

# THE ALLIANCE

UPDATES FROM THE SEAL RIVER WATERSHED  
INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREA INITIATIVE

Winter 2021

Vol. 2

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*Sayisi Dene First Nation is leading an initiative to protect the entirety of the Seal River Watershed from industrial activity in partnership with our Cree, Dene and Inuit neighbours.*

Every aspect of our cultures, spirituality and identities are rooted in our relationship to the caribou and to the lands which sustain us.

***We envision a pristine watershed where people, animals and fish are healthy, our unique languages and cultures are thriving, and there is hope and abundance for all future generations.***



## New Year Greetings from SRWA Executive Director Ernie Bussidor

*Now that a New Year 2021 is upon us, we, the five Indigenous communities which surround the Seal River Watershed, find ourselves finding ways to keep ourselves in continued isolation due to the pandemic and other troubling matters that affect the world outside.*

We can rejoice in the knowledge that, although we are small Indigenous communities in the north, we are doing our part to protect Mother Earth, with our plans to preserve and protect our amazing Seal River Watershed from industrial development.

The beauty of our circumstances is that the total watershed is within a distinct region (and largely within the province of Manitoba). It is the largest remaining river ecosystem in the province that is intact and pristine.

It is also home to the Cree, Dene and Inuit people, who have lived in this region for many generations in relative harmony and peace, subsisting on what the earth and waters provides as food for nourishment. Stories from our Elders – of harmony, friendship and sharing what we have with our neighbors – are all part of our history.

A renewed sense of hope, and a clear path ahead of us by creating an Alliance of peoples united in common purpose to “protect and preserve the earth” – is music to the ears of our Elders, and inspires a new sense of opportunity and purpose and direction for our youth.

We also have to “walk the talk” by reminding ourselves how delicate and fragile our environment is. We should all be mindful of keeping our communities clean, and promoting green energy for our communities (the majority of which are serviced by diesel generators and diesel fuel).

There are so many avenues of optimism and opportunity, as we ponder the economics that can be derived from cultural and ecological tourism, as another way of generating jobs for our people, and for others.



Ernie Bussidor at his cabin in the Seal River Watershed. (Supplied)

Our rich and diverse history, culture and languages have to be the backbone of our developmental aspirations.

Establishing an Indigenous Protected Area is a good opportunity for the Province of Manitoba, the general public, the First Nations, the lodge owners, the urban communities in the region, and everyone else who wishes to partake in this endeavor to develop this region utilizing Indigenous knowledge and principles. There are so many positive attributes to this project, and it all clearly shows that “its time has come”.

The unfortunate onset of the Covid-19 pandemic last Spring (2020) has not stopped us in our pursuits. We have taken the time to develop the Seal River Watershed Alliance Corporation, literally from the ground up. All the policies, regulations, mandates, contracts, duties/responsibilities, and every other matter related to the creation of a not-for-profit Environmental Indigenous Organization was not easy, but it is almost done and will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval soon.

As well, we have to build our “case for conservation.” Support from the general public through polling, pertinent scientific studies related to quality of water,



Caribou wintering near Tadoule Lake. (Credit: NahHo Productions)

wildlife, waterfowl, fish, air and ground have also been undertaken and amalgamated (or are in the plans), as well as carbon data studies, all in our hands to present to governments to emphasize how important this project is – to ourselves, the province and the world and why we need their support.

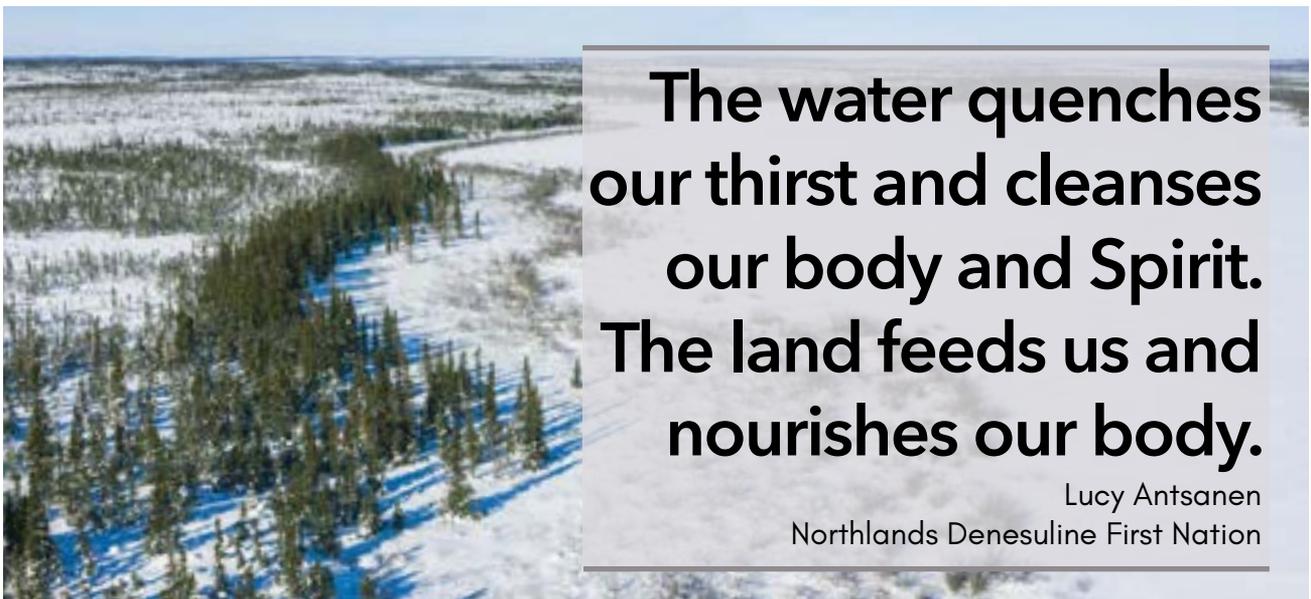
We are at a point in our project where we will be searching for interested people from the communities to be the Advisory Bodies to our project as we move forward: Elders Advisory Groups, Youth Advisory Groups, Women of the Watershed Advisory Groups, Hunters & Trappers Organizations, Off-Reserve Advisory Groups, or any other interested group. Collectively, or individually as communities.

**Indigenous knowledge** is very important, and it has to be the focus as we lay down the principles by which we are to stand united and manage this huge area together, and how we can all play a part in its development.

So, with that, on behalf of the Seal River Watershed Alliance management team, I wish everyone a Happy New Year for 2021. Let's all pitch in to make this a year to remember, for ourselves, our relations and for the sake of our natural world around us!

*Masi Cho!*

**Ernie Bussidor**  
**Executive Director**  
**Seal River Watershed Alliance**



**The water quenches  
 our thirst and cleanses  
 our body and Spirit.  
 The land feeds us and  
 nourishes our body.**

Lucy Antsanen  
 Northlands Denesuline First Nation

## SRWA Leadership August 2020 Meeting Report



Back row (from left): Sandy Clipping, Johnny Clipping, Mike Dumas, Ernie Bussidor, Jason Bussidor. Front row (from left): Edna Thorassie, Simon Denechezhe, Shirley Ducharme, Evan Yassie, Joe Hyslop, Stephanie Thorassie, Ron Thiessen. (Credit: Mandy Wallmann, SRWA)

*The Seal River Watershed Alliance met in Thompson in August 2020 to advance our work towards establishing an Indigenous Protected Area that reflects our common values and vision for the watershed.*

The significance of the meeting was underlined by the presence of three chiefs: Sayisi Dene First Nation (SDFN) Chief Evan Yassie; O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation (OPCN) Chief Shirley Ducharme and Northlands Denesuline First Nation (NDFN) Chief Simon Denechezhe. Barren Lands First Nation (BLFN) Councillor Trina Halkett, who was recently elected chief, and Councillor Georgina Custer from BLFN were also in attendance. Inuit representatives were unable to attend due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

It was the first in-person meeting of the Alliance board of directors, who were appointed by chiefs and council to represent the interests of SDFN, NDFN, OPCN and BLFN. The board was appointed as part of the process of establishing a non-profit organization to govern and oversee the Alliance.

Executive Director Ernie Bussidor opened the two-day meeting with an impassioned overview of

the vision for a protected area that is managed according to Dene, Cree and Inuit customs and laws. He also provided an update on the substantial progress made to date.

A strategic framework which outlined the path forward for establishing an Indigenous Protected Area received unanimous and enthusiastic support from the chiefs, board members and other participants following a presentation by Director of Operations Stephanie Thorassie.

Presentations and support were provided by: Project Manager Mandy Wallmann; Ron Thiessen, Executive Director of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Manitoba Chapter; and Larry Innes and Ashley Stacy of OKT Law.

The meeting was opened and closed with prayers and drumming. We were invigorated by the spirit of cooperation and the strong commitment to preserving the watershed expressed by all who participated.

We ask our ancestors to guide us in this work that we are doing for our children, our grandchildren and those yet to come.



## Three Out of Four Manitobans Support Establishing Indigenous Protected Areas: Poll



Youth explore the Seal River Watershed during the Tadoule Lake Stewardship Summit. (Credit: Mira Oberman, CPAWS)

*Most Manitobans support establishing Indigenous Protected Areas to conserve natural areas and to create sustainable jobs, a new poll has found.*

Some 73 per cent of Manitobans support creating Indigenous Protected Areas to conserve forests, wildlife, water and other special places, according to the Probe Research poll.

The poll was commissioned by the Seal River Watershed Alliance, a partnership of Dene, Cree and Inuit peoples working to establish an Indigenous Protected Area in the Seal River Watershed.

A resounding 83 per cent of Manitobans surveyed supported the Alliance's efforts to conserve the Seal River Watershed — a 50,000 square-kilometre pristine landscape north of Churchill — as an Indigenous Protected Area.

**“What stands out in this poll is that most Manitobans believe conservation and prosperity can go hand-in-hand: and they’re right.”**

“It’s inspiring to see such strong support from Manitobans for Indigenous conservation,” said Ernie Bussidor, executive director of the Seal River Watershed Alliance.

“We want to protect our lands and waters so our grandchildren’s grandchildren will be able to drink clean water, breathe fresh air and care for the animals the way their ancestors have since time immemorial,” Bussidor said.

“We hope that an Indigenous Protected Area will also help create sustainable jobs for our communities and are working to expand eco and cultural tourism in the region.”

### Conservation Seen As Best Way to Create Jobs

When asked about the best way to create jobs and grow the economy in the Seal River Watershed, 78 per cent chose protecting the river and encouraging tourism.

“What stands out in this poll is that most Manitobans believe conservation and prosperity can go hand-in-hand: and they’re right,” said Valérie Courtois, the Director of the Indigenous Leadership Initiative.

“We’ve seen the economic benefits of Indigenous-led conservation across the country,” Courtois added.

"Indigenous Protected Areas lead to good-paying jobs, entrepreneurial opportunities, and major investment in regional economies. What's good for Tadoule Lake is good for Churchill and Thompson."

An analysis of two Indigenous Guardians programs in the Northwest Territories found they create about \$2.50 of social, economic, cultural and environmental results for every \$1 invested. With support from a national network, researchers projected the value could increase to up to \$3.70 for each dollar of investment.

## Manitobans Respect Indigenous Stewardship

Most Manitobans surveyed have a positive view of Indigenous-led conservation. When it comes to protecting and managing nature, 70 per cent of respondents said local First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples "know what's best for the area" while 67 per cent said they should "lead the way."

"The Seal River Watershed is a great candidate for protection – our recent study supports the position that the value of a protected area in the region is vital to waterfowl from both a Manitoba and continental perspective."

## Manitobans Want a Dramatic Expansion of Protected Areas

Indigenous Protected Areas are necessary and considered to be one of the most effective ways to meet Canada's commitment to protect 30 per cent of Canada's lands and waters by 2030.

The poll found overwhelming support among respondents for meeting or even exceeding that federal target.

Manitoba currently only protects 11.0 per cent of the province, up fractionally from 10.8 per cent in 2015.

Nearly 9 in 10 Manitobans surveyed support creating more protected areas, and 84 per cent of respondents want to see a dramatic expansion of protected areas in the province.

43 per cent of respondents say they would like to see Manitoba's protected areas nearly triple to 30 per cent of the province.

41 per cent of Manitobans surveyed say they want to go even further and protect half of the province's lands and waters.

"This poll shows us that despite the economic and social stress of the COVID-19 pandemic, Manitobans overwhelmingly stand up for investing in nature conservation," said Ron Thiessen, executive director of the Manitoba chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS).

"Our province needs more protected spaces to help curb climate change, reduce risks of floods and drought, support cherished lifestyles and cultures, and provide a home for wildlife, many of which are threatened due to habitat loss."

Two in three Manitobans surveyed say the provincial government should do more to protect lands and waters.

Probe Research surveyed 1,033 Manitoba adults online and 127 Northern residents by telephone August 3-17, 2020.



Credit: Ernie Bussidor, SRWA

## Hide Tanning Workshop Connects Youth to Family Traditions

*Children as young as 10 held their history in their hands as they used bone tools, logs and metal washers to prepare caribou hides for tanning during a summer workshop in Sayisi Dene First Nation.*

More than two dozen community members participated in three days of hide tanning workshops aimed at reviving an important tradition that is slowly starting to disappear.

Elders shared their knowledge with the children and with the young men and women who gathered in the band hall to practice nearly all the steps of tanning a hide from cutting the hair, to scraping and smoking the hides. They also spoke of the different ways in which the hide can be used, and the different ways in which men and women would traditionally use the hide for different projects.

"It's important to teach our culture to the next generation, so that they know how the Dene women worked hard and what beautiful work can be done when the hide is ready to be used," said Brenda Lee Duck, workshop participant.

The July workshop was hosted by the Seal River Watershed Alliance, which purchased hides from harvesters over the winter and frozen them for the community's use. Director of Operations Stephanie Thorassie, who led the workshop, shared three of her own hides so participants would be able to learn about the smoking process.

"A revival of the culture and language is integral to our sense of identity as unique and distinct people," said Ernie Bussidor, executive director of the Seal River Watershed Alliance.

Sayisi Dene First Nation was blessed with the return of the caribou to the watershed this winter after several years of absence. Many families were fed after band members trekked out on the land to practice their traditional right to hunt and harvest the caribou.

"With these teachings comes an unbelievably valuable, very well-known rule of waste nothing,"



Stephanie Thorassie and her Granny Julie Sandberry hold up some caribou hides ready to be traditionally tanned. (Credit: Stephanie Thorassie, SDFN)

Stephanie Thorassie said. "Use every part of the caribou. Make tools, make clothing, feed the people, and honour the animal."

The workshop was also an opportunity to speak to community members about the Alliance's initiative to conserve the watershed as an Indigenous Protected Area. Former Community Rep Dylan Duck and Youth Reps Rebecca Thorassie and Priscilla Duck were on hand to help answer questions and gather Indigenous Knowledge.

"Gathering Indigenous Knowledge is an important part of showing the Crown governments that we are still here, still active in our home lands, and still very active in OUR watershed," said Stephanie Thorassie.

The community was incredibly supportive of the workshop, Thorassie said. It was very rewarding to see so many youth participating — including two 13-year-olds who took it upon themselves to mop up the floor at day's end.

"I see so much strength and hope for our future. We need to continue to share our traditions and values with them ensuring their feet are planted on a strong foundation," Thorassie said.

## Project Team Profile: Mike Dumas, Executive Director for O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation



Mike Dumas (OPCN) and Rebecca Thorassie (SDFN) at the February 2020 leadership meeting in Winnipeg. (Credit: Mira Oberman, CPAWS)

*Michael W. Dumas is an outdoorsman, hunter and nature photographer. As a life-long steward of the land, he understands why it's crucial to protect the Seal River Watershed for future generations.*

"The Seal River area is beautiful country. It's one of the last pristine watersheds in Canada, and it's our duty to protect it," said Dumas, the Executive Director of O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation (OPCN) and the Seal River Watershed Initiative Community Representative and In-term Board Member for OPCN.

OPCN is one of five Indigenous communities working together to establish the entire Seal River Watershed as an Indigenous Protected Area.

While Sayisi Dene First Nation is the only nation located within the watershed, its Cree, Dene and Inuit partners all travel to the area to engage in traditional practices like hunting and fishing.

OPCN is not directly on the watershed but Dumas said some of the community's registered trapline zones touch the watershed. Protecting this area means that no one can come in and flood or develop the area in a way that disrupts the cabins, traplines and animals.

"You need to hold on to what you have." This is the message that Dumas is trying to spread as he works to help community members learn about the initiative

and ensure that it reflects their values and needs. It's a job for which he would have happily volunteered, he said.

"I'm pretty pumped. Knowledge is powerful. Knowledge is everything. My whole concept is to knock on doors to get the information out."

Dumas believes that talking face-to-face about the initiative is the best way "to convince people that the land is worth saving and get people to support it." He would like to be having long, personal conversations with community members, but COVID-19 has made this difficult.

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**"People should have a say in what happens to their land."**

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Instead, Dumas mails or delivers brochures to people's homes and follows up with a phone call to tell them more about the initiative. "People would rather talk with me than just read about it, so the phone calls work well."

Dumas considers himself a storyteller, which is why he is excited for when he can meet with people in-person again — so he can visit, answer questions, explain the initiative, and continue to drum up support. "That's the biggest impact I can have," he said.

For Dumas and the hundreds of others working toward this initiative, establishing the Seal River Watershed as an Indigenous Protected Area isn't about keeping people out — it's about empowering the surrounding communities to be the decision-makers of this land and what gets developed.

"People should have a say in what happens to their land. I would like for my neighbours to be able to continue to enjoy [it]," said Dumas.

It also means keeping hydro projects from being developed in the area. This is something Dumas is

passionate about, as he has seen these types of projects devastate communities.

Growing up in South Indian Lake, Dumas experienced the impacts of a Manitoba Hydro project that raised the water level by nine feet and flooded his community. "A self-sufficient community was destroyed," he said.

**"When I'm out on the land, I sit and think about my teachers, my Elders and my mom and dad – and their appreciation for the land."**

The community was relocated in the early 1970s to the other side of the narrows into sub-standard housing. Rocks, shorelines and beaches disappeared overnight. "Today islands are still eroding and disappearing in front of us. As a person of the land, seeing the devastation was and still is shocking to see."

Dumas doesn't want to see history repeated in the Seal River Watershed. "To this day, if I have a chance to help anybody avoid a [harmful] development, I will."

He learned how to be a steward of the land from his parents and Elders. "When I'm out on the land, I sit and think about my teachers, my Elders and my mom and dad – and their appreciation for the land."

His work with the Seal River Watershed Initiative is one of many ways in which Dumas shows his appreciation.



**Seal River Watershed**  
Indigenous Protected Area Initiative

## Key Project Partners



**INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE**

## Supporters



**OCEANS NORTH**

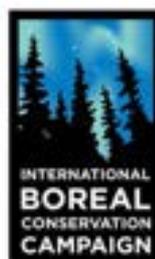


## Patrons

This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada.

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**Canada** 



**METCALF FOUNDATION**



Credit: Michael Dumas, OPCN

## Project Team Profile: Chief Trina Halkett, Barren Lands First Nation

*Even before Trina Halkett became Chief of Barren Lands First Nation, she was a strong supporter of the Seal River Watershed Initiative. "It is important because it will have long-term effects on the community," she said.*

Barren Lands is one of four First Nations working together to permanently protect the Seal River Watershed from industrial development as an Indigenous Protected Area.

Halkett was at the meeting the day her Cree community signed the agreement to join the Alliance with its Dene and Inuit neighbours. "I was informed already and I was very interested," she said. "I thought that with more communities involved, we could move it forward. The more partnerships you have, the more outcome you get."

Halkett's involvement has grown ever since. Today, her responsibilities as Chief and a community representative for the Seal River Watershed Initiative overlap. For both, her role is "to become involved with issues and concerns, take them forward, and get what is needed for the community."

The Covid-19 pandemic quashed Halkett's plans to meet with community members to share news about the initiative and discuss the importance of keeping the watershed healthy so that it can sustain traditional ways of life. She looks forward to having face-to-face meetings once it's safe to do so.

Halkett, who grew up learning traditional ways, sees the initiative as an opportunity "to teach our younger generation to respect the land and water." When it's safe, she hopes to see groups of children and youth visit the watershed area and "see it for themselves." Her goal is to inspire youth "to be more involved with the project and move it forward for their future."

The process of becoming an Indigenous Protected Area will take a long time, she said, but it's crucial



Chief Trina Halkett. (Supplied)

for the four First Nations to work as one to keep the Seal River Watershed untouched by industrial development.

First Nations in northern Manitoba have felt the negative effects of hydroelectric development since the 1960s, from erosion along beaches and shorelines to damage to traplines, drinking water and commercial fisheries.

"We must stick together to keep the land and water clean," warned Halkett, having seen the harm done. "Mining and dams in the region have affected [Barren Lands] and other First Nations, and we would like to protect the watershed for that reason."

One of the effects of mining is a shrinking wilderness, which could be impacting the region's barren-ground caribou. Halkett said that study is needed to understand why caribou, formerly found within the boundary of her community, have relocated.

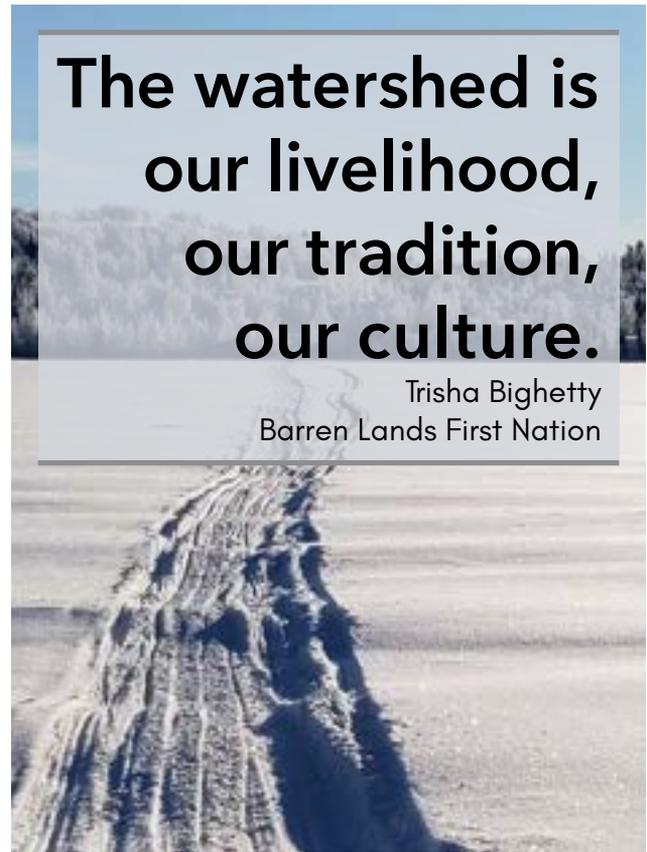
“For the past few years, community members have had to travel seven to nine hours to hunt caribou,” she said. “This is difficult for many in the community. Some don’t have snowmobiles that can travel that far north.”

Caribou have always been vital to the survival of communities in the north. Halkett explains that traditional foods like fish, beaver and caribou are healthier choices—something she learned from her grandmother.

She hopes that by keeping the watershed as pristine as it is today, future generations will be able to continue traditional practices like fishing, trapping, and hunting.

“I’m doing it for the youth,” she said of her work with the initiative. She wants to see youth protect the watershed and teach each other to be stewards of the land and animals.

“Along the way, we lost our traditional ways, so we’re slowly trying to get it back into the community.”



**The watershed is  
our livelihood,  
our tradition,  
our culture.**

Trisha Bighetty  
Barren Lands First Nation

Credit: Ernie Bussidor, SRWA



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OUR VOICES  
OUR FUTURE**

Have Your Say.  
Fill Out the Alliance Survey:

**[bit.ly/SealAllianceSurvey](https://bit.ly/SealAllianceSurvey)**

## Project Team Profile: Luke Suluk, Kivalliq Community Representative



Luke Suluk and his wife, Joy Suluk, near Arviat. (Supplied)

*Luke Suluk is a Cultural Advisor who grew up in Arviat, Nunavut knowing that “land and water mean life to people, wildlife and fish.” Today, he is committed to conserving the Seal River Watershed in cooperation with his Cree and Dene neighbours.*

The Seal River Watershed Initiative comprises five Indigenous communities with three distinct cultures that are working together to designate the watershed as an Indigenous Protected Area.

“The initiative was created to protect the land and water from any development that can affect the environment so that future generations will use and enjoy the land unaffected,” said Luke, who serves as the initiative’s community representative in the Kivalliq region.

Keeping the watershed free from industrial development will benefit the Inuit community as well

as the surrounding areas, Luke said. Each partner in the Alliance travels to or lives within the watershed, and relies on it to sustain their way of life.

“Inuit have traditionally used the area for time immemorial,” Luke explained.

The 50,000 square kilometre watershed is home to an abundance of wildlife, including 400,000

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**“The initiative was created to protect the land and water from any development that can affect the environment so that future generations will use and enjoy the land unaffected.”**

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caribou, which travel south from Nunavut to winter along the Seal River, and are traditionally hunted by Inuit and Dene communities.

"I am happy that Inuit and Dene are making a way to work together and live in harmony to be stewards of the land that our Creator gave us to use and share," Luke said.

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## **"Involving youth out on the land is the best way for them to appreciate nature and learn traditional ways of harvesting and conservation."**

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As the voice for his community, Luke has been reaching out to community members to explain the initiative and ensure that their needs and values are reflected in the Indigenous Protected Area. The initiative has strong community support, including the Arviat Hunters and Trappers Organization and local fishers, hunters and trappers who use the Seal River, he said.

"Inuit of Arviat are concerned about any development that would harm the environment and habitats of wildlife, fish and birds," he explained in a telephone interview. In an Indigenous Protected Area, the community plays a leading role in managing the watershed in ways that maintain their relationship with the land.

Small sustainable developments such as those related to eco and cultural tourism are permissible with proper consultation, Luke said. He encourages community members to become involved in the planning of programs or developments that will benefit the community as well as youth. That includes plans of fibre optics and the hydro line.

In addition to protecting the watershed and building local economies, the initiative works to pass on traditional knowledge to youth through workshops and summits focused on stewardship skills and traditional practices.

Keeping tradition alive is important to Luke.

"It is good that the Seal River Watershed Initiative involves youth and that traditional users are sharing their knowledge so that youth can learn the survival skills necessary for living in a harsh climate," he said. "Involving youth out on the land is the best way for them to appreciate nature and learn traditional ways of harvesting and conservation."

Inuit culture is rooted in the land, sustained by a healthy watershed, Luke said. He hopes that by connecting to the land, youth will see how important the watershed is, and will understand why he and others in his community are working to protect it.

"We want to leave with them a certainty for their future."



**This area is a hospital for our wildlife. It must be protected.**

Alex Ishalook  
Ariavat, Nunavut

## Contest Winners

### Community Voices Contest Winners - iPad

Randy Antautalik- Arviat  
 Sewap Isabelle - BLFN  
 Will Moose - OPCN  
 Vicky Antsanen - NLFN  
 Caroline Thorassie - SDFN

### Survey Giveaway 1st Prize - Hoodie

Raymond Thorassie - SDFN  
 Donald Dysart - OPCN  
 Merle Hyslop- NLFN  
 Charmaine Cook - BLFN  
 Lynn Emiktowt - Arviat

### Survey Giveaway 2nd Prize - Long Sleeve Shirt and Tumbler

William Ricky Moose - OPCN  
 Merle Hyslop - NLFN  
 Marsha Curly - Arviat  
 Jonathan Merasty - BLFN  
 Ray Ellis- SDFN

### Survey Giveaway Grand Prize - Canvas Sleeping Bag

Aiden Cook - BLFN  
 Louise Denechezhe - NLFN  
 Annie Ollie - Arviat  
 Daniel Thorassie Sr. - SDFN  
 Mary Wood - OPCN

“The way of life must be protected for future generations to learn from the land and waters. ”

Zachery Longboy  
 Sayisi Dene First Nation



Credit: Ernie Bussidor, SRWA



## Congratulations, Stephanie!

Congratulations to Stephanie Thorassie of SDFN who was promoted to Director of Operations by a unanimous vote of the Alliance board of directors in recognition of her efforts to advance the initiative.





# About the Initiative

## What is the Seal River Watershed?

In the northernmost reaches of Manitoba there is a pristine expanse of tundra, wetlands and forests as vast as Nova Scotia.

Only one community is located in the 50,000 square kilometre watershed: the Sayisi Dene First Nation, which lies on the beautiful shores of Tadoule Lake and has a population of fewer than 400 people.

The Seal River still flows freely into Hudson Bay: unlike Manitoba's other major northern rivers, the Seal's entire 260 km path is unhindered by dams and other industrial developments.

## Why Should We Protect the Seal River Watershed?

The Seal River Watershed is one of the last great wild places on our planet.

Caribou and polar bears roam beneath massive flocks of birds near an estuary teeming with beluga whales. There are no permanent roads. No mines. No logging interests. No industrial development of any kind.

The water is so clean you can dip a cup in the river and drink from it.

The Dene, Cree and Inuit peoples who have cared for these lands and waters since time immemorial continue to rely upon the unsullied watershed to support their families and maintain cherished traditions.

## How Can I Get Involved?

Our Nations have joined together in the spirit of cooperation and mutual respect.

The Alliance has pledged to maintain a transparent process which reflects the values and interests of our communities.

Community representatives will be working to engage community members in the initiative and to gather knowledge that will shape how the protected area is designed and managed.

Please contact your community representatives or the project team using the toll-free number, email or Facebook account listed below to learn about opportunities to get involved. We are here to answer all questions and concerns.

We hope you will follow our Facebook page for upcoming contests and events. Please visit our website to learn more about the initiative.

