

## **MAPS Undertakes Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study in Nova Scotia**

A new quarry has been proposed on the shore of Chedabucto Bay. The proposed Black Point Quarry is located on a 280 hectare parcel of land approximately 10 km west of the town of Canso, Guysborough County (see map).

Mi'kma'ki All Points Services (MAPS) is in the process of conducting a Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study (MEKS) on the Black Point Quarry Project. MAPS exists as a not-for-profit Society that is governed through the Board of Directors of the Union of Nova Scotia Indians.

The Black Point Quarry involves developing facilities to process granite into crushed stone, sand and gravel through pit development. It also involves the construction of a marine terminal to transport these products to American and international markets. The nature of this development has triggered both federal and provincial environmental protection legislation. Part of this legislation requires the project company, Erdene Resource Development Corp., to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The EIS, in part, evaluates "potential environmental effects" on such things as archaeological and heritage resources and the current use of traditional lands and resources by Aboriginal people. MAPS is committed to conducting the necessary research to ensure that these interests are properly researched and reported through a MEKS.

Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge (MEK) has been defined in the Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Protocol (Protocol) as "...the collection and adaptation of knowledge that Mi'kmaq people have with all components of the natural environment and the interrelationships between all life forms from a unique historical, cultural and spiritual level." The Protocol was ratified by the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs on November 22, 2007 and outlines specific guidelines and conditions on the development of an MEKS in the province.

The purpose of the MEKS is to identify and report any ecological concerns regarding the Project's impact on the Mi'kmaq's use of land, resources and special places within the Project Study Area. Information will be gathered through the development of an interview guide that will be used in person to person interviews. Information will be digitally recorded and then mapped on a Geographic Information System (GIS).

A MEKS is an important initiative that needs your involvement and support. A successful MEKS is one that outlines a number of key concerns and provides recommendations to ensure that our interests in the lands and resources are addressed. MAPS is seeking to interview persons who have knowledge of Mi'kmaq land and resource use both within and surrounding the proposed study area. Please help support us in making this important initiative a success.

If you have any information or want further information on the MEKS process or this project, please do not hesitate to contact the following:

*Mi'kma'ki All Points Services*

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Visit our website at [www.mikmaki.ca](http://www.mikmaki.ca)

