

**Sakitawak Métis Cart
Pilot Project for Community Wellness**

**Community Collaborative Workshop
“Rebuilding the Cart”**

Presented in collaboration with
Nuclear Waste Management Organization
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Presented to:
Sakitawak Métis Nation
Community Participants
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

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1.0 Executive Summary

The Sakitawak Métis Nation (SMN), as part of its community wellness model, held the first of a series of community workshops on economic development in February 2006. The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO), based in Toronto, is responsible for consulting with Canadians and advising Canadian government on the long term management of Canada’s spent nuclear fuel. As of February 2006, the NWMO had concluded consultations with the Canadian public, waiting for a response from Canadian government to its recommendation, submitted in November 2005.

During the waiting period, the NWMO continues to seek knowledge related to tasks that lie ahead, including continuing dialogue with Canadians. With the NWMO office based in Toronto, a real need was identified to gain insight into the dynamics of smaller communities in northern and rural areas, including Aboriginal communities, as to how these communities view land, resources and development. The NWMO expressed interest in the work of the Sakitawak Métis Nation, as it rolls out its Community Wellness Model. Specifically, the NWMO expressed interest in workshops related to economic development, to learn how smaller communities view potential new economic development opportunities.

Themes that emerged through the workshop include:

1. Community Cooperation

Identified a need to reduce division/factions and work together in the community, with honesty and trust operating at the core, to work for the best interests of the community as a whole.

2. Partnership/ Participation from the Ground Floor

The pattern for northern economic ventures is that they are initiated by non-residents and do not typically include community input. The community residents expressed a strong desire to be the initiators of development, to be equal participants in planning and decision making, to have a veto power if industrial development poses negative impacts that the community is not prepared to accept. The community members expressed a desire to participate with industry so that benefits remain in the community, that local people are engaged in careers at all levels, that local expertise is utilized.

Sub-themes to this point include: the need to increase participation from within the community (“more people should be here”); the readiness of the community to participate in development plans (individuals need to seek wellness at home, and be moving in the direction of wellness, for a community to truly participate and benefit from industrial or economic development).

3. Education as a Priority

Investment in education is key, for local people to qualify for the technical and management jobs of any new development. Concerns were raised that if development starts before the people are ready, then non-residents are brought in to the jobs, and end up staying there because of the unions. After this happens, there is no opportunity for local people to get in the door.

4. Community Experience

The community does have experience with industrial development and management. Currently, community members sit on resource co-management boards and have input into resource allocations and management in forestry. Community members have been involved on Environment Quality Commissions as part of the mining infrastructure for many years. This experience should be tapped when considering new developments in the area.

5. Desire for Growth and Opportunity

The members assembled expressed a real drive to build, develop and grow the community, to find a way to create opportunities for local people out of the economic activity emerging in other parts of the country. The dialogue of the day resulted in some very creative ideas on the table for making local opportunity from industrial activity.

2.0 Preamble

Sakitawak Métis Nation (SMN) is one of the oldest communities of the Canadian northwest, with 230 years of history, growing up in the boreal forest region of present-day northern Saskatchewan. The local residents today bear the surnames of the original traders, trappers, settlers and voyageurs that ran the most important economic activity of pre-confederate Canada, the fur trade. Fur trading has given way to mining and forestry; natural resource industries that fuel the economic engine of Saskatchewan. Presently, the Northern Village of Ile a la Crosse manages the local community infrastructure and the Sakitawak Métis Nation negotiates Métis-specific programs in a variety of fields from health care to economic development.

The community political dynamics are an interesting blend of the provincial/municipal model, with the Northern Village of Ile a la Crosse delivering community services and promoting opportunities for the town as a whole. Alongside the municipal council, the Sakitawak Métis Nation represents Métis Nation citizens of the area (approximately 85% of the local population). The two orders of government each strive to create opportunities in a community that has for decades been subject to externally prescribed programs. The road has been rugged, but many positive results have been achieved through cooperation between the Village Council and SMN. Residents are beginning to believe that active participation in local governance can create the opportunities and future

that local residents desire – a thriving community where they can see their grandchildren going to and from work, in health.

The Sakitawak Métis Nation (SMN), has established working relationships and rapport with First Nations of the northwest, non-Aboriginal residents, private industry players and municipal councils of the region, hosting a number of important gatherings in recent years. These meetings have crossed the political boundaries, bringing neighbours together to deal with issues affecting all residents of the northwest. SMN continues to lead in seeking, hosting and facilitating open forums on a variety of issues, including regional dialogue on the management of Canada’s nuclear fuel waste, economic development opportunities, health and wellness meetings, and recently, a Residential School Survivors Conference. The purpose of the meeting was to assist elderly survivors of the Ile a la Crosse Boarding School and their families to understand Canada’s offer of compensation, in their first languages. As the Bishop of the Roman Catholic Synod stated, one can recognize that he is in Ile a la Crosse when he hears three languages spoken in one sentence.¹

Sakitawak Métis Cart

The Sakitawak Métis Nation has begun to articulate the aspirations of local residents for the future of their community. The Model for Community Wellness has been communicated through the symbol of the Red River Cart as a metaphor for the community vision and goals, partnerships and means to attain these goals. The Model incorporates generations of family discussions, those meetings held around the coffee tables, kitchen tables and meeting tables as long as anyone here can remember. None of the subject matter is new, however there is a new energy at work. A core group of very determined people have committed personal time and energy to drive change in this community, starting in their own lives and at home with their families.

A Grass-roots Movement

The “soonias-okimaw”² cannot make the difference here, nor any force from outside, but the spirit within this community, a community 230 years in the making, is gearing up to put Sakitawak back on the trail. It is the length of history, the bonds of family, of shared experience, of deep love and commitment to one another within this community that will see the people through to success in the future ahead. The road may be long, but that has never stopped the Sakitawak Métis!

¹ Bishop Sylvain Lavoie, quoted in Welcome Remarks to the Residential School Survivors Conference, Sakitawak Métis Nation, February 25, 2006.

² Cree, “money boss/chief”, referring to the Provincial Government’s agent, delivering the social welfare payments, starting in the 1950’s.

“Rebuilding the Cart” is a series of community collaborative workshops designed to engage community members in dialogue, to identify the pieces of community life (spokes) that are in need of attention, and to strategize together to put the wheels back on the Cart. (see Appendix A for a diagram of the Sakitawak Métis Cart)

3.0 Rebuilding the Cart, Community Workshop

Opening prayer given to ask a blessing on the meeting, respecting the order of things, that the discussions would be good. All comments recorded have been paraphrased without translation. President of Sakitawak Métis Nation, Don Favel, opened the Community Collaborative Process (CCP) workshop dealing with Economic and Industrial Development. Most of the time, the community is brought in “after-the fact” by developers. The community is not ready for this, so all we get are the menial jobs. Today there are many educated and trained people in our community, that choose to make their home here, and we need to be more involved in the economic development in the area, to ensure that our local workforce is involved. (See Appendix B for a list of attendees to the workshop.)

Special Guest Remarks

Tony Hodge and Pat Patton attended the workshop on behalf of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO).

Tony Hodge – The NWMO’s purpose in being here today is historic. The NWMO is in a holding pattern, waiting for a decision from the Canadian government on the nuclear waste storage issue. In the mean time, we are seeking to learn how communities might go about the process of industrial development, what are the considerations? How are these things best handled? The Sakitawak Métis Nation has organized the Community Wellness Model, including dealing with economic development. It is good for us to be able to sit through this process with you, there is much we can learn from you as you work through the issues of development in your territories, as a community.

Pat Patton - We [NWMO] are seeking to learn from your experience as a northern community, so that as we learn about nuclear waste management, there will be a transfer of knowledge and experience, from north to south and vice-versa. Our office is in Toronto, and planning is often done by people in the city office. It is important that we gain an ongoing understanding of how things are done in small communities like yours.

Ile a la Crosse Perspective

Jeff Morin – Ile a la Crosse is 237 years old (see *aerial photograph of the community in Appendix E*). The Hudson’s Bay Company has just announced

their Grand Opening this week in Ile a la Crosse – they have been open for 237 years, and they are just making it official now?

Questioning the NWMO

Randy Belanger – So, the NWMO is in a holding pattern – I would like to know, what is in your proposal that the Government of Canada is now considering, and what is in that proposal about us (Ile a la Crosse/Sakitawak)?

Tony Hodge explained to the workshop participants about the NWMO study process and consultations with Canadians, which has included the Sakitawak Métis. The subject matter is new, and there has been nothing like this for Canadians to consider before, as the nuclear waste will remain dangerous for thousands of years in the future. The NWMO Final Study Report (a copy of which was presented to Randy Belanger during the discussion) proposed a solution called “Adaptive Phased Management”. This recommendation allows a lengthy period of time for selection of the waste disposal site, including identifying “willing host communities”. During the thirty or so year period to make the siting decision, the deep geologic disposal concept will be tested. The recommendation of Adaptive Phased Management allows for stored waste to be retrieved and potentially recycled in the future, according to the will of the Canadian public.

Pat Patton – We have a dilemma in the time frame of the nuclear waste life cycle – how can we, as Canadians, talk about vision so far in the future and be sure that we pass this information on to our children and grand-children? Surely, it will not be us around this table here that will be making some of the choices and decisions so far into the future. This is a very difficult public policy question that Canada has to deal with.

Sakitawak Métis Cart – Model for Community Wellness

The Cart Model was presented on DVD multi-media with Don Favel narrating. (*For a diagram and description of the Cart Wheel, see Appendix A.*)

In summary, the Wellness Model is used to help people visualize the issues and creative solutions, to move the community in a positive direction. The Model deals equally with economic development, social development and population/environmental health.

The spokes keep balance between the different issues that we need to address in the community – like economic development and jobs, with social readiness for those jobs. We have seen examples of what happens when we get our focus on just one issue, when everyone was concentrating on forestry, we had intensive clear-cutting and all we have left now is a snow fence along the highway.

The Hub in the Cart Model, represents the community “Centre of Excellence”. This is a place where we can house genealogy archives, land claims research, the residential school archives. This is a place for language, culture and art; a central gathering place, a place for anyone to come and learn. Local people tend to take many things for granted and do not realize the value of many of the resources that surround us. Our lake, our history, our Elders tea and bannock...We need to consider these things as valuable; have an interpretive centre, share stories and get the word out in the public about what we have right here in Sakitawak.

The rim of the cart wheel reminds us that we need the support from the outside to meet our community wellness goals. The rim represents the collaboration between community members/local service agencies, and the support of all levels of government, academic institutions and private industry. Knowledge is being shared through the Cart. It goes both ways, not only from the professors at the University to us, but from our people to the rest of the world.

The box of the Cart is for holding up our success stories and best practises. We will record our successes and keep track of our strengths. This will increase and fill the box of our Cart over time. From here, we hope to share what we have learned with other northern communities.

Hope is the force that keeps all of us coming to the table, and is what will get the Cart moving down the road. We need to pull together as a community and discuss things together. We have to be willing to deal with our health, our social conditions and our economic conditions. The Cart is just a symbol, just a model, but it has helped others understand what we are working to accomplish. Since we started using this concept as a communication tool, we have managed to stir up some interest in the governments and in the academic world – we have been invited to make presentations to the Defeat Diabetes Conference put on by the Health District and now, we have been invited to present our model to a national conference on March 2 and 3, 2006.

Many others before us had wonderful ideas, but no resources. We need a structured plan, a step by step plan to promote to government agencies, in order to attract the resources we need, to get this process going, including resources for a full time coordinator. So far, all we have been able to do is work at this in small bits here and there.

President Favel remarked that the Sakitawak Metis Nation will not be rushing through the consultation process, being sure to keep going back to the Model, “re-checking the spokes” until the community is ready to move forward with development. The Cart Model is inclusive in nature, it is designed to include all members of the community, but it does take time for everyone to engage. That is what the Community Collaborative Process is all about.

Everyone Should Be Here

Initial responses around the table were positive, with a call for more community members to attend these meetings. A question was raised, “How can we include all the members of the community in the discussion process, for the Sakitawak Métis Cart?” It is clear that any efforts toward community wellness must include everyone in the community. Acknowledgement of the success stories in wellness is another positive sign that exciting things are happening in Ile a la Crosse. “There are many people in the community working at Wellness already; Liz Durocher and her dance troupe have brought back our dancing, this is also part of our wellness.”

President Don Favel acknowledged the call for general membership attendance: “We need to start with a smaller group first, leaders of various agencies representing the community, as a start for the model, then we will go to the whole community with it.”

We Need to Think Globally

“The Cart model is good, but we need to look at it from different angles. First, wellness has to start with individuals. There has to be a wheel just to represent self and getting all of your own spokes straight – each person’s hub is about re-discovering our roots, our traditions, our connection to the Creator. The personal hub is our culture, knowing who we are as Métis people, but it also means “why” we are, it is about believing in yourself, being a family. When we get our personal wheel in order, we can go to the community level. It has been hard to get involved in the community because of so many different beliefs, different organizations each wanting to hold power and do things their way. We have not been working together. Beyond that, we should look outside our community and think about how we fit in this nation, even how we fit in the global community. “

Clear the Path

“How do we do what needs to be done, to put the wheels together, to get the Cart on the path again? We need to talk together, really listen to each other, not always to get sick of each other’s voice. We need to understand and believe in each other, get out of the little groups, the little factions that keep our community divided. We have to get together so that our children and grandchildren can benefit. We need to talk about what is really hurting us in our community it’s the alcohol and the drugs that are killing us. We have to start asking each other questions - we don’t have much time – we are in the 5th generation of welfare – how do we get out of this?”

4.0 Five Questions

For the complete outline of workshop questions, please refer to Appendix D.

Question 1. Vision

- A. What are your personal hopes and dreams for this community in the next five years? The next 20 to 50 years?
- B. What role does economic or industrial development play in the community achieving its long term goals to thrive, prosper and grow?

The following comments have been recorded as attendees responded to Question 1. The responses are paraphrased, without translation.

Randy Belanger – “Money talks and bulls**t walks”.

If we do not have the money for programs, to buy businesses, to kick-start economic development, then none of the other stuff will work. Money will dictate whether or not this whole [wellness model] thing works. With the money comes social despair and also resources that we need – child care workers, and other professionals in our community.

I hope that we use our resources better – forestry, the moss [biomass]. We need to utilize the resources that we have at our disposal.

The Cart wheel is a good symbol – how the Métis came as far north here – the reason we got here in the first place is that the spokes were all lined up. Honesty was there – it has to be one of the spokes. I do not usually say anything in a meeting, but [honesty] is the number one thing in an organization. Look at the government - always dishonest – this is what we have to look at – the drug and alcohol abuse is what I have been looking at for years, but I have never said anything. I want to get this out, but my thoughts are all muddled up in my head. We have to believe in ourselves, that we can do it [change the trends]. Honesty is #1.

Vivaney Laliberte: Anything that is organized or involved with money, there is always a little bit of crookedness in there. We have to pull together – get people to talk for us – fight drugs and alcohol – the young people are lost. The government that is on now is looking at that – drug dealers – try to get them out of business – they are taking our children’s money and the children are going hungry. I want to listen to have an open mind, need to leave the next generation better off – before I leave here.

Angus Gardiner – My number one vision is education for the youth – teaching healthy living – tackle drugs and alcohol. I was there at one time too [in drugs and alcohol]. Its time I pass on what I have learned, starting with my family. I have to have respect for the young people, to talk to them, not in a hurting way, but to be honest with them. We have a history of hurting each other, of “backstabbing”. We have to stop fighting with each other. Our

community has been here a long time. We need to benefit from what we have accomplished; we can benefit from our lake – tourism – be able to make money taking people on the lake. In five or ten years there will be opportunities because of the new highway [Fort MacMurray highway]. As a commercial fisherman, the industry is dying down, and trapping is dying down. There have to be other opportunities for the people.,

Philip Durocher - My view is opposite of Randy’s point – that money has to come first – I believe the opposite – I have been working in community development 20 years and I see that social development has to come first before economic development will work. This is my strong passion – I realize that we need economic development, but just throwing a pot of money at this community will create more of a problem right now. Alcohol and drugs are not the problem – they are a symptom of the problem.

My vision is a healthy community, to see my grandkids coming home from work, here in Ile a la Crosse. I do not want to look only at government to employ our people. We need to make presentations to private industry. This presentation needs to be improved – we have three research projects on the table because of this concept – we need to present this to a national conference on March 2. We need to start building a hole [for nuclear waste], just in case something needs to go in there!! (laughing) We need to be aggressive and pro-active.

George Favel – My vision is to see progress move in to Ile a la Crosse and not have people trying to stop progress. I wish we could work together and stop fighting each other. If we really want Ile a la Crosse to grow for our children, we all have to get together to believe in what’s going to happen. If we keep fighting each other, we will still be here at this table 10 years from now. We were talking about this ten years ago and we have not moved that much. We need to look at other communities to move ahead – we won’t get there by ourselves. Money talks, we need to have resources – we have so much natural resources here but we get nothing out of it – it all goes south – Cameco supports all kinds of things in Saskatoon – this is where we need to get our money – can’t just watch it go on by. I have not personally been very involved in community – I see that I need to get out and get involved – so that I can be a role model for my children and grand-children. I guess I need to believe in myself, to discover traditions in spirituality. I would like to see a lot more than just a hospital go up in Ile a la Crosse. We are all getting older, I would like to see a better place for the older people, with more activities to do besides BINGO. I would like to see a group go south regularly, like Beauval does. My long term vision is to see a new arena, bowling alley for the kids, to have something to do instead of wandering the streets. We need more training programs here, heavy equipment, carpentry, different kinds of training.

Yvonne Longworth – You know, twenty five or thirty years ago, we had everything in place. We had control over our school, I don't know what happened from there. I just know that I failed as a parent due to my own habits. My children have suffered, we no longer own anything. We do not own our home, or our land. In the last 25 years we have seen a drastic change – everyone is unhealthy here now. This is my priority - we need to be healthy. Our resources are not ours, we have no opportunities for our children, nothing for our children that want to come home to Ile a la Crosse now. Our family ties were strong 25 years ago, we would have support for family breakdown. Today families are torn apart, everyone is too quick to call social services. We are losing our language – we need to give women back their personal power and strength – they are nurturers; the men need economic development, jobs. We need to own our own land and our own homes. As a lifetime community member, I could not get the good land – I live in a trailer on muskeg – white people get the nice lots – what is going on with that? Our water is not fit to drink – we have to buy our drinking water and the price is going up again. We need the “wheel”, that's very important – its Métis. I will work hard to promote the health of our women – our men need their pride and jobs, to be able to support their families.

Elmer Fogen – I am new to the community, just here to listen and to support what you are trying to do.

Leonard Raymond – My vision? It feels good being amongst the people here – to be with mostly Métis – there is a lot of diversity in the way that we think. There is so much on the table today, and we are here to discuss the issues relevant to us. Summarizing comments made around the table – one believes in economic development first – one says that we need honesty – we have the HBC here 237 years and just having their grand opening tomorrow – how can we trust them? We don't trust anyone! A lot has come out here – my vision is exactly what is happening here today – consulting with local people, trying to develop as local members. Jeff [Morin] hit the mark – people have to learn to deal with themselves first, pursue wellness on a personal level. There is diversity and we can debate the issues, yet we can work together and come up with something that will work. Discussion is positive – we can't bang heads, we have to combine our efforts. There are so many factions in the community, and this does not help. My vision is to see people come together and participate in community development, not just to sit at home and talk about the problems, but to come to the table and help to work this out for the benefit of our children. Each of us has the wheel in our hands, we can steer it where we want it to go. We all know that our resources are being depleted and sent south and we do not benefit. We need better care for Elders, and this goes back to our traditions as family, to the roles and responsibilities of each member of the family. We have lost our roles and responsibilities. The Elders used to teach the youngsters, and the adults were the providers. Our society has technology now. We used to be more

resource based, but now its technology. Our strengths from the past can still help us to be stronger today. How do we give the people hope? The Land is a key issue. Why are we providing a land base for outsiders and not for people in the community? We had a training farm, to get Métis out of the bush. Everything was sold off at one point, and the land was supposed to be for the community at a reasonable price. As it turned out, its not available to local people at all, but is being sold off to non-residents. My vision is for education that is geared to fit future development; facilities that will be utilized by the whole community; close knit community; drug free community – that we can all come and sit at the table and let our opinions be known – be open-minded, strategize to benefit the whole – strategize to develop as one, not as different factions.

Jeff Morin – About thirty or forty years ago, the “money man”, “soonias-okimaw”, appeared on our lake. At that time, everyone lived around the lake, there was no [townsite] here. Everyone came in for church on weekends, we all managed to survive – it was good then. When the money man (social welfare money came), the people started getting vouchers for \$10 to 15. That was a lot of money at the time – the rumor went around and everyone went and got their money. Now, we are four generations on welfare – we have lost our culture. Taking welfare is where it all started, (the loss of our culture and self-sufficiency).

There is lots of work, lots of exploration going on in the north, but you need a certificate to get a job, a ten day certificate. The government just buys votes from the people in the north. I drive a taxi, so I know. Government gives the people money to vote for them, trips to the city paid by government, give the people their housing, their food – the people are hooked and can’t let go. We are sitting around the table, I have been to lots of round tables, lots of wellness programs, lots of healing programs, I am still here, and nothing has changed.

Simone Laliberte – Sakitawak Métis Nation Youth Worker and representative of the Ile a la Crosse Junior Council. We need to do more for the youth in this place. I just moved home and I had a hard time finding a job. Its true what you have said, the whole community needs to be more open-minded. If you want to get a job, it is all about “who you know”. I agree with what everyone else has said – and we need to fix our highways, I would like to see that changed! (Laughing out loud!)

Liz Durocher – We have heard a lot of different speakers here. I am glad people have been able to express themselves here today. We need wellness for our families. Wellness begins at home with our children, parents, extended families. Sometimes we don’t even know how to talk to our parents. A lot of Elders don’t know how to communicate with their adult children and

grandchildren, we have lost that. The (wellness) workshops I have attended have given me tools, to take back home and to use at home. If we don't have the wellness at home, how can we be effective out in the community? How can we discuss things around the table here if we can't talk at home? The kids are wandering around town late at night, alcohol and drugs (everywhere), there are no adults at home – we need parenting support. We have to take the wellness model home to the family and then bring it to community. We have to learn how to handle things that happen and just keep moving. We can't keep going back to the past – are we moving our children forward? I see families are stuck. There is so much breakdown, communication breakdown. We used to help each other. If we don't start communicating with our families – hurts just go on. Education has to begin in the home. This family break down expresses itself through abuse of drugs, violence, suicidal tendencies. As for the Cart Model, we need to include communication in the hub – we need to understand this or it will just keep going. Things are really bad right now in our community – I have never seen it so bad – 80-90% are really hurting. We keep getting stuck. Our issues get us stuck because we don't know how to talk about these things.

Don Favel – Yes, all of these things are happening, and we need to acknowledge them, but we have to turn the page, and say that there are some very positive things happening here also. We could talk about our dysfunctions all day – but let's look at the positive things, there are resources right here, that are not being utilized. Development is not the answer to everything, but there are some answers there. We adults are the “television” that our kids are watching – some say that since cable tv has come into the community, we have lost a lot – but how we handle ourselves and how our kids see us is also important. Our kids have lost respect for us – there is uncertainty of getting too close because we don't walk our talk. We cannot talk about alcohol. It took a wave of a hand to create alcohol, we can fight it until we are blue in the face, we can fight it, but when we die, it will still be here. We need another game plan. We need to have something better to offer, to attract people. We have been talking about planning a community event – we can get together to create interest, to find out what people in the community would like to see, then do it!

We get stuck always looking at the negatives in our community. When you look around this room, we were all stuck there too at one time, in addictions. But look where we are today – we have moved, we have advanced. It took us this long – hopefully it won't take my kids 32 years to realize that [alcohol] is no good for them. I lost one child to suicide because of alcohol, but that's life, it happens. We have to move on. We want to see our grandchildren come home from work because I don't want to have to hide from them when I get my pension cheque!

We talk about having more than just a Level 4 care facility in the hospital – instead of building just a hospital , why don't we build an Elders village where the people can keep a small garden, set snares, set a net - keep moving around. It's a good idea – probably cheaper than what we are doing now, but government won't go for it, because it would mean that we would be less dependent.

[Lunch Break]

(Discussion prior to lunch had touched on many of the questions at once, so the Chairman decided to skip to Question 4, for specifics on Economic Development.)

Question 4. Expectations

Considering any potential new industrial/economic development in the Sakitawak traditional lands, **what would your expectations be:**

A. Of the corporation or managing entity?

1. Related to employment of local people?
2. Related to training and education?
3. Related to career advancement of the local people?
4. Related to training and education of local people?
5. For contribution to the community/community involvement:
6. Respect of the land and environment
7. Respect of the local people, customs, practices
8. Other?

B. For the community:

1. Related to co-management or monitoring of the industrial activity
2. Related to partnership or ownership of the assets of production
3. Related to benefit sharing
4. Related to sharing of liability/responsibility
5. Other?

Allan Morin - As I am involved in the Mining Association of Canada, I see examples of many things happening in Aboriginal communities. The industries offer the construction jobs, but after construction, there is nothing available for local people. This is where we need to go with corporations about our aspirations for long term employment - to have the technical, professional, management jobs. Our people can do the technical jobs, our young people are able to do this! Corporations need to understand that they don't have to bring people in from south or China to do the technical work , the corporations need to see us as having the human resource base. We need to get this message to the corporations.

Jeff Morin (to the NWMO guests) What do you want to hear? We are repeating ourselves – what is it that you most want to hear?

Tony Hodge – Even though all of these things may have been said before, they may not have been said to NWMO. We need to hear all of this that is being discussed around the table today, to take back a very clear message so that the people in NWMO can understand what is going on in northern

communities – the issues, the vision, the plans that you may have would not likely be too far different from many other small communities in the north. This is what we need to understand.

Allan spoke of mining. I want to be clear that mining is very different than what NWMO is dealing with in terms of time frame. We are talking about a very long time frame, many, many generations of management [for a nuclear waste management facility]. Something like this offers an exceptional opportunity for any community in terms of cooperation with NWMO, for education, community involvement. Keep in mind too – this has never been done before.

Randy Belanger – As for my expectations for corporations, my experience with forestry gives me some ideas. I would want to see any corporate entity operating in our territories/environment involved in an immersion program, where managers come in and live with us and learn about us first, before they walk in with an economic development opportunity.

Management needs to have an internship program in place, so we have top level managers, middle managers and line managers from the community – the corporation needs to demonstrate a commitment to placing our people in higher level positions.

We need a worthwhile consultation process with companies, from the earliest stages of planning and development. As Don said before, we, for the most part, always walk in after the fact. With NWMO, we are well before the fact. We need to be involved in the initial stages of any economic development planning for our area here. The companies need to understand what the community is about – what we are dealing with.

We need to make use of the existing groups - the trappers, the resource co-management boards [Sakitawak Co-Management Board set up by Mistik Management, providing community input into the Forest Management Agreement, has basically been a rubber-stamp process]. We are experiencing backlash from the community right now, because as a Co-management board, we have not engaged in community consultation. We need the money/resources to gain training, to get into joint ventures – before any group walks in the door, they should provide the money for consultation, training, etc at the fore – not after the fact. For example. The mining companies have Surface Lease Agreements, and these spell out some of the responsibilities to communities.

The Forestry industry is currently being audited, and the forest management agreements are being renewed for another 20 years.

Jeff Morin – Mistik Management [Aboriginal owned Forestry company which holds the Forest Management Agreement in the Sakitawak territories] has made the decision to get rid of all the line skidders (small operators) in favour of mechanical harvestors. How can we as a community deal with this? We

have to protect the small operators around here – is our co-management board doing that?

Don Favel – (calling for order) Its true, we need to have the money to get into the partnerships with business, but we also have to live by the rules that are set out there, like labour standards, Workers Compensation Board. We have to live by it, so a lot of our own people get swallowed up along the way. We can't afford to keep up with the equipment that is required. Jeff brings up a good point – yes, there are business opportunities – but in order to maintain those opportunities, you have to maintain top of the line and you have to run 24 hours to make it. Look at the price of fuel now, some operators are paying \$6,000 per month for fuel – what do we do?

Vivaney Laliberte – My expectations for the north generally is for training the young people for the higher paying jobs. The corporations make us work with a shovel in the mud, then lay us off when the bull work is done. I don't think its right. New careers are coming up these days with computers, and there are graduates walking around here doing nothing. If we could get into these computer jobs, the young people could work from home and not go down south to work. Kids that go south sometimes don't make it because they get lonely, or run out of money. I would expect the companies to respect the culture – to respect that trapping is in our blood – the young people have to go to a different kind of work. Maybe they can start in tourism – I think it will be coming here pretty quick.

Philip Durocher – I agree with everybody. We don't need another government run institution in our backyard. We need educational institutions – any corporation that would come here should be obligated to involve the people, to pay for their tuition, books, be committed to employing them for long term and in upper level jobs. Our land claim will take as long as the NWMO process – and 30-40 million dollars to win. Its another one of my passions, to see the land claim settled. We need something practical here, where jobs follow the training.

Tony Hodge – I understand that there is a reaching for a university education, yet you acknowledge that many university graduates are unemployed. It seems to me that there is a lack of skilled tradespeople in the country, yet these are technical jobs and high paying! And in demand! There is a huge gap in trades.

Pat Patton – If the [NWMO] decision is not made for up to 30 years as to where the waste management facility goes, we will need to plan for the training to be done in the right place and at the right time? Some time ago, I tuned in to a University course on satellite and talked to the professor by phone. This was even before computers. What do we [as potential industry developers] need to think about that would help the north – infrastructure is

lacking in cellular service, for example. What does your community need to work on, to be sure that this place is ready for industry to come?

Jeff Morin – The expectations of any company are in conflict with the local workforce. For example, I read an ad for a job working in the garbage dump, but they insist on the candidate having a grade 12 education. That leaves many people out of the loop, and I know full well that I don’t need Grade 12 to do this job.

Don Favel – I get my son out of bed to get him to go to school. He did not want to go. I told him our town is only big enough for one garbage man, and if he wants to stand in line for that job, he will be waiting a long time.

We had a joint venture with Precision Welding in PA for training a few years back, all the politicians got their pictures in the paper – when the big contracts came up – the jobs went to Alberta!

We wanted to work with the construction of the hospital here – we were told to wait in line. We asked to get involved in training nurses in Ile a la Crosse and our own people shut us down. Once the hospital opens, we will not be trained and they will have to get outsiders in, then they will get unionized, and we will never get in.

We need to identify all the disconnects between the walk and the talk of the politicians. There is no lack of trying to get things happening on our part [Sakitawak Métis Nation], but there even more obstacles out there. We have to keep going.

Allan Morin – If the NWMO needs 5000 workers and the waste storage site is located in Ontario – can NWMO joint venture with us to train people for the 30 year expectation, to have some opportunity to work in the field of Nuclear Waste, wherever that may be...I know you will require a large workforce – can we train our people to fill those jobs wherever they are?

Tony Hodge – The union issue was mentioned – we would be involved with the Nuclear Workers Union. We are having a round table on training in the next few months – we will ensure that someone from this group attends that meeting.

Randy Belanger – What if Northern Saskatchewan people got together and said to the nuclear industry, “Let’s get a state of the art training centre here in the north [Saskatchewan]” Could something like that work?

Tony Hodge – I don’t want to dampen the spirits, but the reality is that 95% of the waste is in Ontario, and responsibility for that waste rests with Ontario [Hydro]. It is reasonable to expect that they would prefer to focus their investment in training in Ontario. I can’t emphasize this enough – put on your long term thinking hats – there are 22 reactors in the East right now, but what

will we have twenty years from now? The current situation is barely a starting point – we have to be able to project where things are going to go.

Yvonne Longworth - What about all the resources the government is taking out of the north? Isn't there to be some payback, some opportunity for us?

Tony Hodge – I guess you need to understand that Cameco owns Bruce Power – the operator of a major nuclear facility in Ontario.

Pat Patton - Could people here be trained for working in some other location? Fairness is a major objective of the NWMO recommendation – fairness to this and future generations. We have to think about this – you have asked how will the people be trained – they could come from almost anywhere? Is it possible that people could work in Ontario and live in Ile a la Crosse and commute?

For example, if there was a training grid of some sort so that communities like Ile a la Crosse could plan in advance to take advantage of [employment opportunities in the construction and operation of a nuclear waste management facility]. In terms of “fairness” as related to training and employment across Canada [for NWMO], what would fairness look like to you? Given the entire nuclear fuel cycle from uranium mining in northern Saskatchewan, to processing and power generation in Ontario and eastern Canada, to nuclear waste storage - in terms of all the activities in the life cycle of nuclear power, how should those benefits distributed?

Don Favel – As we are talking about training our young people, and talking about trades, we are forgetting about the environment. Right now, we don't know why we can't drink our water. [We have been advised that our water is unsafe to drink, but do not know why, or how to verify this.] We need to have the capacity to test our own water supply to check the quality, to check the fish, to test for poisons. We need capacity to follow up with industrial development. We need to be able to monitor the activities of the various industries and not just take everyone else's word for it. How do we manage our fur blocks? Our experience in environment should dictate that we are involved in management - we have a lot to offer in terms of our knowledge.

Let's talk about hazards of industrial activity and the impacts on environment. We can't trust anyone else to tell us that our water is okay or not; or that the fish are safe or not.

Jeff Morin – We pay \$1.75/l for water now – 40 years ago, an elder told us to take care of our land because we would be paying for it someday.

Tony Hodge – Let's talk about the next ten years, what do we know - what we can envision. We honestly don't know what Canada is going to decide –

but in 0-10 years, let's say government accepts our recommendation – the first thing that has to happen is to identify the technically feasible sites. Geological exploration would go on, there would be camp support, geologists, drillers, mapping...you could project this type of activity taking place and the support services that would be required. How would communities participate – we are interested in working with communities that want us – not to go in and stuff down peoples' throats – we would need a signal of interest. I don't know when, but when the exploration for potential sites starts, environmental baseline studies would need to be done. You need this type of information anyway. There is a potential partnership here – we could be involved in getting this environmental assessment done, which you could go on to use for all kinds of other purposes. In order for a community/NWMO partnership – there would have to be a great deal of information shared between the two – the political decision pending – will trigger all of these things to start. At this early stage, there are things we could think about, that the community could link into – that would benefit both of us, no matter what decision [on siting a waste facility] is eventually made.

Allan Morin – Fifty million dollars worth of activity in exploration is going on in Northern Saskatchewan right now, and we are missing out. We have offended Cameco by raising our community expectations with them and by asking for environmental baseline studies. We have been left out of all of this activity – and the government should be on top of this. Why are we missing out?

Jeff Morin – How do we talk business here?

Tony Hodge – There are implications for the community, if a 10 year game plan were drawn up to allow the community to get involved. You would work to identify the opportunities to link in to the process that will surely be going on, somewhere.

Question 5. Looking Forward

Most economic or industrial developments have both positive and negative implications.

1. What are the next steps to take once the positive and negative impacts have been identified?
2. What are some “acceptable risks” for the community in order to achieve community wellness goals?
3. What aspects of this community must be maintained, preserved or protected, no matter what?

This information is really helpful, the Cart model is helpful.

Jeff Morin – The circle is spiritual, its [sacred] Aboriginal teaching. Let's show some respect and not use the medicine wheel [Cart Wheel] to promote nuclear waste. I don't want to talk about trade-offs. We have to negotiate with the corporations, they need to treat us right, and then we will treat them right. If we are going to work together, we have to understand each other.

Randy Belanger – We need to be able to flow with the business world, sometimes there is a misconception that we can dictate the rules to the industry. There are two ways to the street.

5.0 Closing Comments

Leonard Raymond – This is all good. No matter what has been thrown around the table, we can listen to all of this. It is the beginning of something good for me. I realize that I have been on the outside, so I have committed to take part, to get involved in this systematic approach. We cannot just sit back. We need to include all people that are affected by decisions made in the board room. The leadership does not have the right to dictate what they think is right on the people. I want to see leadership that takes direction from the people, so we have to deal with our own people. We have to consult our own people. Consensus building process - democracy is hypocrisy – its really a dictatorship. There are obstacles to us developing anything with NWMO. It is going to take a lot of work to move forward with NWMO, this is where it all begins. We have to listen to everybody's opinion, in order to be able to take something out of the discussions. We have to consult with the people, this is a process in its infancy. This was organized to bring in local leadership, but we have to go further, not only leaders.

Philip Durocher – Thanks to Tony and Pat for coming and to Allan and Gillian for making it all happen. You are always welcome back to Ile a la Crosse.

Jeff Morin - We need some good understanding and for this to be an on-going thing. To keep in touch with everybody we should have a committee and pass this on to our locals. Let's not waste time, let's keep working.

Randy Belanger – You should be aware of the comprehensive land use planning for North Saskatchewan. SERM Prince Albert contact is Todd Oleksyn and Jeff McKay.

Yvonne Longworth – I like this process because it is open, anyone can come and participate.

Elmer Fogen – This was a good meeting. I listened to all the talking, seems this is the start of good things

Simone Laliberte – Thank you for inviting me today. This is new to me, thank you for inviting me.

Liz Durocher – I am happy to be here. Communication is key. I am glad to see that we had some good discussion here, not just bickering. It looks like there are opportunities for us in the future. I want to thank the people that have put on the meeting.

Tony Hodge – Might there be opportunity to share this with the Indigenous Women? March 24-26 there is a regional gathering in Prince Albert.

Don Favel – standing up for Métis rights, no matter what – I can have respect for anybody because I know that they are on the same level as me. Leadership and getting the message out to our community, but we have to understand what is going out there – we have to understand what we are getting into – our people can be very brutal – no remorse. This is why I believe in having a smaller group to start out with – people are going to ask what went on in this meeting – are we going to build a nuclear power plant tomorrow?

There are more people talking about nuclear power – from Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce to the Premier. Its going to take a long time to completely understand, but people are starting to talk, starting to hear about it. A lot of people are talking, and its going to continue. We need to hear about the opportunities – have to consider the big picture economy.

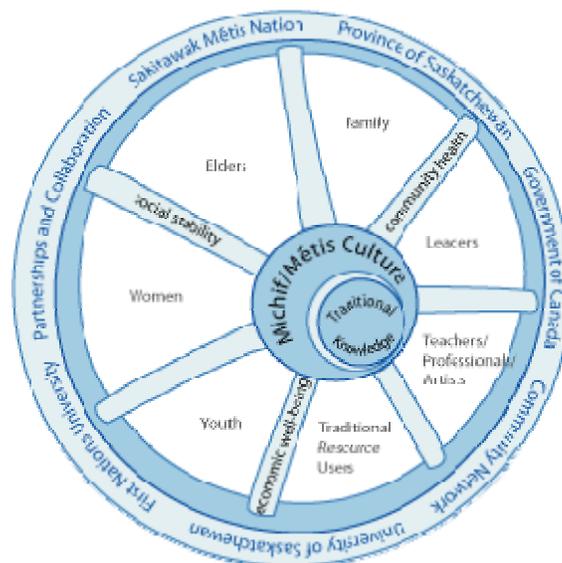
Passing on the information instead of passing out!

Pat Patton – Thanks for having us here.

Tony Hodge – Look for the report, we need to get the draft circulated so that people can make changes. I am sure that there will be other opportunities for us to talk together again, two forums are coming up: Education and Training; and Resource Management coming up in Toronto in the near future. I appreciate the opportunity to start this conversation. You have to walk before you run, with our work, we are trying to break a mold here. We want to talk to people before all the decisions are made, but then we can't be concrete. Thank you. Thank you for the book.

Closing prayers were offered and the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Appendix A – Sakitawak Métis Cart Diagram



1. The Cart wheels' spokes are equal in length, representing balance in the Pilot Project for Community Wellness. Community health, social stability and economic well-being will be advanced together.

2. Weak or broken spokes will be strengthened and restored. Through community consultations, the "spokes" or population health determinants in need of restoration will be identified, with traditional knowledge from the community guiding the restoration process.

3. The spokes on the wheel emanate from the hub, which represents the heart and the anchor of the community. The Hub, as a physical structure, will house the Sakitawak Centre of Excellence, including community art and artifacts, Michif language resources and Sakitawak Métis Nation archives, including the Northwest Métis Land Claim research. The Hub facility will accommodate the Pilot Project staff and offer work space for visiting researchers.

4. The rim holds the wheel together and gives support, representing the Sakitawak/Métis Nation's partnership with the Province of Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada. The rim represents collaboration with the local municipal government and community organizations. The rim also represents a very important relationship with the University of Saskatchewan-First Nations University for excellence in research. As the rim is also the contact point with the road, it represents relationship with private industry and the practical, results-oriented nature of the Pilot Project for Community Wellness.

5. The box of the Cart represents opportunity and economic activity. As the wheels of the cart are strengthened, the box will be able to contain and carry opportunity and benefits for everyone in the community, representing the inclusive nature of the Pilot Project.

6. Hope for the future pulls the Cart forward. The very process of restoring strength to the wheels and filling the box with opportunity and economic activity will ignite hope for the future. This positive feeling about the future will keep the Cart moving forward. Community success stories will be documented and communicated along the way, to maintain hope.

Appendix B: Attendance

Vivaney Laliberte - Elder
Angus Gardiner – Commercial Fisherman, Elder
Phil Durocher – Coordinator for Sakitawak Métis Nation
Randy Belanger – Forestry Co-Management Board Member
Allan Morin – Askiy Consulting, Community Member
Liz Durocher – Indigenous Healing Centre, President Aboriginal Women
Association
Don Favel – Sakitawak Métis Nation
Simone Laliberte – Youth Council
Jeff Morin – Business Owner
Leonard Raymond – Forest Co-Management Board Member
Elmer Fogen – self-employed contractor
Yvonne Longworth – Indigenous Health Centre
George Favel – Community Member
Debbie Maurice – Sakitawak Métis Nation
Gillian Thiessen – Recorder
Tony Hodge - NWMO
Pat Patton - NWMO

Appendix C: Workshop Agenda

Sakitawak Métis Cart: Pilot Project for Community Wellness

Community Collaborative Process Workshop: The Cart and Economic Development
 Jonas Favel Centre, Ile a la Crosse, February 19, 2006

Sponsored by:
 Sakitawak Métis Nation and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Agenda

8:30	Light refreshments available	
9:00 am	Opening Prayer	
9:30 am	Introductions (<i>name, organization represented and 2 personal goals</i>) NWMO Status Report	Round Table Tony Hodge
9:35 am	Presentation of the Sakitawak Métis Cart Model	Don Favel video
10:00 am	Group Discussion on the Wellness Model	Round Table
10:20 am	coffee break	
10:40 am	Break –out to Small Groups for Discussion - Instructions	Round Table
10:45 am	Small Group Discussion - Questions 1 and 2	Small Groups
12:00	Lunch break	
12:30	Small Group Discussion - Questions 3, 4 and 5	Small Groups
2:00 pm	Report Out: Responses to the 5 questions	Round Table
3:00 pm	Coffee break	
3:20 pm	Final Circle - Final comments from each participant <i>(impressions of the day, next step for The Cart, how was the process - what worked, what could be improved and how)</i>	Round Table
3:45 pm	Closing remarks: ➤ from NWMO ➤ From Sakitawak Métis Nation	Tony Hodge Don Favel
4:00	Closing prayer	

Appendix D: The Five Discussion Questions

As community leaders, members and representatives of service agencies in Ile a la Crosse, we welcome your input through the Sakitawak Métis Cart, Community Collaborative Process. Your insight will help the leadership and coordinators of the Sakitawak Métis Cart Pilot Project for Community Wellness Model to advance the community wellness vision.

*Today’s workshop is focused on **Economic/Industrial Development** and its implications. The Sakitawak Métis Nation wishes to develop a process for identifying and assessing potential economic development or industrial development opportunities. At the end of the day, we hope to come away with guidelines for pursuing development opportunities, and some basic guidelines for companies interested in investing and operating in the Sakitawak Métis homelands. The Nuclear Waste Management Organization wishes to observe our collaborative process, to gain insight and to become better prepared to work with communities over the next several years..*

Small Group Discussion - Take 30 minutes to discuss each question in your small group, recording the discussion and summarizing your group’s response.

Small Group Discussion 1 – Before Lunch

Question 1. Your Vision.

- A. What are your personal hopes and dreams for this community in the next five years? The next 20 to 50 years?
- B. What role does economic or industrial development play in the community achieving its long term goals to thrive, prosper and grow?

Question 2. Community Benefits

What specific benefits should the community seek in a potential new economic or industrial development activity?

Question 3. Understanding Implications

- A. What implications (positive and/or negative changes to the community) might result from a new economic or industrial venture operating in Sakitawak Métis territories?
- B. What are the local conditions/concerns/issues that must be understood by potential investors/managers of any economic or industrial venture considering operating in Sakitawak Métis Nation traditional lands?
- C. Traditional Knowledge: What are some of the potential impacts or contributions of community traditional knowledge on an economic or

industrial operation? How might the operation benefit from community traditional knowledge?

1. Operations practices?
2. Human Resource Management?
3. Organization Management/Decision making?

Small Group Discussion 2 – After Lunch

Question 4. Expectations

Considering any potential new industrial/economic development in the Sakitawak traditional lands, **what would your expectations be:**

A. Of the corporation or managing entity?

9. Related to employment of local people?
10. Related to training and education?
11. Related to career advancement of the local people?
12. Related to training and education of local people?
13. For contribution to the community/community involvement:
14. Respect of the land and environment
15. Respect of the local people, customs, practices
16. Other?

B. For the community:

6. Related to co-management or monitoring of the industrial activity
7. Related to partnership or ownership of the assets of production
8. Related to benefit sharing
9. Related to sharing of liability/responsibility
10. Other?

Question 5. Looking Forward

Most economic or industrial developments have both positive and negative implications.

4. What are the next steps to take once the positive and negative impacts have been identified?
5. What are some “acceptable risks” for the community in order to achieve community wellness goals?
6. What aspects of this community must be maintained, preserved or protected, no matter what?

Appendix E: Aerial Photograph of Ile a la Crosse, SK

