

Appendix N

A'se'k News – Project Update



A'se'k News

Vol. 2 Issue 2. June 2019

*"Maw-Lukutinej Waqama'tuk A'se'k"
"Let us work together and clean up Boat Harbour"*

Boat Harbour Remediation Project June 2019 Update from N.S. Lands:

On May 23, the Government of Canada announced it will contribute \$100 million to the Boat Harbour Remediation Project through the Green Infrastructure stream of its infrastructure plan. The Province of Nova Scotia has already committed to covering the rest of the project costs. The overall cost of the cleanup is expected to be more than \$200 million.

Pilot- Scale Work:

Sanexen, the company contracted for the pilot-scale work, resumed dredging in May after a long, cold winter halted activity on the site. Workers are using a larger barge and a different dredge head to ensure dredging removes the contaminated sludge while leaving behind as much of the clean soil underneath as possible. A small cove has also been drained to test dredging "in the dry," directly on the floor of Boat Harbour. This testing will help determine if the harbour bottom can support heavy machinery. Pilot work is expected to continue for a few more weeks, until mid or late June. There are no new job opportunities available through this phase of the work.

Air monitoring:

Stantec, the independent air monitoring consultant hired to monitor air quality at Boat Harbour, is onsite throughout the pilot work. They have also increased the frequency of 24-hour sampling periods at the fixed monitoring station on Cemetery Road to every three days. The monitoring has not noted any unusual activity or results related to the remediation project. All air monitoring reports are posted online at novascotia.ca/boatharbour/monitoring/

Environmental Assessment:

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) determined in February that the Boat Harbour Remediation Project requires a federal assessment. They issued their notice of commencement and draft guidelines on April 10. Nova Scotia Environment has determined that the federal assessment is sufficient, and they will not do a provincial assessment. Final assessment guidelines were released on May 31, and these will help determine the next steps of the process, such as whether the project will need further technical or environmental studies. NS Lands and GHD will work closely with CEAA and federal and provincial agencies to complete the required work of the environmental assessment, which will include formal consultation with Pictou Landing First Nation. The federal assessment can take at least 365 days. We anticipate this will push the start for the full-scale remediation work into 2021.

Indian Cross Point:

In March, NS Lands and archaeologist Heather MacLeod-Leslie attended a public meeting in PLFN to discuss options for remediating the pipeline at Indian Cross Point. The meeting helped narrow down the options to two: cap and fill the pipeline without disturbing the site, or remove the entire pipeline. Out of that meeting, NS Lands agreed to engage an archeological consultant, Boreas Heritage, to survey the pipeline right-of-way with ground-penetrating radar (GPR) to help determine if anything of historical significance in the right-of-way that would be disturbed by digging.

Boreas visited the site on May 7 and determined that a GPR survey is unlikely to produce any meaningful data along the pipeline right-of-way, due to its narrow width and past disturbance when the pipeline was installed. They have proposed surveying parts of the right-of-way to test if such a survey produces useful data. They also propose surveying land in nearby areas, including Mr. Bill Palmer's property, which show a higher potential for identifying unmarked burial sites. NS Lands is supportive of this approach.

Community Update - Boat Harbour Remediation. Summary provided by Brian Hebert (lawyer) on where PLFN is with the Canadian Environmental Agency Federal Assessment Process.

Boat Harbour Remediation and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) will be conducting an environmental assessment of the Province's plans for the Boat Harbour cleanup. Because of the contaminants in Boat Harbour, CEAA will review the Province's cleanup plans to make sure the work does not pose risk to human health or the environment. The Province will be required to have qualified professionals assess the risks posed by the cleanup operations, including its plans for getting rid of the contaminants removed from Boat Harbour and the impact of the project on Pictou Landing First Nation. These professionals will prepare an environmental assessment report which will be filed with CEAA. The report will be made public and CEAA will ask for comments on the report from the public and rights holders like Pictou Landing First Nation. CEAA may hold public hearings. CEAA will then make recommendations to the Federal Minister of Environment as to whether the cleanup project should be approved with or without conditions. All of this will take some time and it is important that we participate in this process.

In the meantime, earlier this year the Province filed its remediation plan with CEAA. CEAA is now preparing guidelines for the Province to follow when preparing its environmental assessment report. The guidelines set out those things that CEAA wants the Province to assess and include in the Province's environmental assessment report. CEAA provided a draft version of the guidelines to PLFN and others for comment.

With financial assistance from CEAA, PLFN was able to hire a firm of independent engineers, Exp Services Inc., to review the draft guidelines. We wanted to make sure the guidelines made it clear that the environmental assessment report would address the things that are important to PLFN. In particular, we are concerned about avoiding environmental contamination and risk to human health during the cleanup operation, and beyond. The current cleanup proposal calls for the contaminants from Boat Harbour to be stored in the existing containment cell close to Boat Harbour. Not only would the cell stay where it is indefinitely, but will also increase in size. The community is opposed to this and wants to see the containment cell relocated altogether. It is therefore important for the community to know that the Province has properly identified the environmental and human health risks associated with the containment cell and also thoroughly and objectively looked at other options and locations for the long-term storage of contaminants from Boat Harbour. PLFN is also concerned about the overall impact of the remediation project and how it is carried out.

After reviewing the draft CEAA guidelines, Exp Services concluded that the guideline document makes it clear that the Province must examine alternatives to the containment cell and explain why they were rejected and include that information in the final environmental assessment report. The guidelines also require the Province to consider all of the impacts of the cleanup project on PLFN. Overall Exp Services was satisfied with the draft guidelines prepared by CEAA. Exp Service's full report on the draft CEAA guidelines has been posted here.



AGAT Laboratories



Join our group on Facebook! It is an on-line forum for Pictou Landing First Nation Community members to receive up to date information and communication regarding the Boat Harbour Remediation Project. It is a closed group, at this time membership is limited to Band members and Community members of Pictou Landing First Nation. You can find it by searching 'PLFN A'se'k Community Group' in the search bar then clicking join group and one of our team members will accept your request.

AGAT Laboratories- Pictou Landing First Nation Scholarship Award.

Members of PLFN entering their first year or completion of a degree/diploma program in the environmental, agriculture, aquaculture, or natural sciences fields are eligible to apply for one scholarship bursary valued at \$1,500.

Deadline for applications is June 15th, 2019.
Applications available at the front desk in the band office.

In the News...

<https://cutt.ly/9iqhFP> 'Beautiful form of reconciliation': Couple to return ancestral burial land to Pictou Landing First Nation'

<https://cutt.ly/viqkxv> 'Ottawa commits \$100 million to Boat Harbour remediation project'

<https://cutt.ly/ziqxGl> 'Environmental Assessment Agency invites public comments on Boat Harbour Remediation Project'

<https://cutt.ly/piqbXW> 'Dalhousie researcher breaks silence over pulp mill's cancer-causing air emissions'

<https://cutt.ly/OiqmXL> 'Pictou, N.S., pulp mill decision pits industry against environment'

<https://cutt.ly/iiqQLf> 'Local support for federal assessment of Boat Harbour cleanup'

<https://cutt.ly/iiqWFC> 'After 50 years, Pictou Landing First Nation is getting its harbour back'

<https://cutt.ly/CiqEvv> 'Everything I knew just didn't exist anymore': Boat Harbour before and after'

<https://cutt.ly/9iqUS0> 'Province says it's not budging on Boat Harbour deadline'



A'se'k News

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"Maw-Lukutinej Waqama'tuk A'se'k"
"Let us work together and clean up Boat Harbour"
#31January2020

Boat Harbour Remediation Project October 2019 Update from N.S. Lands:

Open House:

Thank you to all who attended the Open House held on Aug. 27 as part of the federal environmental assessment (EA) process. Comments and responses from the PLFN Open House and the general Open House held on Aug. 1 are available from the Community Liaison Coordinator. They are also posted on the Boat Harbour website (novascotia.ca/boatharbour/resources.asp). NS Lands will be holding a second Open House as part of the EA process, likely in early December. Stay tuned for more information. We will also be seeking PLFN input on design components (such as artistic panels or other visual features) to be incorporated into the new bridge that will be built to replace the existing causeway at the end of the project.

Sludge Thickness:

We recently awarded a contract to WSP to survey the thickness of the contaminated sludge on the bottom of Boat Harbour. This work is important to give us a clearer sense of what the bottom of the harbour is like and how much material will have to be removed. This information will help us plan more accurately for full-scale remediation. Pictou Landing First Nation members will have opportunities to be involved in the marine work during the survey, including supplying boats and operators.

Fish Survey:

One of the requirements of the environmental assessment process is to complete a survey of all fish in Boat Harbour. This survey is underway, led by Ken Oakes of Cape Breton University. PLFN members have been helping with the survey, which uses electrofishing to stun fish, count them and in some cases, collect samples for tissue analysis. So far, the survey has mostly revealed small minnow-type fish (mummichogs and stickleback) in the harbour and the estuary. Part of this research will include gathering information from the community about the types of fish species that were found in A'se'k before 1967. More details on that survey will be coming soon. The report of results will be completed this fall.

Well-being Survey:

As part of the EA process, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada has also asked for a baseline well-being assessment of the Pictou Landing First Nation community, to determine the current state and help assess how the remediation project will impact the community. We don't want this to be an intrusive process, so we are supporting PLFN in hiring an independent consultant to carry out this survey in a way that will be meaningful to the community. Attached is an informative leaflet about the PLFN Well-being Study.



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Indian Cross Point Archaeological Study Update:

March 2019, we held a community session to discuss the remediation options for Indian Cross Point. There were a few options presented and community members who were present narrowed the choices down to **1.** Leave the pipe in place, but cap it with cement so it can't be used again and cause less disturbance of the land. **2.** Dig up the pipe and remove it.

During the discussion, Heather McLeod Leslie, Archaeologist presented and spoke highly of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) work. It was determined community members wanted more information in the form of an archaeological study done in the area to help inform a decision.

The study was conducted by 'Boreas Heritage Consultants' and was completed in September 2019.

Boreas Consulting has completed its ground-penetrating radar (GPR) survey of the pipeline corridor and surrounding areas near where the pipeline comes ashore at Indian Cross Point. The survey found that the western end of the pipeline corridor near the shoreline at Indian Cross Point could potentially house unmarked burial sites. Boreas Consulting will be presenting the study results to PLFN in early December.

Copies of the completed report are in the office available upon request (only because it is a lot of paper and is too big to electronically send).

Boreas will be here on December 4th to discuss the findings with community members, At the end of the discussion, PLFN will advise N.S. Lands on the remediation method we decide on.

On Friday, October 4, 2019, Pictou Landing First Nation and supporters from around the province gathered to remind the provincial government of its promise and to honour the Boat Harbour Act to close the Boat Harbour Effluent Treatment Facility on January 31, 2020.



In the News...

'There's so much awareness, it's going to be hard to treat us the way we've been treated in the past' <https://cutt.ly/YeqQFFi>

'Hundreds marched from Pictou Landing First Nation to shut down Northern Pulp'
<https://cutt.ly/cegWo6s>

'Green leader May says Pictou Landing was told 'Lie after lie after lie' on Boat Harbour'
<https://cutt.ly/GeglpSj>

A'se'k – Boat Harbour: A Site of Centuries' Long Mi'kmaw Resistance <https://cutt.ly/aegl2WP>



Attached is our Boat Harbour Remediation Database Survey, we are updating our database for future employment opportunities. If you are interested in being in our database fill out the form, send to tracey.d@plfn.ca or drop it off at our office. If returned your name will be put into a draw for a door prize. Winner will be selected by random draw on November 1, 2019.

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