

Fort McKay First Nations and the Moose Lake Plan: Key Facts

Fort McKay First Nation Economic History

- Along with being one of the largest First Nation contributors to the energy sector, Fort McKay is also one of the earliest, beginning in 1986 when the Fort McKay Group of Companies (FMGOC) was founded. **Annual revenues increased from \$6M in 1999 to \$500M** in 2018.
- In the fall of 2016, Fort McKay purchased a 34% stake in Suncor's East Tank Farm, a bitumen storage terminal. Together with the Mikisew Cree First Nation, the First Nation equity position is 49%. This is **the largest privately financed business acquisition by any First Nation** in Canada.
- Fort McKay First Nation companies provide important support services to oil sands developers like earthmoving, logistics and workforce lodging.
- The Fort McKay Group of Companies currently **employs over 1,400 Albertans**.
- Over the past five years (2014-2018), Fort McKay First Nation and its 12 companies have **generated over \$200M dollars annually in salaries/wages** and over \$70M in taxes, CPP and EI to the federal government.

Oil Sands Projects and Partnerships

- There are currently **16 ongoing energy projects** surrounding Fort McKay First Nation with partners including Suncor, Syncrude, Imperial, PetroChina Canada, CNRL, Inter Pipeline, Enbridge, Alberta Powerline, Husky Energy and Teck Resources.
- Fort McKay also has **14 proposed projects** in the works with partners including ConocoPhillips, Pembina and CNOOC International.
- There are **eight mines and three in-situ oil sand mining operations** within 30 km of Fort McKay First Nation, the closest located within 3 km.

History of the Moose Lake Plan

- Fort McKay has been concerned about oil sands development encroaching on the Moose Lake area since the early 2000s, prompting **initial planning discussions with the Government of Alberta in 2002**.
- In 2012, **Environment Minister Diana McQueen signed a letter of intent** to protect Moose Lake.
- Premier Jim Prentice issued another letter of intent in 2015. The next year, the Minister of Environment and Parks, Shannon Phillips, and Fort McKay signed a **Renewed Collaboration Agreement to develop a plan** for the 10-kilometre zone (10KMZ) around the Moose Lake Reserves 174A and 174B known as the "Moose Lake area."
- Co-Leads from the GoA and Fort McKay First Nation **jointly developed 45 recommendations**, 43 of which the government accepted. GoA has not yet made a decision concerning the recommendation prohibiting large-scale infrastructure inside the 10KMZ.

- A **draft Moose Lake Plan** was released by GoA in February 2018 for public input. For the next eight months, Fort McKay and GoA worked on revisions to address industry concerns and input **that provide greater flexibility** to interior habitat disturbance limits and reclamation practices.
- In June 2018, the [Alberta Energy Regulator approved Prosper's Rigel project](#), including placement of its central processing facility (CPF) inside the 10KMZ without consideration of its impact on Treaty rights, cumulative effects, or the fact Fort McKay was in negotiation with GoA to implement enhanced protection to the Moose Lake area.
- AER's decision forced Fort McKay First Nation to take legal action to appeal the AER's approval, with the hearing to take place on October 29, 2019.
- Fort McKay First Nation is asking the GoA to review the current working draft, which includes additional revisions based on a second round of industry consultations, and approve the Moose Lake Access Management Plan.

Impacts of Proposed Rigel Project

Propser's Rigel project was approved by the Alberta Energy Regulator despite the fact that the Moose Lake Plan was still under development.

The project's impacts on traditional land use and cumulative effects to Moose Lake are significant, including:

- placement of its central processing facility inside the 10KMZ around Fort McKay's Moose Lake reserves;
- interior habitat disturbances that exceed industry access limitations laid out in the draft Moose Lake Plan; and
- damage to moose habitat, fisheries and berry harvesting areas that are essential to traditional practices and land uses such as hunting, trapping, fishing and harvesting of food and medicinal plants.

KEY TERMS & DEFINITIONS

Fort McKay First Nation

The Fort McKay First Nation is composed of nearly 900 band members of Cree and Dene heritage, half of whom live in the hamlet of Fort McKay located 65 km north of Fort McMurray on the shores of the Athabasca River. Fort McKay First Nation is a leader among First Nations in partnering with the oil and gas industry. Fort McKay First Nation is also a signatory to Treaty 8.

Moose Lake

Moose Lake reserves are located 65 km northwest of Fort McKay on the shores of Gardiner (Moose) Lake and Namur (Buffalo) Lake. Ancestors of Fort McKay have lived in the Moose Lake area for millennia and Moose Lake is essential for the continuation of traditional culture and

the transmission of a way of life from older to younger generations. Traditional land uses here include trapping, hunting, fishing, the harvesting of food and medicinal plants and ceremony.

Moose Lake 10-kilometre Zone Access Management Plan (Moose Lake Plan)

The Moose Lake Plan is a solution that ensures the protection of Treaty rights as well as resource development that was developed over 15 years of discussion with the Government of Alberta and industry beginning in 2002. Fort McKay has worked with the Government of Alberta under various leaderships to manage industrial impacts and ensure the ecological and cultural integrity of the 10 km zone to protect Treaty rights and traditional land uses. Fort McKay First Nation seeks a decision by the Government of Alberta to approve the Moose Lake Plan, which will provide regulators with management requirements for land use decisions within the 10KMZ, and provide industry with clarity on how to responsibly develop bitumen and forestry resources in this sacred area.

Responsible Growth

For Fort McKay First Nation, responsible growth means balancing opportunities for carefully managed economic development with the protection of Treaty rights and ecosystem functions to support traditional land uses.

Treaty Rights

Treaty rights are guaranteed in Section 35 of Canada's *Constitution Act* (1982). Consistent with the Honour of the Crown, no government or industry action may compromise those rights. Our Treaty rights connect us to the land and culture of our ancestors, and ensures that our heritage can be passed to community members and future leaders.