



Land Use and Occupancy & Oral History Studies

Shared Value
Solutions



Protecting rights
and interests
through
Indigenous
Knowledge

“More indigenous territory has been claimed by maps than by guns.

This assertion has its corollary: more indigenous territory can be defended and reclaimed by maps than guns.”

-Bernard Nietschmann, 1995

Re-drawing the Map



Used in the context of environmental assessment, land claims and other regulatory processes, Indigenous Knowledge Studies are increasingly powerful tools for Indigenous people to voice perspectives and to assert rights. There has never been a better time for a First Nation, Métis, or Inuit community to re-draw the map.

Maps with Legal Clout

Well-executed maps that present the use of lands for traditional and modern purposes — hunting, fishing, trapping and harvesting for example — create a clear, legally defensible picture of the historic and current connection Indigenous people have to the land. These maps can directly influence regulatory decisions, project planning and design, and the outcome of negotiations. They can also be used to reduce the impacts a project may have on the land and people.



A Video is Worth Ten Thousand Words

Using video to gather and share knowledge from oral tradition brings study results to life in a way that speaks powerfully to regulators and proponents, but most importantly, back to the community itself. Seeing your world reflected back in your own stories on the screen can spark new dialogue and foster unity and pride within your community.



Data Management and Protection

Information gathered in these studies belongs to the individual, and can be a cultural treasure to the community and an asset for future consultation and negotiation processes.

Managing and protecting this sensitive information is a serious and essential task. We work with each community to keep it safe:

- ✓ Properly protect sensitive information to maintain intellectual property rights and ethical research standards
- ✓ Decide what and how information can be shared with external parties
- ✓ Establish agreements with external parties such as regulatory agencies about how any results they receive are to be treated and can be used
- ✓ Ensure data collected during the study is not lost, damaged, or corrupted
- ✓ Establish a long-term repository for the information so it is safe, available and accessible into the future



Studies with Impact

Better Maps Make Better Projects

Land Use and Occupancy and Oral History Studies help communities accomplish many things:

- ✓ Be proactive when engaging in environmental approvals and other negotiations
- ✓ Identify and communicate valued features, landscapes and ecosystems to proponents and regulators
- ✓ Identify potential environmental effects and strengthen impact-reduction measures
- ✓ Create a tool for community-based planning
- ✓ Transfer and preserve knowledge for future generations

Collaborative Planning Process

Clear goals create effective studies. Designing your study must be a collaborative process, with the study goals emerging from the hopes and plans your community holds for its future. We understand the regulatory environment, and will help you shape the study to meet both immediate regulatory process needs as well as long-term community planning objectives. Ongoing communication throughout the research process is essential to keep people informed and involved.



Capacity Building

Important projects need community champions. We rely on community team members to connect us with interview subjects, to introduce us to your community, and to participate in data collection and analysis wherever possible. Sharing our skills and building capacity is a goal we have for every study. We look for opportunities to build young people and educational opportunities into the research process.

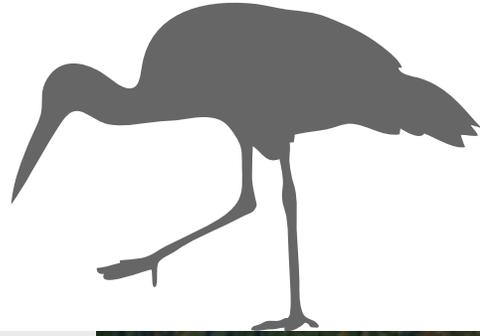
“We know all this already. We need you to help us make the maps – to help you understand.”

- First Nations Representative



Our Experience

Each study we conduct is as unique as the communities we serve. When we work with you to design your study, considering your end goals — the “so what” element of data gathering — is of primary importance. We have assisted First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities across Canada with studies in relation to major developments such as mines, hydroelectric facilities, transmission lines, highway expansions, oil and gas pipelines, and nuclear power.



Feature Project:

Pimicikamak Cree Nation

Land Use and Occupancy & Oral History Study

SVS conducted approximately 150 interviews with Pimicikamak land users to document land use and Pimicikamak knowledge as it related to a proposed hydro-electric development project. Mapping procedures closely followed those outlined by **Terry Tobias** in **Living Proof: The Essential Data-Collection Guide for Indigenous Use-and-Occupancy Map Surveys**. All interviews were filmed to produce a community documentary. The products of this project have provided a basis for ongoing consultations between Pimicikamak and Manitoba Hydro and have strengthened Pimicikamak's negotiation position with other proponents of natural resource projects.

Winners of a Consulting Engineers of Ontario Award for Indigenous Knowledge Achievements

Feature Project:

At the Forefront of Indigenous Knowledge Policy for Environmental Assessment

SVS produced the synthesis report on the consideration of Indigenous traditional knowledge in Federal environmental assessments under CEAA 2012. We then delivered a suite of training workshops on the topic to senior and regional Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency staff.



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