Ginoogaming First Nation

Joint Review Panel
Public Hearing Submission
for the
Marathon Palladium Project
Environmental Assessment

Presented by: Peter Rasevych
Ginoogaming First Nation
April 4, 2022

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Ginoogaming First Nation

- Ginoogaming First Nation (formerly known as Long Lake Reserve #77) is a small Anishnaabe (Ojibway) First Nation located in Northern Ontario, located on the height of land in northern Ontario, approximately 40 km east of Geraldton, Ontario, Canada, on the northern shore of Long Lake, immediately south of Long Lake #58 First Nation and the community of Longlac, Ontario.
- The community is within the boundaries of James Bay Treaty No 9 made in 1905 and officially created through signing an adhesion to this Treaty on August 9, 1906. The Peoples of our Nation inhabited the area long before this Treaty came into effect occupying the lands and waters since time immemorial.
- Ginoogaming First Nation is a member of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation, a political territorial organization representing 49 First Nations in northern Ontario and Matawa First Nations Management, a tribal council providing a variety of advisory services/programs to 8 First Nations in James Bay Treaty No. 9 and 1 First Nation in the Robinson-Superior Treaty.

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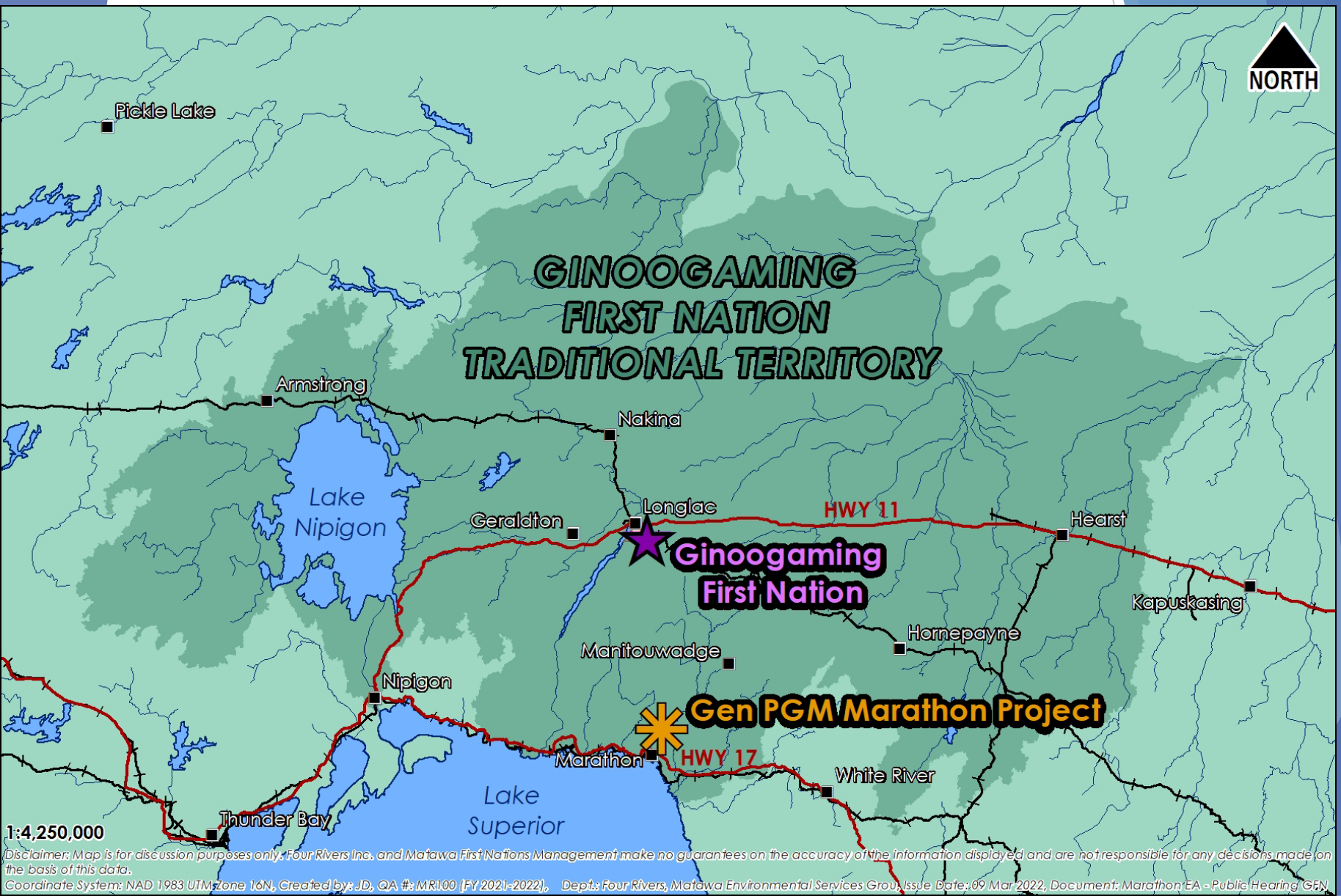
Ginoogaming First Nation Traditional Territory

- Vast area 107,565 square km, connected through values identified within the watersheds
- Efforts to document Indigenous Knowledge throughout the homelands for over a decade



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Ginoogaming First Nation & the Marathon Palladium Project



Waters Connect Us

- McKay Lake (10km south of Ginoogaming) is the headwater for the Pic River Basin and is one the largest lakes in the area.
- Well known for Walleye and other significant species, used by many for traditional activities (fishing, camping etc.).
- Traditional ancestral homelands also located here.
- The tributaries are known spawning areas for Walleye.
- At the southeastern arm of the lake, there is a bay where the Pic River begins.



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Homelands Impacted by Historic & Ongoing Development

- Historic log drives impacted the Pic River as well as other tributaries (e.g. White Otter River) within the Pic River watershed.
- Waboosekon Dam located up on the Pic River utilized for industrialization.
- The dam at High Falls (located on the Pic River) had significant blasting that occurred.
- Significant forestry activities within the Big Pic Forest.



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Fish and Migratory Birds Travel Long Distances; Fishing in the Waters

- There is local knowledge of culturally significant species (Lake Sturgeon), especially where they live and how they travel.
- There is an abundance of fish species within the Pic River system that are culturally significant to Ginoogaming.
- There are many fish sanctuaries within the Pic River Watershed (e.g. Hillsport Creek, Kagiano Lake, Michal Lake).



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Medicinal Plants are Gathered along the Waterways

- There are traditional campsites along the Pic River system. In and around these campsites there are medicinal plants gathered.
- There are concerns about potential air pollution and its possible effect on the health of the medicinal plants (weekae, berries, cedar, sweetgrass, labrador tea etc.), and the animals that eat them.



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Hunting & Trapping on the Lands & Waters

- Ginoogaming members operate ancestral family traplines north of the mine site.
- Anishnaabe people hunting and trapping throughout the Pic River watershed since time immemorial (McKay Lake family use area and traplines, Pic River traplines near towns of Caramat (former) and Stevens).
- The town of Hillsport and its surrounding area is comprised of Ginoogaming First Nation traplines all the way to Manitouwadge.



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Importance of Protecting Lands and Waters for Future Generations

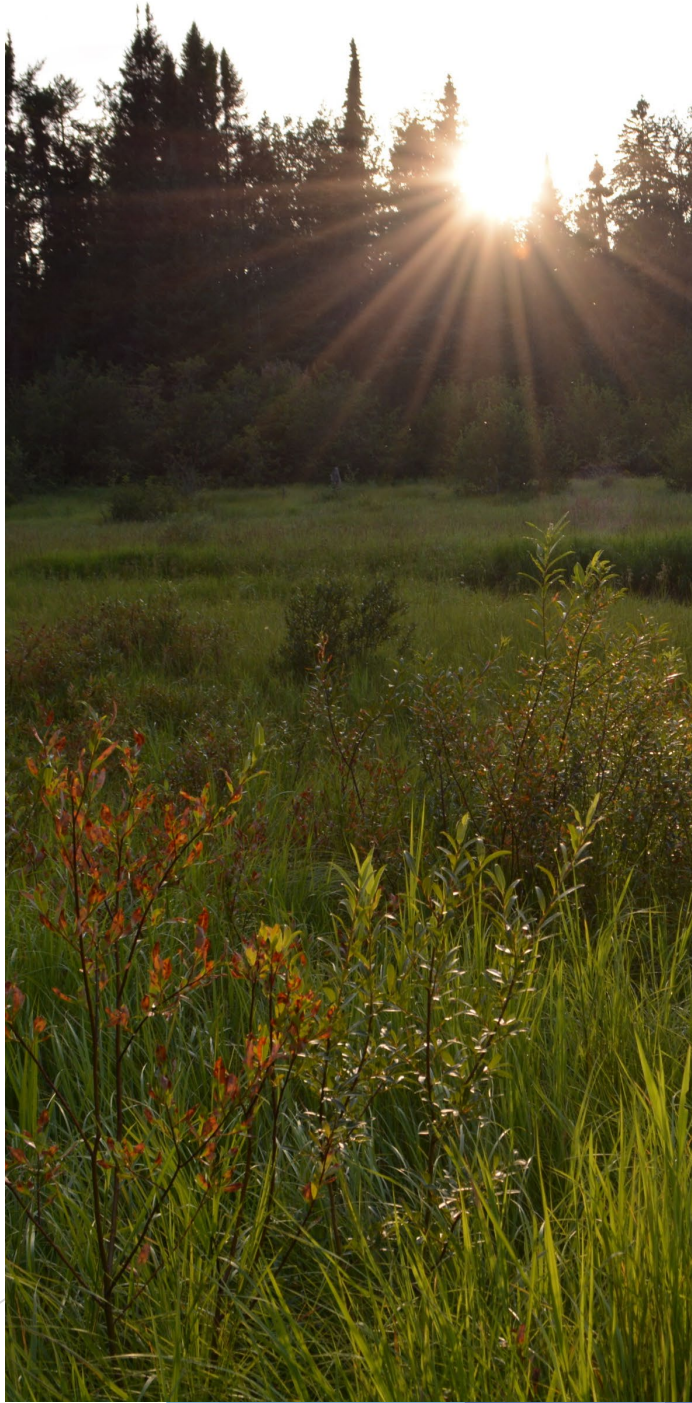
- We have built a Healing Camp to pass on our traditional knowledge, located adjacent to McKay Lake.
- The Healing Camp is within the historic canoe route that runs along Long Lake to Making Ground River, with a Portage to McKay Lake and then the Pic River.
- Important to teach values to the youth by taking them out to paddle these waters.



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Relationship Building for the Future

- Positive relationships with neighbouring industry/mining proponents, have lead to positive relationship agreements.
- Environmental monitoring programming/ positions in similar projects leading to a relationship of trust.
- Business opportunities and discussions surrounding the rehabilitation of impacted sites in the homelands are encouraging.



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Meegwetch!

Presented by: Peter Rasevych

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