

## **SISSON MINE**

### **Update on Maliseet and Crown Sisson Accommodation Discussions**

New Brunswick has been consulting with the Maliseet since June 2015 about how to accommodate Maliseet Aboriginal and treaty rights if the Province approves the Sisson Mine. Some Maliseet communities have communicated strong opposition to the Mine and have called on New Brunswick to reject it, and no Maliseet community has expressed support for the Mine. However, New Brunswick's approval of the Mine continues to seem certain. If New Brunswick approves the Mine, it will have a legal duty to "accommodate" Maliseet Aboriginal and Treaty rights. This means the Province will have to ensure that the environmental impacts of the Mine are minimized and adopt a strategy to address the unavoidable harms from the Mine to Maliseet rights. The Maliseet Chiefs are exploring with the Crown what that accommodation strategy would involve.

The Maliseet Chiefs have jointly developed and tabled with New Brunswick a list of proposed accommodation measures. These measures include, for example, the protection of other lands in Maliseet Territory from future development, to ensure their availability for traditional land uses; revenue-sharing on Mine profits; and a mining accident/malfunction compensation fund that would compensate the Maliseet for any harms to their Treaty and Aboriginal rights; and a training and employment strategy. New Brunswick has responded favourably to most of the proposals; negotiations are ongoing. New Brunswick has also provided capacity resources, such as funding for Resource Development Consultation Coordinators in each community.

St. Mary's held a community meeting to discuss the progress of the Sisson accommodation negotiations and St. Mary's legal options on October 15, 2015. The next community meeting will take place early in the new year (date to be determined). In the meanwhile, members seeking more information about the Sisson Project should contact St. Mary's consultation coordinator, Megan Fullarton at 506-459-2200.

The Maliseet Chiefs also worked with New Brunswick to secure a new archeology program at the Sisson Site. This program is being overseen by the Government of New Brunswick. Many Maliseet members have been hired to participate in the fieldwork and on-site Maliseet observers are reporting back to our communities on the progress of the fieldwork. It is a shared objective of New Brunswick and the Maliseet Nation to ensure that the archeological work at the Sisson Site is done thoroughly.