

Parliamentary Secretary Terry Duguid

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- First, want to thank you for making time in your busy schedule to meet with the MMF
- Want to express our appreciation for Minister Guilbeault's support of MMF's participation in this conference
- Acknowledge your riding is Winnipeg South so I won't waste time explaining who MMF is
- Want to talk about three things:
 - Update you on how MMF is maximizing the Government of Canada's investment in nature and the environment
 - The Minister of Energy and Infrastructure has been mandated with expanding Red River Métis monitoring of projects, developing representative procurement agreements with federal and provincial governments and ensuring the rights, claims and interests of our Nation are defended through regulatory processes. Energy infrastructure in the Red River Métis Homeland is primarily based on provincially owned hydro-electric dams. Over the past century these dams have seriously altered the landscape, impacted traditional economies including fishing, trapping and deteriorated lands where we practice constitutionally protected harvesting rights. Red River Métis deserve a bigger say in energy projects that impact our Homeland and we need to share in the wealth that is being generated at our Citizen's expense.
 - Biodiversity conservation is also a priority of the MMF. To monitor traditionally harvested species, the MMF initiated a Spawning Ground Study that involves catching and tagging Walleye within priority Red River Métis waterways. This study provides the MMF with valuable data on where mature Walleye are moving and spawning.
 - The MMF's Minister of Environment and Climate Change has been mandated to develop a climate adaptation and resiliency plan, as well working with the department of Natural Resources to develop an Emergency Preparedness strategy. This includes assessing the impacts of climate change on the lands and waters within the Homeland, such as water levels, water quality, and its impacts on the Red River Métis.
 - Water quality is a priority of the MMF. The MMF's Community Based Monitoring Program equips Red River Métis citizen scientists with the tools and skills required to collect water samples throughout the open water season. These samples are then analyzed for different chemical parameters (e.g., pH, dissolved oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorus, etc.) and physical parameters (e.g., clarity, temperature, water level and flow, etc.) on site. This program braids western science with Métis Traditional Knowledge to collect and monitor the lands and waters across the National Homeland, and the impacts from Climate Change on RRM rights, interests and claims.
 - Explain how MMF has developed from regional government to national government
 - Explore how MMF can contribute to Canada's national statement on water
 - How can indigenous peoples assist in the drafting of the co-chairs text from this conference?
 - In opening plenary, only Lachezara Stoeva, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria, and President of UN Economic and Social Council, mentioned the role of Indigenous peoples
 - She asked:
 - "How can we leverage water for delivering on the Sustainable Development Agenda?"
 - "First, through inclusion of marginalized or disadvantaged groups in decision making about water"
 - "...A significant proportion of water resources is situated in areas inhabited by Indigenous peoples, who are the guardians of nature conservation. This should be recognized and the traditional knowledge of Indigenous peoples should be cherished and preserved."
 - "...However, inclusion can only happen if proper mechanisms ensuring meaningful and effective participation are put and set in place, and it is for us to set them up."
 - Para 40 of the concept paper for Interactive Dialogue 3 on climate and biodiversity:
 - 44. The role of local communities and Indigenous Peoples. Of particular importance to strengthening environmental governance is the inclusion and empowerment of local communities and Indigenous Peoples in decision-making and benefit-sharing with regard to water and its related ecosystems. These principles are at the heart of funds, projects and other efforts to advance nature-based solutions. These protect and restore ecosystems and their services for benefits for societies, economies and the environment, including climate.
 - UN News observed that "Experts and UN officials agree that stronger partnerships are key to finding lasting solutions."
 - Item 6 of provisional agenda, Doc A/CONF.240/2023/3/Rev.1:
 - 18. The order of speakers for each interactive dialogue will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis, bearing in mind equitable geographical distribution while allowing for some flexibility, with priority given to States according to the level of representation, followed by intergovernmental organizations and other entities, associate members of regional commissions, United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, non-governmental organizations, major groups and other stakeholders. It is envisaged that around 22 States and nine other participants will be accommodated to speak in the interactive debate of each dialogue.
 - There is little room for Indigenous peoples in the interactive dialogues and seemingly no room in plenary
 - 19. Summaries of the interactive dialogues will be presented by the respective Co-Chairs to the Conference at its closing plenary meeting and included in the final report of the Conference.
 - 30. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences and set out in annex II to General Assembly resolution 75/212, it is recommended that the Conference adopt a report consisting of the decisions of the Conference, a brief account of the proceedings and a reportorial account of the work of the Conference and the action taken at the plenary meetings.
 - Rule 48 and 49 of the Rules of Procedure allow the Co-Chairs to create and appoint a working group "as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions."
 - Would propose that a working group is established by the Co-Chairs made up of Indigenous peoples from all 7 socio-cultural regions to collaborate with the Co-Chairs in the drafting of the report of the conference
 - Not to "negotiate" but rather to collaborate and provide direct input into the decision of the Conference
 - March 7 I asked to provide input to Canada's plenary statement