

Background

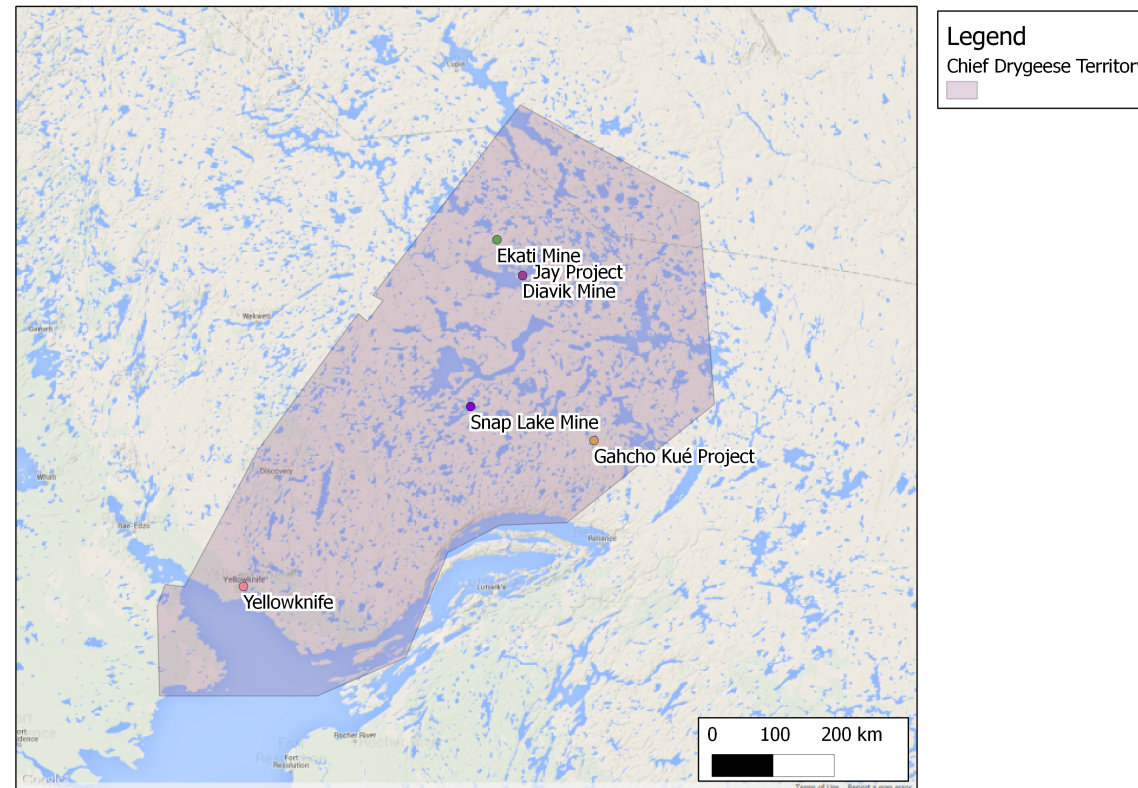
With the support of Dominion Diamonds the YKDFN Traditional Knowledge Program was able to:

- Re-examine, digitize and analyze a massive quantity of data from YKDFN's 1995-1997 traditional land use study of the Ek'ati (Lac de Gras) area
- Review the recommendations from the YKDFN 1997 report "A Traditional Knowledge Study of Ek'ati"
- Conduct a site visit, workshops and interviews with Elders to discuss the modern day relevance of these recommendations as they relate to the Jay Project
- Produce "Lands that are Wide and Open: Traditional Knowledge Report for the Proposed Dominion Diamonds Ekati Corportation's Jay Project"

Who Are the Yellowknives Dene?

- *Tsetsqot'iné/Taltsqot'iné* descendants
- Closely related to the Tłıcho through inter-marriage beginning in the 1820s
- Chief Drygeese signed Treaty 8 in 1900 on behalf of the Wìlìideh Tsetsqot'iné
- Traditional use area was defined in 1923 and designated as the “Yellowknife Preserve” on Federal maps
- 1928 Influenza Epidemic
- 1934 discovery of gold in Yellowknife Bay was the beginning of 80 years of dealing with mineral exploration and mining in the Chief Drygeese Territory
- In the early 1970s anthropologists (based primarily on research done with Tłıcho informants) declared that the Yellowknives Dene no longer existed

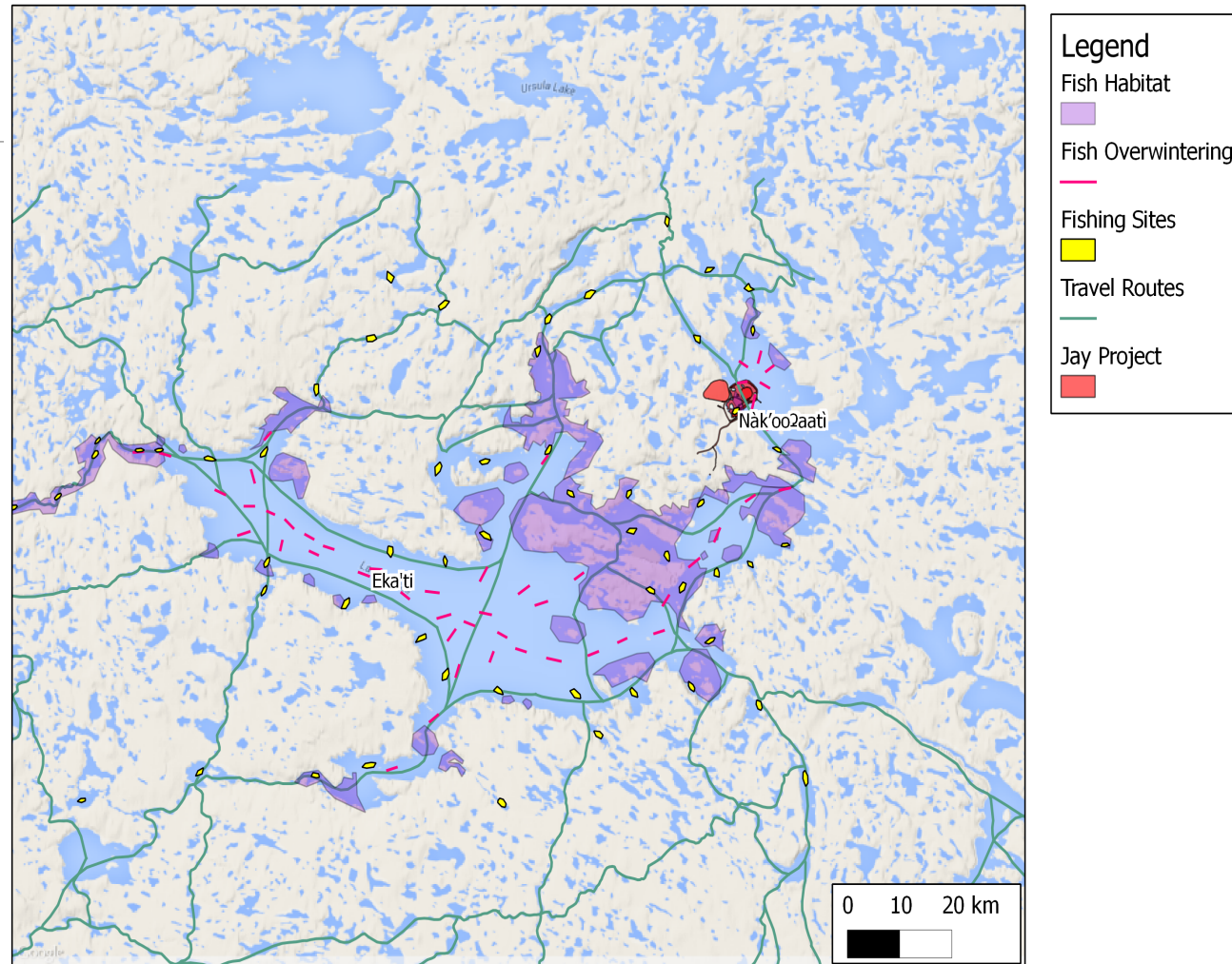
Chief Drygeese Territory



Traditional Land Use of the Chief Drygeese Territory

- Annual cycle of movement involved harvesting, and drying, of fish in the spring and summer and the harvesting, and drying, of caribou in the fall and winter
- From their villages on the north shore of Great Slave Lake the *Tsetsóqt'iné* travelled long distances to the caribou crossings on the large lakes around Ek'ati (Lac de Gras) to harvest Bathurst Caribou as they migrated south each fall
- The principle means by which caribou were harvested on these big lakes was by canoe and spear at narrow places on the lakes where, year after year, the caribou swam
- While the Yellowknives Dene now use more modern ways to travel north the annual fall hunt still relies on these ancient 'caribou crossings' as part of an effective harvesting strategy

TK map for Lac de Gras



Misery pit, Misery esker and Nàk'ooʔaatì



Misery esker



Nàk'ooʔaa (The Narrows)



Jay Pipe area



