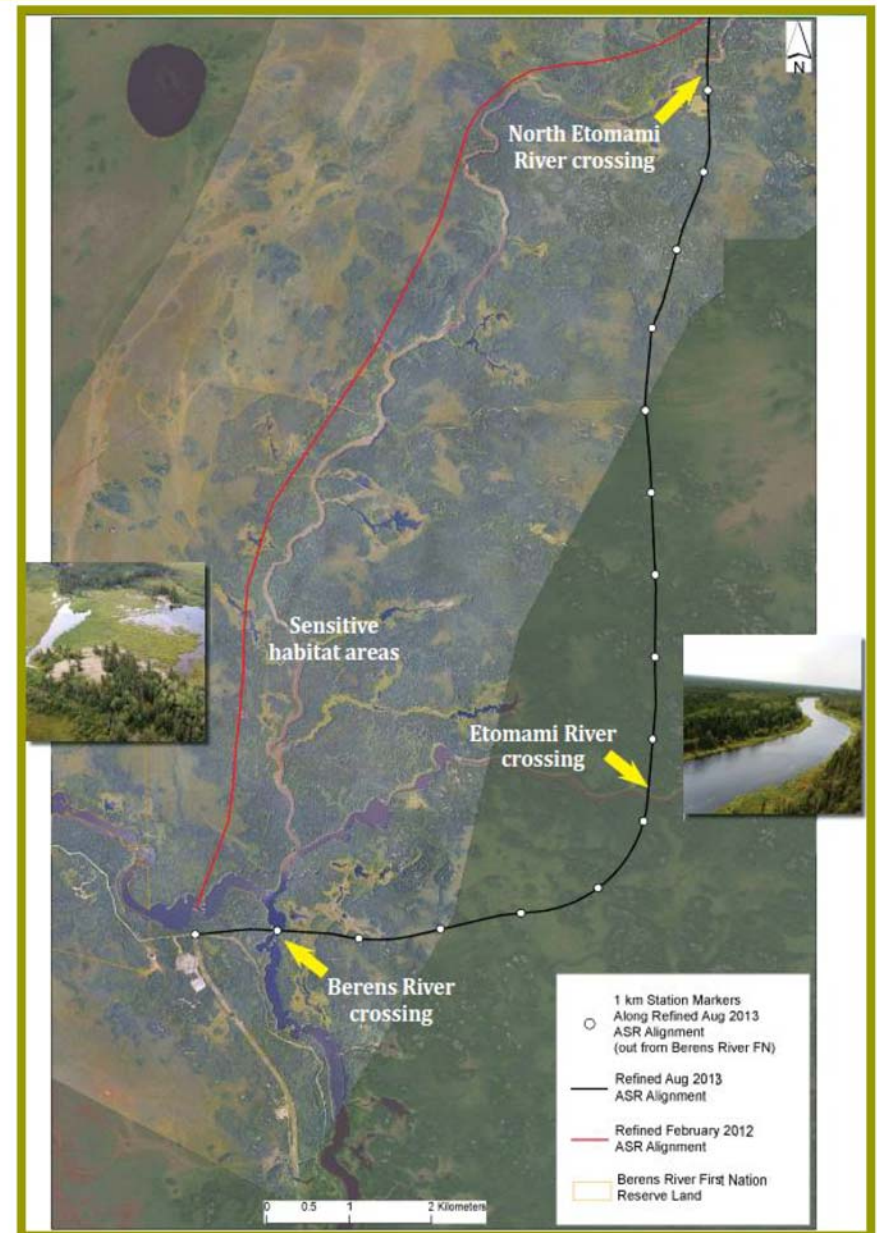
## Summary of Road Route Refinements – Poplar River

- Moved portion of route west to avoid Poplar River
  - Harvested plants
  - Cultural /sacred sites
  - Traditional land use
- Moved portion of route further west to avoid sensitive sites identified during baseline studies and discussions with elders
- Avoids muskeg and wetlands along shoreline route and winter road



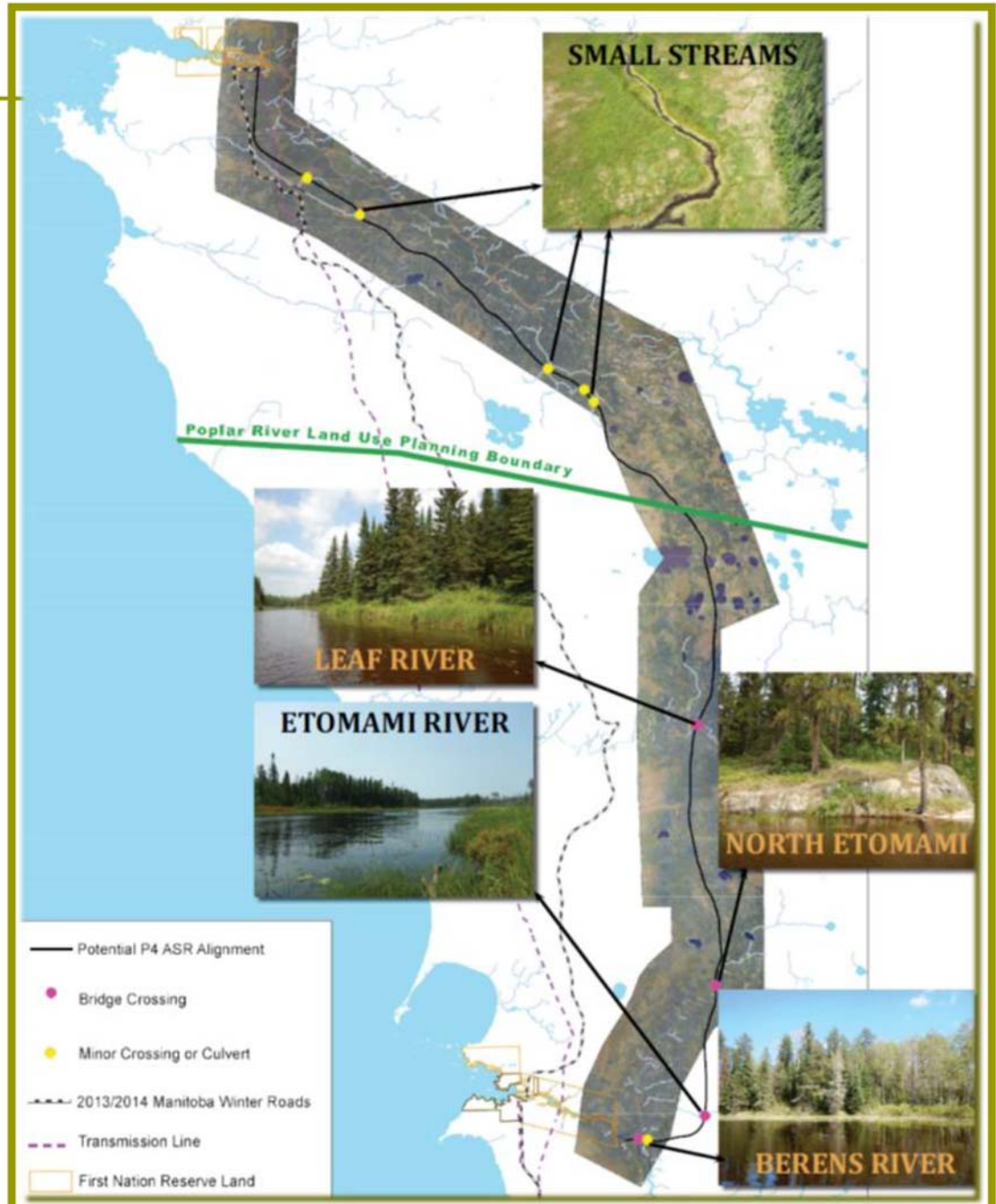
# Summary of Road Route Refinements - Berens River

- Realigned road to avoid:
  - Habitat
  - Traditional land use areas
  
- Moved portion of route further east to avoid Etomami valley
  
- Requires additional river crossing sites
  
- Avoids muskeg and wetlands along shoreline route and winter road

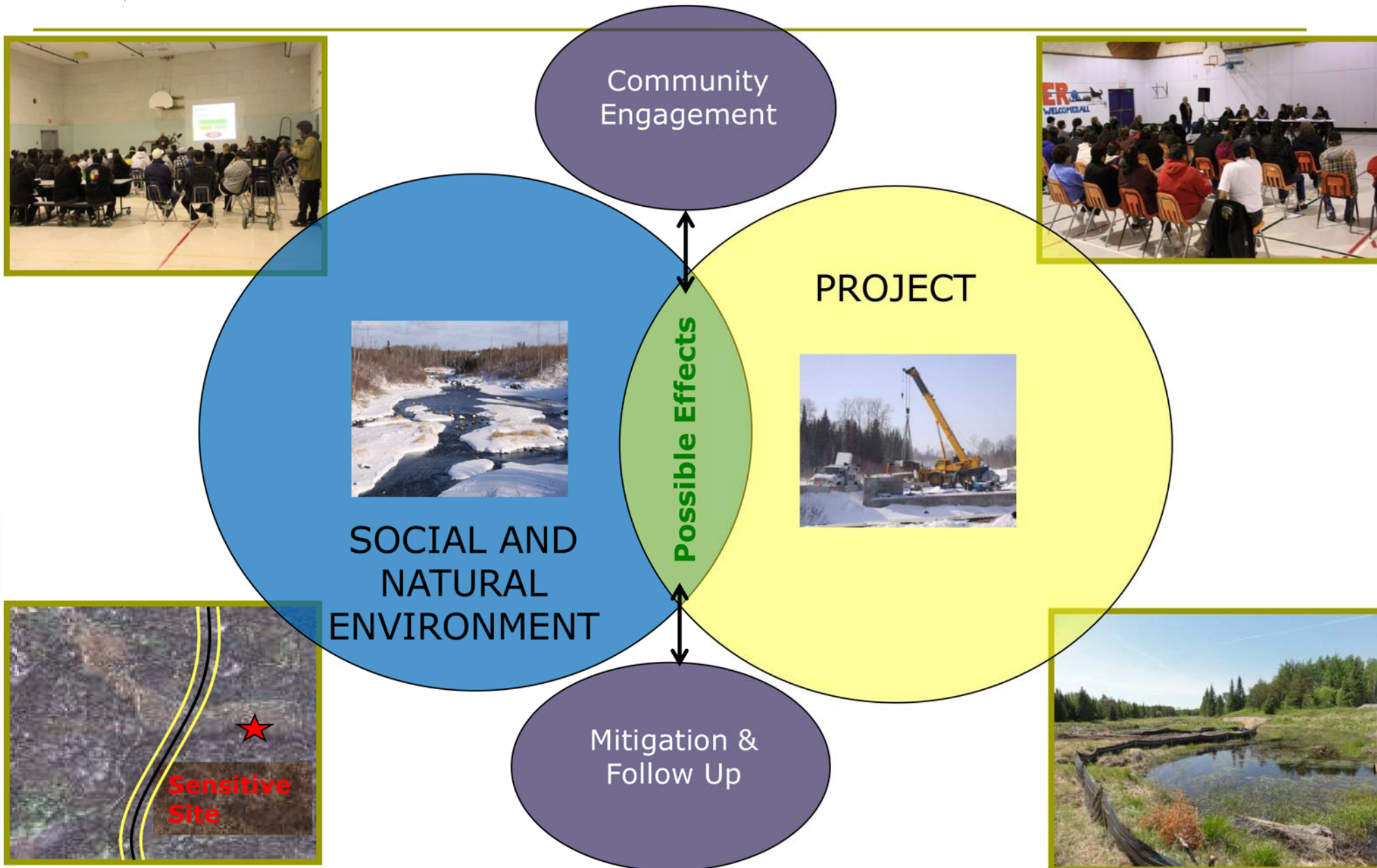


# River Crossings

- Revised route will require additional river crossing sites
  - More crossings, but away from sensitive community areas
  
- Four bridge crossings:
  - Berens River
  - Etomami River
  - North Etomami River
  - Leaf River
  
- Six minor crossings or culverts

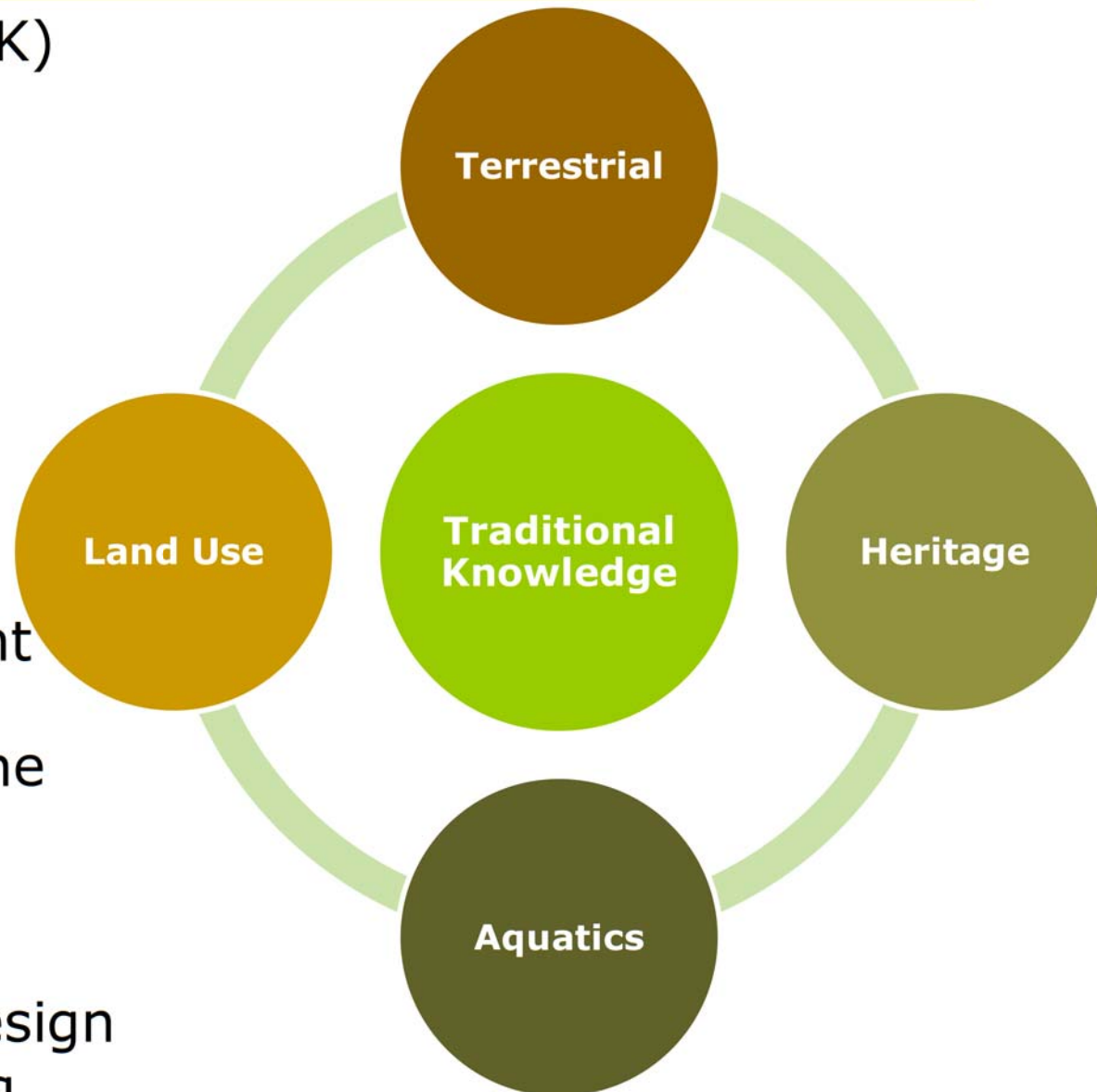


# What is Environmental Assessment?



# Baseline Data

- ❑ Traditional Knowledge (TK)
- ❑ Biophysical studies to augment TK studies
  - Vegetation
  - Wildlife surveys
  - Archaeological studies
  - Fisheries and habitat
- ❑ Used to confirm alignment
- ❑ Provide information for the Environmental Impact Assessment
- ❑ Referenced for project design and construction planning



# Wildlife – Trapper Program

- ❑ Program started winter 2013/2014
- ❑ 3 trappers from Poplar River
- ❑ Trappers are recording:
  - Fur harvest information
  - Weather conditions
  - Animal tracks and sign
  - Collecting samples



- ❑ Identify important habitat
- ❑ Identify presence of protected species
- ❑ Incorporate local knowledge
- ❑ Evaluate movement relative to existing roads, transmission lines, cut lines, etc.
- ❑ Predator/prey relationships
- ❑ Focus on caribou with additional species data collected, including:
  - Furbearers (trapped species)
  - Moose
  - Wolves



# Wildlife – Valued Components

- **Important for local community cultural, traditional, and economic activities & values**

- **Big Game:**

- Caribou & Moose



- **Fur-bearing species:**

- Marten
- Lynx
- Wolf
- Beaver



- **Birds:**

- Raptors / Birds of Prey (eagles, osprey, hawks, owls)
- Waterfowl (geese, ducks)
- Migratory birds (e.g. songbirds)
- Game birds (grouse, partridge)





# Aquatic – Valued Components

- ❑ **Important for local community cultural, traditional, and economic activities & values**
- ❑ **Aquatic habitat**
- ❑ **Harvested fish species:**
  - Walleye / Pickerel
  - Northern Pike / Jackfish
  - White Sucker
  - Lake Whitefish
  - Lake Sturgeon

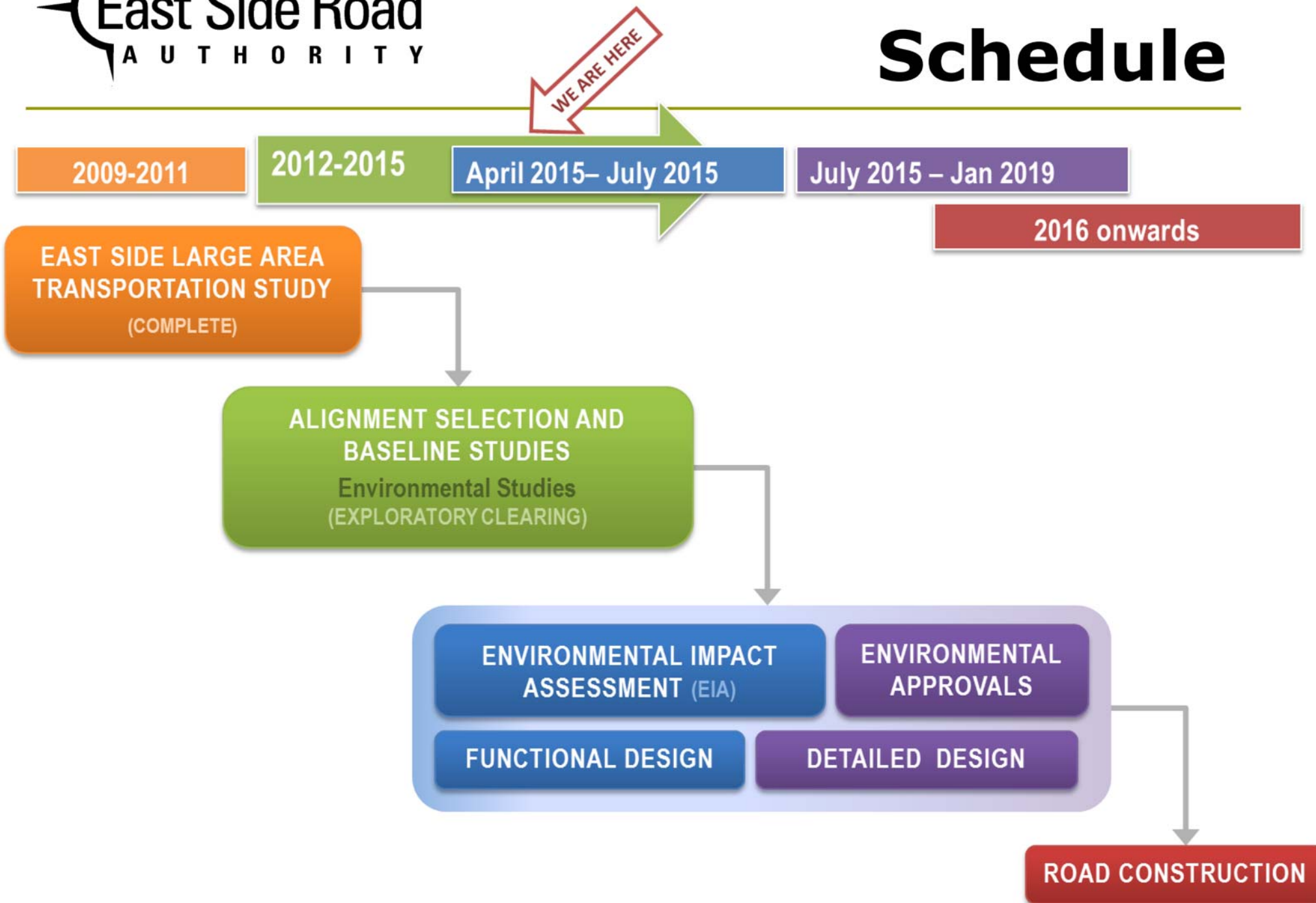


# Cultural - Valued Components

- Input from
  - Communities
  - Elders
  - Archeological studies
  
- Cultural and archeological sites
  
- Areas important for community health and well-being
  
- Harvesting of edible, medicinal, and cultural plants
  
- Trapping & hunting



# Schedule



# Table Talks!

- We want to hear and learn from you
- Write on boards what is important to you, and what should be considered

## We will be back to meet with you to discuss the following:

- **Late Spring 2015:** To review potential effects of the project and identify how these effects may be addressed
- **Early Summer 2015:** To confirm findings of the environmental assessment with the community

***Please stay and talk with us!***



***Thank you for your participation!***

**Contact Information**

**The East Side Road Authority**

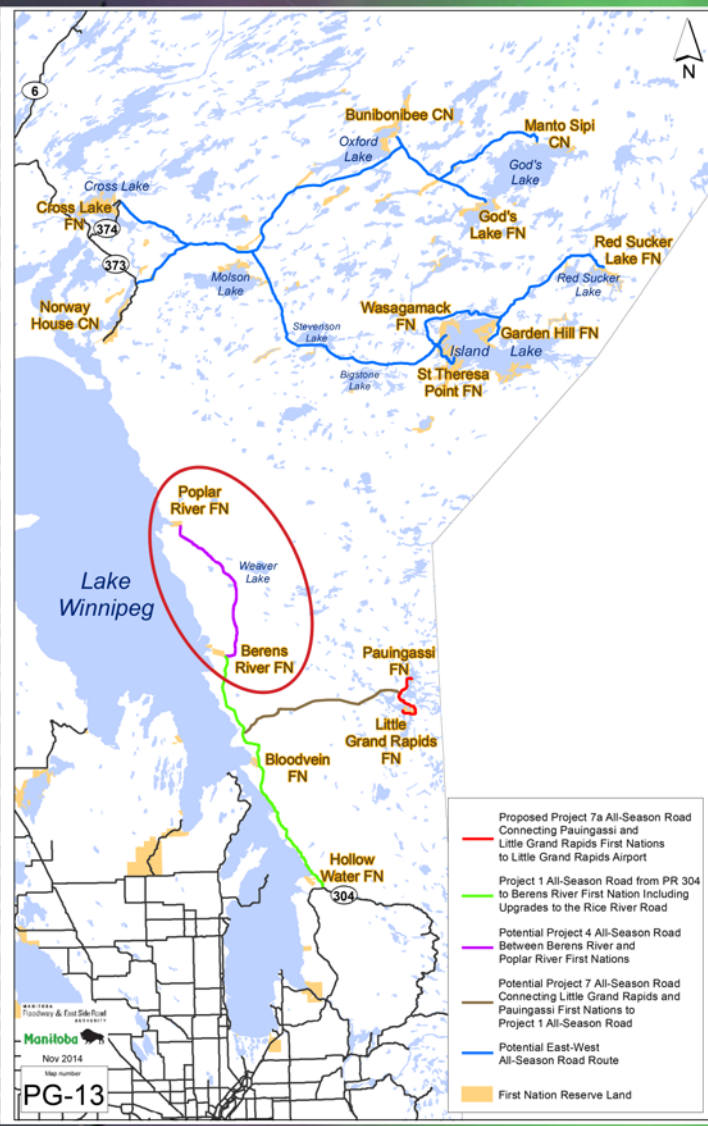
*Phone: (204) 945-4900*  
*Toll-Free 1-866-356-6355*  
*Fax: (204) 948-2462*



**Annex A3-10:**  
Display Boards – Poplar River First Nation  
Community Meeting (Round 5)

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# PROJECT OVERVIEW



This project consists of **94 km** of All-Season Road joining Berens River First Nation to Poplar River First Nation.

There will be 4 major water crossings or bridges at:

- Leaf River
- North Etomami River
- Etomami River
- Berens River

Up to 6 possible minor crossings or culverts

Equalization culverts at multiple locations



# WHAT WE HEARD

As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, ESRA is conducting a series of meetings with communities in the area to inform and shape the process. Continued dialogue with and input from the communities, Elders, and Chief and Council are critical to the overall process.

## The first series of meetings (Round #1) were held with the communities on:

April 23rd, 2015 in Poplar River First Nation  
 April 30th, 2015 in Berens River First Nation



## The purpose of the Round #1 meetings was to:

- Provide an overview of the proposed All Season Road project;
- Inform the community of the overall Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process;
- Discuss how the proposed road alignment has evolved based on feedback to avoid community sensitive areas; and,
- Dialogue with the community about which Valued Components should be included or highlighted in the EIA process.



# WHAT WE HEARD

## During these meetings, the communities of Poplar River First Nation and Berens River First Nation shared the following with the ESRA team:

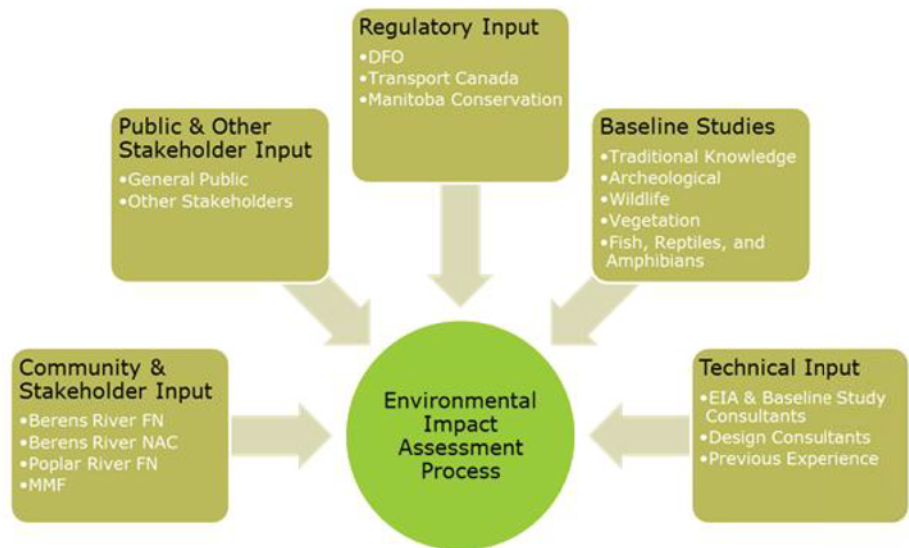
- Communities have interest in how information for Traditional Knowledge Studies are gathered and used;
- Appropriate community and cultural activities should occur prior to any construction activities or disturbance of the land;
- Communication between ESRA and the communities should be improved;
- Bridges or other structures should be designed to allow for continued access by boats, canoes, and snowmobiles;
- Moose and moose habitat are Valued Components for the communities;
- Caribou and caribou habitat are Valued Components for the communities;
- The communities noted increased presence of wolverines nearby in the past few years;
- Ensure travel routes are maintained;
- The revised proposed road alignment has been moved away from community sensitive areas based on feedback, and was generally well received;
- To protect cultural and heritage sites, consider setbacks, restrict access, and erect temporary barriers to prohibit access during construction;
- Interest in effects around the impacts of construction noise and blasting on or around moose hunting and calving areas;
- Restrict hunting along the road alignment and during construction;
- Respect and maintain access to trap lines during construction;
- Road alignments that will avoid community sensitive areas were identified to the ESRA team;
- Concerns about how upcoming provincial or federal elections may impact the project.



# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

As part of the East Side Transportation Initiative and its various road projects, environmental impact assessments (EIAs) are required. An environmental impact assessment is a process to predict environmental effects of proposed initiatives or projects before they are carried out. They identify potential effects of a project, propose measures to mitigate those effects, predict whether impacts will remain after mitigation is implemented, and follow up to test the effectiveness of mitigation. As a planning and decision-making tool, an EIA aims to minimize or avoid adverse environmental effects before they occur, and incorporate environmental factors into the decision making process.

An environmental impact assessment involves a variety of factors, including the proposed project, the existing social and natural environment, community engagement, and mitigation and follow up on possible effects.



The environmental impact assessment process involves a wide variety of **inputs** from a diverse range of sources, including input from community & stakeholders in the immediate project area, the general public and other stakeholder groups, regulatory agencies, baseline studies, technical input from consultants, and previous experience.

**Mitigation** measures are actions that can be done to reduce (mitigate) or avoid the effects or impacts that a project could have on the environment. In terms of mitigating potential impacts, the environmental impact assessment utilizes a 'spectrum of preference' approach. In order of preference, these actions include:



- **Avoiding** the impact altogether
- **Minimizing** impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation
- **Restore** by applying rehabilitation techniques after the impact may have occurred, such as revegetation of disturbed areas
- **Reduce or Eliminate** the potential over time by preservation and maintenance operations
- **Offset** potential impacts through measures such as off-site habitat creation or tree replacement planting programs
- **Monitor** the project overtime to identify and reduce potential impacts

# MOOSE

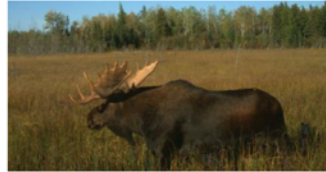
## POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

Change in habitat

Disturbance from construction

Accidental moose-vehicle collisions

Increased access



## MITIGATION IDEAS

Road design: improved sightlines, reduced speed, and signage on road

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Limit construction worker activity to project area

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Restrict hunting in construction contracts

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Block temporary access roads after construction

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Maintain habitat, encourage natural re-vegetation and planting with native species

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# CARIBOU

## POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

Change in habitat



Disturbance from blasting



Accidental caribou-vehicle collisions



Increased access



## MITIGATION IDEAS

Road design: improved sightlines, reduced speed, and signage on road

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Limit construction worker activity to project area

Blank lined box for notes

Limit blasting during calving season in sensitive areas

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Block temporary access roads after construction

Blank lined box for notes

Maintain habitat, encourage natural re-vegetation and planting with native species

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# FURBEARERS

## POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

Change in habitat



Disturbance and displacement from construction



Accidental vehicle collisions



Increased access



## MITIGATION IDEAS

Block temporary access roads after construction

Improve sightlines, reduced speed, and signage on road

Minimize extent of vegetation clearing

Maintain camp standards to avoid creating wildlife attractants

Maintain buffer around active dens and high quality habitat

Burn slash piles during first winter to limit furbearer use

Design equalization culverts to provide an alternate means of access for furbearers

Maintain habitat, encourage natural re-vegetation and planting with native species

Blank lined box for additional mitigation ideas.

Blank lined box for additional mitigation ideas.

# WATERFOWL & BIRDS OF PREY

## POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

Change in habitat

Disturbance and displacement from noise

Disturbance of existing nests

Increased access



## MITIGATION IDEAS

Minimize extent of vegetation clearing

No work below high water mark in spring to prevent accidental nest disturbance

Maintain riparian buffer zones along water's edge

Identification and protection of critical nesting sites during construction

Restrict construction worker activity to project area

Restrict hunting in construction areas

Block temporary access roads after construction

Minimize clearing in spring and summer

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# HERITAGE & CULTURAL SITES

## POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

Loss or damage to heritage sites and objects

Damage to cultural (sacred) sites

Damage to community use sites



## MITIGATION IDEAS

Route road away from known heritage sites

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Maintain buffers and temporary fencing around heritage sites

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Conduct appropriate community and cultural activities prior to construction activities or disturbance of the land

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Block temporary access roads after construction

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Limit equipment and workers to construction areas

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# VEGETATION

## POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

Removal of trees and shrubs in construction areas



Loss of species of concern from clearing activities



Change in habitat for key species

Spread of invasive and non-native species

Change in subsurface water flow

Increased access



## MITIGATION IDEAS

Minimize extent of clearing to ROW, quarries, and borrow pits

Maintain subsurface water flows

Block access roads after construction

Four horizontal lines for notes.

Survey for species of concern before clearing and initiate protection plans

Four horizontal lines for notes.

Prohibit equipment outside of construction areas

Four horizontal lines for notes.

Control herbicide use

Four horizontal lines for notes.

Restore ground cover in ditches with native species

Four horizontal lines for notes.

Reclaim disturbed areas not required for road operation and maintenance

Four horizontal lines for notes.



# FISH, REPTILES, & AMPHIBIANS

## POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

- Fish habitat loss or change in productivity
- Damaged water quality from sediment
- Blocked fish movements
- Harm to fish from accidental spills
- Changes in water flows
- Improved access to waterways
- Introduction of non-native fish species from equipment



## MITIGATION IDEAS

Block access roads after construction

Limit clearing near watercourses and restore vegetation

Design culverts for passage and natural flow

Protect water quality through proper equipment maintenance and fuel storage

Prohibit use of herbicides near watercourses

Avoid critical reproduction areas

Use erosion protection and sediment control

No work below the high water mark in spring

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Blank lined box for notes

# TRADITIONAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

## POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

Loss of traditionally used plants from clearing

Change to moose distribution affecting hunting

Change to furbearer distribution affecting harvesting

Change in fishery harvest

Change in traditional collection of aquatic plants and fish eggs



## MITIGATION IDEAS

Map important traditional use areas for project planning and design

Protect moose and caribou  
*(see boards)*

Protect furbearers  
*(see board)*

Protect fish, reptiles, amphibians  
*(see board)*

Maintain access to traplines and trails during construction

Design trail crossings to maintain trapper access and trails

Block temporary access roads after construction

Confirm setbacks and other mitigation measures with communities

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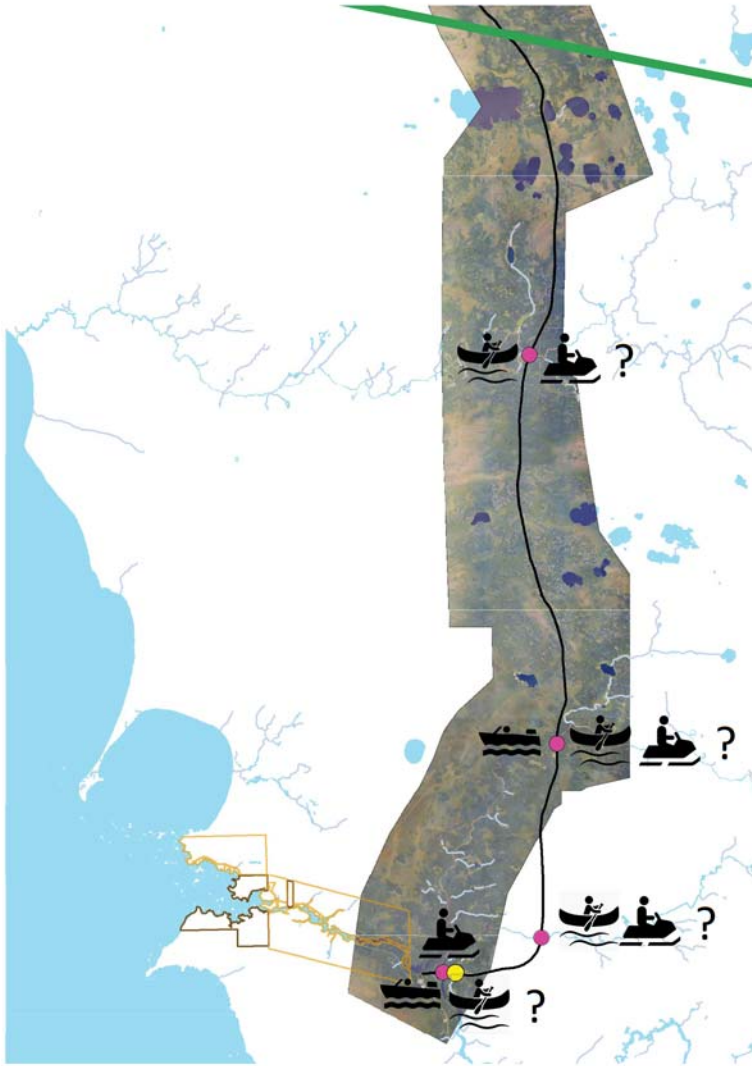
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# RIVER ACCESS & CROSSINGS: SOUTH



Construct bridges and culverts to maintain travel routes



Provide portage access points for travel by canoe



Restrict boat launch points at river crossings

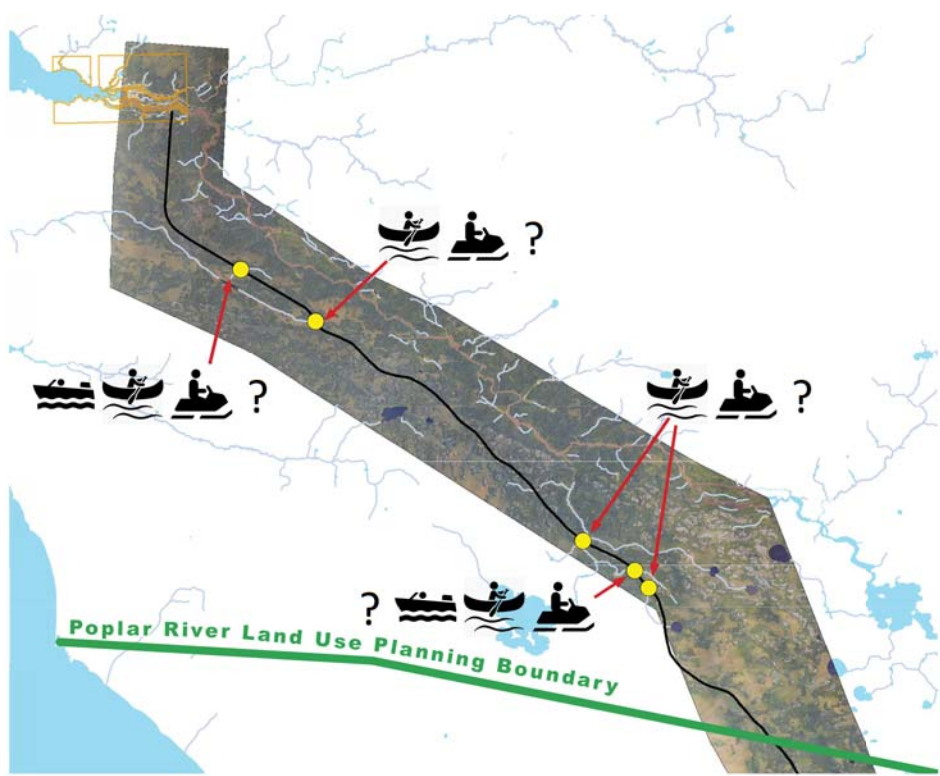


MITIGATION IDEAS

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# RIVER ACCESS & CROSSINGS: NORTH



Construct bridges and culverts to maintain travel routes



Provide portage access points for travel by canoe



Restrict boat launch points at river crossings



MITIGATION IDEAS





# ALL-SEASON ROAD CONSTRUCTION STEPS



ASR PLANNING & DESIGN



CONSTRUCTION



MAINTENANCE



# HOW SHOULD WE COMMUNICATE WITH YOU?



Community Radio



NCI Radio



Newsletter



Posters



Flyers

Please check the boxes of the methods you prefer

1-866-356-6355

[www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca](http://www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca)



Facebook and Twitter



Website



Email Distribution list



Temporary signage on road in advance of activities

**Annex A3-11:**  
Grassroots Newspaper Advertisement –  
Winnipeg Open House (Round 5)

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**OPEN HOUSE**

## Share Your Views on the Proposed Berens River to Poplar River All-Season Road

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

You are invited to attend the open house and let us know what you think is important to consider in the environmental assessment.

Date: Thursday, May 28, 2015

Location: Indian and Metis Friendship Centre  
45 Robinson Street, Winnipeg

Time: 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Presentation will begin at 6:00 p.m.  
Discussion to follow

For more information about the open house or the East Side Transportation Initiative, please contact:

Phone: 204-945-4900 in Winnipeg;  
toll free 1-866-356-6355  
Fax: 204-948-2462  
Email: eastsideroad@gov.mb.ca  
Website: www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca



### PUBLIC NOTICE Ports Asset Transfer Program

The Government of Canada recently launched the new Ports Asset Transfer Program to manage the transfer of the 50 port facilities Transport Canada owns across the country.

Key features of the new Program include:

- specific timelines for negotiations and transactions with interested parties;
- broader criteria to allow new port operators to expand or improve ports;
- greater flexibility for continued operations or possible alternate uses; and
- the ability of Canada Port Authorities to acquire ports.

If you or your organization want to acquire a port facility or learn more about the Program and the available port facilities in your region, visit the Transport Canada web site at <http://www.tc.gc.ca/ports-asset-transfer-program>

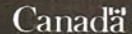
### AVIS PUBLIC Programme de transfert des installations portuaires

Le gouvernement du Canada a récemment lancé le Programme de transfert des installations portuaires dans le but de gérer le transfert des 50 installations portuaires au pays qui appartiennent à Transports Canada.

Voici quelques-uns des éléments clés du nouveau Programme :

- échéanciers précis pour les négociations et les transactions avec les parties intéressées;
- critères moins limitatifs pour permettre aux nouveaux exploitants de ports d'agrandir ou d'améliorer des installations;
- souplesse accrue pour permettre la continuité des activités ou, si possible, des usages différents;
- possibilité pour les administrations portuaires canadiennes d'acquérir des ports.

Si vous ou votre organisation souhaitez acquérir une installation portuaire ou en savoir davantage au sujet du Programme ainsi que sur les installations portuaires disponibles dans votre région, veuillez visiter le site de Transports Canada à <http://www.tc.gc.ca/programme-transfert-installations-portuaires>.



#### Tom Anderson of Alonsa, MB intends to sell private lands.

SE 33-22-11 W NE 32-22-11 W NE 21-22-11 W NW 34-22-11 W

To David and Robin Borne who intend to acquire the following agricultural Crown land leases:

NE 31-22-11 W NW 31-22-11 W NW 32-22-11 W NW 35-22-11 W SW 05-23-11 W

SE 06-23-11 W SW 06-23-11 W NE 28-23-11 W NE 29-23-11 W NW 29-23-11 W

SE 29-23-11 W NE 35-22-12 W SE 35-22-12 W SW 35-22-12 W NE 36-22-12 W

By unit Transfer.

If you wish to comment on or object to the eligibility of this purchaser please write to: Director, MAFRD, Agricultural Crown Lands, PO Box 1286, Minnedosa MB R0J 1E0; or Fax: 204-867-6578.

#### Edward and Angela Jarvie of Kinosota, MB intend to sell private lands:

SW 33-22-11 W NW 28-22-11 W NW 35-22-12 W

To Jason and Carla Borne who intend to acquire the following agricultural Crown land leases:

SW 17-22-11 NE 30-20-11 W SE 32-22-11 W SW 32-22-11 W NE 33-22-12 W NE 34-22-12 W

NW 34-22-12 W SE 34-22-12 W SW 34-22-12 W NW 02-23-12 W SE 02-23-12 W SW 02-23-12 W

NE 03-23-12 W NW 03-23-12 W SE 03-23-12 W SW 03-23-12 W SE 10-23-12 W

By Unit Transfer.

If you wish to comment on or object to the eligibility of this purchaser please write to: Director, MAFRD, Agricultural Crown Lands, PO Box 1286, Minnedosa MB R0J 1E0; or Fax 204-867-6578.



**Annex A3-12:**  
Advertisement Proof – Winnipeg Open  
House (Round 5)

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BERENS RIVER TO POPLAR RIVER  
ALL-SEASON ROAD

# OPEN HOUSE

The East Side Road Authority (ESRA) is hosting an Open House to discuss the proposed All-Season Road project between Berens River First Nation and Poplar River First Nation.

**LOCATION:** Indian & Metis Friendship Centre  
45 Robinson Street, Winnipeg  
**DATE:** Thursday, May 28, 2015  
**TIME:** Presentation 6:00 PM  
Discussion from 5:00 - 8:00 PM



The Open House is an opportunity to discuss the proposed All-Season Road project and discuss what is important to consider in the Environmental Assessment. We want to hear your views on this proposed All-Season Road.

For more information on the Open House or the East Side Transportation Initiative, please contact

[www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca](http://www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca)  
1-866-356-6355



**Annex A3-13:**  
Handout – Winnipeg Open House  
(Round 5)

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# BERENS RIVER TO POPLAR RIVER ALL-SEASON ROAD

## EAST SIDE TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE

In 2009, the Government of Manitoba introduced the Manitoba Floodway Authority Act. It officially expanded the mandate of the Floodway Authority to assume responsibility for the construction and maintenance of an all-season road on the east side of Lake Winnipeg – this became the basis for the East Side Road Authority (ESRA). ESRA is currently undertaking the East Side Transportation Initiative (ESTI), a strategic initiative to provide improved, safe and more reliable transportation service for the remote and isolated communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

The East Side Transportation Initiative consists of:

### Community Economic Development

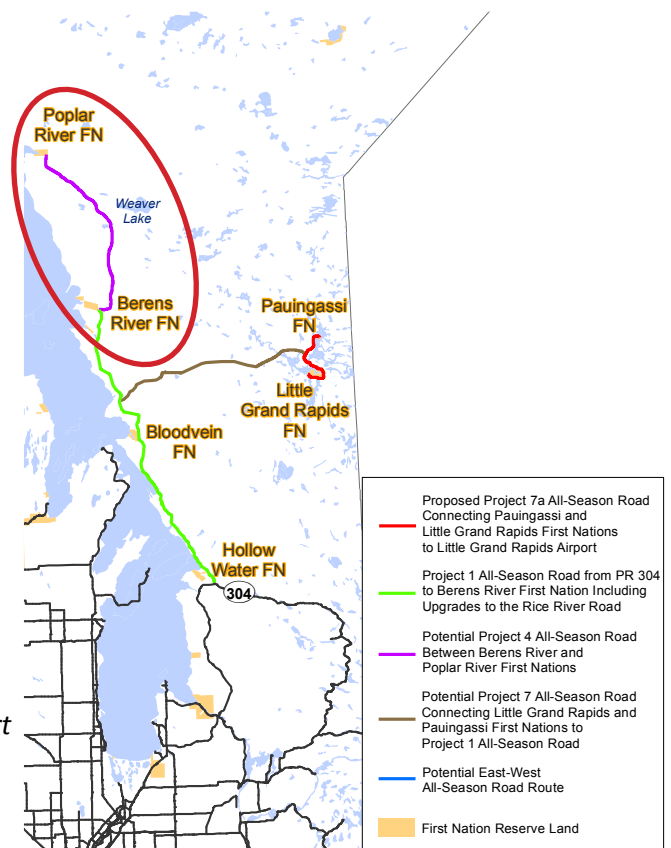
A key focus of the initiative is to ensure that local residents participate in and benefit from the construction of all-season roads and other network improvements through jobs, training and economic development opportunities. Community benefits agreements are in place with 13 east side communities including Poplar River and Berens River.

### Implementing the East Side Large Area Transportation Network Study

Improvements to the transportation network focus on the development of all-season roads connecting the communities to the provincial highway network, construction of interim pioneer roads and enhancements to winter road reliability. Priority projects include:

- Construction of a 156 km all-season road from Provincial Road 304 to Berens River First Nation is underway.
- Planning and environmental assessments to support the construction of pioneer and all-season roads in prioritized locations is ongoing.
- Interim winter road enhancements are underway with a focus on crossing improvements.

Currently, ESRA is working on the Environmental Assessment for the Berens River to Poplar River All-Season Road Alignment. The proposed road, approximately 94 kms in length, would connect Berens River First Nation and Poplar River First Nation to the wider provincial highway system. The project team is currently meeting with stakeholders and community members to outline potential road alignments, receive input into valued community heritage and cultural locations, and discuss how to mitigate any potential impacts that the road may have on the communities.



# BERENS RIVER TO POPLAR RIVER ALL-SEASON ROAD

## PROJECT BENEFITS

The East Side Road Initiative has many community benefits and economic development opportunities including:

- Providing alternative transportation to the increasingly unreliable winter road network
- Reducing transportation costs for goods and services
- Improving linkages between isolated and remote communities
- Enhancing access to emergency, health, and social services
- Creating construction employment, training, and economic opportunities
- Enhancing opportunities for local sustainable economic development

The East Side Road Authority (ESRA) is committed to working with local communities to generate economic development opportunities related to the construction of the all-season road.

As part of this commitment, ESRA will invest approximately \$315 million (35% of the overall road construction budget) into jobs, training and economic development opportunities for local residents, over the next fifteen years.

To achieve this objective, ESRA has developed an Aboriginal Benefits and Tendering Strategy that consists of Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs) and local hiring and procurement requirements in construction tenders.



**ESRA is entering into Community Benefit Agreements with First Nation communities located in the vicinity of the proposed all-season road. The purpose of these agreements is to provide jobs, training and economic opportunities related to road construction and maintenance. In particular, these agreements are designed to ensure hiring of residents from the east side communities, provide appropriate training and mentoring, and encourage community enterprises and capacity building.**

A Community Benefit Agreement was signed with Berens River First Nation in 2009, and with Poplar River First Nation in 2010.

**Annex A3-14:**  
Comment Sheet – Winnipeg Open  
House (Round 5)

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**Annex A3-15:**  
Presentation – Winnipeg Open House  
(Round 5)

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# **EAST SIDE TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE**

## **Berens River to Poplar River FN Road Network**



### **The Environmental Assessment**

**Winnipeg Community  
Indian & Metis Friendship Centre**

May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## Why are we here?

### We are here today to:

- Provide information about the road project
- Review the options that have been considered
- Communicate what we have heard from the communities
- Hear from you about what you value, so that it can be considered in the environmental impact assessment (EIA) and addressed in the project design.



## EAST SIDE TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE

- Provide alternative transportation to the increasingly unreliable winter road network
- Reduce transportation costs for goods and services
- Improve linkages between isolated and remote communities
- Enhance access to emergency, health & social services
- Construction employment, training & economic opportunities
- Enhanced opportunities for local sustainable economic development



### 1. Community Economic Development

#### *Status:*

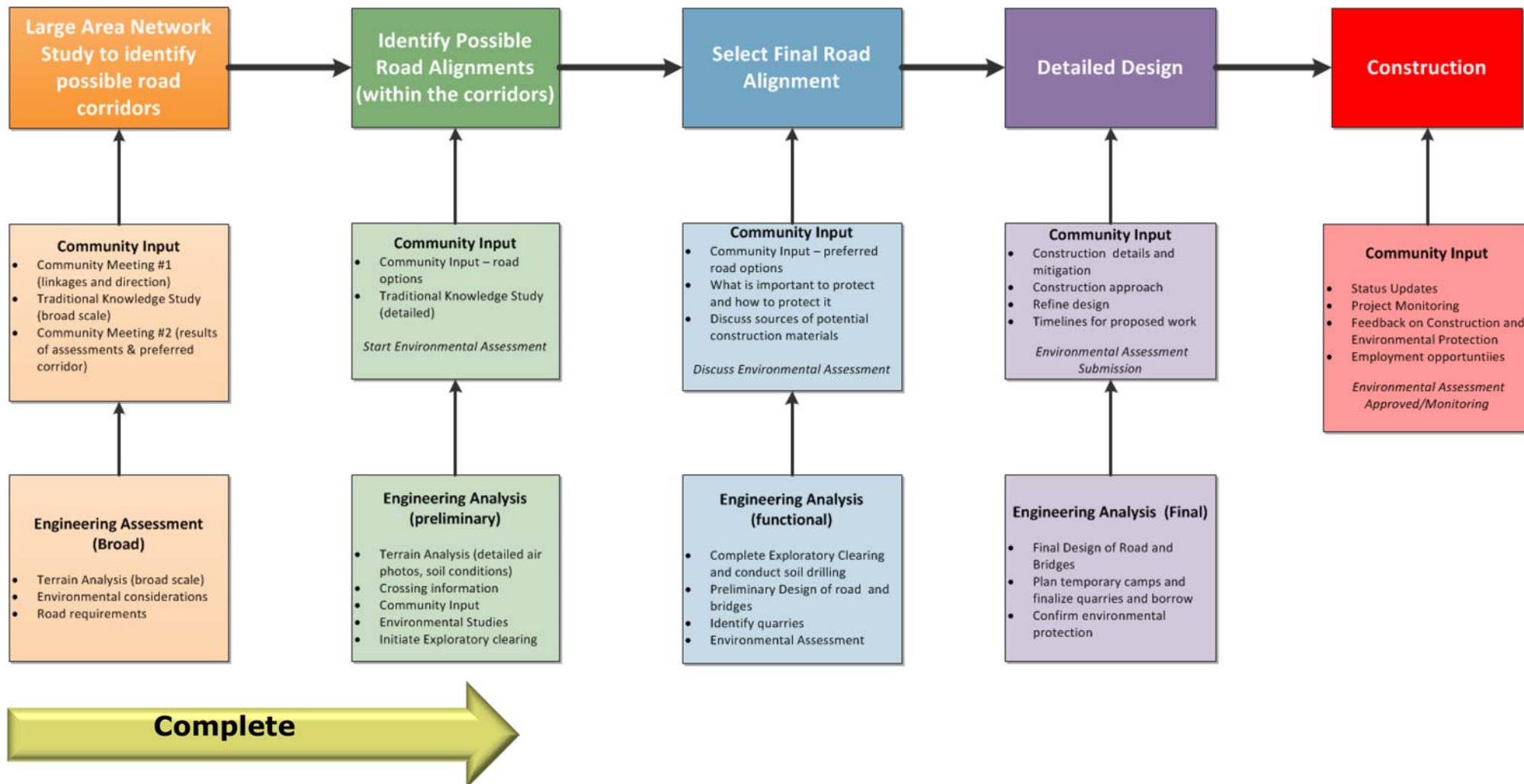
- *Community benefits agreements are in place with 13 east side communities including Poplar River and Berens River.*

### 2. East Side Large Area Transportation Network

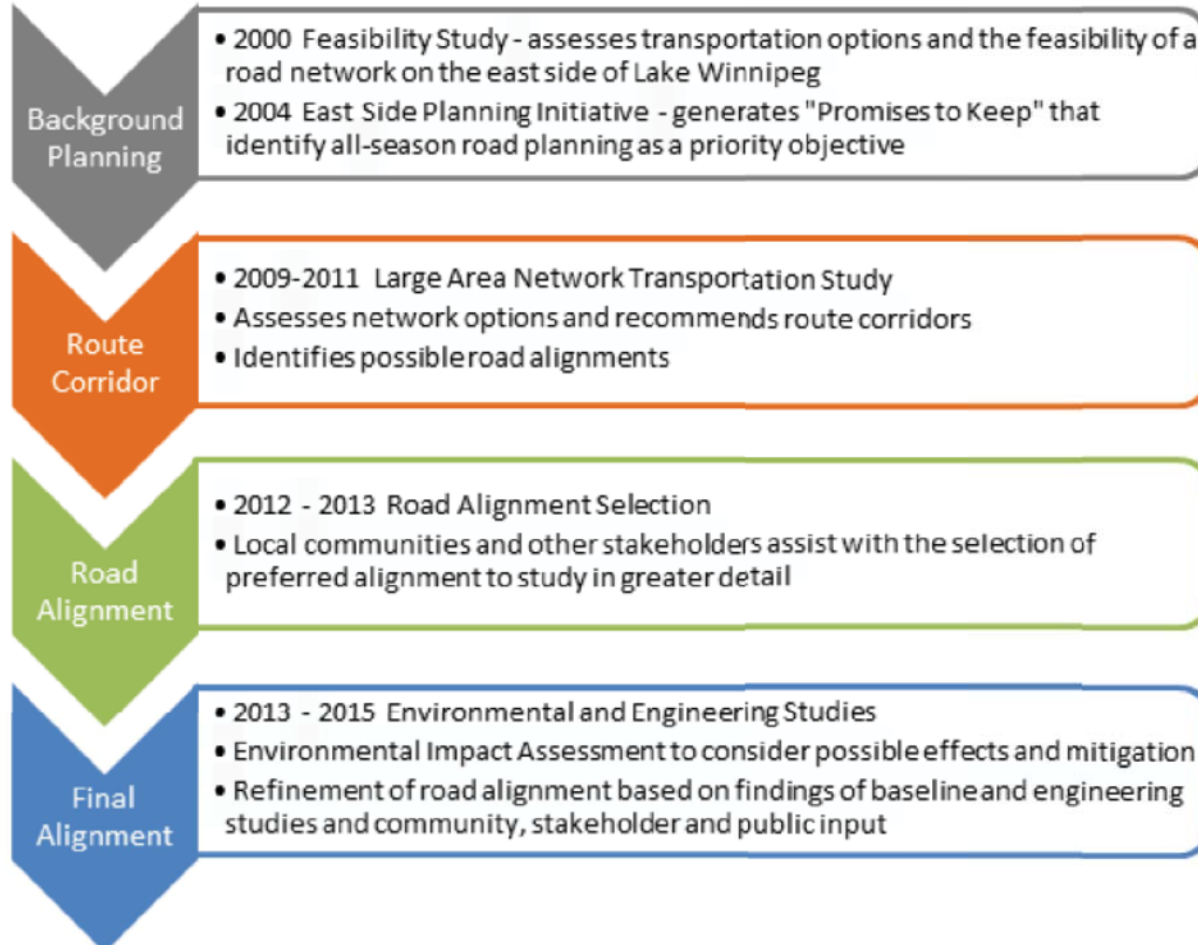
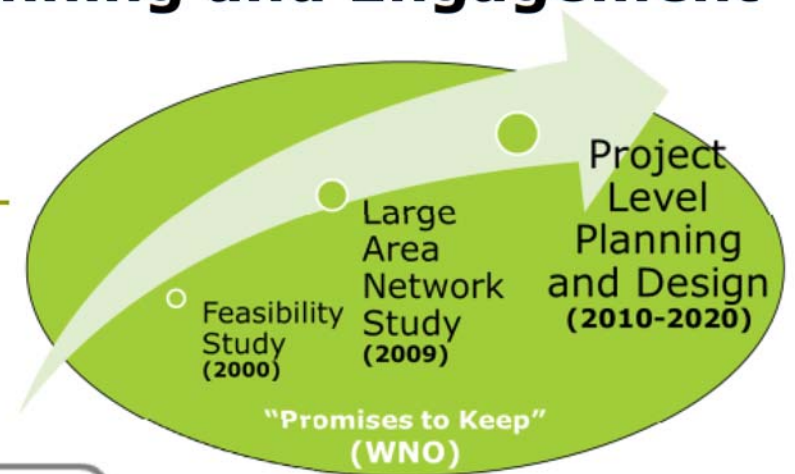
#### *Status:*

- *Construction of an 156 km all-season road from Provincial Road PR 304 to Berens River First Nation is underway*
- *Planning and environmental assessments to support the construction of pioneer and all season roads in prioritized locations is ongoing*
- *Interim winter road enhancements are underway with a focus on crossing improvements*

# Steps to Select, Design & Construct an All Season Road



- Community input is key to developing a good project



## Description of Project

- 94 km of All Season Road joining Poplar River to Berens River

Includes:

- 4 major water crossings:
  - Leaf River
  - North Etomami River
  - Etomami River
  - Berens River
- 6 possible minor crossings or culverts, and
- Equalization culverts



# All-Season Road Construction Steps

## PLANNING & DESIGN



## CONSTRUCTION



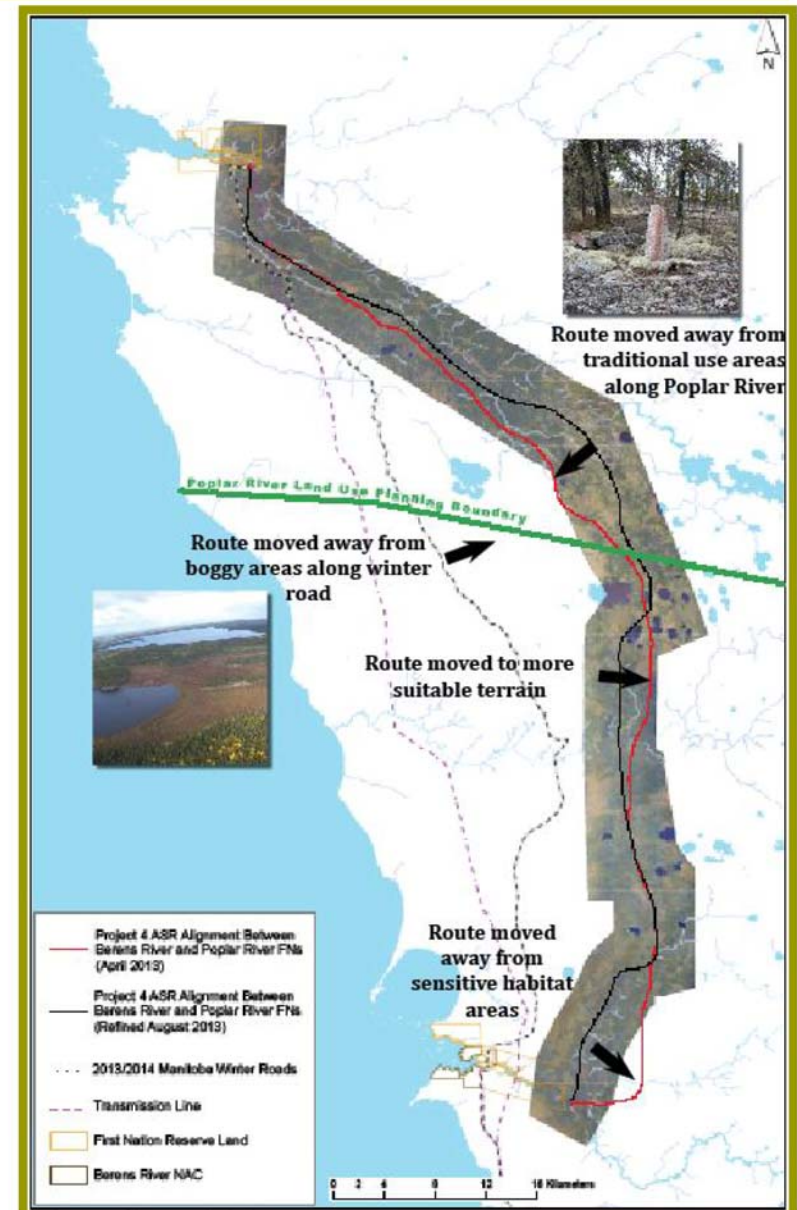
## MAINTENANCE





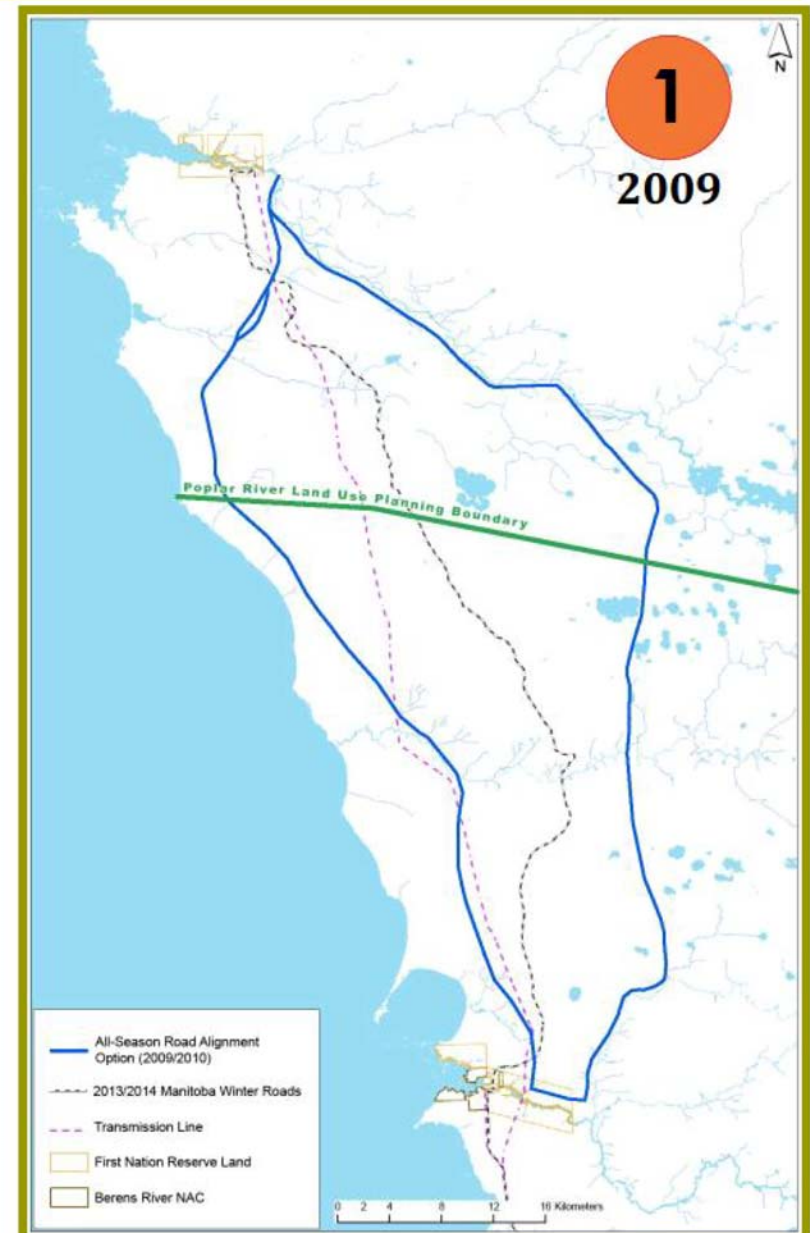
# Road Route Refinements (overall)

- Original route concept has been refined several times based on:
  - community feedback and knowledge of the land
  - results of traditional knowledge, archeology, soils and wildlife investigations



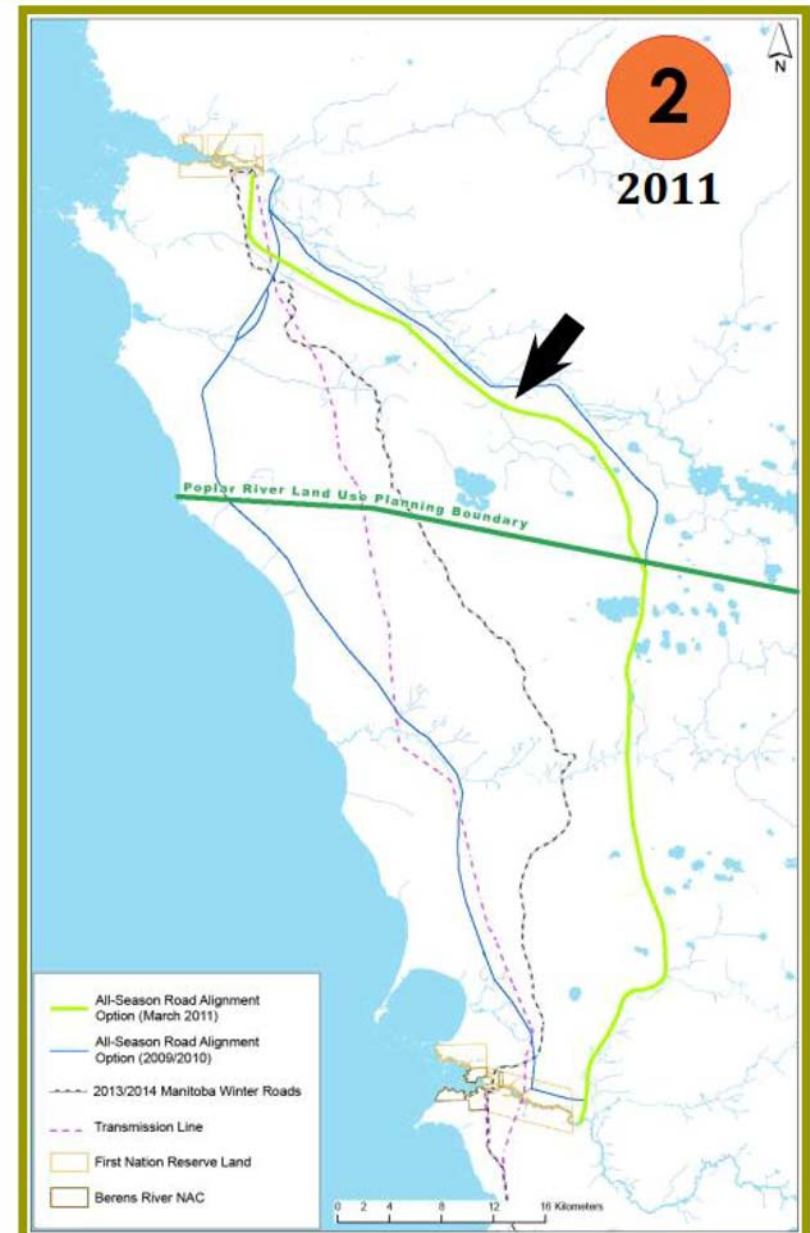
# Evolution of Road Route Refinements

- Two route options originally identified –
  - Coastal Route
  - Inland Route
- Considered topographic, physiographic, geological, social-economic and natural environmental information
- Moved route from muskeg areas near Lake Winnipeg further inland to suitable terrain for constructability



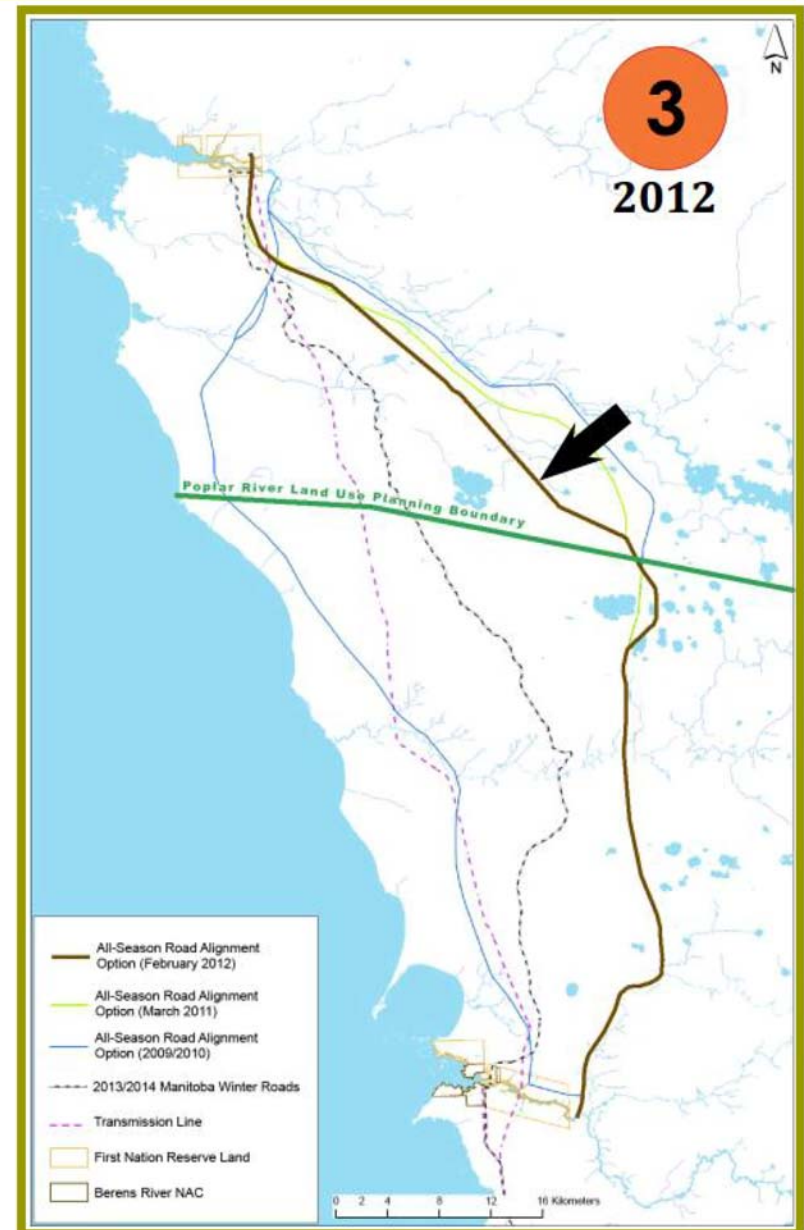
# Evolution of Road Route Refinements

- Moved route from muskeg areas near Lake Winnipeg further inland for constructability
- Moved portion of route to west away from Poplar River traditional use areas



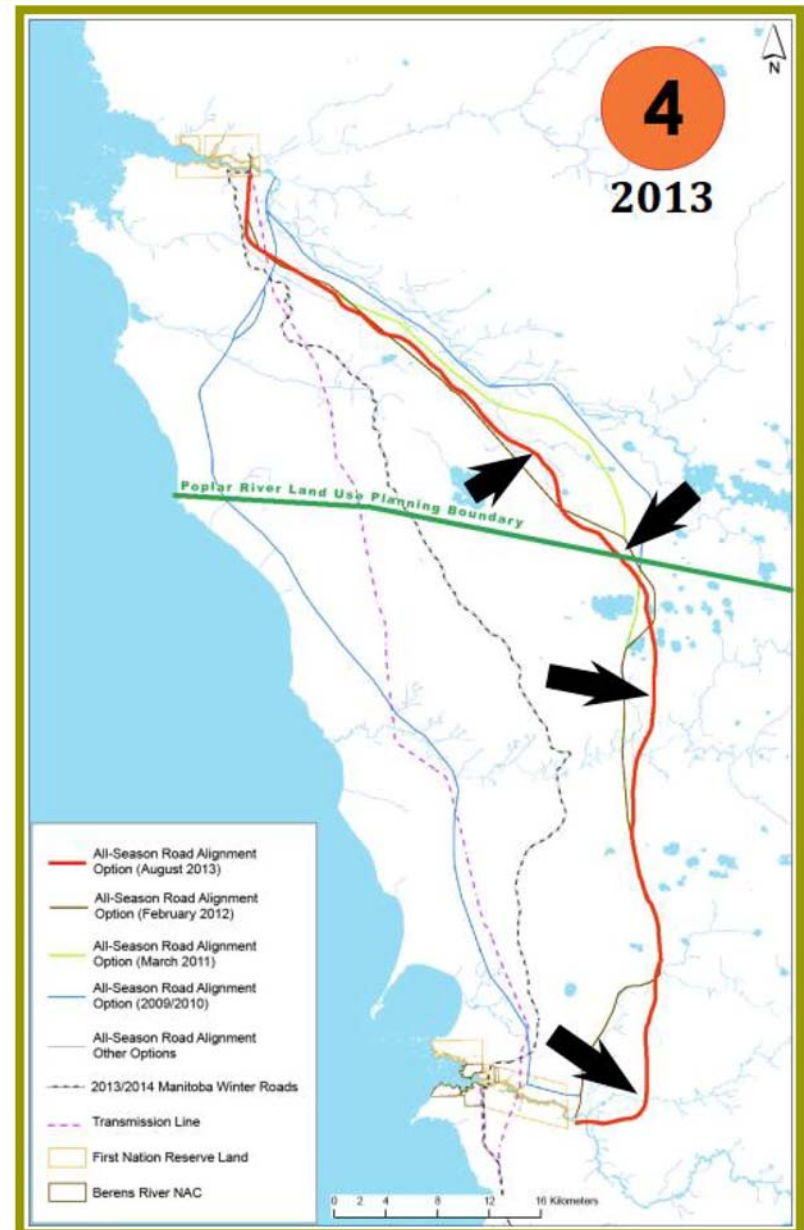
# Evolution of Road Route Refinements

- ❑ Moved route from muskeg areas near Lake Winnipeg further inland for constructability
- ❑ Moved portion of route to west away from Poplar River traditional use areas
- ❑ Moved route further to the west to avoid sensitive sites



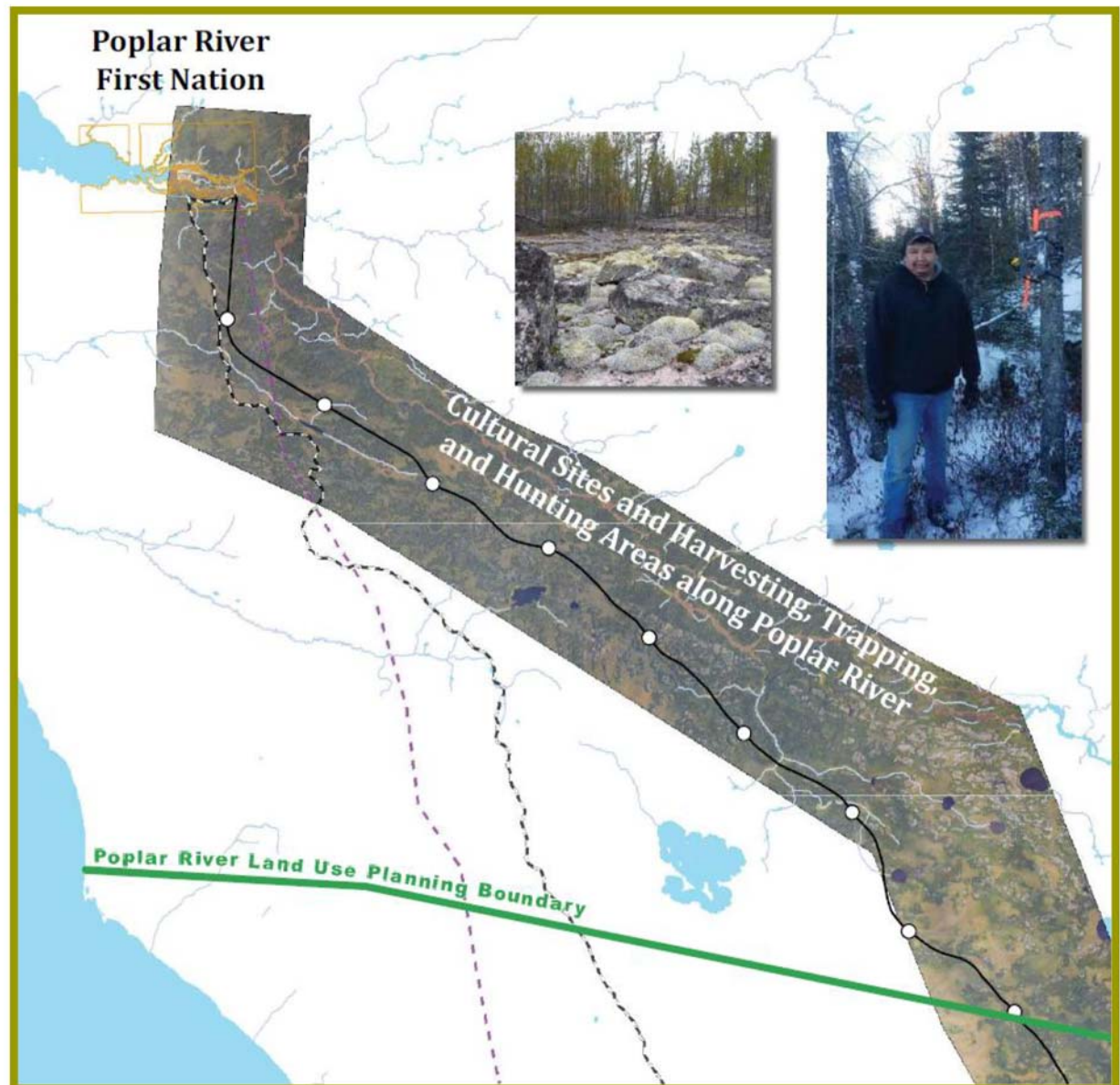
# Evolution of Road Route Refinements

- ❑ Moved route from muskeg areas near Lake Winnipeg further inland for constructability
- ❑ Moved portion of route to west away from Poplar River traditional use areas
- ❑ Moved route further to the west to avoid sensitive sites
- ❑ **Moved portion of route to east away from sensitive habitat and traditional use areas near Etomami River**



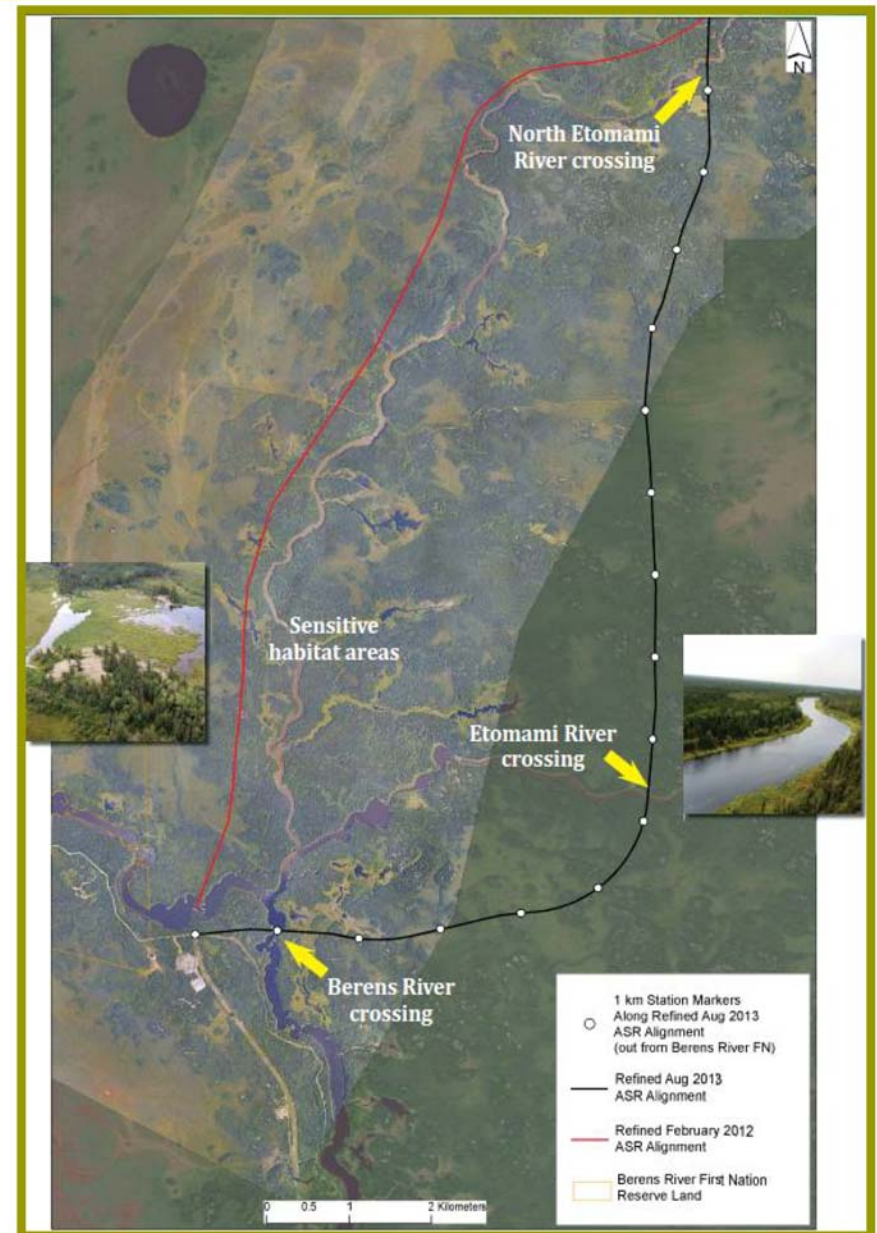
## Summary of Road Route Refinements – Poplar River

- Moved portion of route west to avoid Poplar River
  - Harvested plants
  - Cultural /sacred sites
  - Traditional land use
- Moved portion of route further west to avoid sensitive sites identified during baseline studies and discussions with Elders
- Avoids muskeg and wetlands along shoreline route and winter road



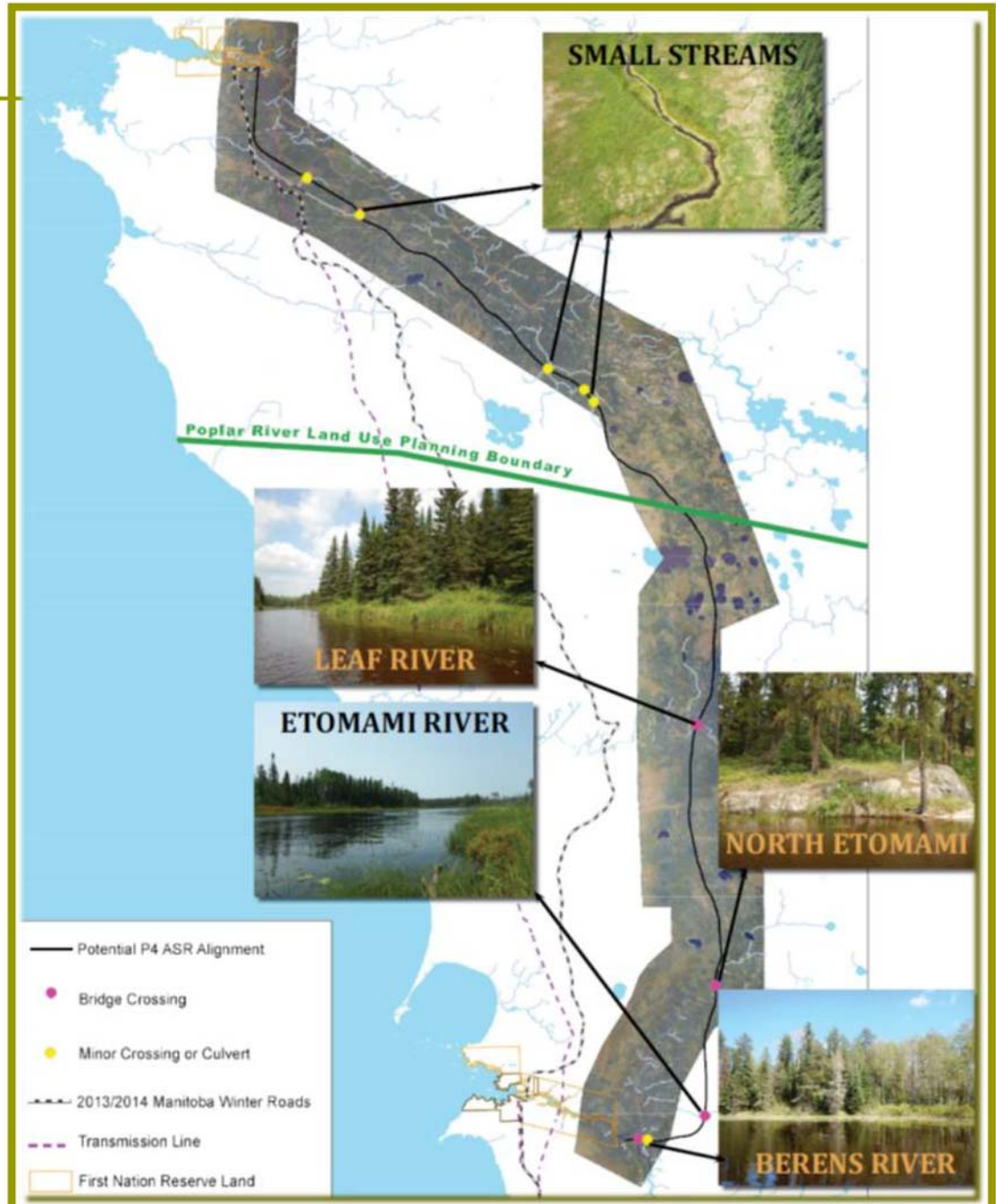
# Summary of Road Route Refinements - Berens River

- Realigned road to avoid:
  - Habitat
  - Traditional land use areas
  
- Moved portion of route further east to avoid Etomami valley
  
- Requires additional river crossing sites
  
- Avoids muskeg and wetlands along shoreline route and winter road



# River Crossings

- Revised route will require additional river crossing sites
  - More crossings, but away from sensitive community areas
  
- Four bridge crossings:
  - Berens River
  - Etomami River
  - North Etomami River
  - Leaf River
  
- Six minor crossings or culverts





## In-Community Meetings

- ❑ The first series of In-Community meetings were held on:
  - April 23, 2015 Poplar River
  - April 30, 2015 Berens River
- ❑ The purpose of the In-Community meetings was to:
  - Provide an overview of the project;
  - Inform the community of the overall Environmental Impact Assessment process;
  - Discuss how the proposed road alignment has evolved based on feedback to avoid community sensitive areas; and,
  - Dialogue with the community about which Valued Components should be included or highlighted in the process.



## Summary of What We Heard – In-Community Meetings

- What we heard from Berens River & Poplar River communities:
  - Revised road alignment has been moved away from community sensitive areas, and was well received;
  - How information for Traditional Knowledge Studies are used;
  - Appropriate community and cultural activities should occur prior to any construction activities or disturbance of the land;
  - Project-focused communication to inform communities on progress and activities;
  - Protect waterway travel routes;
  - Moose, caribou, furbearers and their habitat are valued components for the communities;

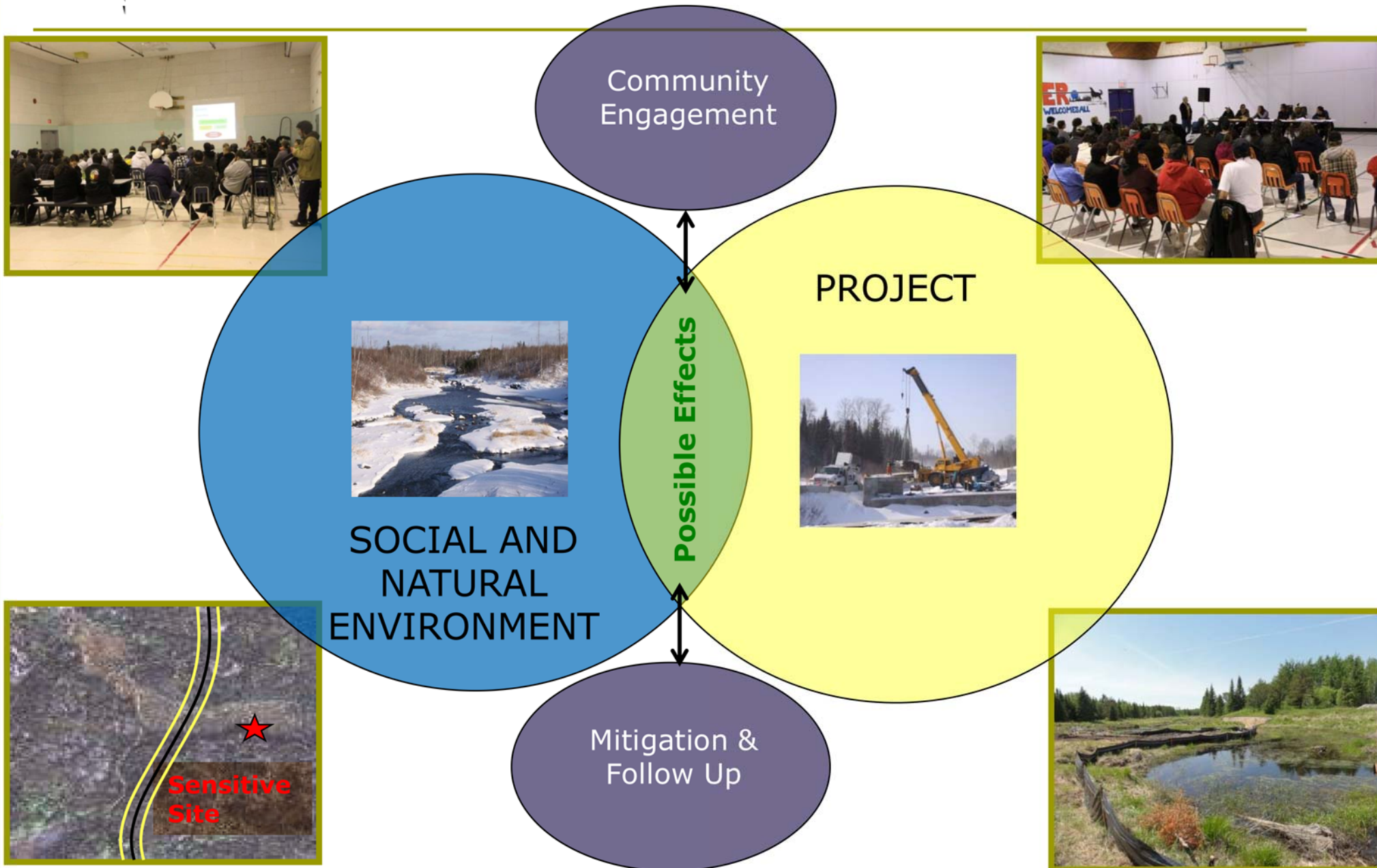


## Summary of What We Heard – In-Community Meetings

- What we heard (continued):
  - Ensure travel routes and access to trap lines are maintained;
  - Consider setbacks, restricting access, and temporary barriers to protect sensitive sites;
  - For sensitive lifecycle stages (i.e. spawning fish) schedule construction activities appropriately
  - Interest in the potential effects of construction noise and blasting on sensitive areas;
  - Restrict hunting along the road alignment and during construction; and,
  - Concerns over how a provincial or federal election may impact the project.



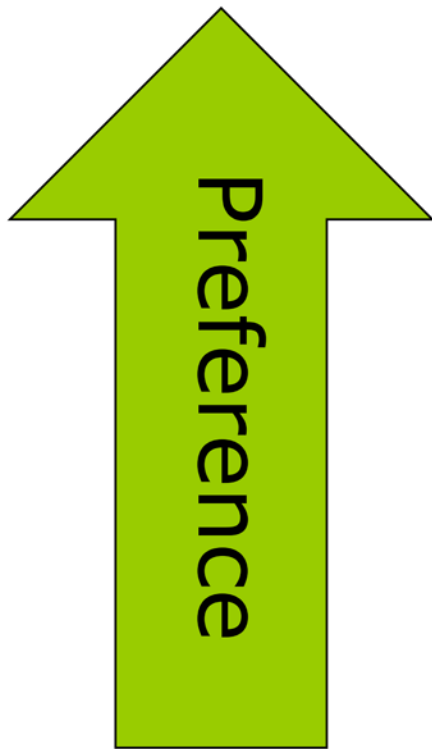
# What is Environmental Impact Assessment?



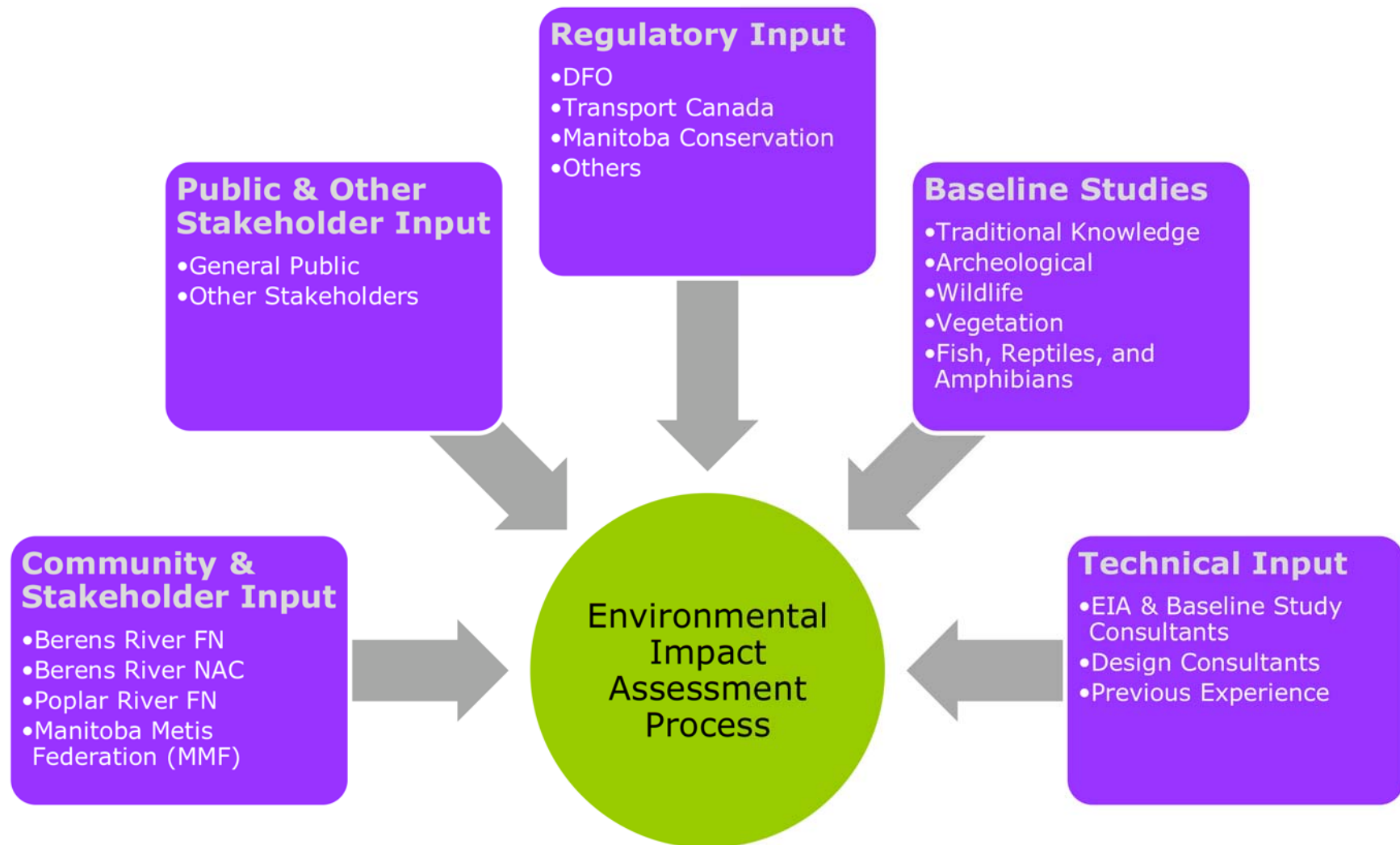
## What is Environmental Impact Assessment?

□ "Spectrum of Preference":

- **Avoid**
- **Minimize**
- **Restore**
- **Reduce or Eliminate**
- **Offset**
- **Monitor**

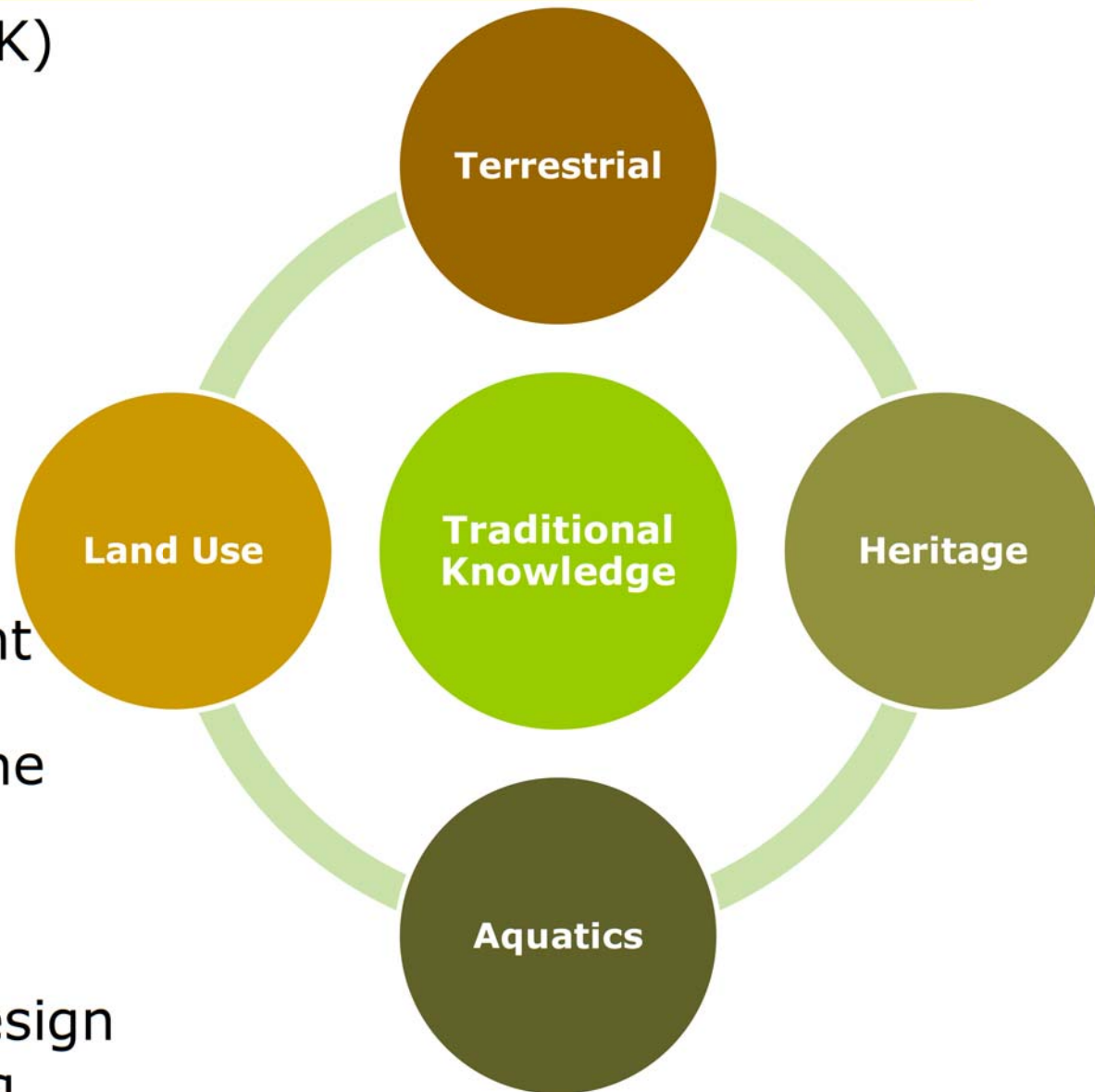


# Inputs into the Environmental Impact Assessment Process



# Baseline Data

- ❑ Traditional Knowledge (TK)
- ❑ Biophysical studies to augment TK studies
  - Vegetation
  - Wildlife surveys
  - Archaeological studies
  - Fisheries and habitat
- ❑ Used to confirm alignment
- ❑ Provide information for the Environmental Impact Assessment
- ❑ Referenced for project design and construction planning



- ❑ Identify important habitat
- ❑ Identify presence of protected species
- ❑ Incorporate local knowledge
- ❑ Evaluate movement relative to existing roads, transmission lines, cut lines, etc.
- ❑ Predator/prey relationships
- ❑ Focus on:
  - Caribou
  - Furbearers (trapped species)
  - Moose
  - Wolves
  - Birds





# Wildlife – Trapper Program

- ❑ Program started winter 2013/2014
- ❑ Trappers are recording:
  - Fur harvest information
  - Weather conditions
  - Animal tracks and sign
  - Collecting samples



## □ Vegetation

- Aerial imagery studies to document plant communities
- Field visits to document individual species
- Species at risk, edible plants, medicines

## □ Soils & Topography

- Geotechnical studies
- Evaluation of potential change



- ❑ **Field assessment of fisheries, aquatic habitat, and watercourse characteristics**
  - ❑ Aquatic species and habitat
  - ❑ Channel conditions and characteristics
  - ❑ Riparian (stream banks)
  - ❑ Species at risk
  - ❑ Spawning areas
  
- ❑ **Community discussions on:**
  - Harvested species
  - Sensitive areas

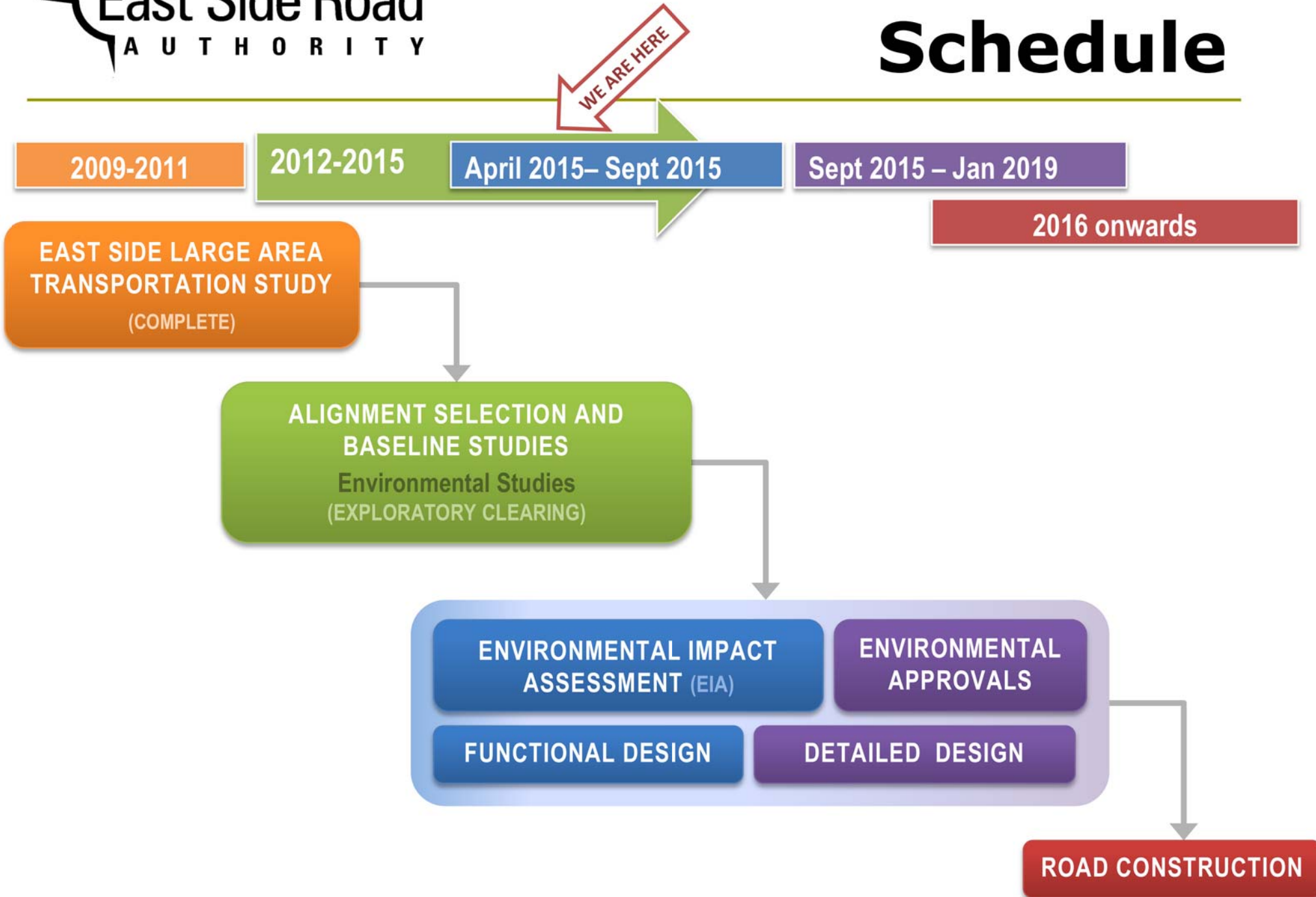


# Cultural and Traditional Land Use

- Input from:
  - Communities
  - Elders
  - Traditional Knowledge
  - Archeological studies
  
- Cultural and archeological sites
  
- Areas important for community health and well-being
  
- Harvesting of edible, medicinal, and cultural plants
  
  
- Trapping & hunting



# Schedule



# Table Talks!

- ❑ We want to hear and learn from you
- ❑ Write on boards what is important to you, and what should be considered
- ❑ Complete a comment form

**We will be back to meet with you to discuss the following:**

- **Summer 2015:** To discuss measures to protect the environment

***Please stay and talk with us!***



***Thank you for your participation!***

**Contact Information**

**The East Side Road Authority**

*Phone: (204) 945-4900*  
*Toll-Free 1-866-356-6355*  
*Fax: (204) 948-2462*

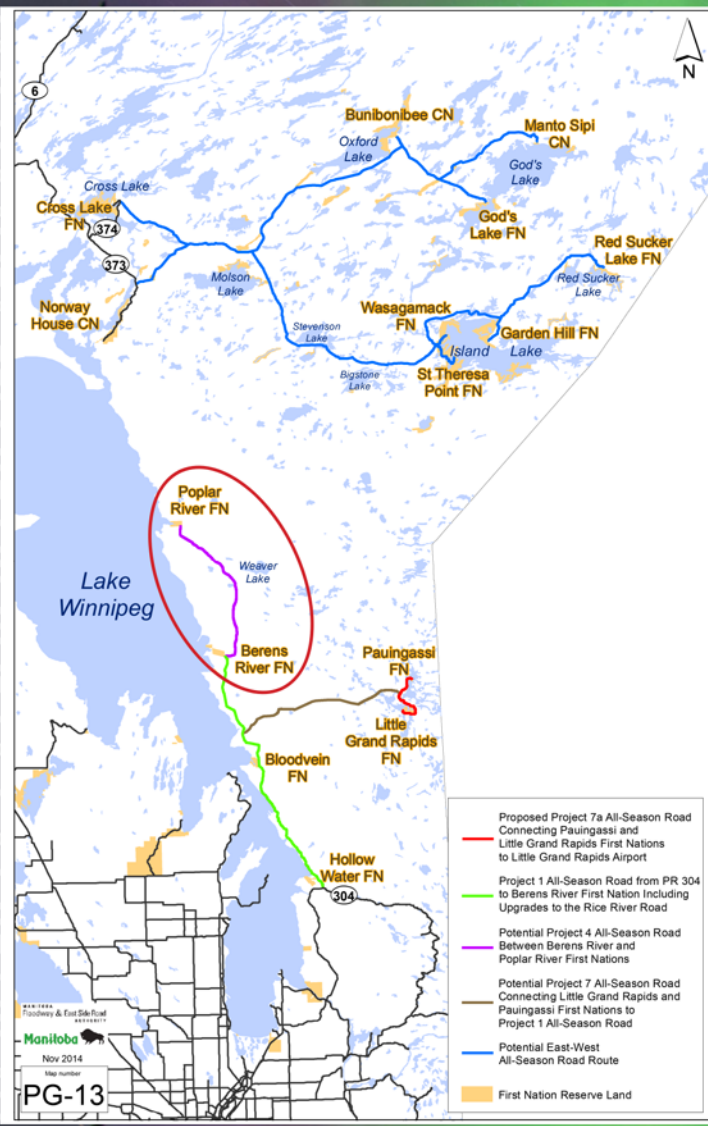


**Annex A3-16:**  
Display Boards – Winnipeg Open House  
(Round 5)

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# PROJECT OVERVIEW



This project consists of **94 km** of All-Season Road joining Berens River First Nation to Poplar River First Nation.

There will be 4 major water crossings or bridges at:

- Leaf River
- North Etomami River
- Etomami River
- Berens River

Up to 6 possible minor crossings or culverts

Equalization culverts at multiple locations



# WHAT WE HEARD

As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, ESRA is conducting a series of meetings with communities in the area to inform and shape the process. Continued dialogue with and input from the communities, Elders, and Chief and Council are critical to the overall process.

## The first series of meetings (Round #1) were held with the communities on:

April 23rd, 2015 in Poplar River First Nation  
April 30th, 2015 in Berens River First Nation



## The purpose of the Round #1 meetings was to:

- Provide an overview of the proposed All Season Road project;
- Inform the community of the overall Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process;
- Discuss how the proposed road alignment has evolved based on feedback to avoid community sensitive areas; and,
- Dialogue with the community about which Valued Components should be included or highlighted in the EIA process.

# WHAT WE HEARD

## During these meetings, the communities of Poplar River First Nation and Berens River First Nation shared the following with the ESRA team:

- Communities have interest in how information for Traditional Knowledge Studies are gathered and used;
- Appropriate community and cultural activities should occur prior to any construction activities or disturbance of the land;
- Communication between ESRA and the communities should be improved;
- Bridges or other structures should be designed to allow for continued access by boats, canoes, and snowmobiles;
- Moose and moose habitat are Valued Components for the communities;
- Caribou and caribou habitat are Valued Components for the communities;
- The communities noted increased presence of wolverines nearby in the past few years;
- Ensure travel routes are maintained;
- The revised proposed road alignment has been moved away from community sensitive areas based on feedback, and was generally well received;
- To protect cultural and heritage sites, consider setbacks, restrict access, and erect temporary barriers to prohibit access during construction;
- Interest in effects around the impacts of construction noise and blasting on or around moose hunting and calving areas;
- Restrict hunting along the road alignment and during construction;
- Respect and maintain access to trap lines during construction;
- Road alignments that will avoid community sensitive areas were identified to the ESRA team;
- Concerns about how upcoming provincial or federal elections may impact the project.

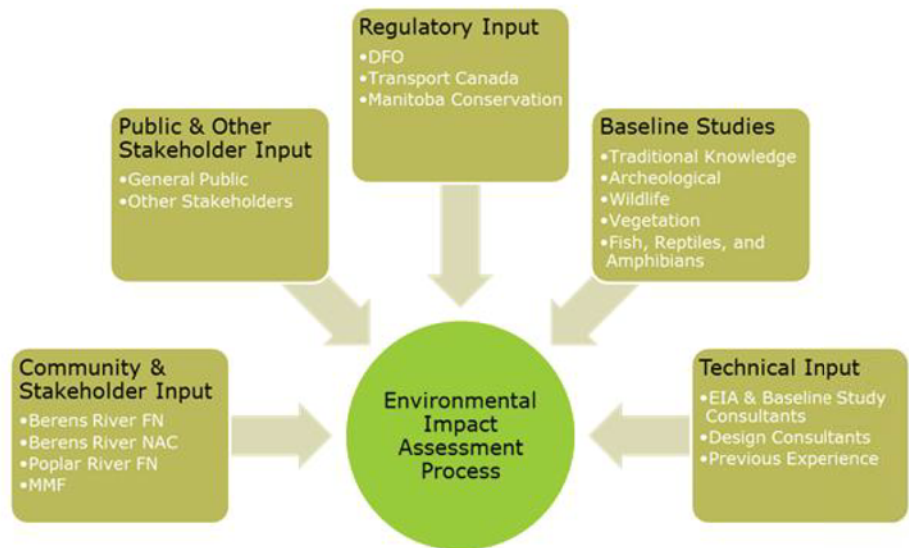


# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT



As part of the East Side Transportation Initiative and its various road projects, environmental impact assessments (EIAs) are required. An environmental impact assessment is a process to predict environmental effects of proposed initiatives or projects before they are carried out. They identify potential effects of a project, propose measures to mitigate those effects, predict whether impacts will remain after mitigation is implemented, and follow up to test the effectiveness of mitigation. As a planning and decision-making tool, an EIA aims to minimize or avoid adverse environmental effects before they occur, and incorporate environmental factors into the decision making process.

An environmental impact assessment involves a variety of factors, including the proposed project, the existing social and natural environment, community engagement, and mitigation and follow up on possible effects.



The environmental impact assessment process involves a wide variety of **inputs** from a diverse range of sources, including input from community & stakeholders in the immediate project area, the general public and other stakeholder groups, regulatory agencies, baseline studies, technical input from consultants, and previous experience.

**Mitigation** measures are actions that can be done to reduce (mitigate) or avoid the effects or impacts that a project could have on the environment. In terms of mitigating potential impacts, the environmental impact assessment utilizes a 'spectrum of preference' approach. In order of preference, these actions include:



- **Avoiding** the impact altogether
- **Minimizing** impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation
- **Restore** by applying rehabilitation techniques after the impact may have occurred, such as revegetation of disturbed areas
- **Reduce or Eliminate** the potential over time by preservation and maintenance operations
- **Offset** potential impacts through measures such as off-site habitat creation or tree replacement planting programs
- **Monitor** the project overtime to identify and reduce potential impacts



# MOOSE

## POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

Change in habitat

Disturbance from construction

Accidental moose-vehicle collisions

Increased access



## MITIGATION IDEAS

Road design: improved sightlines, reduced speed, and signage on road

Limit construction worker activity to project area

Restrict hunting in construction contracts

Block temporary access roads after construction

Maintain habitat, encourage natural re-vegetation and planting with native species

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# CARIBOU

## POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

Change in habitat



Disturbance from blasting



Accidental caribou-vehicle collisions



Increased access



## MITIGATION IDEAS

Road design: improved sightlines, reduced speed, and signage on road

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Limit construction worker activity to project area

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Limit blasting during calving season in sensitive areas

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Block temporary access roads after construction

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Maintain habitat, encourage natural re-vegetation and planting with native species

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# FURBEARERS

## POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

Change in habitat



Disturbance and displacement from construction



Accidental vehicle collisions



Increased access



## MITIGATION IDEAS

Block temporary access roads after construction

Improve sightlines, reduced speed, and signage on road

Minimize extent of vegetation clearing

Maintain camp standards to avoid creating wildlife attractants

Maintain buffer around active dens and high quality habitat

Burn slash piles during first winter to limit furbearer use

Design equalization culverts to provide an alternate means of access for furbearers

Maintain habitat, encourage natural re-vegetation and planting with native species

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Blank lined box for notes

# WATERFOWL & BIRDS OF PREY

## POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

Change in habitat

Disturbance and displacement from noise

Disturbance of existing nests

Increased access



## MITIGATION IDEAS

Minimize extent of vegetation clearing

No work below high water mark in spring to prevent accidental nest disturbance

Maintain riparian buffer zones along water's edge

Identification and protection of critical nesting sites during construction

Restrict construction worker activity to project area

Restrict hunting in construction areas

Block temporary access roads after construction

Minimize clearing in spring and summer

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# HERITAGE & CULTURAL SITES

## POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

- Loss or damage to heritage sites and objects
- Damage to cultural (sacred) sites
- Damage to community use sites



## MITIGATION IDEAS

Route road away from known heritage sites

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Maintain buffers and temporary fencing around heritage sites

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Conduct appropriate community and cultural activities prior to construction activities or disturbance of the land

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Block temporary access roads after construction

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Limit equipment and workers to construction areas

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# VEGETATION

## POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

Removal of trees and shrubs in construction areas



Loss of species of concern from clearing activities



Change in habitat for key species

Spread of invasive and non-native species

Change in subsurface water flow

Increased access



## MITIGATION IDEAS

Minimize extent of clearing to ROW, quarries, and borrow pits

Maintain subsurface water flows

Block access roads after construction

Four horizontal lines for notes.

Survey for species of concern before clearing and initiate protection plans

Four horizontal lines for notes.

Prohibit equipment outside of construction areas

Four horizontal lines for notes.

Control herbicide use

Four horizontal lines for notes.

Restore ground cover in ditches with native species

Four horizontal lines for notes.

Reclaim disturbed areas not required for road operation and maintenance

Four horizontal lines for notes.

# FISH, REPTILES, & AMPHIBIANS

## POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

- Fish habitat loss or change in productivity
- Damaged water quality from sediment
- Blocked fish movements
- Harm to fish from accidental spills
- Changes in water flows
- Improved access to waterways
- Introduction of non-native fish species from equipment



## MITIGATION IDEAS

Block access roads after construction

Limit clearing near watercourses and restore vegetation

Design culverts for passage and natural flow

Protect water quality through proper equipment maintenance and fuel storage

Prohibit use of herbicides near watercourses

Avoid critical reproduction areas

Use erosion protection and sediment control

No work below the high water mark in spring

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# TRADITIONAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

## POSSIBLE CHANGES (EFFECTS)

Loss of traditionally used plants from clearing

Change to moose distribution affecting hunting

Change to furbearer distribution affecting harvesting

Change in fishery harvest

Change in traditional collection of aquatic plants and fish eggs



## MITIGATION IDEAS

Map important traditional use areas for project planning and design

Protect moose and caribou  
*(see boards)*

Protect furbearers  
*(see board)*

Protect fish, reptiles, amphibians  
*(see board)*

Maintain access to traplines and trails during construction

Design trail crossings to maintain trapper access and trails

Block temporary access roads after construction

Confirm setbacks and other mitigation measures with communities

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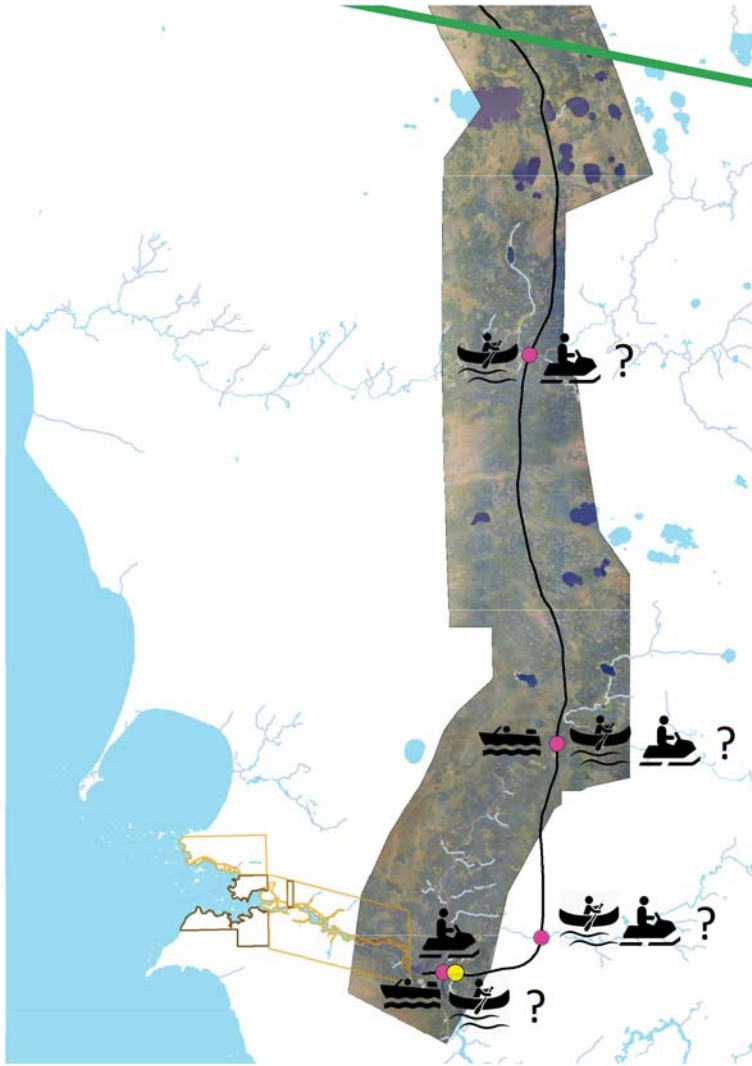
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# RIVER ACCESS & CROSSINGS: SOUTH



Construct bridges and culverts to maintain travel routes



Provide portage access points for travel by canoe



Restrict boat launch points at river crossings



## MITIGATION IDEAS

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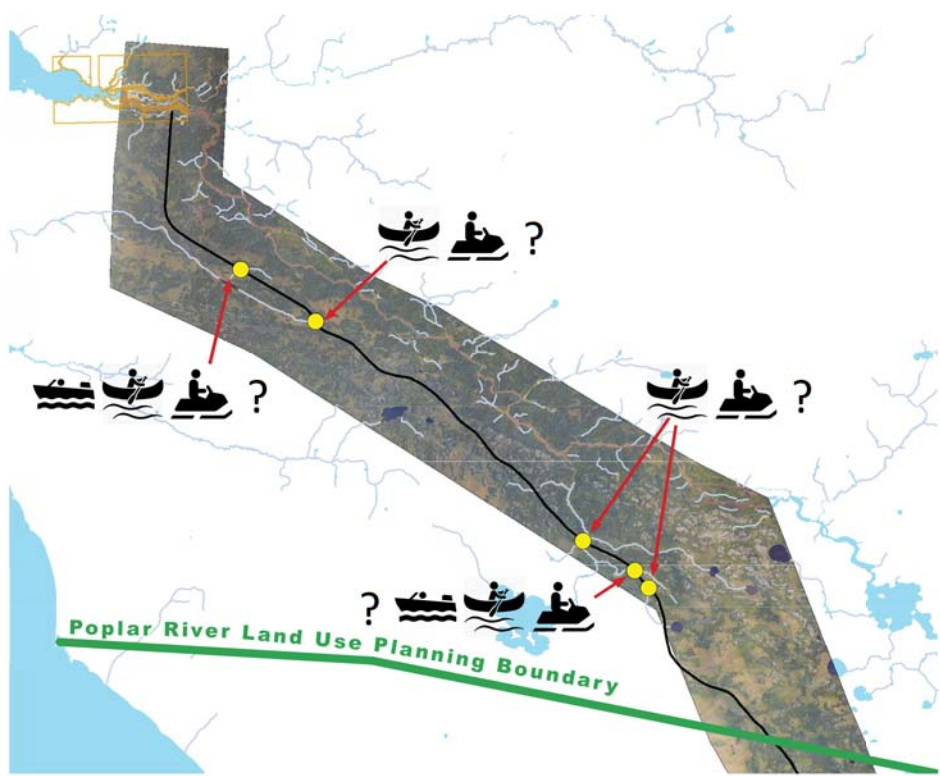
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# RIVER ACCESS & CROSSINGS: NORTH



Construct bridges and culverts to maintain travel routes



Provide portage access points for travel by canoe



Restrict boat launch points at river crossings

MITIGATION IDEAS







# ALL-SEASON ROAD CONSTRUCTION STEPS



ASR PLANNING & DESIGN



CONSTRUCTION



MAINTENANCE



# HOW SHOULD WE COMMUNICATE WITH YOU?



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NCI Radio



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Temporary signage on road in advance of activities