



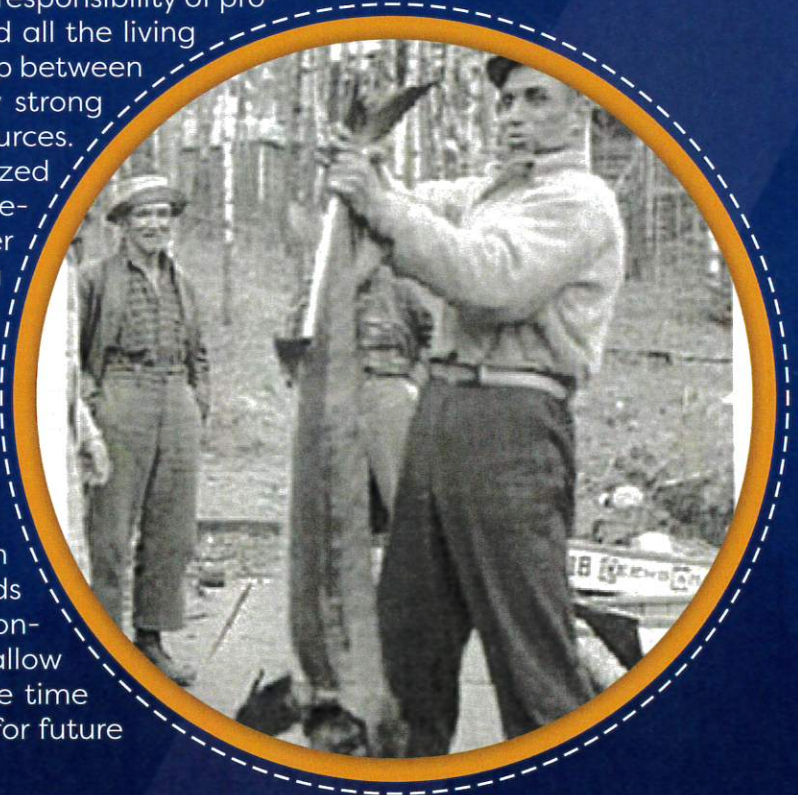
RAINY RIVER FIRST NATIONS MANITOU RAPIDS

LANDS AND WATERSHED

RAINY RIVER FIRST NATIONS LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

For many centuries, the People of RRFN have lived, traded, hunted, and fished along the Rainy River. In return, we believe the Creator has given us the responsibility of protecting and preserving the lands, the waters, and all the living creatures of Mother Earth. This intrinsic relationship between our People and the natural world is particularly strong with respect to the fisheries and fish habitat resources. The 1873 agreement known as Treaty #3 recognized this unique relationship by acknowledging our desire to share the resource. In the mid-1980s, after witnessing nearly a century of abuse followed by a few years of improving water quality in the Rainy River, our Elders and other community members - decided to reappropriate their stewardship role.

The Rainy River First Nations Lands & Natural Resources Department consists of the Claims Implementation and Watershed Programs. The responsibility of the department is to ensure, through sound management and policies, that RRFN lands and the natural resources within RRFN traditional territory are managed in such a manner to allow for maximum benefit to RRFN while at the same time protecting said resources to ensure that benefit for future generations.



WATERSHED PROGRAM

“Protect, conserve and revitalize the Rainy River Watershed.”

Our Objectives:

- Promote awareness and involvement through education;
- Monitor and inventory the relative health of the watershed;
- Rehabilitate areas of concern within the watershed.
- Handles everything related to the environment.
- Forestry issues.
- Fisheries issues.
- Mining Issues.
- Natural Resource Consultations.
- Water quality.
- Waste Diversion (landfill, recycling).
- Environmental education & community outreach.
- Works side by side with Claims Implementation on Land Management.

CLAIMS IMPLEMENTATION DEPARTMENT

Formerly “Land Claims Dept.”; carries out initiatives set out in RRFN Land Claim Agreement (2005).
Negotiates land purchases.

- Oversees Additions to Reserve (ATR) processes.
- Community outreach – seeking input on land purchases.
- Maintains band member database.
- Land mapping.
- Historical research.
- Works side by side with Watershed Program on Land Management.

LAND ACQUISITION

“To purchase property for reserve expansion; identify and prioritize sacred and cultural sites on former reserve lands; and, to purchase strategic properties of increasing value or economic gain consistent with economic and business goals.”

Done by Land Purchase Committee (made up of RRFN members), who has developed a land purchase strategy.

