

Policy statement; by Temagami First Nation Chief and Council regarding Hunting and Fishing in nDaki Menan

Whereas the Teme-Augama Anishnabai by virtue of being the indigenous people of n'Daki Menan have inherit rights to self-determination within our homelands.

And whereas inherit rights to self-determination include the responsibility to protect and manage the resources of n'Daki Menan.

Therefore we have developed this policy statement to publicize and express Teme Augama Aninsnabai /Temagami First Nation's stance regarding hunting and fishing in n'Daki Menan by Anishnabeg who are members of Nations who participated in and are parties to the Robinson Huron Treaty and Métis who are members of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

Background

n'Daki Menan is the homeland of the Teme-Augama Anishnabai, which we have occupied and managed according to recognized Anishnabeg practice before interferences by Colonial governments. This fact is recognized by the accord signed in June 1978, wherein the surrounding Anishnabeg namely Nippissing, Mattagami, Matachawan and Saugeen agreed on the boundaries of n'Daki Menan.

It has always been the practice that when Anishnabeg of the neighbouring tribes including Métis wished to hunt and fish on n'Daki Menan, they requested permission from the Teme-Augama Anishnabai families on whose hunting area they were going to hunt or fish. They requested permission from the family and were given permission to take game and fish to feed themselves and their families.

The Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850 was a treaty between the several nations who participated in and signed the treaty and the Her Majesty the Crown. ***(Note: Our Teme-Augama Anishnabai oral history tells us that we were not invited to and did not sign the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850).***

The Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850 states **“and further to allow the said Chiefs and their Tribes the full and free privilege to hunt over the Territory now ceded by them, and to fish in the waters thereof, as they have heretofore been in the habit of doing”**

With regards to n'Daki Menan **“the habit of doing”** was to request permission from the Teme-Augama Anishnabai families on whose hunting territory one wished to hunt.

MNRF interim enforcement of October 2005 policy states;

“Throughout the province this policy applies to an aboriginal person harvesting wildlife or fish for personal consumption or social or ceremonial purposes in the area which was the subject to the treaty under which he or she is entitled to benefit.”

This policy was developed and implemented without consultation with Teme Augama Aninsnabai /Temagami First Nation and completely ignores the interrelationships that existed between the several Anishnabeg Nations before the signing of the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850.

The MNRF in its agreement with Métis Nation of Ontario regarding hunting and fishing rights also completely ignores the Teme-Augama Anishnabai aboriginal and treaty rights to manage n'Daki Menan. “ The MNRF has issued Metis licenses to hunt in n'Daki Menan without consultation with the TFN/TAA.

Policy Statment:

Whereas the Teme-Augama Anishnabai by virtue of being the indigenous people of n`Daki Menan have inherit rights to self-determination within our homelands.

And whereas inherit rights to self-determination include the responsibility to protect and manage the resources of n`Daki Menan.

And whereas the Temagami First Nation/Teme Augama Aninsnabai do not accept that the Anishnabeg Nations who participated in and signed the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850 were intending to extend their hunting and fishing rights to include and impose on their Anishnabeg neighbours' traditional hunting territories.

And further whereas the Temagami First Nation/Teme Augama Aninsnabai did not participate in nor sign the Robinson Heron Treaty of 1850, hence we continue to govern our homeland n`Daki Menan the same way we did as before September 1850,

And whereas the Temagami First Nation/Teme Augama Aninsnabai were not consulted by MNRF or the Métis Nation of Ontario and have never extended permission to Métis to hunt and fish in n`Daki Menan

Therefore the Anishnabeg and Métis who are hunting and fishing in n`Daki Menan because the MNRF interim policy allows and doing so without permission of the Temagami First Nation/Teme Augama Aninsnabai are perpetuating the Colonial disrespect for Anishnabeg by subordinating our laws and practice to Colonial government policies and practice.

The Temagami First Nation/Teme Augama Aninsnabai pursuant to our inherit right will be developing and implementing an enforcement policy wherein anyone who wishes to hunt and fish within n`Daki Menan must obtain permission of the Temagami First Nation/Teme Augama Aninsnabai, as was the custom and law before the arrival of the Colonials and before the RH Treaty of 1850