

# North Slave Métis Alliance

Community Concerns  
Regarding the  
Proposed  
Fortune Minerals  
Nico Mine Project



## **OPENING REMARKS**

### **North Slave Metis Alliance President Bill Enge's Opening Remarks**

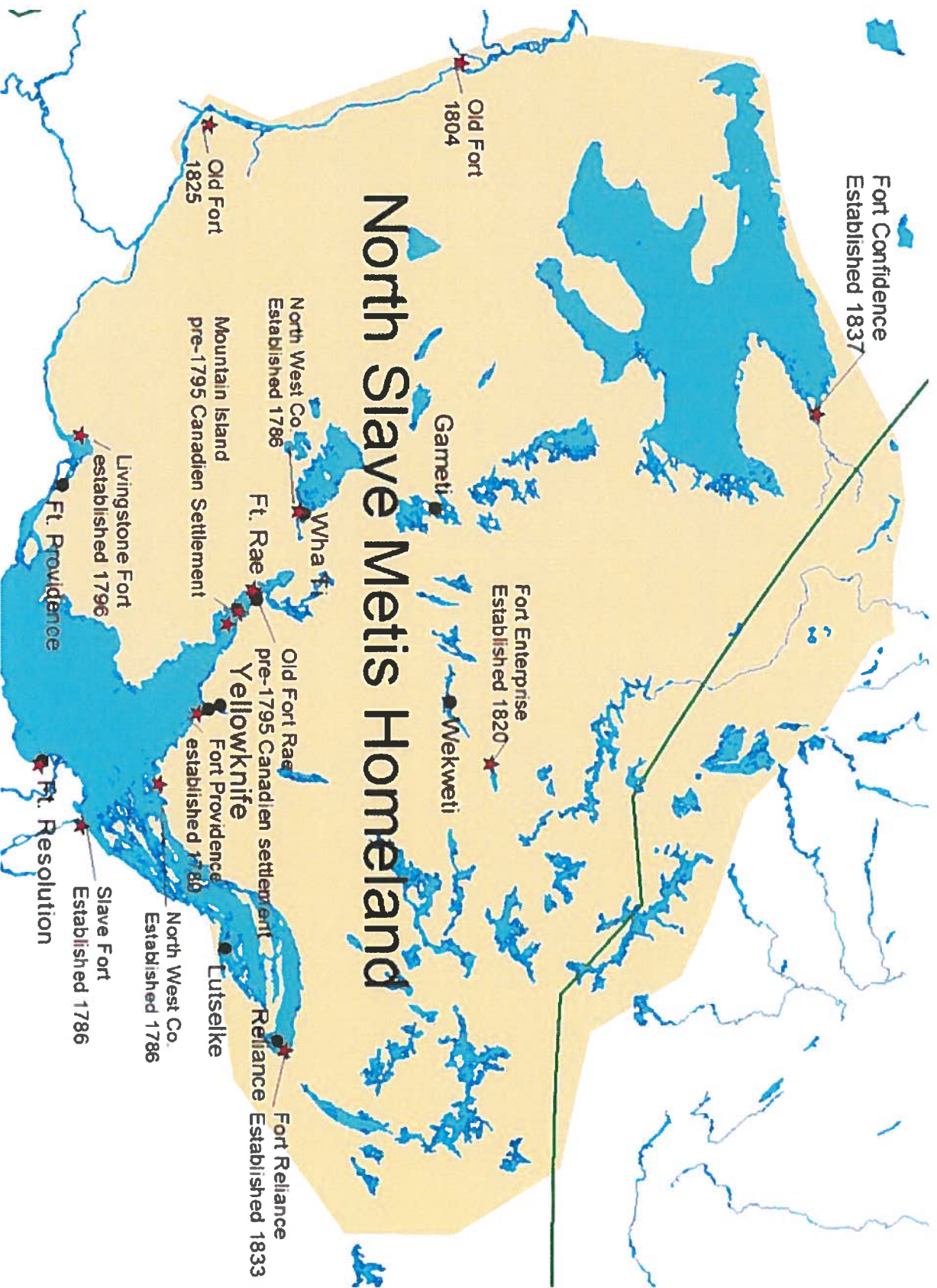
- **North Slave Métis Alliance – mandate, history and territory**
- **Reason for participation in NICO project hearing - to ensure the North Slave Indigenous Metis Peoples' section 35 Aboriginal Rights are respected**
- **Issues with Regulatory Process**
  - **Inadequate Crown funding which caused inadequate consultation & accommodation of the North Slave Metis (NSM) Peoples Aboriginal Rights entitled to the project area**

### **Community Concerns**

- **Infringement of North Slave Metis Alliance Peoples' section 35 Aboriginal Rights**
- **No benefits to North Slave Metis People from the extraction of non-renewable resources on our traditional land**
- **Discriminatory treatment by the Crown and proponent**
- **Infringement of the enjoyment of the North Slave Metis People on their traditional lands (ie hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering, etc.)**
- **No NSMA representation on the proposed Access Road to NICO mine site**
- **Wildlife management concerns (especially Bathurst Caribou Herd)**



# OPENING REMARKS CONTINUED...



# **WATER**

The NSMA has not been able to properly evaluate Fortune Minerals NICO project (FMNP) due to capacity issues

The NSMA is not therefore in a position to unconditionally support the FMNP findings about the effects on the water that will be impacted by the mine

# **WATER continued...**

- Fortune Minerals must consult and accommodate the NSM People with regard to their project because the water in and around the mine will have an affect on NSM People's use of this resource
- Water quality monitoring must be a life-of-mine project requirement
- The NSMA is concerned about the pollutants released into the water by the mine

# AIR

The NSMA, due to capacity issues, has not been able to properly evaluate Fortune Minerals NICO project (FMNP)

The NSMA is not therefore in a position to unconditionally support the FMNP findings about the effects on the air that will be impacted by the mine

The NSMA is concerned about the pollutants released into the air by the mine

# Traditional Knowledge

- The FMNP is located near the community of Whati. This community was once named Lac la Martre
- Lac la Martre is a French name that stems from the Metis *coureurs de bois*
- Francois Beaulieu II, a founding father of the Metis of the Northwest Territories had a trading post at Lac la Martre in the early 1800s
- Historic use and occupancy of the NSM People is still being collected

# Traditional Knowledge – cont'd

- It is unknown whether Fortune Minerals is identifying, recording and preserving Métis archaeological sites and artefacts



# Caribou

- Independent monitoring agency with a mandate to monitor the effects of the mine on caribou
- An environmental review is needed to study the impact of the mine on wildlife, especially barrenground and boreal caribou
- The NSM People are very concerned about the declining population of the Bathurst Caribou Herd and the Bluenose East Caribou Herd

## Caribou – continued

- The NSMA has argued their Aboriginal right to harvest caribou in the Supreme Court of the NWT
- This lawsuit reflects how serious the NSM People take their responsibility as stewards of the caribou, in particular and wildlife, in general
- The NSM People must have representation on an independent

# CULTURE, HERITAGE, ECONOMICS

- Fortune Minerals must partner with the NSMA when undertaking heritage resource assessments
- Fortune Minerals must respect Metis cultural heritage at their mine site during construction and operation of the NICO project
- Fortune Minerals must be required to negotiate an Impact Benefits Agreement with the NSMA to ensure it respects the full spectrum of the NSMA Aboriginal rights on its traditional lands

# NICO Project Reports & Statement

- NSMA TK study to be submitted September 15<sup>th</sup>
- NSMA closing statement to be submitted September 24<sup>th</sup>

# Closing Statement

- NSMA President Bill Enge to make closing remarks