



## **Parks Canada Manomin/Wild Rice Workshop Summary and Outcomes**

### **Final Report**

#### **Submitted to:**

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**About this report:** This report describes the process that led to the planning, organization and delivery of a workshop to gather advice and discuss the issue of Manomin or wild rice in the Pigeon Lake area. It also includes a summary of the workshop discussion and outcomes. The process and the workshop were facilitated by René Drolet, an independent consultant retained by Parks Canada to ensure that the whole process was an impartial exercise in which everyone had an equal voice. An Organizing Committee comprised of individuals from various organizations and interests provided support and advice throughout the duration of the process. However, the content of this report is the sole responsibility of the consultant and does not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the individual members of the Organizing Committee.

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## 1. Introduction and Context

Wild rice or Manomin<sup>1</sup> is an annual aquatic plant that grows along waterways from Manitoba to the Atlantic Ocean in Canada and in most of the eastern United States. It has traditionally been harvested by Indigenous communities for food, medicine, social and ceremonial purposes.

In the last decade, there has been a renewed and higher profile interest and practice of wild rice harvesting by the Williams Treaties First Nations communities. Wild rice growth, harvesting methods and seeding practices have become areas of concern for some shoreline property owners on Pigeon Lake with regard to noise, lake access and recreational opportunities.

In Ontario, wild rice harvesting on provincial waterways is managed by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry under the *Wild Rice Harvesting Act*. Provincial licenses for commercial harvesting issued under this legislation are not valid on federal waterways, such as Parks Canada's Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW). As part of its mandate, Parks Canada has responsibilities for ecological and cultural heritage integrity, and administers shoreline and in-water works along the TSW. This includes the management of third-party removal of aquatic plants from the Waterway bed for the purposes of navigation and public safety and associated First Nations consultations as required.

At a meeting held on November 3, 2018, the Honourable Maryam Monsef, Member of Parliament for Peterborough-Kawartha, committed to providing a forum for stakeholders and members of the public to provide input for consideration by Parks Canada in their discussions with the Williams Treaties First Nations.

Parks Canada agreed to convene a workshop in the Peterborough area in early 2019 to discuss issues related to wild rice harvesting in Pigeon Lake. The workshop and the engagement process for its design and planning were facilitated by an independent consultant retained by Parks Canada to ensure that the process was an impartially-led conversation in which everyone had an equal voice.

The Williams Treaties First Nations and Parks Canada are committed to working together. The *Parks Canada / Williams Treaties First Nations Steering Committee* was established to discuss activities that may impact treaty rights on the Trent-Severn Waterway. The Williams Treaties First

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<sup>1</sup> Throughout this document, we will mostly use the English word (wild rice).

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Nation organizations have indicated their desire to continue a Nation-to-Nation relationship and engagement on the subject of wild rice harvesting.

This report describes the engagement process and the methodology that supported the organization of the workshop through a multi-stakeholder Organizing Committee. It also describes the workshop design and provides a summary of what was heard, highlighting common values amongst participants, shared objectives and diverging opinions, as well as some potential options for moving forward in the short term and longer term. It is the hope of the Organizing Committee that the information contained in this report will be taken into consideration at the *Parks Canada/Williams Treaties First Nations Steering Committee* table for the development of a longer-term strategy or protocols to address wild rice harvesting and relationships in the Pigeon Lake area.

## **2. Process and Methodology**

As the lead federal authority for the Trent-Severn Waterway and the federal interlocutor with Indigenous representatives on the *Parks Canada / Williams Treaties First Nations Steering Committee*, Parks Canada has taken responsibility in ensuring that a workshop be organized as a follow-up to the November 2018 commitment from MP Maryam Monsef. A decision was made to hire an independent consultant to support Parks Canada in this endeavor and to provide a neutral facilitated space for the discussions to take place.

### **2.1 Organizing Committee**

A multi-stakeholder Organizing Committee was created, including specialists in the fields of law, environmental sciences, federal permitting, as well as representatives from property owners, non-Indigenous settlers pursuing reconciliation, and a local municipality. A representative from MP Monsef's office attended as an observer to the process.

The Organizing Committee was an advisory body to Parks Canada, responsible for assisting Trent-Severn Waterway and the consultant in planning and organizing an engagement process, including a workshop, that provided input and potential options towards the development of long-term wild rice management protocols, processes or plans, while also addressing the need for interim measures. The broad range of expertise and interest within the Committee has allowed the group to bring forward the issues and perspectives of interested groups in a more comprehensive way than would have been possible should the workshop had been designed and organized solely by Parks Canada.

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The Terms of Reference for the Organizing Committee and a list of its members are provided in Appendix I. The Committee worked on an expedited basis, with limited time available during the process. It held four meetings between March 20, 2019, and April 23, 2019, including two face-to-face meetings and two conference calls. Committee members have also had the opportunity to provide comments on an earlier version of this report.

## **2.2 Workshop Objectives and Expected Outcomes**

The Organizing Committee developed a clear vision for the workshop objectives and its expected outcomes, as described in this section.

### *2.2.1 Objective*

The workshop's main objectives were to gather information from various sources regarding Manomin/wild rice in the Pigeon Lake area and identify long-term options and interim measures to address the current situation in Pigeon Lake and avoid escalating conflicts in use. The focus of the workshop was on a specific area of Pigeon Lake<sup>2</sup> where the seeding and commercial harvesting has taken place but it was recognized that these insights may be relevant to circumstances in other areas along the Trent-Severn Waterway.

### *2.2.2 Expected Outcomes*

The main outcome of the workshop is this report, which contains a summary of the input from participants and proposed options to support the broader Nation to Nation discussion that is happening through the *Parks Canada/Williams Treaties First Nations Steering Committee*.

Recognizing that a broader and longer-term solution to the issue is to be discussed through a Nation-to-Nation mechanism, the report aims to provide information in order to support the content of possible wild rice management protocols and principles. The report includes the following elements:

- 1. An acknowledgement that this engagement process and the workshop report are intended to support the broader Nation to Nation discussion** that is happening through the *Parks Canada/Williams Treaties First Nations Steering Committee*.
- 2. Identification of the issues, perspectives and concerns of all interested groups and individuals.** This includes the identification of natural and human factors and processes

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<sup>2</sup> from Fothergill Island (Gannon's Narrows) south towards Omemee.

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that influence the abundance and presence of wild rice<sup>3</sup>. The report also seeks to understand and document the underlying reasons for the issues that are raised (for example, why is seeding perceived as problematic by some people? Is noise a bigger problem than hurdles to recreational boating? Is there a lack of understanding from some lake users about Indigenous history and culture as it relates to wild rice and treaty rights?).

3. **Identification of information needs and gaps** to support future considerations of a wild rice management plan, process or operational protocols.
4. **Identification of possible immediate actions and interim solutions** to address the most pressing concerns from certain lake users while building better relationships and honoring and respecting Indigenous rights.
5. **Description of a potential process and action plan** towards the completion of wild rice management protocols and the development of interim solutions, for consideration at the Nation-to-Nation discussion table.

### 2.3 Participants Survey

Parks Canada, with advice from the Organizing Committee, prepared a survey that was sent to the workshop confirmed participants a few days before the event. The goal of the survey was to complement the information gathering process. The specific objective was to collect broader and potentially more comprehensive information, including by invitees who may not be able to attend, in order to support the workshop discussion and inform the preparation of the workshop report.

A total of 15 respondents have filled out the questionnaire. Since it was not designed to provide statistically relevant data, the detailed results of the survey are not presented in this report. However, the information provided in the survey responses has been considered and used as complementary to the messages provided by the workshop participants during the event. The survey responses were aligned with what was heard at the workshop.

The survey is shown in Appendix II.

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<sup>3</sup> The report does not document these points in detail but it highlights their importance and the fact that they were a significant part of the workshop discussion.

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## **2.4 Workshop Design and Agenda**

The workshop was designed with the intent of hearing a broad range of perspectives and get participants to work together towards a better mutual understanding and the identification of potential options for avoiding future conflicts. The Organizing Committee thought that a minimum level of basic information about wild rice in Pigeon Lake should be shared with all participants ahead of time. To that end, a discussion paper was prepared to provide a general overview on the history, ecology and issues surrounding wild rice on the TSW. This paper is still in development.

The workshop was held on Wednesday May 1, 2019, in Peterborough, with over 30 participants (largely non-Indigenous) bringing a wide range of perspectives on the issue. Lawyers from First Nations and from the federal Department of Justice also attended the workshop as observers. After an initial panel session showcasing five speakers with various relationships and experiences with wild rice in Pigeon Lake, the participants were asked to work on smaller breakout groups throughout the day. Individuals were assigned to breakout groups by the facilitator so that each group included a mix of perspectives to encourage robust discussions and to foster understanding.

The discussions focused on their vision of the future, what they value most in Pigeon Lake and what potential actions could be suggested to the *Parks Canada/Williams Treaties First Nations Steering Committee* in order to address the harvesting of wild rice in the short term and longer term in Pigeon Lake. The key outcomes of the workshop discussions are presented in the next chapter.

The workshop agenda is presented in Appendix III and the list of participants is shown in Appendix IV.

## **3. Outcomes of Workshop Discussions**

This section summarizes key perspectives expressed at the workshop and through the survey that was sent to participants before the event.

### **3.1 Summary of the panel presentations**

The workshop started with short presentations from a panel of five speakers. The panelists all shared their thoughts and experience in relation to Pigeon Lake and wild rice. The intent of this introductory session was to provide contextual information from various perspectives in order to support the workshop discussions.



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### **Jewel Cunningham, Parks Canada**

Parks Canada Agency is a federal organization that manages a network of National Parks, National Historic Sites, Heritage Canals and National Marine Conservation Areas across Canada. It includes the Trent-Severn Waterway Historic Site (TSW), which is an engineered system comprised of rivers, lakes (both flooded and natural) and a series of dams and locks. Transport Canada transferred the management of the TSW to Parks Canada in 1972 and its mandate includes navigation, visitor safety, ecological and heritage protection, visitor experience and recreation. As land administrator, one of Parks Canada's responsibilities is the management and resolution of potential conflicts between users of the lake. In the case of wild rice in the TSW, the needs and interests of various lake users have been evolving in recent years. Prior to 2015, there was no management policy in place with respect to the harvest of wild rice. The activity was unregulated and took place generally harmoniously along the TSW. In 2015, a vegetation removal permit was granted to a group of residents for the purposes of public safety for navigation and for use of the lake. Parks Canada has been discussing wild rice management principles, protocols or a possible management plan as part of its ongoing discussions with the Williams Treaties First Nations through the *Parks Canada/Williams Treaties First Nations Steering Committee*. It is Parks Canada's intent to table the report generated from this workshop to the Steering Committee for review and discussion.

### **Randy Hinton, K+R Houseboats and Marina**

Captain Hinton has been a business owner and operator on the waterway for many years. He mentioned that the presence of wild rice can create impediments to navigation in some localized areas of Pigeon Lake. He has been advising his pilots to avoid certain parts of the lake, including South Pigeon Lake (at Gannons Narrows), east of Gannons Narrows in Upper Buckhorn Lake to Curve Lake and large parts of Chemong Lake, for this reason.

### **Sherry Telford, Truth and Reconciliation Community – Bobcaygeon (TRCB)**

TRC-Bobcaygeon is a grassroots organization that aims to foster respectful relationships between local settlers, Indigenous peoples and the land. The concept of Reconciliation came to Canada through the national Truth and Reconciliation Committee and its investigation of the Indian residential schools. That report highlighted these schools as one element of a policy of genocide against Indigenous peoples in Canada. Ms. Telford noted that we need to understand that the mindset behind disconnecting Indigenous peoples from their communities and the abuses they suffered at residential schools is the same mindset that made it illegal for Indigenous peoples to feed themselves by hunting, fishing, trapping and harvesting and that sought to dispossess them of their lands and waters. It is a way of thinking that attacks Indigenous autonomy, keeps Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and people separate and it continues to shape the

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perspectives of non-Indigenous people. This historical context cannot be ignored and should inform our actions today as we seek to build better relationships and avoid perpetuating colonial practices. Recognizing that the Williams Treaties First Nations have chosen to discuss Manomin in Pigeon Lake directly with the federal government at the Nation to Nation table, Ms. Telford indicated that workshop participants are here today to share thoughts and to listen to one another so that Parks Canada can hear the diversity of perspectives from local people. She reminded the mainly non-Indigenous participants that Manomin represents a new experience for most of us, and a long history of connection for Indigenous peoples. For some settlers, Manomin is considered to be an “issue”. However, Manomin is more than that. For non-Indigenous people it is an opportunity to do better in our relationships with nature and with Indigenous neighbours. It is an opportunity to live reconciliation, not just talk about it. Reconciliation requires the creation of new, personal and respectful relationships, and we, as settlers, have roles and responsibilities towards building these relationships.

### **Eric Sager, Fleming College**

Dr. Sager has experience working with and studying aquatic plants. He often receives phone calls and questions regarding the growth of ‘weeds’ in aquatic ecosystems. He has observed that in the Kawarthas, it is a common theme to see people trying to control what is happening in the water without always knowing or understanding the natural processes. As part of his research, he has partnered with some shoreline residents and with the Kawartha Lake Stewards Association to see how management actions are being done and look at their effectiveness. The Kawarthas are naturally productive and shallow systems which leads to the growth of rooted aquatic plants. The Kawartha's are also a highly disturbed ecosystem, and one that has been continuing to adapt to the modifications associated with the development of the lock system. He pointed out that nature’s tendency is to go back to its natural state so ultimately, plants (including wild rice) will grow where they want to grow. From an ecosystem perspective, wild rice is a positive sign of ecosystem health and integrity. It will go through boom and bust cycles of prevalence. Humans can try to manage it but should also focus on adapting to it.

### **Larry Wood, Save Pigeon Lake**

Save Pigeon Lake was created by a group of property owners who are concerned with the proliferation of wild rice and its effects on access to the lake and ecosystem health. Mr. Wood believes that everyone in the room values the beauty of nature but may have different opinions on what that means. He mentioned that for over 70 years there was no interference or conflict between traditional harvesting of wild rice and other uses of Pigeon Lake. However, he believes that the introduction of mechanical harvesting and intentional seeding has resulted in the creation of what can be described as a wild rice “farm”. There are associated impacts from noise, as well as public safety concerns, and disturbance from floating vegetation that wash up along

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the shoreline. Save Pigeon Lake believes that if this activity continues, those impacts may spread to all of the Trent-Severn Waterway. He mentioned that a management plan will only be successful if all the parties commit to it. The objective of property owners on Pigeon Lake is to assist in the development of a plan that affirms Indigenous rights to harvest and also provides for public navigation access. He reminded the audience that the federal Government has the responsibility to ensure First Nations and all Canadians are treated fairly. He also clarified that Save Pigeon Lake is not challenging the Indigenous right to harvest, but rather it is looking for clarity around the practice of seeding in areas where wild rice did not grow in the past. He hopes that the Nation to Nation process will resolve this issue but recognizing this might take some time, Save Pigeon Lake strongly believes there is a need for some interim options to secure access to shorelines and navigation.

### **3.2 Perspectives on what is valued in Pigeon Lake**

A broad range of perspectives were heard at the workshop. Not surprisingly, the various lake users and residents experience the lake and wild rice harvesting activities in different manners.

There was however a strong consensus amongst workshop participants that an improved relationship between all residents and Indigenous communities must be sought. A genuine desire for discussion and conflict avoidance/resolution was expressed by participants, recognizing that this will require ongoing and long-term commitment from all parties involved.

In addition to the strong desire for improved relationships, there are other common interests with respect to the living experience in the area. The following features appear to be important or very important for most workshop participants:

- Ecological health of Pigeon Lake;
- Aesthetic character of the lake and associated quality of life (although what this means varied widely among participants);
- Healthy fish habitat supporting angling and fishing activities;
- Protection against invasive species;
- Achievement of food security and economic opportunities by the First Nations;
- Recognition and respect of Indigenous cultural practices and traditional knowledge.

### **3.3 Expression of concerns**

Keeping in mind the elements they value and the benefits provided by Pigeon Lake and surrounding areas, workshop participants expressed concerns with the current situation regarding:

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- Deteriorating relationships among local people;
  - Navigation and safety on the lake;
  - Waterfront access for property owners;
  - Lakefront property values;
  - Reduced opportunities for angling and fishing activities;
  - Likely increase of invasive species if wild rice is removed; and
  - Ongoing restraint of Indigenous traditions and cultural practices.

Most participants who expressed concerns around wild rice in Pigeon Lake seemed mainly worried about a few specific activities, such as the intentional seeding of wild rice in areas where it was non-existent in the past and the expansion of rice beds close to the shoreline. The harvesting for commercial purposes and the use of modern mechanical equipment rather than the traditional harvesting practices was also raised as a concern by some participants. These concerns were not shared by all participants, as some stated they saw the presence of wild rice as an indicator of ecosystem health and that they found the noise from jet skis and motorized speed boats a bigger issue than rice harvesting.

### **3.4 Information gaps**

Throughout the workshop, participants identified a number of information gaps as well as areas where they had diverging interpretation or understanding of facts. These gaps are summarized below and broken down into ecological, historical and legal issues.

#### *3.4.1 Ecological issues*

Three areas were identified where further research would be beneficial to support wild rice management in the longer term.

1. Long term impacts of wild rice on the lake ecology, i.e. its effects on the lake's biological, chemical and physical processes. It was suggested that both Trent University and Fleming College could be engaged to further develop this area of expertise.
2. Understanding of the effects of human seeding versus natural seeding processes.
3. Research on the role of wild rice in the ecosystem and how it interacts with other plants and animals.

#### *3.4.2 Historical issues*

An ongoing point of discussion during the workshop was around the historical distribution of wild rice. It was suggested that a comprehensive study of the history of rice beds in Pigeon Lake and surrounding areas would help clarify its natural distribution. It was also suggested that a more

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comprehensive study, presentation and sharing of the history and relationship of Indigenous peoples with manomin/wild rice be developed.

### *3.4.3 Legal issues*

All workshop participants recognized the Indigenous harvesting rights. However, there seem to be various interpretations of what that means and how these rights are defined in the Williams Treaties. During the workshop, a lawyer from the Department of Justice provided some information about recent cases interpreting Indigenous treaty rights. While his comments remained general in nature, he indicated that there was fairly clear interpretation from legal precedents recognizing Indigenous rights to harvest natural resources, including for commercial purposes and using modern equipment. Because of the general nature of his statement, some participants still expressed their wish to obtain more clarity around what the Treaties allow in certain specific situations such as:

1. Is intentional seeding in federal public waters part of harvesting rights?
2. Do the Treaties only protect the harvesting rights for ceremonial, cultural and community-use purposes, or do they also protect the rights to harvest for commercial purposes?
3. Do the Treaties only protect harvesting in the “traditional manner” or do they also protect harvesting with modern equipment?

Questions were also raised about other legal issues, such as the jurisdiction over and ownership of the lake bed. It was mentioned that some of the lake areas were flooded in a relatively recent past and that some landowners may still have title or may have waived certain rights. It was pointed out that some are still paying taxes on them. This raises the question about who owns the “land” under water and what are the legal implications.

### **3.5 Potential avenues of solution**

Workshop participants did not agree on a clear and specific suite of suggested actions that Parks Canada should bring to the broader Nation-to-Nation discussion with Williams Treaties First Nations. There was not even consensus on the need to suggest immediate action specific to the wild rice harvesting issues on Pigeon Lake. However, the concerns expressed by some property owners and lake users were highly emotionally charged. Workshop participants, notwithstanding their personal views, all worked together towards the identification of potential ways forward that would help address and possibly alleviate these concerns. This was possible because there was consensus around the need to develop stronger relationships in the long term among lake residents, Indigenous communities and the wild rice ecosystem itself.

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A wide range of possible actions were identified and discussed. Some of these options were supported by a large proportion of participants while others gained less support. This report is intended to document all perspectives and therefore includes all views expressed, with an attempt to identify a potential path forward that represents an agreement between the various interests and opinions.

The potential actions that were suggested at the workshop all need to be taken and understood in the context of a long-term goal which is to build and nurture better relationships between Indigenous communities and other residents of the area. Workshop participants acknowledged that this will require ongoing efforts and will only be possible if there is a genuine desire to understand and engage each other better.

With that in mind, it was suggested to start with bringing the outcomes of this workshop to the *Parks Canada/Williams Treaties First Nations Steering Committee* table and seek the First Nations advice and comments on some initial small steps that could be taken to address the current situation on Pigeon Lake.

Workshop participants expressed a desire to have the opportunity to discuss wild rice harvesting with Indigenous communities. They understand and respect the First Nations decision to discuss with Parks Canada through the *Parks Canada/Williams Treaties First Nations Steering Committee* but it was mentioned that discussions and exchange of information between non-government community members would also be beneficial. To that end, it was suggested that the Nation-to-Nation process could be complemented by relationship-building processes and events involving wild rice where Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members could share perspectives. This would serve as a stepping stone towards a stronger relationship.

It was also indicated that jointly-managed projects would benefit the relationships and would help build capacity within the small Indigenous communities. Events where Indigenous and non-Indigenous local people can share food and enjoy the beauty of the natural environment were suggested. For example, there could be a speaker series to share knowledge and history around wild rice and other topics related to the area. Some participants also suggested to build on current efforts and initiatives from Selwyn Township.

Navigation safety was identified by most participants as a common issue and concern. It was pointed out that with the current situation on Pigeon Lake, some residents experience serious navigation impediments and must sometimes cut through rice beds with their boats, which destroys some of the rice and affects harvesting. A potential solution that was discussed would be to ensure the clear passage of boats from the shore to the main channel by creating a number

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of channels free of vegetation. The details around the size of these channels and how the rice would be kept out of the channels would have to be discussed by the Steering Committee and it would also be necessary to aim at minimizing disturbance to wild rice when planning channels. It was mentioned by many participants that such arrangement could be the first measure to be discussed and that it has the potential to be implemented in a timely manner.

With respect to the current harvesting and seeding occurring in Pigeon Lake, several additional potential measures were identified by certain workshop participants, who would like these measures to be considered by Parks Canada and the Williams Treaties First Nations. It is important to note that there were other workshop participants who did not agree with these suggestions and were afraid that they could result in the infringement of Indigenous or treaties rights. Among the suggested measures or processes:

- The idea of delineating specific areas for harvesting and seeding was raised. Some participants suggested a buffer zone of 1 200 feet from the shoreline as a starting point for discussion.
- The authorization for property owners to cut or remove plants in front of their property in order to keep access to the waterway was also identified as a desired measure.
- There was a suggestion that Parks Canada should provide a financial compensation to lakefront property owners to help with the removal of plant debris and organic matter accumulating on the shoreline.
- Some participants stated that the First Nations could develop their own harvesting plan and guidelines on using and interacting with wild rice and then share these guidelines with all lake users.
- A number of potential guidelines that would apply to wild rice harvesting were suggested. For example, time restrictions could be discussed with First Nations, whereby harvesting would be conducted at certain times of the day or week to avoid times that disturb people the most. Similarly, harvesting with air boat could be limited to certain times of the day only, or on certain days. It was also suggested that advanced notice be given to property owners when harvesting is planned. Some participants suggested that guidelines related to noise should apply to all watercrafts, including boat harvester but also larger and noisier boats, partying on houseboats, etc.

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- Workshop participants noticed that harvesting guidelines or rules already exist in some jurisdictions like Manitoba, Minnesota or Wisconsin. It was suggested to learn about their implementation in other jurisdictions and assess how they could be adapted to the Pigeon Lake area.
  - A few participants also suggested that a moratorium on harvesting, or at least on seeding, be put in place until a longer-term plan is agreed upon by the *Parks Canada/Williams Treaties First Nations Steering Committee*.

#### **4. Summary and Path Forward**

The workshop brought together a number of people from a broad range of perspectives with various interests in Pigeon Lake. Despite the diversity of views and opinions, there was consensus about the importance of protecting the ecological health of Pigeon Lake. It was also agreed that building stronger relationships between lake residents, lake users, and Indigenous communities should be a priority.

Recognizing that the Williams Treaties First Nations have chosen to discuss all issues relating to the Trent-Severn Waterway with Parks Canada through the *Parks Canada/Williams Treaties First Nations Steering Committee*, workshop participants aimed at identifying some potential measures or actions that Parks Canada could bring to the table for discussion. Workshop participants believe that the long-term resolution of the current situation can start with small initial steps. To that end, they are asking Parks Canada to table this report for consideration by the First Nations.

Workshop participants would like Parks Canada to gain a better understanding of the Williams Treaties First Nations' vision for wild rice harvesting on Pigeon Lake through further discussions with the First Nations, and how lake users could be engaged in a productive discussion regarding the co-existence of wild rice harvesting and other uses. There was a broad agreement at the workshop that navigation safety is a priority for all and that some measures could be implemented to address navigation issues while protecting wild rice at the same time. An initial step would be to ensure that some channels are created and kept clear of wild rice in order to secure access to the waterway for all and reduce boat passages in wild rice beds.



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## Appendix I: Parks Canada Wild Rice Workshop Organizing Committee

### Committee Members (in alphabetical order)

1. Ian Attridge – Lawyer in private practice
2. Jewel Cunningham – Parks Canada
3. René Drolet - Facilitator
4. Josh Feltham – Fleming College/Trent University
5. Sherry Hillman - TRC Bobcaygeon
6. Brenda Jeffs – Property owner – Pigeon Lake
7. Janice Lavalley – Township of Selwyn
8. Mark Majchrowski – Kawartha Conservation
9. Peter Mitchell (observer) – Office of MP Maryam Monsef
10. Brenda Wall – TRC Bobcaygeon
11. Larry Wood – Save Pigeon Lake

### Terms of Reference

#### **Mandate**

The Organizing Committee is an advisory body to Parks Canada, responsible for planning and organizing an engagement process, including but not limited to a workshop, that will provide input and potential options towards the development of long-term wild rice (manomin) management protocols or plan, while also addressing the need for interim measures to avoid escalating conflicts in use.

#### **Reporting relationship**

The Organizing Committee reports to Parks Canada Agency (PCA) and provides input to support PCA discussions and engagement as part of the *Parks Canada/Williams Treaties First Nations Steering Committee*.

#### **Duration of the Committee**

The mandate of the Organizing Committee will extend from its creation in February 2019 until the delivery of a workshop report to Parks Canada Agency, which is expected to happen in May 2019. Parks Canada may decide to extend and expand the mandate of the Committee as needed.

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## **Meetings and Documentation**

The Committee will meet in person at least twice and by conference call as often as required to ensure the achievement of its mandate.

Records of Discussion will be prepared for each meeting or conference call of the Committee.

All documentation will be treated with confidentiality and may be shared by PCA as deemed appropriate.

## **Specific activities**

The mandate of the Committee includes a strategic component, a practical component and a leadership component.

More specifically, the Committee will provide advice on:

- The engagement process details, including workshop objectives, design, approach, recommended participants and expected outcomes.
- Supporting materials and a communications approach for the workshop and other engagement tools.
- Harnessing various individual interests towards the achievement of a common objective.
- The development of a report to support the engagement already underway by the *Parks Canada/Williams Treaties First Nations Steering Committee*.

## **Rules of Engagement**

The Organizing Committee will be guided by an independent facilitator who will focus on ensuring a fair, open and respectful process.

Members of the Committee are selected on an individual basis to represent their organizations or perspectives but by accepting to sit on the Committee, members are making a commitment to achieving something greater than their own objectives.

The Organizing Committee is not an advocacy table, but its members are expected to share and explain their perspectives in a clear and informative way.

The Committee will strive for consensus on matters related to the process and the workshop, not necessarily on what should be part of the wild rice management plan or protocols at the end of the process.

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The Committee has no legal authority. It fulfills a planning, organizing and advisory role. Parks Canada Agency remains the responsible authority and will continue to work with the Williams Treaties First Nations as part of the *Parks Canada/Williams Treaties First Nations Steering Committee*.

Committee Members agree to work in a collaborative way towards common objectives. The facilitator will strive to keep the Committee on track and will intervene as needed to manage any potential conflict or lack of trust between committee members.

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## Appendix II: Pre-Workshop Wild Rice/Manomin Survey

### Wild Rice/Manomin Survey

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey. This survey is intended to gather the many perspectives of the participants in the Wild Rice / Manomin workshop, to be held on May 1, 2019.

At a November 3, 2018 meeting, Maryam Monsef, Member of Parliament for the Peterborough-Kawartha region committed to providing a forum for members of the public to provide input for consideration by Parks Canada in their discussions with the Williams Treaties First Nations. An Organizing Committee has been struck that includes specialists in the fields of law, environmental sciences, federal permitting as well as representatives from property owners, and the local municipality.

This survey was developed by this Organizing Committee as a tool to collect the initial ideas and views of workshop participants: it is not intended to be a statistical analysis or a voting process. The information gathered here will be used to finalize the agenda and discussion questions for May 1. Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete the survey and for your participation in this process.

#### Tell us about yourself

1. What Lake(s) do you live on/utilize? Please specify \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. My primary interest in wild rice is as a (an) (Please select the one that **best** describes you, recognizing that you may identify with more than one interest):
  - a. Waterfront property owner
  - b. Resident of the Pigeon Lake area
  - c. Recreational user of the Trent-Severn Waterway / Kawartha Lakes
  - d. Boater or Angler
  - e. Indigenous Interests and Reconciliation
  - f. Representative from a local or regional government (municipality, township, etc.). Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. Representative from a stakeholder organization or interest group. Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. Local Business Owner
  - i. Manomin / Wild Rice Harvester
  - j. Concerned Citizen
  - k. Indigenous Person
  - l. Other, Please specify \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please tell us about your experiences in the Pigeon Lake area.**

3. How much time do you spend at the lake / on the waterfront?
  - a. Year-Round Resident
  - b. Seasonal Resident
  - c. Shorter vacations (e.g. a few weeks a year)
  - d. Occasional visitor / travel through (e.g. tourist, day-tripper, etc.).
  - e. None, interested in the subject
  - f. Other, Please specify \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. What do you enjoy most about Pigeon Lake (top three)?
  - a. Quiet place for reflection and recreation
  - b. Supporting biodiversity
  - c. Protecting habitat for Species at Risk (e.g. Bittern and Black Tern)
  - d. Celebrating the cultural history of the Trent-Severn Waterway National Historic Site
  - e. Scenery
  - f. Paddling
  - g. Motorized boating / using other powered watercraft
  - h. Ice fishing
  - i. Fishing
  - j. Hunting
  - k. Swimming
  - l. Harvesting (including Manomin / Wild Rice)
  - m. Place to learn about or share other cultures and cultural practices
  - n. Being with family and friends
  - o. Local festivals and events
  - p. Economic/business opportunity
  - q. Other, Please specify \_\_\_\_\_

5. Please elaborate on your relationship with Manomin/ Wild Rice. (Open ended)

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6. Have you had an opportunity to participate in any of the following? (check all that apply)
- a. I have read the Wild Rice Discussion Paper produced by the Organizing Committee (provided via email with this survey link).
  - b. I attended the November 3, 2018 meeting hosted by Save Pigeon Lake.
  - c. I receive information/updates/am on the mailing list from Save Pigeon Lake.
  - d. I receive information/updates/ am on the mailing list from Parks Canada
  - e. I receive information/updates/am on the mailing list from the Kawartha Conservation Authority
  - f. I receive information/updates am on the mailing list for TRC Bobcaygeon and Community Voices for Manoomin
  - g. I receive information/updates/am on the mailing list from the Williams Treaties First Nations (and affiliates, such as Curve Lake First Nation)
  - h. I have received comments from members of the public regarding wild rice
  - i. I have participated in Manomin/Wild Rice harvesting
  - j. I have purchased or eaten Manomin/wild rice
  - k. I have not received information nor participated in any meetings
  - l. I get information from other sources. Please specify \_\_\_\_\_
7. On a scale of one to five, please rank the following interests about Manomin/wild rice and harvesting in the Pigeon Lake area for their importance to you (five being very important, zero being not at all important).

	<b>0</b> Not at all Important	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Neutral	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Very Important
Restrictions or impacts to boat navigation and safety						
Restriction or impacts to waterfront access and beaches						
Debris from mechanical rice harvesting and motorized boat traffic						
Impacts to lakefront property values						
Impacts of seeding through cultivation practices						
Impacts of natural seeding processes						
Loud noise from mechanical harvesting methods						
Length of time mechanical harvesters are active						
Environmental impacts from mechanical harvesting methods						
Food Source and Nutrition						
Contributing to active living						
Practicing a cultural tradition						

Contributing to Reconciliation						
Impacts on Angling / fishing						
Impacts to Treaty Rights						
To provide habitat for fish and wildlife use						
Health of the lake ecology						
Building public awareness of traditional knowledge and practices						
Protection from invasive species						
Changes to sedimentation on the lake bottom						
Challenges for local business						
Opportunities for local business						
Quality of life – aesthetic character of the Lake						
No concerns						
Other, Please specify _____						

8. Do you have suggestions for Parks Canada’s consideration about how these many different interests of wild rice can coexist on Pigeon Lake? Please describe.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Do you have questions about wild rice and/or this process that the Organizing Committee can answer at the May 1 Workshop?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Do you have any information (documents, photos, etc.) that you would like to share about Manomin/wild rice on Pigeon Lake or other lakes in the area? Please submit them to the Organizing Committee by email at [Ont.Trentsevern@pc.gc.ca](mailto:Ont.Trentsevern@pc.gc.ca).

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## Appendix III: Workshop Agenda

### Parks Canada Manomin/Wild Rice Workshop

May 1, 2019

Peterborough Public Library

345 Aylmer Street North, Peterborough, ON

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**Objectives:** The workshop's main objectives are to gather information from various sources regarding Manomin/wild rice in the Pigeon Lake area and identify long-term options and interim measures to address the current situation in Pigeon Lake and avoid escalating conflicts in use. The focus of the workshop will be on Pigeon Lake while recognizing insights relevant to other areas in the region and sources of options from a wider perspective.

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### Agenda

09:00 – 09:10	Opening Remarks	Peter Mitchell
09:10 – 09:20	Today's objectives & operating principles	René Drolet (facilitator)
09:20 – 10:45	Setting the Context - Hearing Perspectives	Panel Discussion
10:45 – 11:00	Health Break	
11:00 – 12:00	Theme 1: What do we value in Pigeon Lake	Breakout groups
12:00 – 01:00	Lunch	
01:00 – 02:00	Theme 2: Possible options & solutions	Breakout groups
02:00 – 02:45	Reports from breakout groups	Plenary
02:45 – 03:00	Health Break	
03:00 – 04:15	Building a proposed path forward	Facilitated Plenary
04:15 – 04:30	Summary of Discussions & Next steps	René Drolet
04:30 –	Closing	Jewel Cunningham



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## Appendix IV: List of Workshop Participants

**Facilitator:** René Drolet, Rene Drolet Consulting Services

**Organizing Committee:**

Janice Lavalley, CAO for Selwyn Township  
Ian Attridge, Lawyer in private practice  
Mark Majchrowski, CAO for Kawartha Conservation Authority  
Larry Wood, Chair for Save Pigeon Lake\*  
Josh Feltham, Professor Environmental and Natural Resources Sciences, Fleming College  
Sherry Hillman, Bobcaygeon Truth and Reconciliation  
Brenda Wall, Bobcaygeon Truth and Reconciliation  
Brenda Jeffs, Property owner, Pigeon Lake  
Jewel Cunningham, Director, Ontario Waterways, Parks Canada \*  
Sarah Culley, Parks Canada  
Karen Feeley, Parks Canada

**Attendees:**

Doug King, Grenadier Island  
Howie Newhook, President for Lakeview Estates  
Ron Black, Selwyn Township  
Alan Easton, Island View Drive resident  
Bob Brown President, Buckhorn Estates  
Donna Ballantyne, Councillor for Township of Selwyn  
Eric Sager, Fleming College\*  
Ron Ashmore, Councillor for City of Kawartha Lakes  
Michael Skinner, Candidate for Peterborough-Kawartha riding, Conservative Party of Canada  
Randy Hinton, Owner, R&R Houseboats\*  
Neil Ryans, Floods Drive Resident  
Karen Jopling, Manager, Corporate Projects & Services for Peterborough County  
Peter Mitchell, Chief of Staff for MP Maryam Monsef (observer)  
Andy Mitchell, Mayor, Township of Selwyn  
George Hewison, Bass Lake Association of Homeowners  
Catherine Prinsen – Nature activist  
Doug Erlandson, Chair of Balsam Lake Cottage Association; Chair of KLCA Community  
Advisory Panel for Lake Management Planning  
Chris Appleton, Vice-Chair for KLCA Community Advisory Panel  
Sherry Telford, Bobcaygeon Truth and Reconciliation\*  
James Wilkes, Trent U. School of the Environment  
Heidi Burns, Voices for Manoomin  
Paula Anderson, Voices for Manoomin – Fleming College – Trent University  
Ron Bailey, President for Windward Sands Home Owners Association

**Observers:**

Karry Sandy Mckenzie, Legal Representative for Williams Treaties First Nations  
Saga Williams, Curve Lake First Nation  
Ceyda Turan, Williams Treaties First Nations  
Sheldon Massie, Aboriginal Law Centre, Department of Justice  
Sonja Beharry, Parks Canada Legal Counsel, Department of Justice

\* Denotes panel presenter.