

SITE C CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT

VOLUME 5 APPENDIX A17 PART 1

COMMUNITY SUMMARY: MÉTIS NATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

FINAL REPORT

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Métis Nation British Columbia

The Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC), formally incorporated as the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia, was established in 1996. MNBC represents 35 Métis Chartered Communities in B.C. and has a mandate “to develop and enhance opportunities for Métis communities by implementing culturally relevant social and economic programs and services”.¹

The MNBC’s Governing Assembly is composed of 11 members: the seven elected Regional Directors, the elected representative for the Métis Women of British Columbia, the elected representative for the Métis Youth of British Columbia, the President, and the Vice-President.²

The Métis people in northern British Columbia’s involvement in the fur trade industry went beyond trapping. Other Métis activities associated with the fur trade included berry picking, making pemmican, and canoe manufacturing. After the decline in fur trade, Métis economic activities included canoe building, ranching, and some farming.³

Métis people from northern British Columbia harvest deer, elk, moose, fish, medicinal plants, berries, small game, timber, and firewood, as well as bear, birds, bison, caribou, and sheep.⁴

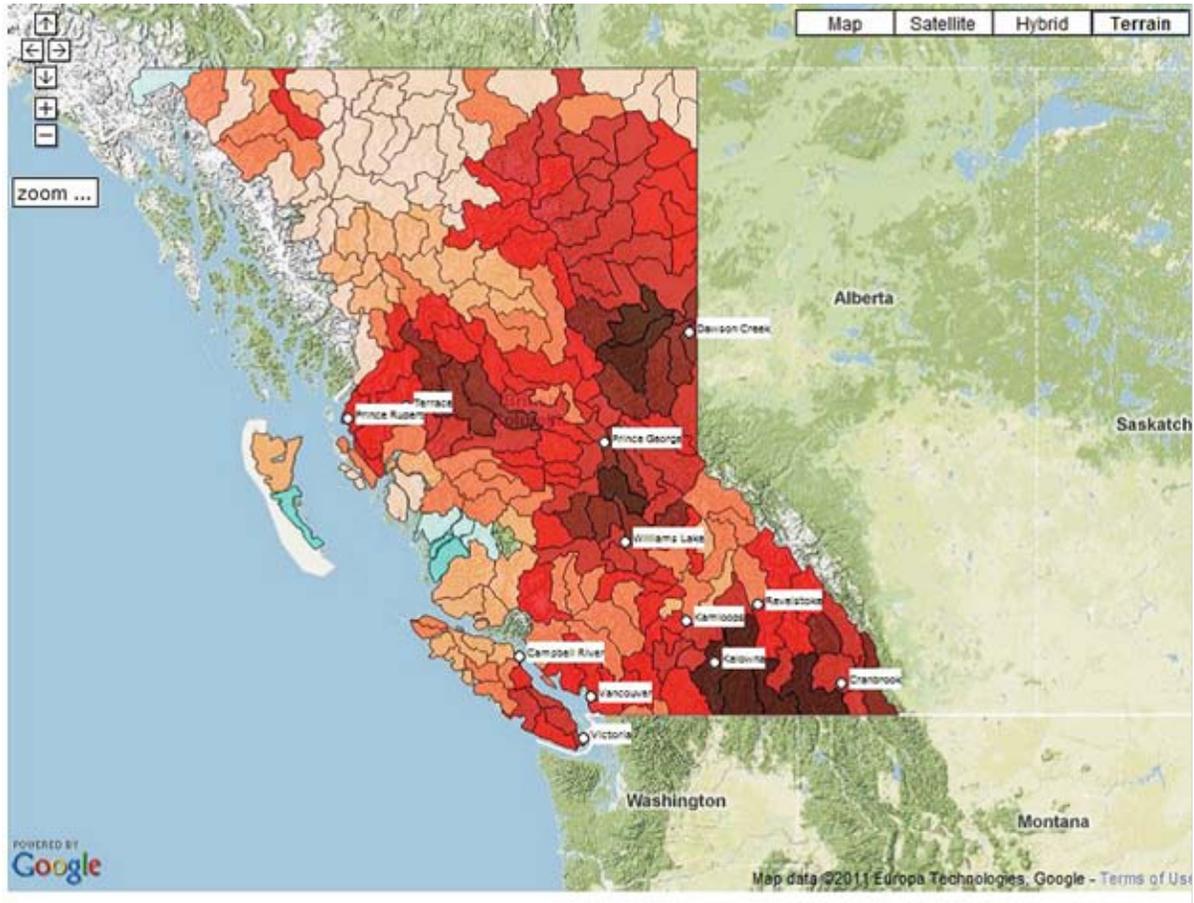
¹ Métis Nation British Columbia. 2012. *About MNBC*. Available at: <http://www.mpcbc.bc.ca/about-mnbc>. Accessed: December 2012.

² Métis Nation British Columbia Constitution. Available at: http://www.mpcbc.bc.ca/media/transfer/doc/mnbc_constitution_september_2010.pdf

³ Métis Nation BC. 2012. *Comments re: Site C. Abbotsford, BC* (“Métis Nation BC, Comments”).

⁴ Métis Nation BC, Comments.

Figure 1. Map of Métis Harvesting Areas in British Columbia. The darkest areas represent the areas of greatest use (Métis Nation B.C. (2012). Métis Nation B.C. Interests in “Site C Clean Energy Project.” Report submitted to BC Hydro 31 August 2012).



SITE C CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT

VOLUME 5 APPENDIX A17 PART 2

BC HYDRO CONSULTATION SUMMARY: MÉTIS NATION BC

FINAL REPORT

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Volume 5 Appendix A, Part 2, provides a summary of consultation activities undertaken by BC Hydro with each of the 29 Aboriginal groups listed in Table 9.1 of the EIS, as required pursuant to section 7.2.1 of the EIS Guidelines. This summary describes consultation activities that took place between November 1, 2007 and November 30, 2012, including meetings, phone calls, letters and emails, and consists of a high-level description of “key events” followed by a chronological summary of the consultation process during the above time period.

Volume 5 Appendix A, Part 2, will be updated with new or additional information prior to the submission of the EIS to the Joint Review Panel.

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA CONSULTATION SUMMARY

Defined terms	
“BCEAO”	Environmental Assessment Office, Province of British Columbia
“CEA Agency”	Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
“EIS”	Environmental Impact Statement
“Métis Nation BC”	Métis Nation British Columbia
“Potential Downstream Changes Report” or “Downstream Report”	Site C Clean Energy Project, <i>Potential Downstream Changes</i> (BC Hydro, May 2012)
“Province”	Province of British Columbia
“TLUS”	traditional land use study

Key events

2011

- March: Métis Nation BC wrote to BC Hydro and requested to meet and engage with BC Hydro in meaningful consultation regarding the Project.

- December: Métis Nation BC wrote to BC Hydro and requested a partnership to conduct a TLUS in connection with the Project.

2012

- January: BC Hydro wrote to Métis Nation BC in response its December letter. BC Hydro advised that it would engage with Métis Nation BC, but on the same basis as other stakeholder communities, and not as a group entitled to be consulted and accommodated based on assertions of section 35(1) rights; as a result, BC Hydro was not prepared to enter a partnership to conduct a TLUS in the Project area. The letter indicated that BC Hydro was guided by provincial policy with respect to asserted rights of Métis communities and its understanding that the Province did not recognize any Métis communities as capable of successfully asserting site specific Aboriginal rights in B.C. BC Hydro offered to provide Métis Nation BC with additional information about the Project, and meet with representatives of Métis Nation BC to discuss any issues or concerns.
- March/April: BC Hydro wrote to Métis Nation BC and explained that the CEA Agency had advised BC Hydro that the federal government needed to understand the impacts the Project might have on the asserted rights of the Métis. Therefore, BC Hydro was required, as the proponent, to consult with Métis Nation BC in regards to the environmental assessment of the Project. BC Hydro requested an introductory meeting with representatives of Métis Nation BC and members of its chartered communities. BC Hydro sent a follow up letter in April requesting an introductory meeting.
- May: BC Hydro provided Métis Nation BC with the Potential Downstream Changes Report (May 2012) and requested input regarding the results. The letter offered to arrange a meeting with BC Hydro's subject matter expert in hydrology to discuss the report's findings.
- June: BC Hydro met with representatives of Métis Nation BC (President, Director of Industry, Consultation Coordinator). BC Hydro provided a Project overview and expressed interest in understanding how and where Métis people used the land and exercised their asserted rights. Métis Nation BC presented information regarding its history, organizational structure, elections and charter communities, and explained the concept of Métis identity.
- July:
 - BC Hydro and Métis Nation BC signed a Letter of Understanding under which BC

Hydro provided capacity funding to support (a) two meetings between BC Hydro and representatives of Métis Nation BC; (b) a community meeting in Fort St. John to seek input from members of the Métis community regarding their interests and concerns; and, (c) the preparation of a report regarding Métis Nation BC's exercise of asserted rights in and around the Project area, including available mapping.

- BC Hydro and Métis Nation BC hosted a community meeting in Fort St. John, which was attended by representatives of Métis Nation BC (President, Director of Industry Engagement, Consultation Coordinator) and six members. BC Hydro provided a Project overview and responded to questions about the Project. Members of the Métis Nation BC shared information with BC Hydro regarding hunting, trapping and other traditional activities, including observed changes in wildlife in the Peace River area. One member indicated that he hunted and trapped for lynx, wolverine, wolf, beaver, marten, fisher, elk, deer and moose in the areas north of Hudson's Hope and near Monias (a lake located to the south of the Peace River) where he had a hunting cabin.
- August - September:
 - Métis Nation BC submitted a report on August 31 regarding its exercise of asserted rights in and around the Project area, prepared pursuant to the Letter of Understanding (July 3, 2012). The report stated that, based on information in Métis Nation BC's traditional harvesting database and preliminary research into Métis traditional knowledge, Métis Nation BC had concluded that its citizens were "exercising their Aboriginal right to harvest within the proposed Project area" and listed a number of harvested species. BC Hydro responded on September 25 with a list of follow up questions including a request to elaborate on how the Project was expected to put Métis Aboriginal rights and traditional land uses at risk (in what way, when, where, etc.).
 - BC Hydro wrote to Métis Nation BC advising that the EIS Guidelines had been issued by the BCEAO and the CEA Agency on September 7. BC Hydro highlighted the areas of the EIS Guidelines that specifically addressed the incorporation of information from Aboriginal groups, and invited Métis Nation BC to provide additional information for BC Hydro's consideration in preparing the EIS. The letter included a specific request for a traditional territory map, as well as requests for information regarding Métis Nation BC's current use of lands and resources for hunting fishing and trapping, and other purposes, and information regarding how the Project would affect Métis Nation BC's current use of lands

and resources, and their exercise of asserted or established Aboriginal rights and treaty rights. BC Hydro followed up in late October and advised that it remained interested in receiving additional information to support the preparation of the EIS.

- October: Métis Nation BC responded to BC Hydro's email of September 25 with additional information and clarifications regarding the report submitted by Métis Nation BC on August 31. In response to BC Hydro's request for a traditional territory map, Métis Nation BC advised that such a map did not exist, other than a very general map showing the Métis homeland in North America. Métis Nation BC acknowledged the deficiencies in the mapping, and enclosed a funding proposal to undertake a more comprehensive Land Use Research Project.
- November: BC Hydro and the Métis Nation BC finalized a supplemental Letter of Understanding which provided capacity funding to support Métis Nation BC's completion of a Land Use Research Project, which included the following components:
 - A review of existing literature regarding Métis traditional knowledge, traditional land use activities, harvesting data and Métis history in the Fort St. John area;
 - One on one interviews with approximately 10 to 20 individual Métis traditional knowledge holders to document information regarding hunting, trapping, fishing and plant gathering practices, as well as other historical land use activities;
 - The creation of detailed site mapping based on interviews with Métis traditional knowledge holders, including the identification of significant sites; and,
 - A summary report, including mapping products, to provide to BC Hydro in order to inform the assessment of the Project.

Chronology of events

2011

On March, 11, 2011, Métis Nation BC sent a letter to BC Hydro and requested to meet and engage with BC Hydro in meaningful consultation regarding the Project. The letter described Métis Nation BC's membership and purposes, and its relationship with the Province under the Métis Nation Relationship Accord (2006).

On December 9, 2011, Métis Nation BC sent a letter to BC Hydro and provided background information about its organization. The letter requested that BC Hydro and Métis Nation BC proceed with a partnership to conduct a TLUS in connection with the Project. The letter

explained that the information arising from the TLUS would be “crucial to understanding the potential impacts or benefits on the Métis people whom rely on the land for their culture, sustenance and way-of-life.” The letter stated that a TLUS would present an opportunity to forge a solid relationship between BC Hydro and the Métis Nation BC.

2012

On January 25, 2012, BC Hydro sent a letter to Métis Nation BC in response to Métis Nation BC's letter of December 9, 2011. The letter advised that BC Hydro would engage with Métis Nation BC, but on the same basis as other stakeholder communities, and not as a group entitled to be consulted and accommodated based on assertions of section 35(1) rights; as a result, BC Hydro was not prepared to enter a partnership to conduct a TLUS in the Project area. BC Hydro offered to provide Métis Nation BC with additional information about the Project, and meet with representatives of Métis Nation BC to discuss any issues or concerns.

On February 7, 2012, representatives of Métis Nation BC visited BC Hydro's Fort St. John community consultation office and asked questions regarding access roads, fish passage, tree clearing, Highway 29 realignment and reservoir capacity.

On March 26, 2012, BC Hydro sent a letter to Métis Nation BC which explained that the CEA Agency had advised BC Hydro that the federal government needed to understand the impacts the Project might have on the asserted rights of the Métis. Therefore, BC Hydro was required, as the proponent, to consult with Métis Nation BC in regards to the environmental assessment of the Project to facilitate the federal government's ability to make a well informed decision. The letter requested an introductory meeting with representatives of Métis Nation BC and members of its chartered communities.

On April 16, 2012, BC Hydro sent a further letter to Métis Nation BC requesting an introductory meeting.

On May 9, 2012, BC Hydro sent a letter to Métis Nation BC and attached the Potential Downstream Changes Report, and requested input regarding the results. The letter offered to arrange a meeting with BC Hydro's subject matter expert in hydrology to discuss the report's findings.

On May 25, 2012, BC Hydro sent a letter to Métis Nation BC advising that BC Hydro had created a secured file transfer website for Aboriginal groups containing commonly requested Site C documents (e.g., environmental reports, maps and presentations). The letter provided a link to the website and access information.

On June 5, 2012, BC Hydro met with representatives of Métis Nation BC (President, Director of Industry, Consultation Coordinator). BC Hydro advised that BC Hydro, as the proponent, had been delegated by the CEA Agency to consult with Métis Nation BC, and expressed interest in understanding how and where Métis people used the land and exercised their asserted rights. BC Hydro indicated that it was prepared to provide Métis Nation BC with funding to support work related to the assessment of potential effects of the Project on its asserted rights. BC Hydro explained that Métis Nation BC would be consulted with and given an opportunity to comment, and have input into, the EIS. BC Hydro provided a Project overview which addressed BC's energy gap, supply and demand, general Project information, 2011-2012 field work, potential Project opportunities in the areas of education and training, and the Integrated Resource Plan process. With respect to harvesting, Métis Nation BC showed BC Hydro a Métis citizenship card and a harvesting card. Métis Nation BC indicated that the Métis citizenship card is required before a harvesting card is granted, and anyone who has identified as Métis may apply for a citizenship card. Métis Nation BC described its relationship to other Aboriginal groups including the Kelly Lake Metis Settlement Society, the BC Métis Federation and Project area First Nations. Métis Nation BC presented information regarding its history, organizational structure, elections, charter communities and explained the concept of Métis identity. BC Hydro inquired whether the Métis Nation of BC would come forward with a view on the Project, or whether it would be left to the individual Métis communities. Métis Nation of BC confirmed that it would be mostly the latter, with Métis Nation BC representing its constituent communities.

On June 7, 2012, BC Hydro sent an email to Métis Nation BC and attached the following documents:

- Examples of Potential Contracting Work Related to Construction
- Preliminary Update on Procurement Planning Related to Site C Dam Project
- Estimate of Professional and Trades Work and Skills Requirements

On June 12, 2012, BC Hydro sent an email to Métis Nation BC and attached a draft work plan and timeline for future consultations. BC Hydro requested that the Métis Nation BC consider entering into a Letter of Understanding with BC Hydro to provide for capacity funding to support its participation in the consultation process. Métis Nation BC agreed to enter into a Letter Of Understanding.

On July 3, 2012, BC Hydro and Métis Nation BC signed a Letter of Understanding which outlined a consultation work plan and associated capacity funding. The parties agreed to undertake the following consultation activities:

- Two meetings between BC Hydro and representatives of Métis Nation BC;

- A community meeting in Fort St. John to seek input from members of the Métis community regarding their interests and concerns; and,
- Métis Nation BC to prepare and submit a report regarding its exercise of asserted rights in and around the Project area, including available mapping.

On July 5, 2012, BC Hydro and the Métis Nation BC (President, Director of Industry Engagement, Consultation Coordinator) hosted a community meeting in Fort St. John. The meeting was attended by six members of Métis Nation BC, and the Captain of Kootenay Region, BC Métis Assembly of Natural Resources. BC Hydro provided a Project overview which included information regarding the need for the Project, the environmental assessment process, the Project's major components, and associated employment and contracting opportunities. BC Hydro responded to questions from community members regarding fish passage, construction materials, impacts on Highway 29, access to specific areas (Monias), contracting opportunities, Project financing, worker accommodation, and potential environmental impacts. BC Hydro expressed interest in understanding how the Métis use the land and how the Project could affect the asserted rights of the Métis. Members of the Métis Nation BC shared information with BC Hydro regarding hunting, trapping and other traditional activities, including observed changes in wildlife in the Peace River area. One member indicated that he hunted and trapped for lynx, wolverine, wolf, beaver, marten, fisher, elk, deer and moose in the areas north of Hudson's Hope and near Monias (a lake located to the south of the Peace River) where he had a hunting cabin. Another member provided BC Hydro with an information package on seismic considerations in the Peace River area. BC Hydro provided Métis Nation BC with the following documents:

- Site C – Estimate of Professional and Trades Work and Skills Requirements
- Examples of Potential Contracting Work Related to Construction
- Site C Business Directory Information and Forms (February 2012)
- Site C Project – Procurement Update for First Nations (January 24, 2012)

On July 13, 2012, BC Hydro sent a letter to Métis Nation BC enclosing a capacity funding cheque issued pursuant to the Letter of Understanding (July 3, 2012).

On July 23, 2012, BC Hydro sent an email to Métis Nation BC in follow up to the meeting held on July 5, 2012, in which Métis Nation BC had asked BC Hydro how the Project would be financed.

On August 22, 2012, BC Hydro sent a letter to Métis Nation BC, in follow up to BC Hydro's letter of May 25, 2012, providing a password to access the secured file transfer website for Aboriginal groups. The letter advised that BC Hydro would be uploading a new set of documents to the website (primarily PowerPoint presentations on key Project components), which contained sensitive information not yet in the public domain. The letter sought Métis Nation BC's confirmation that persons with access to the password would not disclose any confidential information, and advised that the confidential materials would be made accessible upon BC Hydro's receipt of the attached confidentiality agreement.

On August 23, 2012, Métis Nation BC sent an email invitation to BC Hydro to the Annual General Meeting scheduled for September 28, 2012, in Richmond, B.C. The event would be an open house focused on partnerships with projects in select industries. BC Hydro confirmed its attendance on September 5, 2012.

On August 27, 2012, BC Hydro sent a letter to Métis Nation BC enclosing a table titled "Preliminary Summary of Construction Phase Workforce" which summarized the timing, type of jobs and number of opportunities that BC Hydro anticipated would be needed to construct the Project. The letter provided a link to secured file transfer website where additional information regarding Project opportunities had been posted.

On August 28, 2012, BC Hydro sent an email and thanked Métis Nation BC for signing the Confidentiality Agreement as BC Hydro had requested in its letter of August 22, 2012. BC Hydro advised that Métis Nation BC had now been granted access to all confidential materials relating to the Project that were contained on the secured file transfer website.

On August 31, 2012, Métis Nation BC submitted a report regarding its exercise of asserted rights in and around the Project area, prepared pursuant to the Letter of Understanding (July 3, 2012). The report stated that, based on information in Métis Nation BC's traditional harvesting database and preliminary research into Métis traditional knowledge, Métis Nation BC had concluded that its citizens were "exercising their Aboriginal right to harvest within the proposed Project area". Enclosed with the report was a map of Métis harvesting areas with color gradient to represent intensity of usage around B.C. The report stated that "the two watersheds that cover the [P]roject area represent one of the most prolific Métis harvesting regions in the province" and that Métis harvest large quantities of deer, elk, moose, fish, medicinal plants, berries, small game (including trapping), as well as timber and firewood. In the report, Métis Nation BC described the history of the Métis people in the Peace River area, as well as history related to the establishment of forts and trading posts, hunting and fur trade activities.

On September 21, 2012, BC Hydro sent a letter to Métis Nation BC advising that the EIS Guidelines had been issued by the CEA Agency and the BCEAO on September 7, and

provided a link to where the document was available online. The letter highlighted the areas of the EIS Guidelines that specifically addressed the incorporation of information from Aboriginal groups. The letter requested any additional information such as mapping of traditional territories, traditional knowledge, concerns regarding potential for adverse effects on the various components of the environment as identified by Métis Nation BC, current land use information, including reasonably anticipated future use of lands and resources, current use of lands and resources for hunting, fishing and trapping, and current use of lands and resources for activities other than hunting, fishing and trapping. The letter advised that BC Hydro would like to continue to receive information with respect to any asserted or established Aboriginal rights and treaty rights of the community that may be adversely affected by the Project, and in particular information concerning hunting, fishing, and trapping. The letter expressed interest in understanding how the environment was valued by the community for current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, including activities conducted in the exercise of asserted or established Aboriginal rights and treaty rights, and how current use may be affected by the Project. The letter invited Métis Nation BC to continue to identify any interests the community may have had with respect to potential social, economic, health and physical and cultural heritage effects of the Project.

On September 25, 2012, BC Hydro sent an email to Métis Nation BC, in response to the report submitted on August 31, 2012. BC Hydro thanked Métis Nation BC for the information and indicated that BC Hydro had shared the report with its subject matter experts. BC Hydro provided the Métis Nation BC with a list of follow up questions in regards to the report, including a request to elaborate on how the Project was expected to put Métis Aboriginal rights and traditional land uses at risk (in what way, when, where, etc.).

On September 28, 2012, BC Hydro attended the Annual General Meeting of the Métis Nation BC. BC Hydro set up a table and handed out pamphlets and other information regarding the Project to delegates in attendance.

On October 1, 2012, BC Hydro sent a letter to Métis Nation BC enclosing a capacity funding cheque issued pursuant to the Letter of Understanding (July 3, 2012). The cheque was the final payment in support of Métis Nation BC's report outlining its exercise of asserted Aboriginal rights in and around the Project area (August 31, 2012).

On October 25, 2012, BC Hydro wrote a letter to Métis Nation BC in follow up to BC Hydro's letter of September 21, 2012, which had invited Métis Nation BC to provide any relevant information for consideration in preparing the EIS. The letter advised that BC Hydro remained interested in receiving information from Métis Nation BC to support the preparation of the EIS.

On October 30, 2012, Métis Nation BC responded to BC Hydro's email of September 25, 2012, and provided additional information and clarifications regarding the report submitted by Métis Nation BC on August 31, 2012. In its response, Métis Nation BC stated that "Métis harvest large quantities of deer, elk, moose, fish, medicinal plants, berries, food plants, small game, timber and firewood from [the Project area] all year round. Significant quantities of bear, birds, bison, caribou, and sheep are also harvested by Métis in the proposed [P]roject area. Métis are concerned that these resources, and the land that they rely on, may be negatively impacted by the proposed [P]roject." Métis Nation BC provided further information about the history of land use by Métis families in the Fort St. John area. Métis Nation BC clarified that the two watersheds referred to in the report as "prolific Métis harvesting regions" were the Upper Peace River and the Pine River watersheds. In response to BC Hydro's request for a traditional territory map, Métis Nation BC advised that such a map did not exist other than a very general map showing the Métis homeland in North America. Métis Nation BC acknowledged that the deficiencies in the mapping, and enclosed a funding proposal to undertake a more comprehensive Land Use Research Project. The proposal involved organizing a community meeting and conducting interviews with land users and traditional knowledge holders in Fort St. John, and using the results of the interviews to create a more detailed land use map of the area around the Project.

On November 7, 2012, BC Hydro telephoned Métis Nation BC to discuss the funding proposal submitted by the Métis Nation BC on October 30, 2012. BC Hydro advised that the EIS was scheduled to be submitted in January 2013, and suggested that Métis Nation BC revise the proposed scope of work to allow for the information gained through the additional work to be incorporated into the EIS. BC Hydro advised that information provided after the submission of the draft EIS would still be helpful and could be incorporated into the environmental assessment at a later stage. Métis Nation BC agreed to revise the funding proposal and make arrangements for additional work to be completed by the end of December 2012.

On November 14, 2012, Métis Nation BC sent an email to BC Hydro and attached an amended proposal for a detailed Land Use Research Project as agreed on November 7, 2012.

On November 15, 2012, BC Hydro sent a letter to Métis Nation BC and advised that while it had made best efforts to follow up on information requests by Aboriginal groups, some requests might be outstanding. BC Hydro requested that any inquiries from meetings or consultations it had not yet responded to be forwarded, and it would provide a response as soon as possible.

On November 20, 2012, BC Hydro sent an email to Métis Nation BC attaching a supplemental Letter of Understanding for consideration by Métis Nation BC. The

supplemental Letter of Understanding provided additional capacity funding to support Métis Nation BC completion of a Land Use Research Project, which included the following components:

- A review of existing literature regarding Métis traditional knowledge, traditional land use activities, harvesting data and Métis history in the Fort St. John area,
- One on one interviews with approximately ten to twenty individual Métis traditional knowledge holders to document information regarding hunting, trapping, fishing and plant gathering practices, as well as other historical land use activities,
- The creation of detailed site mapping based on interviews with Métis traditional knowledge holders, including the identification of significant sites,
- A summary report, including mapping products, to provide to BC Hydro in order to inform the assessment of the Project.

Métis Nation BC signed the supplemental Letter of Understanding on November 22, 2012.

On November 29, 2012, BC Hydro sent a letter to Métis Nation BC enclosing a capacity funding cheque issued pursuant to the supplemental Letter of Understanding (November 20, 2012). The payment was the first of two installments.

SITE C CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT

VOLUME 5 APPENDIX A17 PART 3

ABORIGINAL LAND AND RESOURCE USE

SUMMARY:

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA

FINAL REPORT

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Métis Nation B.C.

In preparing responses to these questions, information on the Métis Nation B.C. (MNBC), and on current and past use of lands and resources by the MNBC, was obtained from on-line research and from a brief report and letter of clarification from MNBC to BC Hydro, for which BC Hydro provided funding.¹ The information provided in the MNBC report and clarification letter was obtained from the MNBC Traditional Harvesting Database and preliminary Métis Traditional Knowledge (MTK) research.² Although BC Hydro did not enter into a Traditional Land Use Study agreement with MNBC, traditional land use information made available to BC Hydro by MNBC has been considered in this review.

The MNBC was created in 1996 to represent the Métis people of British Columbia and incorporated under the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia.³

1. What is the Métis Nation B.C.'s current use of lands and resources for hunting, fishing and trapping activities, including the location of the activity, the species targeted, and the traditional uses of the harvested animals within the Current Use of Lands and Resources (Wildlife Resources) and Current Use of Lands and Resources (Fish and Fish Habitat) LAAs and RAAs?

MNBC stated that the Métis currently harvest large quantities of deer, elk, moose, caribou, bison, sheep, small game, birds, and fish from the Project area. The most important harvesting areas are the Peace River and Pine River watersheds.⁴ The harvesting areas are likely to be, at least in part, within the Current Use of Lands and Resources (Wildlife Resources) and Current Use of Lands and Resources (Fish and Fish Habitat) LAAs and RAAs.⁵

2. What is the Métis Nation B.C.'s current use of lands and resources for activities other than hunting, fishing and trapping, including the nature, location and traditional use purpose within the Current Use of Lands and Resources (Wildlife Resources) and Current Use of Lands and Resources (Fish and Fish Habitat) LAAs and RAAs?

¹ The sources consulted for this report are set out in the References.

² Métis Nation B.C. 2012. Métis Nation B.C. Interests in "Site C Clean Energy Project." Report submitted to BC Hydro 31 August 2012.

³ Métis Nation B.C. 2012. <http://www.mpcbc.bc.ca/about-mnbc>.

⁴ Métis Nation B.C. 2012. Métis Nation B.C. Interests in "Site C Clean Energy Project"; Clarification to BC Hydro's Review and Response in Regard to Métis Nation B.C.'s "Site C Clean Energy Project Report." Letter to BC Hydro 30 October 2012.

⁵ There was not enough information from MNBC to definitively locate the various Métis harvesting areas.

MNBC stated that the Métis use the Project area for harvesting of large quantities of medicinal plants, berries, food plants, timber and firewood year round. The most important harvesting areas are the Peace River and Pine River watersheds.⁶ The harvesting areas are likely to be, at least in part, within the Current Use of Lands and Resources (Wildlife Resources) and Current Use of Lands and Resources (Fish and Fish Habitat) LAAs and RAAs.

3. What is your understanding of the exercise of asserted Aboriginal rights or treaty rights by the Métis Nation BC within the Current Use of Lands and Resources (Wildlife Resources) and Current Use of Lands and Resources (Fish and Fish Habitat) LAAs and RAAs?

The MNBC assert that the Métis have constitutionally protected rights in Canada which are supported by court cases, treaty claims, and scrip. The MNBC assert that Métis Nation B.C. citizens, from adjacent Chartered Communities and nearby smaller communities, are continuing to exercise their Aboriginal right to harvest within the Project area.⁷

4. Identify past, current and reasonably anticipated future use of lands and resources by Métis Nation B.C. members for traditional purposes who may be adversely impacted by the Project within the Current Use of Lands and Resources (Wildlife Resources) and Current Use of Lands and Resources (Fish and Fish Habitat) LAAs and the RAAs.

Historically, the livelihood of the Métis came from subsistence harvesting based on the seasonal round, and from commercial production of furs, fish and game. MNBC described Métis current traditional harvest of large quantities of deer, elk, moose, fish, medicinal plants, berries, food plants, small game, timber and firewood from the Project area. MNBC also stated that large quantities of bear, birds, bison, caribou, and sheep are harvested by Métis in the Project area.⁸ MNBC described the Peace River and Pine River watersheds as currently being some of the most prolific harvesting areas for Métis people.⁹ The harvesting areas are likely to be, at least in part, within the Current Use of

⁶ Métis Nation B.C. 2012. Métis Nation B.C. Interests in "Site C Clean Energy Project"; Métis Nation B.C. (2012). Clarification to BC Hydro's Review and Response in Regard to Métis Nation B.C.'s "Site C Clean Energy Project Report."

⁷ Métis Nation B.C. 2012. Métis Nation B.C. Interests in "Site C Clean Energy Project."

⁸ Métis Nation B.C. 2012. Clarification to BC Hydro's Review and Response in Regard to Métis Nation B.C.'s "Site C Clean Energy Project Report."

⁹ Métis Nation B.C. 2012. Métis Nation B.C. Interests in "Site C Clean Energy Project": Map 1. Métis Harvesting Areas in British Columbia; Métis Nation B.C. (2012). Clarification to BC Hydro's Review and Response in Regard to Métis Nation B.C.'s "Site C Clean Energy Project Report."

Lands and Resources (Wildlife Resources) and Current Use of Lands and Resources (Fish and Fish Habitat) LAA and RAA.

The MNBC is concerned that the land and the resources that the Métis rely upon will be negatively impacted by the Project. MNBC described family harvesting sites as bridges between past, present and future generations of Métis people.¹⁰ The MNBC is also concerned that the proposed Project will flood a documented historic Métis community at Rocky Mountain Fort at the mouth of the Moberly River.¹¹ The MNBC stated that the construction and operation of the Project could put local Métis Aboriginal rights including traditional land uses at risk. Métis harvesters, who rely on the Project and surrounding areas for sustenance, social and ceremonial purposes, could see negative impacts from the construction and operation of the proposed Project.¹²

5. In the TLUS, is there any information relating to the exercise of asserted Aboriginal or treaty rights outside the Current Use of Lands and Resources (Wildlife Resources) and Current Use of Lands and Resources (Fish and Fish Habitat) LAAs or RAAs?

Although BC Hydro did not enter into a Traditional Land Use Study agreement with MNBC, traditional land use information made available to BC Hydro by MNBC has been considered in this review. MNBC described the Peace River and Pine River watersheds as currently being some of the most prolific harvesting areas for Métis people. Resources harvested include deer, elk, moose, fish, medicinal plants, berries, small game, firewood, and lumber.¹³ Sections of the Pine River watershed are outside the Current Use of Lands and Resources (Wildlife Resources) LAA and RAA and Current Use of Lands and Resources (Fish and Fish Habitat) LAA.

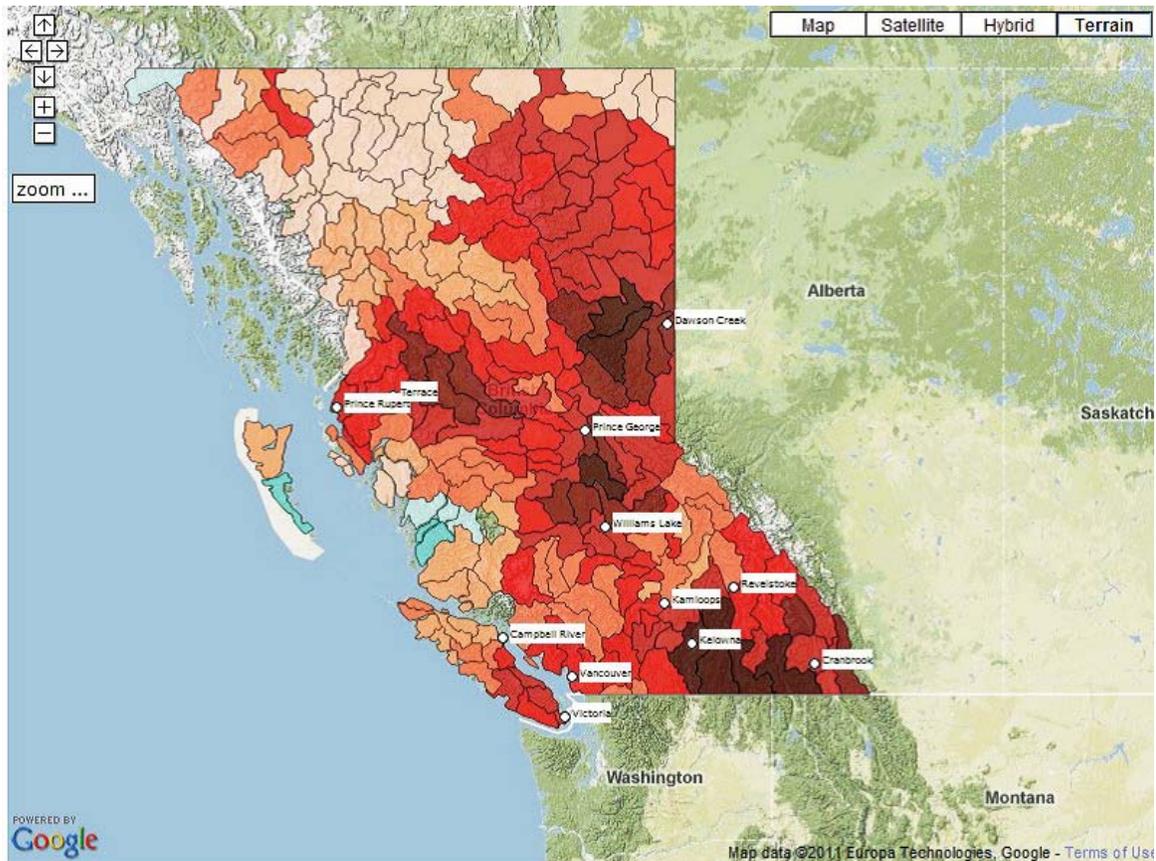
¹⁰ Métis Nation B.C. 2012. Clarification to BC Hydro's Review and Response in Regard to Métis Nation B.C.'s "Site C Clean Energy Project Report."

¹¹ Métis Nation B.C. 2012. Métis Nation B.C. Interests in "Site C Clean Energy Project": Map 1. Métis Harvesting Areas in British Columbia; Métis Nation B.C. (2012). Clarification to BC Hydro's Review and Response in Regard to Métis Nation B.C.'s "Site C Clean Energy Project Report."

¹² Métis Nation B.C. 2012. Métis Nation B.C. Interests in "Site C Clean Energy Project."

¹³ Métis Nation B.C. 2012. Métis Nation B.C. Interests in "Site C Clean Energy Project": Map 1. Métis Harvesting Areas in British Columbia; Métis Nation B.C. (2012). Clarification to BC Hydro's Review and Response in Regard to Métis Nation B.C.'s "Site C Clean Energy Project Report."

Figure 1. Map of Métis Harvesting Areas in British Columbia. The darkest areas represent the areas of greatest use (Métis Nation B.C. (2012). Métis Nation B.C. Interests in “Site C Clean Energy Project.” Report submitted to BC Hydro 31 August 2012).



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SITE C CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT

VOLUME 5 APPENDIX A17 PART 4

ABORIGINAL SUMMARY: MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA

FINAL REPORT

Prepared for:

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January 2013

Métis Nation British Columbia

As required by Section 20.8 of the EIS Guidelines, the following summary presents BC Hydro's understanding of Métis Nation British Columbia's asserted or established Aboriginal rights and treaty rights, and other Aboriginal interests potentially impacted by, and concerns with respect to, the Project. The summary also provides BC Hydro's understanding of the potential adverse effects of the Project on the asserted or established Aboriginal rights and interests of Métis Nation British Columbia.

Métis Nation British Columbia's Asserted or Established Aboriginal Rights

A Métis group holds Aboriginal rights if it establishes: (i) it is a contemporary Métis community; and (ii) the existing community is grounded in a historic Métis community. Métis rights, like all Aboriginal rights, must be integral to the community member's distinctive culture. Unlike other Aboriginal rights, however, a present-day Métis right must have been an existing practice at the date of "effective European control" (in contrast to prior to contact with Europeans).

The Métis Nation British Columbia is one of six groups listed in Table 34.1 that asserts rights as a Métis group. The six groups consist of two located in British Columbia (Métis Nation British Columbia, Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society), three located in Alberta (Métis Nation of Alberta – Region 6, Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement Society, Fort Chipewyan Métis Local #125), and one in the Northwest Territories (Northwest Territory Métis Nation). At the time of filing the EIS, no Métis rights-bearing communities in British Columbia have been recognized by a court.

For a more thorough discussion of Métis rights, see Section 34.3.2.3.

Métis Nation British Columbia's Concerns with Respect to the Project

The following table presents a high-level description of the concerns identified by Métis Nation British Columbia in consultation activities with BC Hydro between November 1, 2007 and November 30, 2012, including those identified in meetings, phone calls, letters, emails, reports, and any submissions made during the comment periods for the EIS Guidelines.

Need for, Purpose of, the Project
Interest in how Site C was funded and whether it would be funded privately.
Cumulative Effects
Concern regarding the Project's potential contribution to the cumulative effects of development in the region, including pipelines, logging, oil and gas, coal mining and coal bed methane.
Geology, Terrain and Soils
Concern about the risk of earthquakes at the proposed dam site.

Water – Water Quality
Concerns about the potential effects of the Project on water quality.
Fish and Fish Habitat
Concern about the potential effects of the Project on fish, fish habitat, and fish species composition, including in the Peace River, Halfway River and Moberly Lake and Alberta.
Concern about the potential effects of the Project on fish passage, both upstream and downstream of the dam, including fish mortality in turbines and/or spillways.
Wildlife Resources
Concern about the potential effects of the Project on wildlife, wildlife habitat and biodiversity.
Concern about the potential effects of the Project on ungulates and ungulate habitat, including moose, elk, deer, caribou, bison and Stone Sheep.
Greenhouse Gases
Concern about the potential effects of Project on greenhouse gas emissions.
Labour Market
Interest in employment opportunities, including interest in ensuring equitable hiring practices which allow for Aboriginal people to access work opportunities associated with the Project.
Interest in what jobs would be available - by skills and job type - that would be realistic for members to consider.
Land and Resource Use Effects
Concern about potential effects of the Project on farmland and agriculture.
Concern that the Project would destroy a historic Métis community which holds significant value from a heritage perspective as well as yet to be realized tourism and outdoor recreation potential.
Heritage Resources
Concern that construction and operation of the Project will damage or destroy archaeological, unidentified or non-archaeological (e.g., spiritual) heritage sites.
Human Health
Concern with decreased water quality and additional pollution in connection with the Project.
Asserted or Established Aboriginal Rights
Interest in conducting a Traditional Land Use Study for Métis communities.
Aboriginal Interests – Aboriginal Culture and Way of Life
Concern about the potential impacts of the Project on future generations and families, including:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inter-generational respect and loss of time together for youth and elders - Loss of capacity to pass on and receive traditional knowledge
Aboriginal Interests – Aboriginal employment, contracting and business development
Interest in contracting and procurement opportunities for local contractors and Aboriginal businesses.

Existing Hydroelectric Projects on the Peace River

Assertion that the W.A.C. Bennett and Peace Canyon dams impacted and/ or continue to impact the Treaty 8 First Nations, including their ability to exercise section 35(1) rights.

Asserted impacts include:

- | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Assertion that there was a lack of consultation by BC Hydro regarding the impacts of the W.A.C. Bennett dam before it was constructed. |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

These concerns are presented in an issues tracking table under Volume 1 Appendix H Aboriginal Information, Distribution and Consultation Supporting Documentation, which outlines BC Hydro's consideration and/or response to the concern or provides a reference to where the concern is considered or responded to in the EIS.

Potential Adverse Effects of the Project on Métis Nation British Columbia's Asserted or Established Aboriginal Rights

Based on the assessment undertaken by BC Hydro and set out in Volume 3 Section 19 Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes, it is BC Hydro's understanding that the Project will have no adverse effects on the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes of the Métis Nation British Columbia. Métis Nation British Columbia has indicated use of the Peace River valley in a general sense, but has not provided sufficient specific information on use within the Local Assessment Area (LAA) to enable an effects assessment. Should additional information regarding current and reasonably anticipated future use of lands and resources within the LAA be received from Métis Nation British Columbia, BC Hydro will consider and incorporate it in the EIS, as appropriate, during the EIS review phase.

Volume 5 Section 34 Asserted or Established Aboriginal Rights and Treaty Rights, Aboriginal Interests and Information Requirements presents BC Hydro's assessment of the potential impacts of the Project on the exercise of asserted or established Aboriginal rights and treaty rights of the 29 Aboriginal groups with which BC Hydro was instructed to consult. Based on that assessment, it is BC Hydro's understanding that the Project will have no adverse impacts on the exercise of asserted or established Aboriginal rights by the British Columbia.

Consultation is ongoing between BC Hydro and the Métis Nation British Columbia, and may yield additional information on the Métis Nation British Columbia's current and reasonably anticipated future use of lands and resources that may potentially be affected by the Project. Should Métis Nation British Columbia provide additional information to BC Hydro, it will be considered and incorporated in the effects assessment during the EIS review phase and prior to submission of the EIS to the Joint Review Panel.

SITE C CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT

VOLUME 5 APPENDIX A17 PART 5

TLUS PUBLIC REPORT: MÉTIS NATION BC

FINAL REPORT

Prepared for BC Hydro Power and Authority

Prepared by Métis Nation BC

August 2012

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Site C Clean Energy Project

Introduction:

Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) currently represents over 7700 Powley compliant Citizens (1000+ more/year) in British Columbia, with a large number residing in the Northeast part of the province. There are many citizens in the region around the proposed project residing in Fort St. John and other neighboring communities. The Métis have had an established community in the BC Northeast for more than 200 years and still use the land and resources for traditional purposes.

Utilizing the MNBC Traditional Harvesting Database and preliminary Métis Traditional Knowledge (MTK) research confirms that Métis Nation BC citizens, from adjacent Chartered Communities and nearby smaller communities, are exercising their Aboriginal right to harvest (hunt, fish, trap, gather plants) within the proposed Project's footprint. The construction and operation of the proposed Site C Dam project could put local Métis Aboriginal rights and traditional land-uses at risk. Métis harvesters who rely on the direct and surrounding area for sustenance, social and ceremonial purposes could see negative impacts from the construction and operation of the proposed Site C project. Because there is current traditional harvesting (hunting, fishing, and plant harvesting for foods and medicines) occurring in the proposed project area, there is Métis traditional knowledge and land use information activities that could be negatively impacted.

Métis Land Use:

Métis citizens of British Columbia desire sustainable use of their natural resources which includes: managing natural resources to meet present needs without compromising the needs of future generations; providing stewardship of natural resources based on an ethic of respect for the land; balancing economic, productive, spiritual, ecological and traditional values of natural resources to meet the economic, social and cultural needs of the Métis peoples and other aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities; conserving biological diversity, soil, water, fish,



wildlife, scenic diversity, and other natural resources; and restoring damaged ecologies. All of these may be significantly impacted by the proposed project.

MNBC interests in being engaged throughout all stages in this proposed project are to protect the sustenance and cultural needs of Métis citizens and ensure adequate consultation has been undertaken. Further, that Métis Rights and Traditional Land Uses are taken into consideration, that where possible the impacts to these rights and uses are minimized and where not possible, mitigation measures are employed.

As an Aboriginal Rights holding group identified by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) and therefore the federal crown, and affirmed by *s. 35 (2) of The Constitution Act 1982*, MNBC would like to bring forth the following concerns/comments on the proposed project and the exercise of our asserted rights.

Métis relationships to the land are based in cultural practices. Annual harvesting of traditional foods, fuel and medicine remains a central, material part of this relationship. Currently, large quantities of deer, elk, moose, fish, medicinal plants, berries, food plants, small game, timber and firewood are harvested from this area. Métis in the proposed project area also harvest significant quantities of bear, birds, bison, caribou, and sheep. There are concerns that these resources, and the land that they rely on, may be negatively impacted by the proposed project.

Métis History in the Region:

The history of the Métis in Northern British Columbia has not been very well documented and has only recently begun to receive scholarly attention. A lack of government recognition, demonstrated by the fact that Half-Breed Scrip was never issued, although initially offered in British Columbia (Scrip Officer failed to show up) , as well as the relative isolation of the Peace River from the rest of the province, left the northeast communities to slip through the historical cracks (Dolmage 2010). The communities in the northeast developed differently than

communities in central and western British Columbia. Fur trade Posts such as Fort St. John and Hudson's Hope developed as part of the Peace River district, as opposed to Kamloops or Fort St. James, which were connected to the Columbia River fur trade. Fort St. John was administered from Edmonton and Winnipeg, not from Fort Vancouver, Fort Langley or Victoria. Several records cover the Northern Peace River fur trade, but only few deal explicitly with the Métis who settled there. The book *Prophecy of the Swan: Upper Peace River Fur Trade of 1794-1823* (1995) provides an overview of the historic Peace River fur trade, but deals very little with the presence of the Métis in the Peace River. The book mentions the early presence of Métis in the area, noting "[s]uch names as Bouche, Brunoche, Dejardin, Lafreniere, Perriard, Connoye, D'Allair, Gagnon, and Cardinal indicate the dominance of French Canadian and/or Métis employees in the North West Company" (Leonard 1995). However, it does not discuss the Métis roles as early settlers in British Columbia (Edwards 1999). Jean Barman and Mike Evans have looked at the issue of Métis ethnogenesis in BC by comparing fur trade families that settled south of the Peace River in New Caledonia, what is now central British Columbia (Edwards 1999).

The area around what is now Fort St. John has been inhabited for approximately 10,500 years (Burley et. al 1995). In 1793, when Alexander Mackenzie first travelled through the Peace River looking for an interior route to the Pacific he remarked, "this magnificent theatre of nature has all the decorations which the trees and animals of the country can afford it: groves of poplars in every shape vary the scene; and their intervals are enlivened with vast herds of elks and buffaloes: the former choosing the uplands, and the latter preferring the plains" (Mackenzie 1963).

During this time the Peace was inhabited by two First Nations, the Sekani and the Beaver. The Beaver, who call themselves *Dunne-za* (the real people), and the Sekani *Tsé-kéh-ne* (people on the rocks or mountains) remain in the area to this day and are both speakers of northern Athapaskan languages (Burley et. al 1995). Crees had been moving west into what had traditionally been Beaver and Sekani territory throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth



centuries. As a result, altercations between the Beaver, Sekani and the Cree effectively moved the Beaver and Sekani even further west. The name of the area “The Peace River” was taken from a truce forged between the Beaver and Cree at what is now known as Peace Point, near where the Peace River meets with Lake Athabasca. Burley notes, “hostilities between Beaver and Cree and Sekani groups continued and heavily influenced the development of the fur trade in the Peace River Valley” (Burley et al 1995).

The fur trade began in the Peace River in the early 1800s. Mackenzie and his partners in the North West Company saw the Peace River as an ideal place for both trade and provisioning, and to that end Mackenzie established Rocky Mountain Fort in 1794 (Burley et. al 1995) (see Appendix A). The fort ran from 1794-1804 and was then replaced by Rocky Mountain Portage House, which was established in 1804 by John Stewart MacDougall at what is now Hudson’s Hope. Fraser and MacDougall additionally established a new post farther south at McLeod Lake in 1805 effectively opening the fur trade in what came to be known as New Caledonia (Burley et al 1995). However, both Rocky Mountain Portage and McLeod’s Lake were located in Sekani territory, and made it difficult for the Beaver to trade so St John’s was established in 1806 at the mouth of what is now known as the Beatton River. Trade was flourishing in the North Peace, and provisioning this trade was possible due to the abundance of wildlife (Burley et. al 1995).

It was this plentiful stock of furs that led the Hudson’s Bay Company in 1815 to attempt to enter the Athabasca trade. This move by the Hudson’s Bay Company, led by Colin Roberson and John Clarke, to establish forts along Lesser Slave Lake, the Athabasca River and on the Peace River exacerbated the tensions between the HBC and the North West Company. The Hudson’s Bay Company efforts were initially disastrous and interference by the North West Company led to many of the Hudson’s Bay Company men starving to death because of the lack of provisions (Burley et. al 1995). The Hudson’s Bay Company continued to try to make inroads in to the new district and met with some moderate successes in 1817 and 1818. The Hudson’s Bay Company’s



luck in the area took a turn when the new Governor of the Northern Department, George Simpson, took charge of the company's activities in the area. James Murray Yale was sent to build a post in October 1820 directly opposite to St John's at the former location of Rocky Mountain Fort. This put the HBC and NWC posts next to one another. However, in 1821, everything changed when there was a merger of the two rival companies. The new Hudson's Bay Company, led by Simpson, now owned a virtual trade monopoly in Western North America (Hurley et. al 1995).

It was not just the local Beaver and Sekani who traded at the posts; as in other areas, the HBC and the NWC encouraged the employment of freemen at the posts. According to Nicole St. Onge between 1763 and 1821 the NWC hired over 9,000 voyageurs and explorers for its northwest trade. About half of these men worked as winterers in the remote areas of the northwest. With the 1804 merger of the NWC and the X Y Company there was an influx of new freemen. This prompted numerous complaints from wintering partners angry that French Canadians and Iroquois employees were becoming freemen and were now roaming the interior with their native-born wives and mixed race children (St. Onge 2007). In the Peace River areas many of the freemen were Métis, as well as Quebecois and Iroquois. Common names that appeared in the area, and are still prevalent are Calihoo, Testawits, Monkman, Cardinal, Lafleur, and Gladue (Leonard and Lemieux 2003). The Fort was re-opened in 1860, under the name Fort St. John, just in time for the influx of miners and trappers on route to the Klondike. Many of the prospectors such as Henry John Moberly, Alex Mackenzie, and the legendary "Twelve" Foot Davis came through the Peace River as a land route and shared their time prospecting in the summer and trading in the winter. H.J. Moberly, a trader and miner, describes the arrangement he made with two Edmonton prospectors: "Cust and Carey persuaded me to join their enterprise. I invested twelve hundred dollars but refused to take an active part in the trade, preferring to hunt and trap. After looking the country over I decided to make my home fifteen miles south of the portage on a lake which now bears my name on the

maps... no Indians frequented the spot, and I had a hunters paradise all to myself” (Moberly 1952). This influx of miners led to a semi-permanent settlement pattern along the Peace River, as the Métis and Iroquois freemen, alongside the newcomers began to settle along the river and the south lakes (Leonard and Lemieux 2003).

The land-use histories of Métis families with links to Fort St. John are also contained in the records of the Hudson Bay Company (HBC). Post journals from Fort St. John written by Frank W. Beaton provide a detailed account of Métis use of the study area by the Beaton family. Beaton’s wife, Emma Shaw, was the Métis daughter of William Shaw, an HBC factor. Together they had 12 children, 5 of whom born in Fort St. John (HBC Archives Filename: Beaton, Francis Worth (1865-1945), JHB December 1991 (Revised 1995). As, demonstrated in the journals, and consistent with other families of the historic Métis Nation, their livelihood came from a mixture of subsistence harvesting activities directed by seasonal rounds and the commercial production of furs, fish and game (journal entries available at: http://www.ubc.ca/okanagan/cssej/publishing/Frank_Beaton___the_Fort_St__John_Fur_Trade.html). Beaton’s sons are noted in the journals as active hunters and trappers who lived and relied on territory extending from Fort St. John to Fort Nelson. The legacy of this family is commemorated in the river valley that bears their name.

Traditional harvesting activities provide opportunities for generations of Métis to connect with one another, “to carry things on,” in other words. Through these activities, out on the land, young people learn about Métis traditions, foods and culture. Family harvesting sites are often bridges between past, present and future generations of Métis people. As such, these sites are important to Métis people for their ability to heal, to ground and to remind them where they came from. Traditional land use is integral to Métis kinship networks and harvesting is an important way to ensure the continuity of Métis traditional knowledge (MTK).

Although Métis historical presence in the Site C project area is documented in archives, archeology reports and other writings from 1790 to present (Dolmage, 2010, Burley et al. 1995), historians note “that primary documents relating to this period are few, and confusion exists over the origins and location for the sites” (Burley et. Al 1995). This is particularly so for the earliest post, Rocky Mountain Fort; a number of provincial histories have failed to recognize it, suggesting lack of data or marginalization (Burley and Hamilton 1991). In fact, David Burley and Scott Hamilton suggest most evidence for Rocky mountain Fort comes from basic site data and that little is known about “the impact of the fur trade on local animal populations, the degree to which Indian peoples had become dependent on European technology, and the dynamics of the social interaction between the officer and his men in a fur trade hinterland” (Burley and Hamilton 1995). Marginalization may have occurred due to the transient nature of the posts and the Métis people. Providing direct evidence is difficult due to purposeful marginalization in four key areas. First, Aboriginals were not engaged until non-aboriginal settlers arrived and the government realized it had to ‘come to terms’ with Métis in the area (Burley et al., 1995). Second, the BC government refused to acknowledge Métis in Treaty 8, however, the Métis people of the Athabasca area received scrip (Collections Canada 2012). Third, Métis are not mentioned directly but can be found through derogatory and marginalizing comments such as half-breeds, French Canadian engage, mixed ancestry and Canadians (Burley et al.1995).

Forts, fur trade, guides, voyageurs and the women who supported them, strongly suggest indirect evidence of historic Métis presence in the proposed project area (Burley et al., 1995). Hudson Bay Company documents such from post records at Fort Dunvegan, Connolly Post, Hudson Hope/Rocky Mountain Fort (Portage) and Fort St. John show common Métis surnames such as; Shaw, Forsyth, Dumas, Beaton, Taylor, Becher and Coutoreille in the employee records at Fort St. John. Métis may not have been referred to directly, however, many common Métis surnames can be found in church registries and Hudson Bay Company account books (Treaty 8 Commission).



Documents also provide further indirect evidence through reference to activities. Berry picking, and knowledge of the role pemmican played in fueling the fur trade is evident and could be considered an industry (Fladmark, 1985). Of particular note is a man named Lafrenier, who was employed in wood working and canoe manufacture in both the 1799-1800 and 1822-23 seasons (Beaton 2012) at both Fort St. John and Rocky Mountain Fort. The Métis people's connection to the fur trade is well documented, however, the scale and extent of this industry goes well beyond trapping.

The enterprises Métis engaged in after the decline of the buffalo and fur trade would have been broad, and ranged from canoe building, ranching and even some farming. Canadian National Livestock Records show that some of the Métis who began to settle the Peace country in the very early twenties were seriously interested in permanent settlement and gainful enterprise other than trapping (Calverley 2012). It is important to see that the Métis people who were the children of the fur trade and buffalo hunt would have taken up other activities as these activities declined.

The two watersheds that cover the project area, Upper Peace River (UPCE) and the Pine River (PINE), represent one of the most prolific Métis harvesting regions in the province of British Columbia. Métis harvest large quantities of deer, elk, moose, fish, medicinal plants, berries, small game (including trapping), as well as timber and firewood. Métis harvesters also hunt significant quantities of bear, birds, bison, caribou and sheep. As such, Métis are truly concerned about the negative impacts on fish, wildlife and bird populations the proposed project may cause. Another concern is that the proposed project will flood and destroy a documented historic Métis community Rocky Mountain Fort dating back to 1794. This was a Northwest Company fort established to trade furs and provision the Athabasca/Peace fur trade. A journal entry from the winter of 1799-1800 documents twelve Métis patronyms, and speaks to the women and children at the fort. The fort site was the focus of an Archaeological survey in the 1970s (see Appendix B) where evidence of extensive harvesting of big game was documented. Hydro dams have already destroyed several Métis historic sites including Finlay Forks (under Williston Reservoir) as well



as Boat Encampment and Dalles des Morts (under Kinbasket Reservoir) without any acknowledgement or consultation with Métis. It is important to ensure cultural continuity through the ability of current and future generations to practice traditional activities. In this regard Métis would like to have future site use and access addressed for ceremony, celebration, and other traditional activities.

Conclusion:

There are over a thousand Métis living in the greater Fort St. John and Fort Nelson area and more non-resident harvesters from around the province who travel to the project area. The Métis Peoples of BC are represented by Métis Nation British Columbia at the provincial, regional and community level. The MNBC Assembly of Natural Resources and regional Captains have an active role in the assertion of Métis inherent rights according to Section 35 of the Constitution and the MNBC Natural Resources Act. The four (4) Chartered Métis Communities in the project area are part of the area to provide multiple levels of self-government that assert their Métis rights.

Métis are stewards of the land and will work cooperatively with BC Hydro and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency to ensure that local Métis Citizen's Aboriginal rights are respected and appropriately addressed. MNBC will work diligently and in good faith to protect all the natural resources that Métis people have, and continue, to rely on as a way of life.

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APPENDIX A

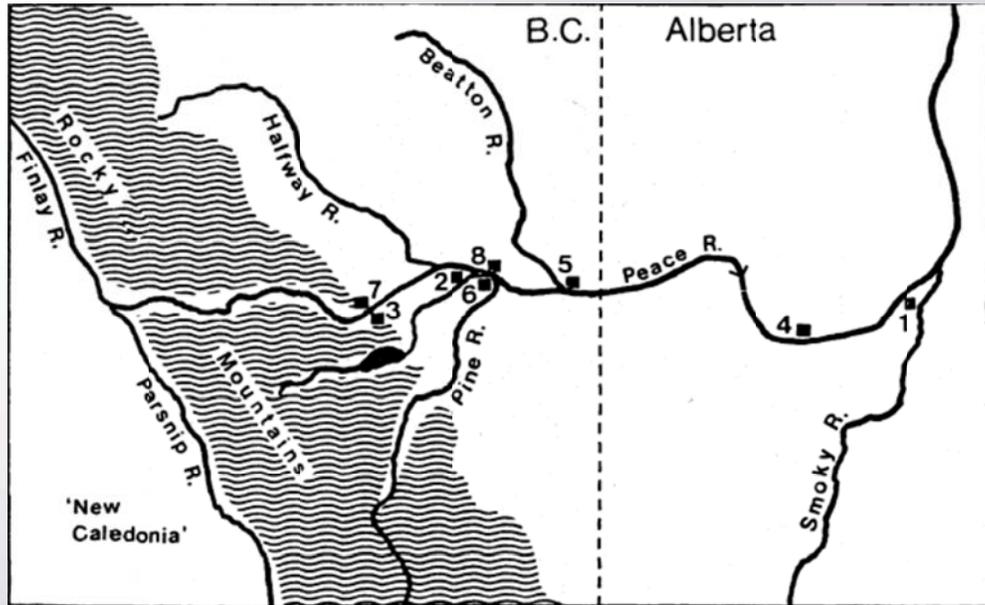


FIGURE 1

Fur trade forts of the upper Peace River: 1. Fort Fork (NWC, established 1792); 2. Rocky Mountain Fort (NWC, 1794?), Fort de Pinette/Yale's House (HBC, 1820), McIntosh's "nuisance post" (NWC, 1820); 3. Rocky Mountain Portage House (NWC, 1804); 4. Dunvegan (NWC, 1805); 5. St. John's (Fort St. John I, NWC, 1806); 6. Fort St. John (II, HBC, 1860); 7. Rocky Mountain Portage House/Hudson Hope (HBC, 1866); 8. Fort St. John (III, HBC, 1874). Not all Alberta forts shown.

The above map shows the location of the Rocky Mountain Fort (located at 2, Fort St. John is located at 6) (Fladmark 1985). The site is situated on the south shore of the Peace River near its confluence with the Moberly. In 1975, Fladmark rediscovered the location of the Rocky Mountain Fort through descriptions found in David Thompson's journal from 1804. Test excavations (Spurling, Finlay and Fladmark 1976), verified the identification. During the survey they found three stone chimney mounds, three sizable "cellar" depressions, several smaller mounds and hollows, wall outlines, a possible door, glass beads, gun-flints, a small brooch, an embossed steel button, a clasp-knife blade, part of a mattock-head, and iron arrowhead, file fragments, a gun lock-screw, lead shot, nails, fragments of sheet copper, and a fragment of an incomplete stone pipe bowl (Fladmark 1985).

APPENDIX B

There are numerous references discussing the archaeological research that took place in the 1970's (and some in the 1980's) in the Peace River area. Please refer to the following articles as examples:

Burley, D. and S. Hamilton. 1990. Rocky Mountain Fort: Archaeological research and the late eighteenth-century North West Company expansion into British Columbia. BC Studies. 88: 3-20.

Fladmark, K.R. 1980. Paleo-Indian artifacts from the Peace River district. BC Studies. 48: 124-135.

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Spurling, B., F. Finlay and K. Fladmark. 1976. Report on the Peace River archaeological survey and salvage project. Unpublished report on file with the Archaeological Sites Advisory Board, Victoria, BC.

**Clarifications to BC Hydro's Review and Response in regard to the
Métis Nation BC's "Site C Clean Energy Project" Report**

On page 1 in the first paragraph, the report states that the dam "could put local Métis Aboriginal rights and traditional land uses at risk". Can you elaborate on this point and provide more detail; in what way, when, where, etc.?

Métis relationships to the land are based in cultural practices. Annual harvesting of traditional foods, fuel and medicine remains a central, material part of this relationship. Currently, Métis harvest large quantities of deer, elk, moose, fish, medicinal plants, berries, food plants, small game, timber and firewood from this area all year round. Significant quantities of bear, birds, bison, caribou, and sheep are also harvested by Métis in the proposed project area. Métis are concerned that these resources, and the land that they rely on, may be negatively impacted by the proposed project.

Mackenzie and his partners in the North West Company saw the Peace River as an ideal place for both trade and provisioning. The following year, in 1794, Mackenzie established Rocky Mountain Fort at the point where the Moberly River flows into the Peace near the southern tip of the Study Area.

The land-use histories of Métis families with links to Fort St. John are also contained in the records of the Hudson Bay Company (HBC). Post journals from Fort St. John written by Frank W. Beaton provide a detailed account of Métis use of the study area by the Beaton family. Beaton's wife, Emma Shaw, was the Métis daughter of William Shaw, an HBC factor. Together they had 12 children, 5 of whom born in Fort St. John (HBC Archives Filename: Beaton, Francis Worth (1865-1945), JHB December 1991 (Revised 1995). As, demonstrated in the journals, and consistent with other families of the historic Métis Nation, their livelihood came from a mixture of subsistence harvesting activities directed by seasonal rounds and the commercial production of furs, fish and game (journal entries available at:

http://www.ubc.ca/okanagan/cscej/publishing/Frank_Beaton___the_Fort_St__John_Fur_Trade.html

Beaton's sons are noted in the journals as active hunters and trappers who lived and relied on territory extending from Fort St. John to Fort Nelson. The legacy of this family is commemorated in the river valley that bears their name.

Traditional harvesting activities provide opportunities for generations of Métis to connect with one another, "to carry things on," in other words. Through these activities, out on the land, young people learn about Métis traditions, foods and culture. Family harvesting sites

are often bridges between past, present and future generations of Métis people. As such, these sites are important to Métis people for their ability to heal, to ground and to remind them where they came from. Traditional land use is integral to Métis kinship networks and harvesting is an important way to ensure the continuity of Métis traditional knowledge (MTK).

Page 6 reads; “The two watersheds that cover the project area represent one of the most prolific Métis harvesting regions in the province of British Columbia (See Map).” Which 2 watersheds is the report referring to? Also, the map provided is for the entire province. Would it be possible to receive a copy of the map zooming in on Northeast BC? Would it be possible to provide BC Hydro with additional details regarding the methodology behind the map?

The two watersheds that the report was referring to were the Upper Peace River (UPCE) and the Pine River (PINE) watersheds.

Unfortunately, we do not have a copy of the map to be “zoomed” into Northeast BC. But we can provide some methodology behind the map as well as additional maps (two included in this document and two attached separately)

The Harvesting Survey project map (original map we sent with the watersheds) gathers information on current and past harvesting practices throughout British Columbia in order to better understand their scope and density. The data gained through community-based interviews with Métis land users and local Métis Leadership is used to generate maps that can interactively demonstrate harvesting activities.

Detailed information on various animal and plant species as well as relationships between family member's harvest practices were also studied in order to better understand how harvesting practices and traditional knowledge are passed on from generation to generation. The project was developed by Dr. Mike Evans. At the time Dr. Evans was the Canada Research Chair in World's Indigenous Peoples and Research Director for Métis Nation British Columbia.

The Map showing the province by watershed was created for all data collected to date.

Additional Maps:

In the territory of what is now BC, the Peace District, part of the Athabasca drainage, was the area impacted most directly by Métis Freeman. Early (prior to 1800) and involved Métis families that can be found in the region today (eg. La Fleur, Letendre, Whitford, and Shaw).



Métis Homeland

Regarding the Rocky Mountain Fort, it was noted the site was the focus of an Archaeological survey in the 1970's. What information do you have respecting the archeology survey? Can you provide additional details regarding the location of the survey?

Page 7 reads: "Another concern is that the proposed project will flood and destroy a documented historic Métis community Rocky Mountain Fort dating back to 1794." Can you please provide us with details on the location of this Fort and if applicable any activities that currently take place at this site?

There are numerous references discussing the archaeological research that took place in the 1970's (and some in the 1980's) in the Peace River area. Please refer to the following articles as examples:

Burley, D. and S. Hamilton. 1990. *Rocky Mountain Fort: Archaeological research and the late eighteenth-century North West Company expansion into British Columbia*. *BC Studies*. 88: 3-20.

Fladmark, K.R. 1980. *Paleo-Indian artifacts from the Peace River district*. *BC Studies*. 48: 124-135.

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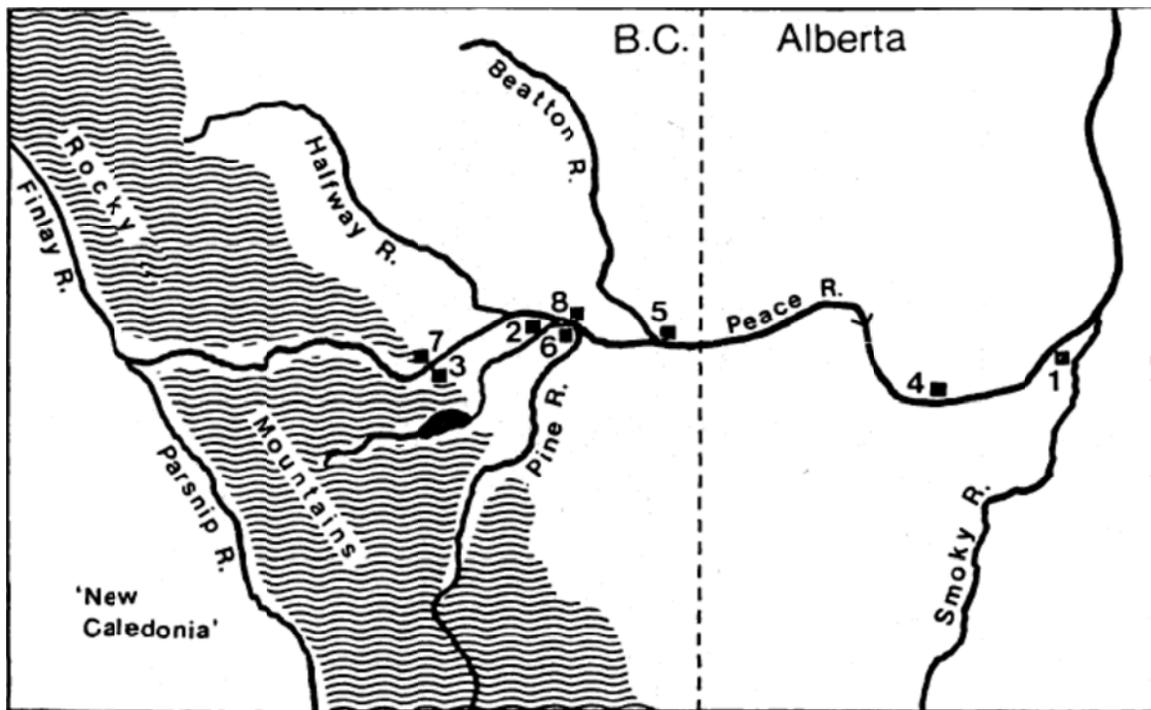


FIGURE 1

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Currently, Métis harvest large quantities of deer, elk, moose, fish, medicinal plants, food plants, berries, small game, as well as timber and firewood from this area. Significant quantities of bear, birds, bison, caribou and sheep are also harvested by Métis in the proposed project area.

On page 7, the report refers to Rocky Mountain Fort as "documented historic Métis community" and a 1799-1800 journal entry that "documents twelve Métis patronyms". Can you provide BC Hydro with this documentation?

This documentation came from an anonymous journal written in the Rocky Mountain Fort in the winter of 1799-1800. It is now part of the Masson papers held by the National Archives of Canada, a collection of predominantly North West Company manuscripts. A copy of the Rocky Mountain Fort journal (and the patronyms) can be found as an Appendix in the following reference:

Burley, D.V., J.S. Hamilton and K.R. Fladmark. 1996. Prophecy of the swan: The upper Peace River fur trade of 1794-1823. UBC Press, Vancouver, BC. Pg 139-151.

There were actually 14 patronyms listed. Twelve having arrived with the officer in October, one having maintained the post the previous summer, and the last coming from the "lower fort" in March. The names are: Beison, Bouché, Brunoche, Cantaras, Cardinal, Connoyé, D'Allair, Dejardin, Gagnon, Lafreniere, Mandau (also spelled Mandou), Maniant, Perriard, and Sauteux.

This anonymous journal provides a good indication of what was happening on the western fringes of the Peace River district. The names of several company employees, or engagées, as they were more commonly known are contained throughout the journal. Two men named Bouché figured in the subsequent history of New Caledonia: Jean-Baptiste Bouché, also known as Waccan, and Paul Bouché also known as La Malice or Mallice. E.E. Rich places both as Half-Breeds [Métis] at Fort Wedderburn. However, it is more likely that Jean-Baptiste the voyageur who also accompanied Mackenzie to the Pacific Ocean. D'Allaire is mentioned twice

in the Journal of Daniel Harmon, a NWC trader in New Caledonia in 1810-11. D'Allaire, Gagnon, and Landry appear in the fur trade journals of New Caledonia at McLeod Lake in the early 1820s.

On page 1 and 8, Pierre's trap line is mentioned. Can you provide BC Hydro with more detail on where it is located or provide a map of the trap line?

We have not been able to contact Pierre directly, but will continue to attempt to get in touch with him, and get permission to release his person contact info and trap line details.

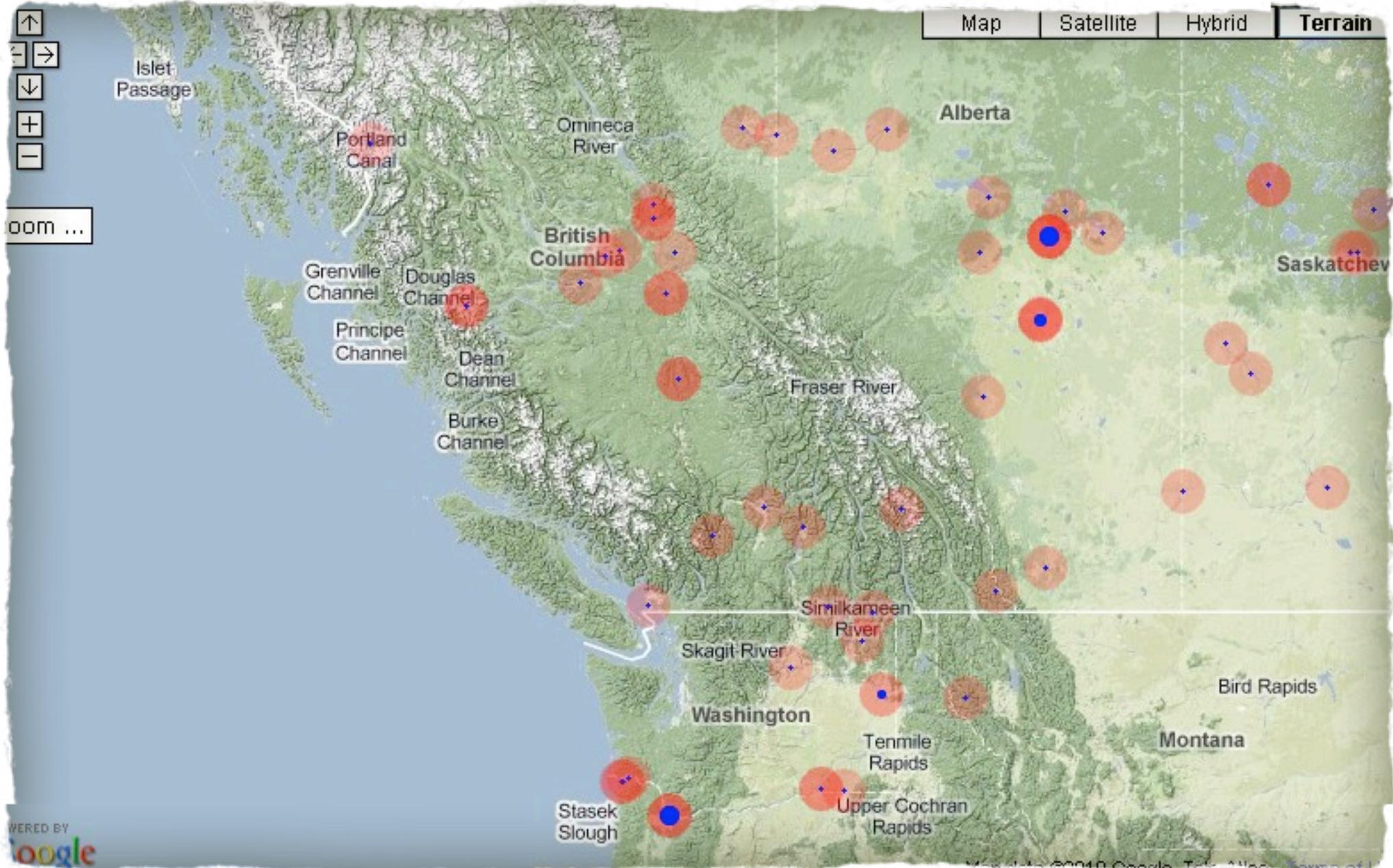
Page 8 reads: "Gardiner family trap line is another that needs to be considered and consulted". Can you provide us with the location of this trap line and contact information for the trap line holder?

We originally provided erroneous information and the Gardiner trap line is actually located in the Fort Nelson area, and will not be significantly impacted by the proposed project.

Map Series: Historic Document Database

Subject Search: North West Company

Documents	1 - 5	6 - 10	11 - 20	21 - 40	41+
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Map Series: Historic Document Database

Subject Search: North West Company

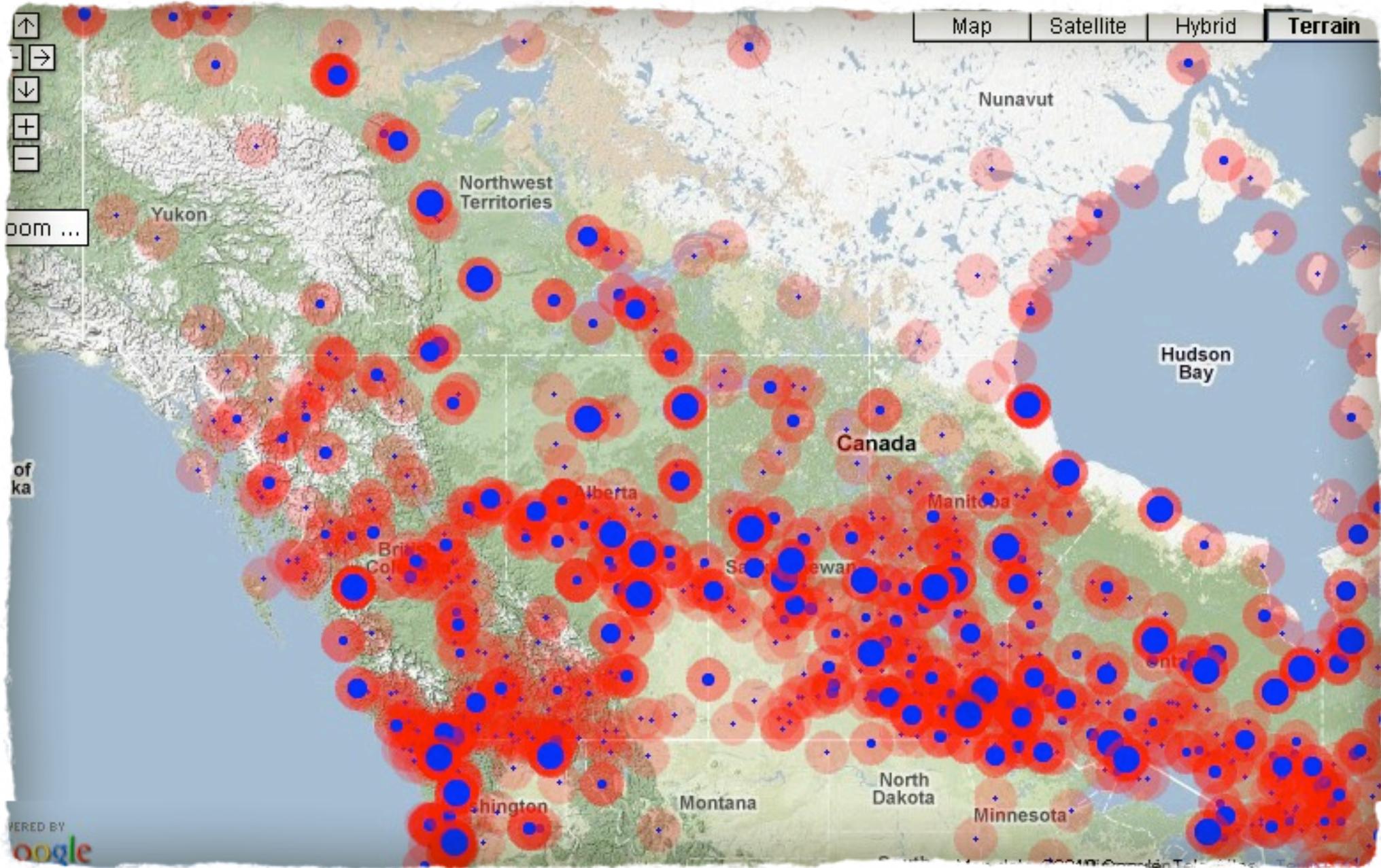
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Map Series: Historic Document Database

Subject Search: Hudson's Bay Company

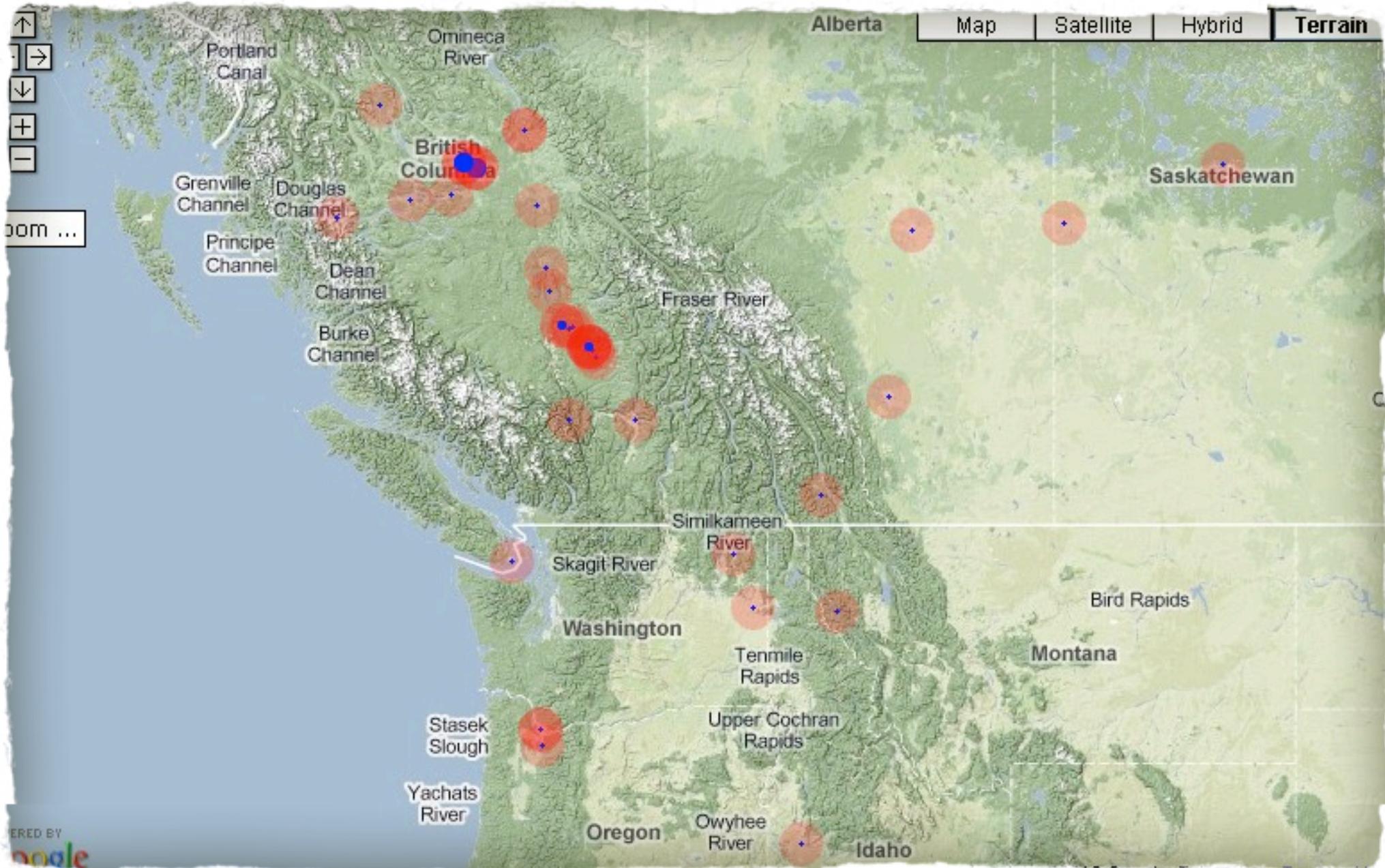
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Map Series: Historic Document Database

Patronym Search: Ogden

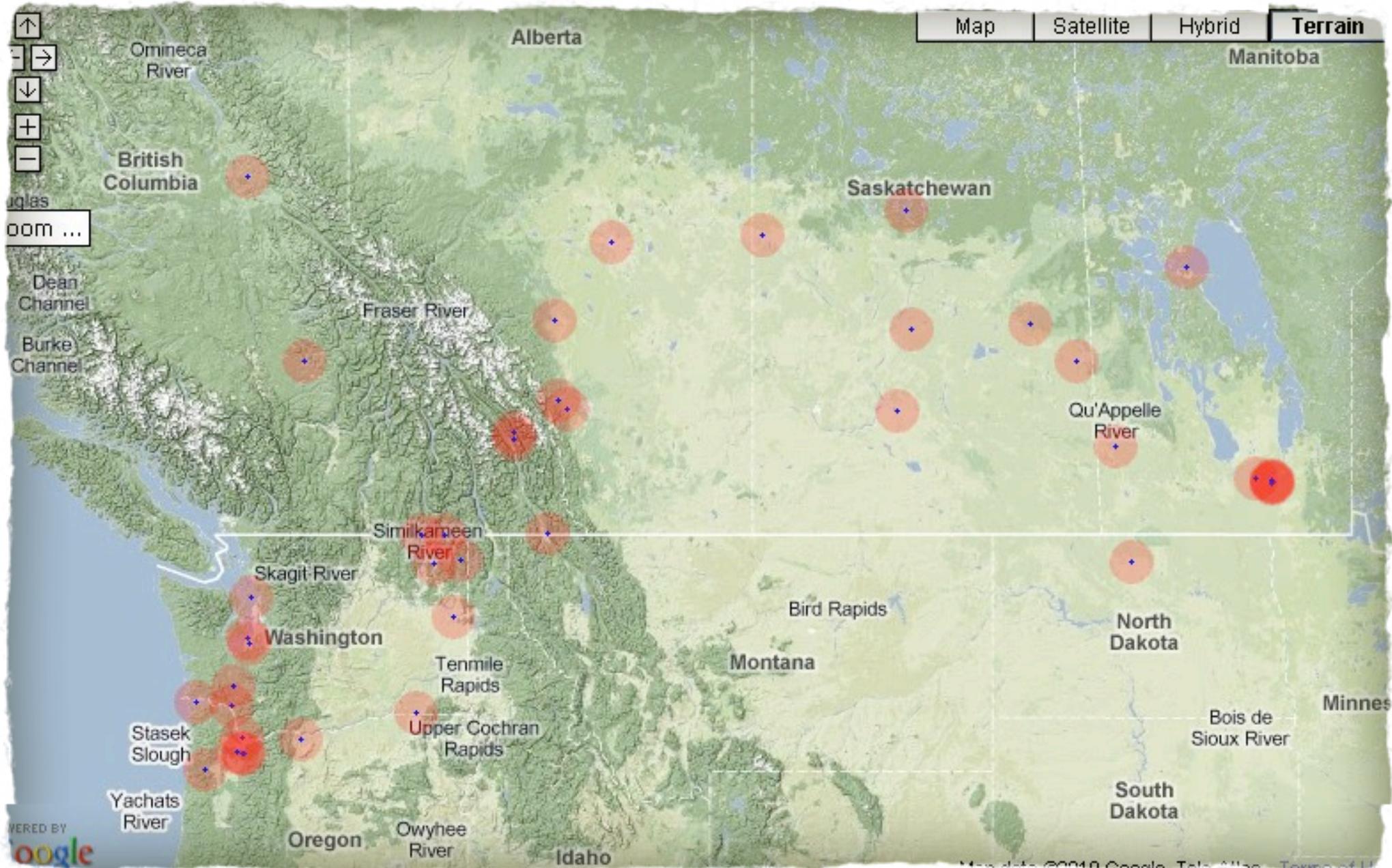
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Map Series: Historic Document Database

Subject Search: Sinclair Expedition

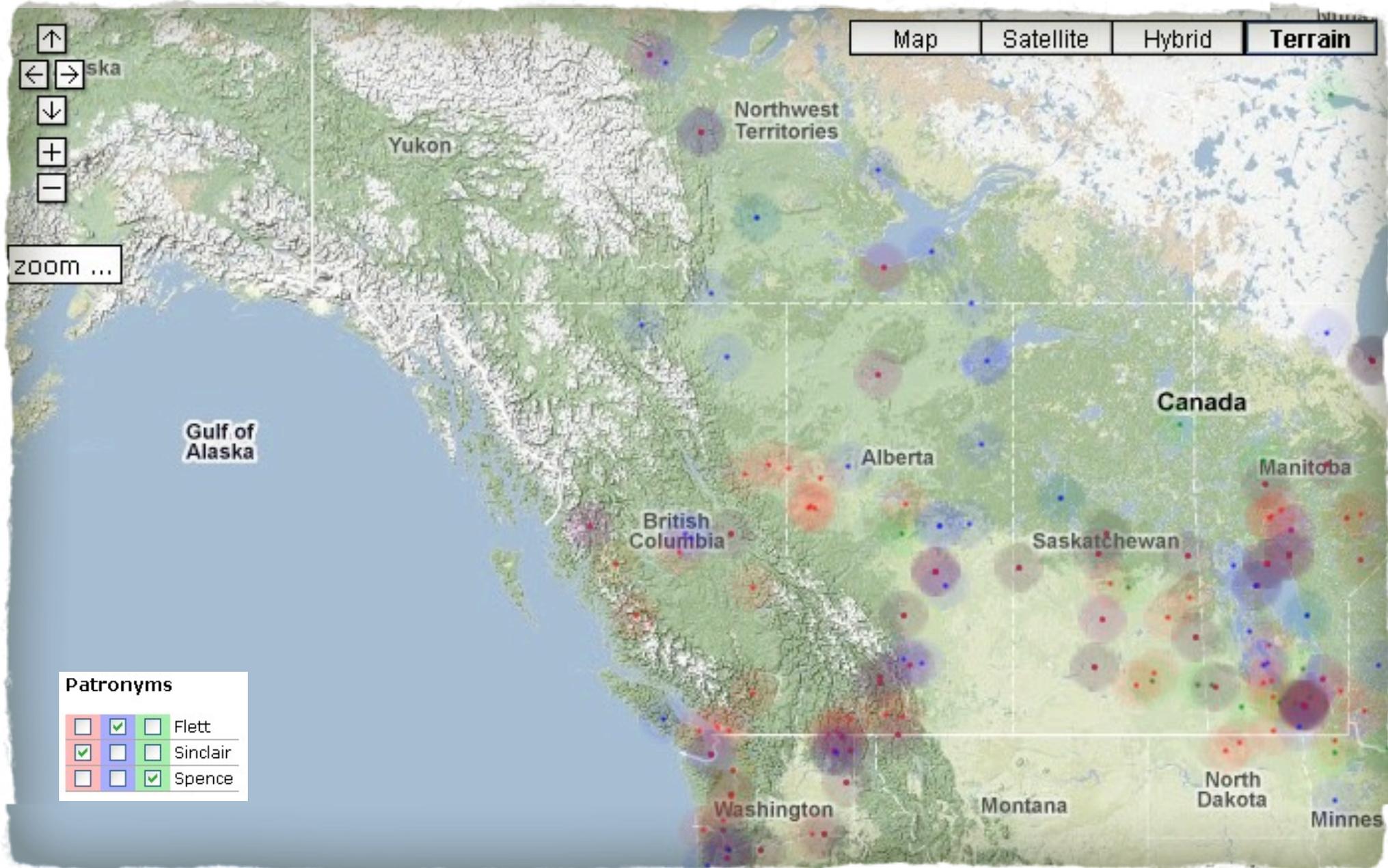
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Map Series: Historic Document Database

Patronym Search: Flett, Spence, Sinclair

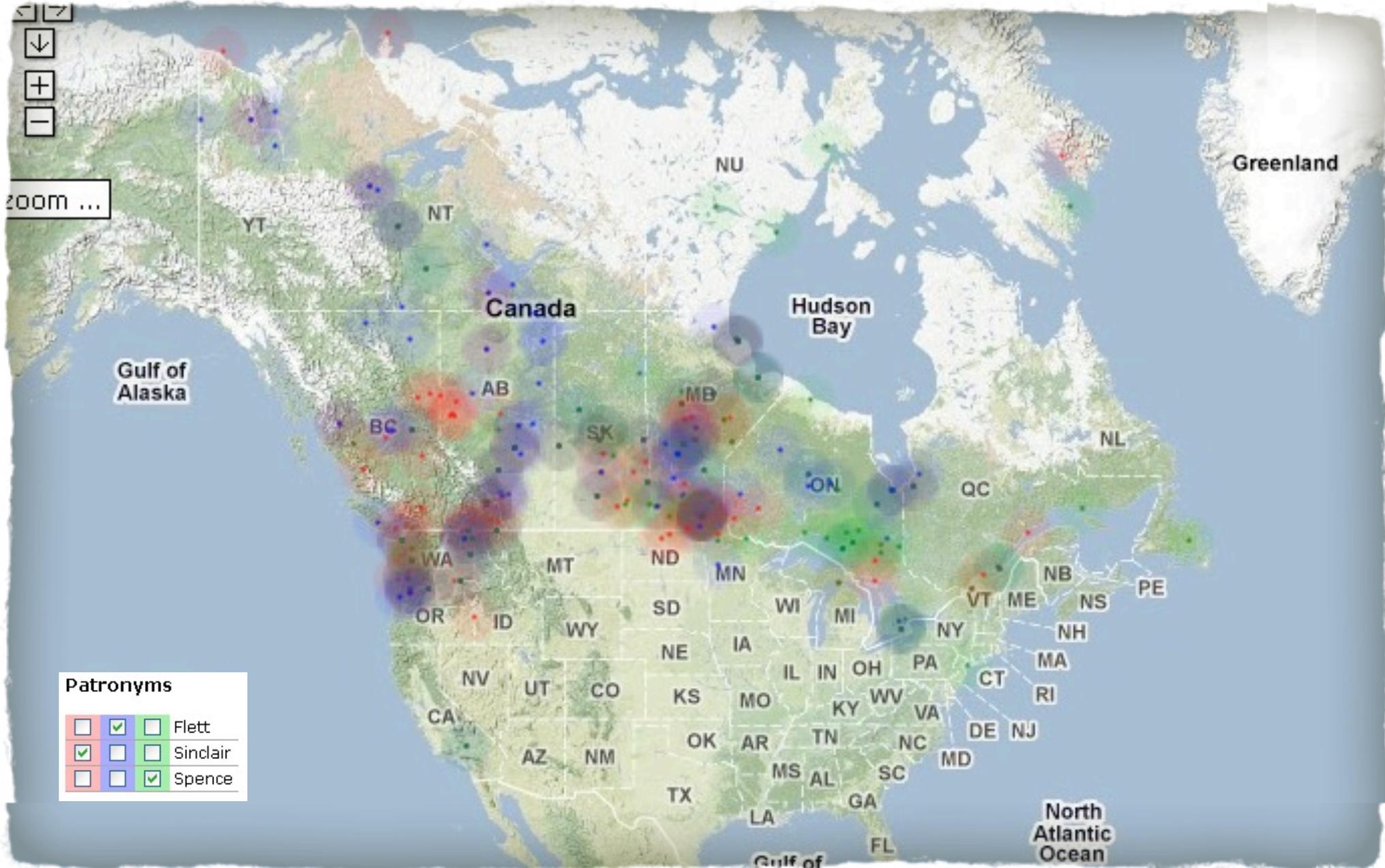
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Map Series: Historic Document Database

Patronym Search: Flett, Spence, Sinclair

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Patronyms

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