

# Background to NSRCF Elders' Vision for the Chapleau Crown Game Preserve<sup>1</sup>

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## THE NSRCF VISION

The NSRCF was created in 2008 with a vision to

*...Reclaim the rightful place of our member communities as land stewards and equal partners within Canada's constitutional fabric, starting with the Chapleau Crown Game Preserve (CCGP) and spreading elsewhere within the territory as opportunities arise...*

## TASK AT HAND

Create a CCGP-specific Vision that can be adopted by the communities and partners of the CCGP

## BACKGROUND

The Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs' Forum (NSRCF) has been working for many years to promote a transitional shift in redefining forestry geography towards a more ecological balanced approach (Conservation Economy or CE). This work has resulted in a number of successes that are transforming the way in which First Nations, municipalities, forest companies and government work together in the Northeast Superior region. Notably, the NSRCF principles approach was used by the OMNR to modernize its forest tenure policy framework, resulting in a provincial commitment to support and resource a pilot project for an Enhanced Sustainable Forest License (eSFL) in the Northeast Region.

The pending formation of a regional table to manage the affairs of a new eSFL pilot project, which is anticipated to include most if not all of the 7000 sq km Chapleau Crown Game Preserve, has heightened industry, government, municipal and First Nation interest in achieving a fulsome and shared understanding of the current status of resources, current uses, areas of ecological and cultural significance, and aspects appropriate for alternative economic development.

The NSRCF Elders Council has been key in providing cultural and spiritual direction to NSRCF activities, and they are taking the lead in developing a shared community vision statement for the CCGP. This vision will inform land use planning, ESFL design/direction, priority setting for projects and development initiatives.

## DRAFT SHARED COMMUNITY VISION STATEMENT FOR THE CCGP

This Vision should....

- Make you excited and proud about being a part of it
- Resonate in your heart
- Be a call to arms to your partners
- Be achievable
- Attract interest, funding, and youth

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<sup>1</sup> There was discussion over using the term CCGP vs Traditional Territory. We use CCGP in this document because of shared understanding among stakeholders of the area and activity for eSFL, but respect that it is the traditional territory of the First Nations and not necessarily limited by the bounds of the CCGP.

## PROCESS

The Elders Council met in Sault Ste Marie December 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> 2014. Working with Ecotrust Canada staff, they discussed their Vision for the CCGP through exploring the following questions:

- What values are important in the CCGP/Traditional Territory?
- What are the top priority values that should inform the eSFL discussions?
- Where are the key attributes within the CCGP?
- What does the CCGP/Traditional Territory look like in seven generations?

A draft Vision was presented and discussed in March 2015, and the final Vision was affirmed and adopted by the NSRCF Elders' Council March 4<sup>th</sup> 2015.

## REQUIRED ACTION/NEXT STEPS

The Vision will be shared with Chiefs' Forum and then CCGP partners & stakeholders including the OMNR, municipalities, and industries.

