

*Adı edee ts'eda dile:*  
The place we go where we can survive

Tłıchǫ Knowledge (TK) Study for the Fortune Minerals NICO Project

Tłıchǫ Ndek'awoo



Tłıchǫ Government

# Presentation overview

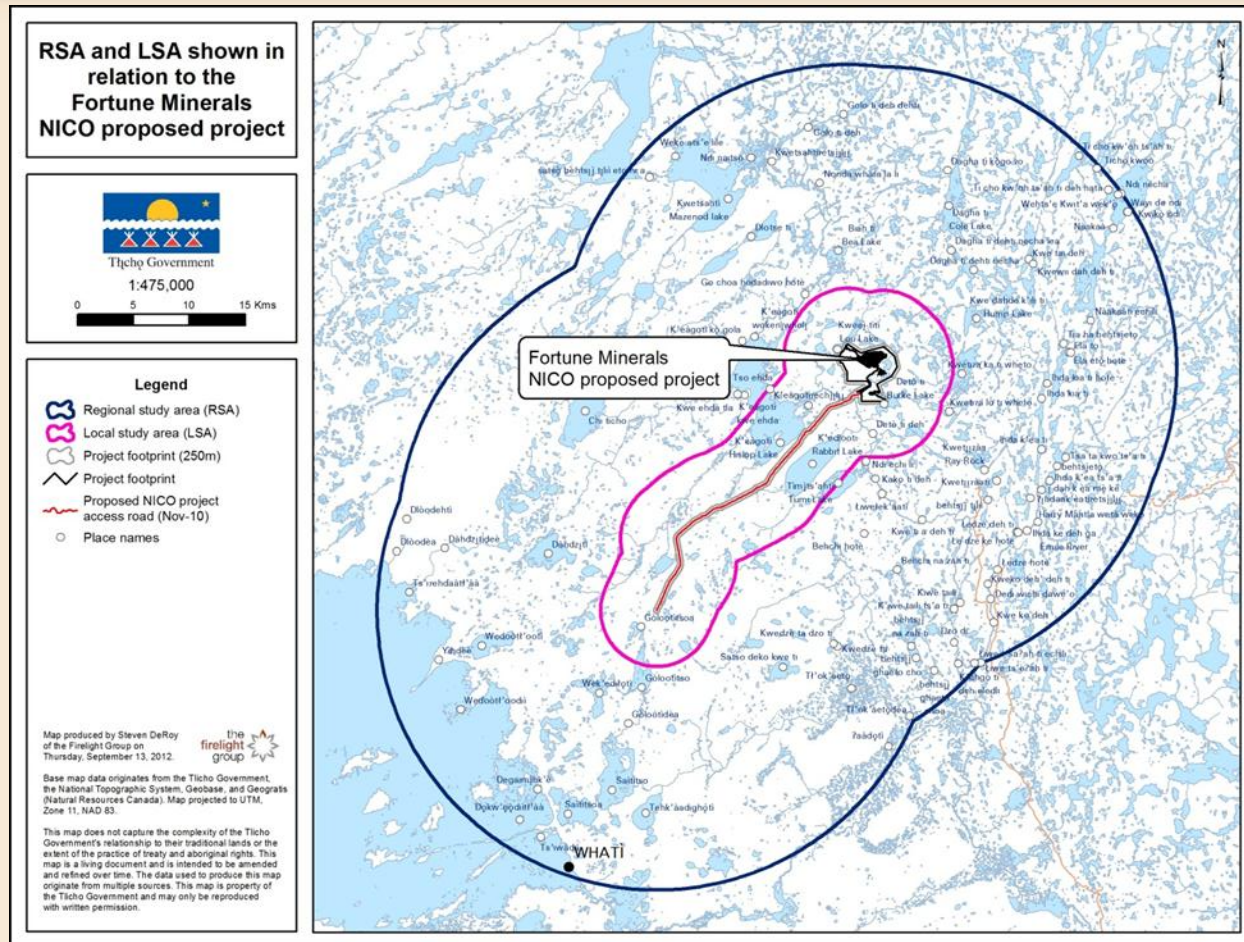


- Introduction
- Non-site specific values
- Site specific valued components
- Assessment of Impacts

Th̓ich̓o Ndek'awoo



Th̓ich̓o Government



# Temporal Boundary of Assessment



The temporal boundaries for baseline data collection include past, present, and planned future Tłıchǫ knowledge and use. For the purpose of this study:

- a ***past value*** refers to an account of knowledge and use prior to living memory;
- a ***present value*** refers to an account of knowledge and use within living memory; and
- a ***planned future value*** refers to anticipated or intended knowledge or use patterns by the individual or their expectation for use by their descendants.

# *Asi edee ts'eda dile*



- *Asi edee ts'eda dile* means “the place we go where we can survive”.
- *Asi edee ts'eda dile* is located in the heart of the Tłıchǫ region and is part of the main trail network that connects the communities.
- The historical importance, current use, and the role of *Asi edee ts'eda dile* as a place for future use (the place we go where we can survive) is an ***critical part of the Tłıchǫ cultural landscape***

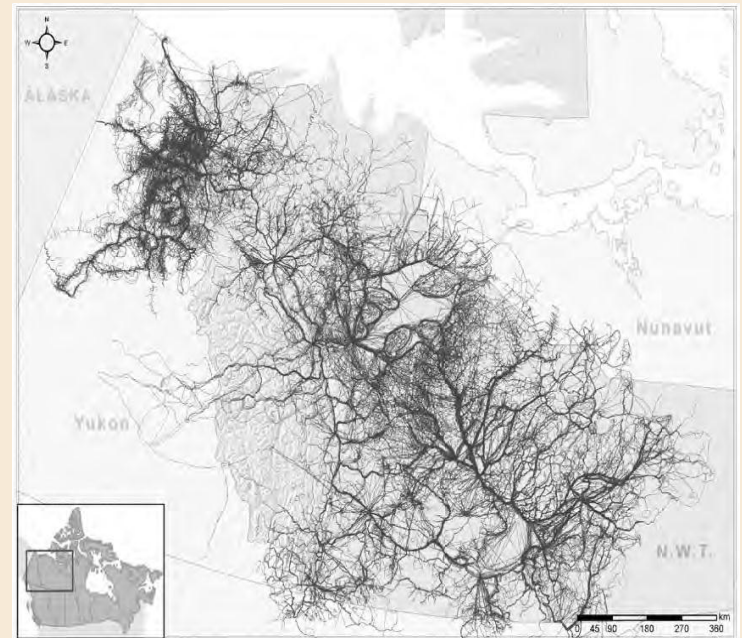
***It is integral for the exercise of the rights and interests of Tłıchǫ people. These rights are protected in the Tłıchǫ Final Agreement.***

# Trails and Transportation Corridors

The Project is along the main water transportation corridor, known as the Įdàà trail.

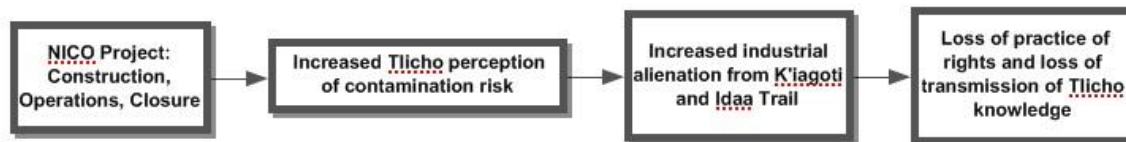
Travelling on trails has been noted as a key method of not only connecting the Tłıchǫ communities, but also as an important way of learning and becoming knowledgeable as a Tłıchǫ citizen. (Legat, 2012, Andrews et. al, 1998)

The Įdàà trail is described as the “the central or trunk road, linking Great Slave and Great Bear lakes and providing access to a multitude of tributary trails and a land-use area in excess of 250,000 square kilometres” (Andrews, 2011: p. 38).



# Trails: Impact Pathway

*“That traditional trail, we love this traditional area. Even though we are not paid to use that area, we love that area, that’s why we still use that area. We still can take care of our traditional trails, why we continue to do, like even after we pass on, we want our young people to continue to use that traditional, rich, traditional area, even after we pass on we want our young people to continue to use that area.” -Joe Mantla Sr.*



# Trails: Assessment



Tłıchǫ citizens have identified important trails in the Project Lease Boundary, LSA, and RSA.

These trails are of great importance to the Tłıchǫ people in past, current, and for future use.

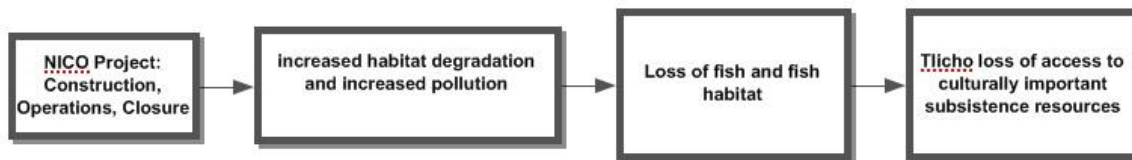
There is concern that the Project will disturb travel on these trails, including increased perceived contamination, which is likely to result in increased Tłıchǫ avoidance or loss of use of the area. This effect is anticipated with a high degree of confidence.

# Water, Wild Foods, Medicinal Plants and Contaminants

Tłıchǫ citizens noted that preferred fishing areas are at the mouth of the Gòlo Tì Deè River at the north and east side of K'ìàgotı and, in particular, along the Gòlo Tì Deè River in both directions.

The study participants spoke about the multiple dèetsı́, fish caches, along the river. The presence of the dèetsı́ indicates the depth of historical use of the area for fishing and the techniques used to catch fish in that area.

It was noted that there is an avoidance of fishing in the Gòlo Tì Deè River around the Rayrock mine site, and in the surrounding lakes due to concerns regarding pollution. This is an area within which they would/do not feel comfortable practicing harvesting rights.



# Water cont'd



Based on reported Tłıchǫ knowledge and review of project information the effects of the NICO Project will contribute to already perceived high levels of industrial contaminants.

The NICO Project is likely to result in increased intensity, scope, and area of Tłıchǫ avoidance and loss of use, particularly downstream of the Project along the Gòlo Tì Deè River and including documented areas of traditional use, and areas of past, current, and planned future use.

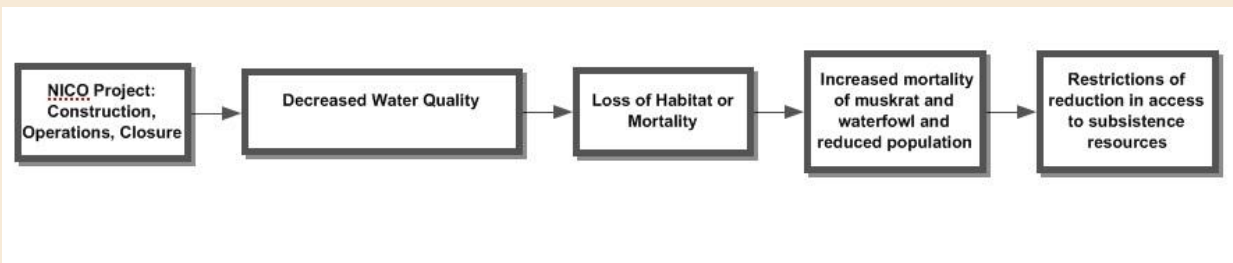
The TK study finds this effect is anticipated with a high degree of confidence.

# Waterfowl, Fur bearing, and Trapping

Tłıchǫ citizens reported using the area of the Project, LSA and RSA for hunting ducks, trapping beaver and muskrats, and trapping other fur bearing animals.

Despite its decline as a primary economic activity, trapping is still actively practiced within the Project LSA.

Waterfowl, fur bearing, and trapping are of key cultural importance to Tłıchǫ citizens. The seasonal round of these subsistence activities is a core component of the practice of Tłıchǫ knowledge and rights on Tłıchǫ lands.



# Waterfowl, Fur bearing, and Trapping



Tłıchǫ citizens have identified important waterfowl habitat and hunting areas within the RSA, and have identified important fur bearing (beaver and muskrat) trapping and hunting areas within the LSA and RSA.

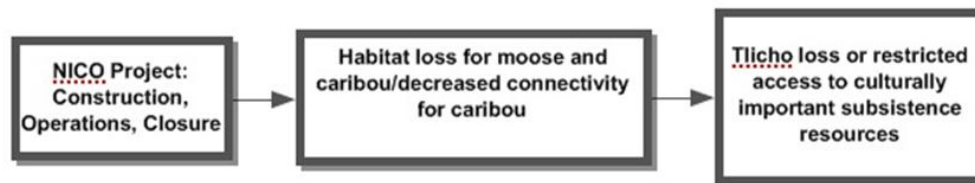
Project effects related to changes to beaver and muskrat habitat may impact the current or future availability of muskrats and other fur bearing mammals as a preferred and culturally important resource for Tłıchǫ knowledge and use practice.

# Caribou and Moose

Based on reported Tłıchǫ knowledge, the NICO Project is proposed within an important moose and caribou hunting corridor.

Tłıchǫ citizens have documented extensive harvesting of caribou and moose in the Project Lease Boundary, LSA, and RSA, as well as identified this area as important habitat and a key corridor.

The concern regarding changes to these populations and the ability to continue to hunt and use this area was voiced consistently in each interview.



# Intangible Cultural Resources

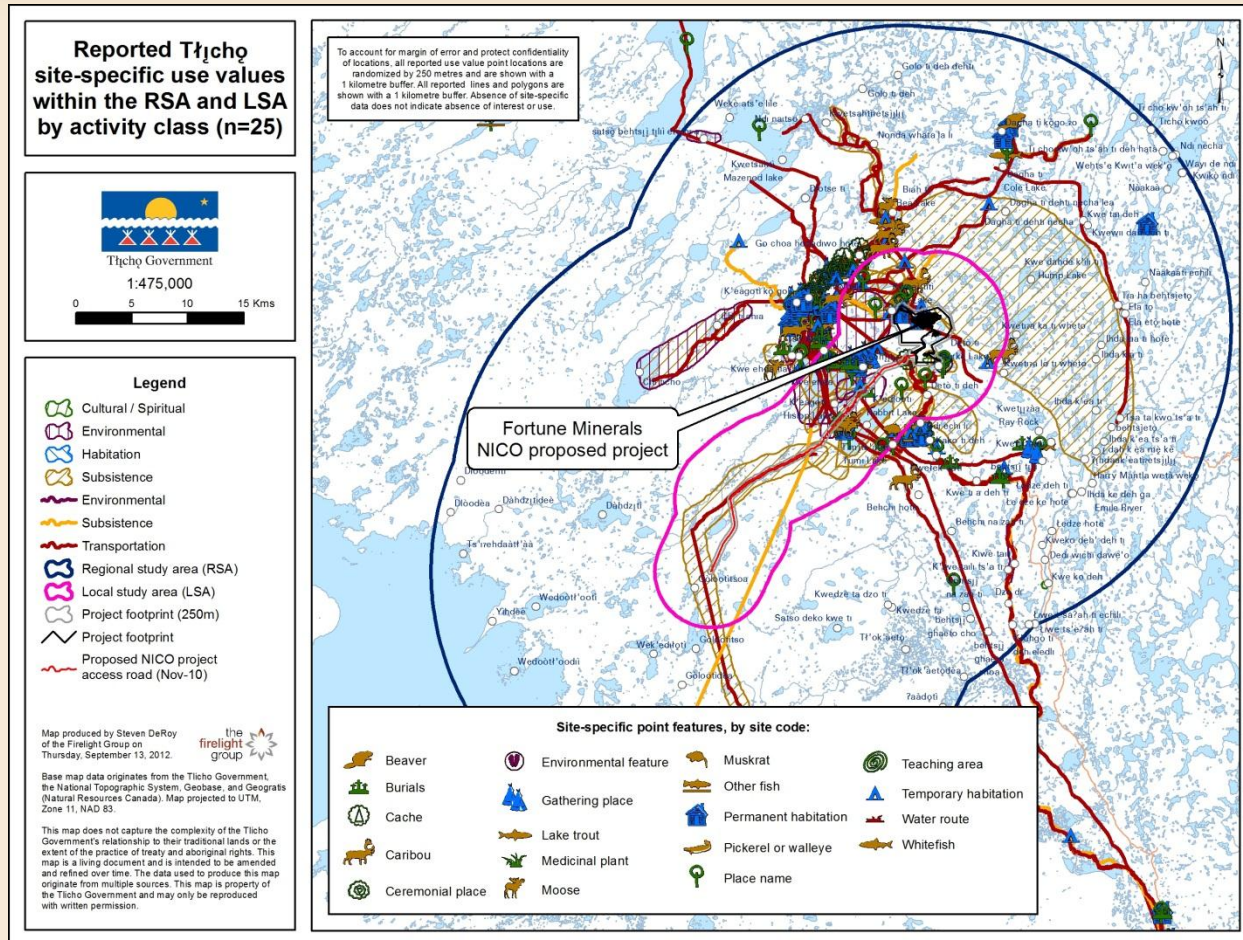
Tłıchǫ citizens identified concerns of potential impact of the Project on intangible cultural resources, including language and the transmission of knowledge regarding areas lost due to industrial effects, as well as the ability to practice Tłıchǫ knowledge and use more broadly.



# Classification of Values

- **subsistence values** (including harvesting and kill sites, plant food collection areas, and trapping areas reported within the LSA and RSA);
- **habitation values** (including temporary or occasional, and permanent or seasonal camps and cabins reported within the LSA and RSA);
- **cultural/spiritual values** (including burials, village sites, ceremonial areas, and medicinal plant sites reported within the LSA and RSA);
- **transportation values** (including trails, water routes, and navigation sites reported within the LSA and RSA); and
- **environmental feature values** (including specific highly valued habitat for moose and caribou reported within the LSA and RSA).

# Site specific Valued Components



# Site specific use values

Activity Class	Within Lease Boundary No. of values	Within LSA No. of values	Within RSA No. of values
Cultural/Spiritual	14	45	97
Environmental	6	6	12
Habitation	6	39	90
Subsistence	28	61	116
Transportation	17	28	43

# Summary of Values in Lease Boundary



Specific traditional use activities reported by Tłıchǫ citizens :

- One burial location;
- Cultural/spiritual and historic values associated with the ȩdàà trail travel route;
- Multiple permanent habitation values
- Large game hunting including reported kill sites for ekwò (caribou) and dedıı (moose), with an important and unique environmental feature site where harvesters listen for moose and where there are special soils that attract the animals;
- Small game hunting ȳhtsoa (ptarmigan, rabbit) and migratory birds;
- Hunting of tsà (beaver), dzȳ (muskrat), and nàmbe (otter) for fur and food;
- Fishing for ȩh (whitefish), ȩhdaa (northern pike or jackfish), ehts'èè (pickerel, walleye), nȳhkwèè (mariah or loche);
- Environmental features (caribou corridor)
- Critical travel route and critical mode of accessing surrounding lands.

# Summary of Values in LSA for 5 km



- Intense use of ası edee t'seda dıle and the Gòlo Tì Deè River corridor adjacent to the Project footprint.
- Early 1940s to present day
- All recorded use values fall within the definition of the “present” values
  - Cultural/spiritual values;
  - Hunting and trapline
  - Temporary habitations or other overnight structures
  - Harvesting
  - Fishing
  - Multiple environmental features, including important caribou habitat, an E-W movement corridor across RSA.
  - Collection areas for berries and firewood and other materials.

# Summary of Site Specific Values



- The density of Tłıchǫ use within the Lease Boundary and LSA is the result of a number of contributing reasons.
  - River includes a series of regularly used and historically known camps and cabins relied upon and returned to by Tłıchǫ citizens and families over a long period of time;
  - The mouth of K'iàgoti and the river at and near the north and east inflow and outflow of the lake provide a rich and reliable source of fish.
  - Fresh drinking water (for people and animals) that are still trusted as clean alternatives to the waters downstream from the Rayrock mine site, which are now widely regarded with suspicion by Tłıchǫ hunters and land users.

# Conclusions



The proposed NICO Project is within and surrounded by lands historically and currently relied upon by Tłıchǫ citizens for the practice of knowledge, use and rights, including hunting, trapping, gathering, fishing, and associated cultural and livelihood practices.

Analysis of mapped data demonstrates that lands and waters within the LSA and RSA have been widely used by Tłıchǫ citizens over a long period of time and continue to hold value. The area continues to be used.

These lands and waters also include unique and important species-specific values (including preferred fishing sites and harvesting areas for moose and caribou) integral for the meaningful practice of Tłıchǫ citizen rights and interests set out in the Tłıchǫ Agreement, as well as location-specific values (including habitation areas, transportation corridors, and other values).

# Conclusions

Reliable, peaceful, and unimpeded access to preferred areas that are historically known and personally familiar is integral to the transmission of and current and future practice of Tłchq knowledge and use within the Project footprint, LSA and RSA.

Based on the baseline assessment, the Project will have an impact on Tłchq knowledge and use, including (i) the use of lands and resources by Tłchq citizens, and (ii) unique heritage resources (tangible and intangible) of value or concern to the Tłchq people and Government.

# Conclusions

In summary, this report finds the following conclusions:

- 1) The data shows the Tłıchǫ have used the entire area and specific sites. They have been there, are there presently, and will return in the future.
- 2) Based on the baseline assessment, the Project will likely have an impact on wildlife, fish and plant harvesting and effect the social and cultural environment and heritage resources; and
- 3) Tłıchǫ Government will be providing recommendations on measures to mitigate these effects.

# Tłıchǫ Stewardship Values



- Continuous use has to be actively promoted so that there is continued confidence and use of this area. This will require active and ongoing funding, engagement and monitoring so that people are out on the land, traveling the trails continuously.
- The Tłıchǫ Government has to be a full participant in all of the processes. We live here. And we have to be a full participant in the process.

# ... Tłıchǵ Stewardship Values



- Traditional trails and transportation corridors are vital, and people drink from the river as they come through the area. The Tłıchǵ Government wishes for there to be continued use of this area, so that people can feel safe to:
- Drink tea when they travel through
  - Eat the fish in all the areas
  - Eat the animals along the way
  - Eat the berries along the way
  - Harvest the medicines along the way

# Mitigation Proposed



1. Ongoing TK research studies run by and for the Tłıchǫ Government. It is vital to maintain the stories, histories, and place names of the Tłıchǫ people. It will also contribute to the ongoing confidence and use of the Tłıchǫ people throughout the mine life and into the future.

# Mitigation Proposed



2. Independent monitoring and expert peer review (of project components) integrated with monitoring in the region on key components
3. Protection of Datoti (Burke Lake) for all uses
4. Build a culture camp out on the land at the significant sites

# Mitigation Proposed

5. Robust closure planning that engages the Tłchq people as partners, and financing and planning for active treatment
6. Careful management, peer review and design of the new hill and wetlands with Tłchq people