



CMD 23-M37.6A

Date: 2023-12-05

File / dossier : 6.02.04

Edocs pdf : 7181427

Supplementary Information

**Presentation from the
Ya'thi Néné Land and
Resource Office**

Renseignements supplémentaires

**Présentation du Bureau des
terres et des ressources de
Yà'thi Néné**

**Regulatory Oversight Report for
Uranium Mines and Mills in
Canada: 2022**

**Rapport de surveillance réglementaire
des mines et usines de concentration
d'uranium au Canada : 2022**

Commission Meeting

Réunion de la Commission

December 13-14, 2023

13-14 décembre 2023

Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources

Presentation to Canadian Nuclear Safety
Commission

Regulatory Oversight Report 2022

14 December 2023



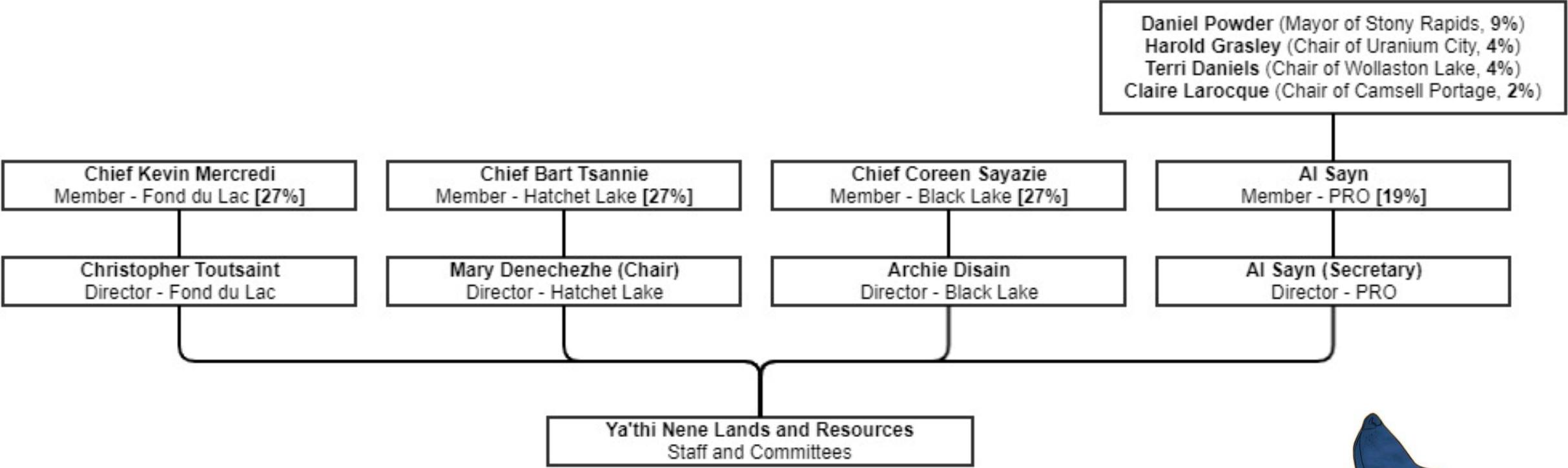


Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources

Mission:

To protect the lands and waters of the Athabasca Basin for the long-term benefit of its Denesúliné First Nations and Athabasca communities

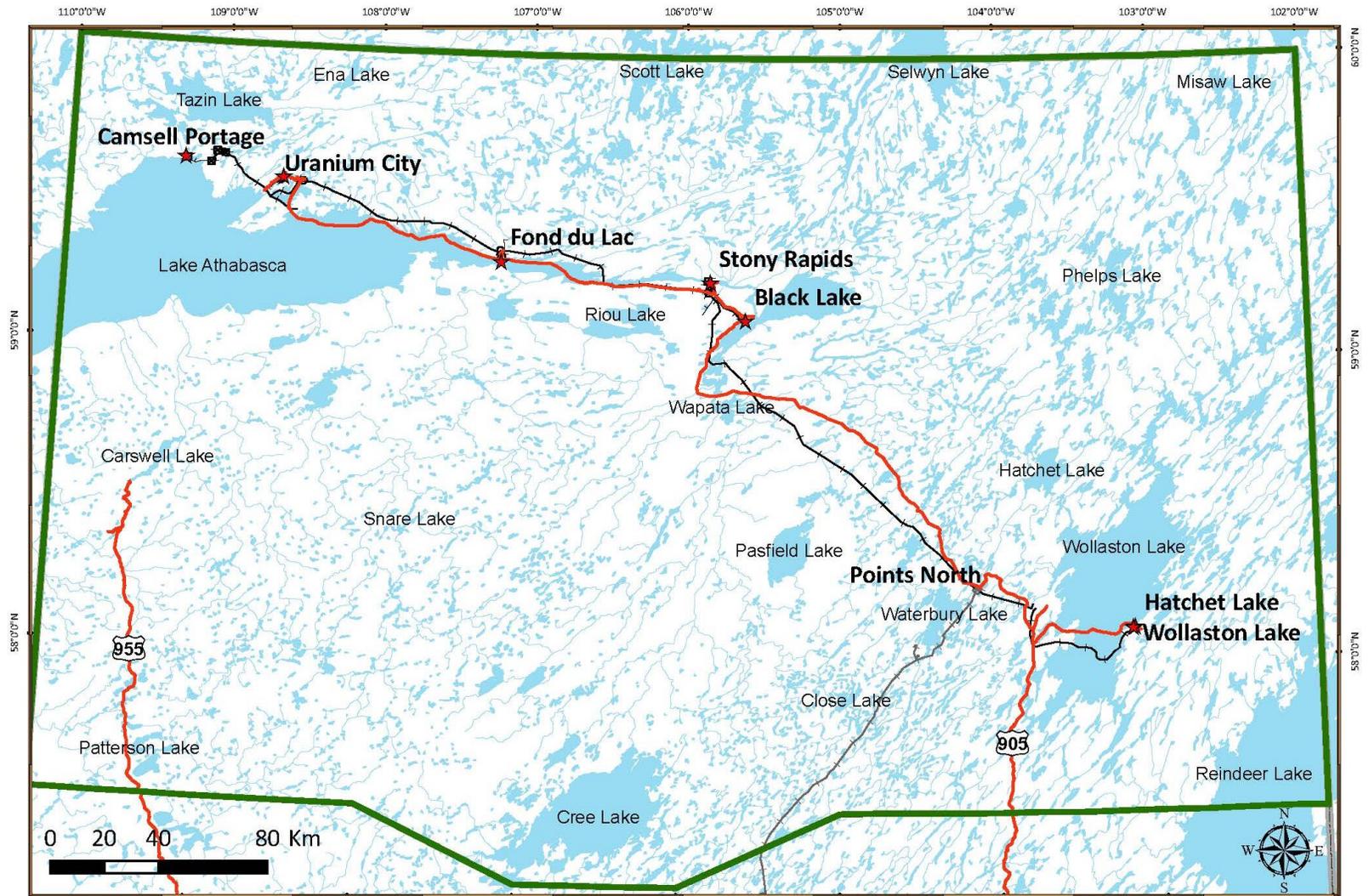
Governance



Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources is Indigenous owned and Community led



Nuhenéné (Traditional Territory)





Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources (YNLR): 5 Offices

Garrett Schmidt – Executive Director

Katherine Hay – Manager of Corporate Affairs

Dene Robillard – Development Coordinator

Dana Kellett – Environmental Advisor/CLT Supervisor

Megan Wallace – Environmental Land Use Planner

Steven Foti – Project Coordinator

Celeste Robillard – Admin/Communications

Victor Howald - *Setsuna chu Setsiekwi Beneka Neni* Coordinator

Tina Giroux-Robillard – Contract IPA Project Manager

Linda McNabb – Contract Human Resources

Bruce Hanbidge – Contract Strategic Advisor

Community Land Technicians:

Trevor Lidguerre, Ivan Adam, Jason Adam – Fond du Lac

Ian Donard, Austin Donard, Casey Throassie – Black Lake / Stony Rapids

Jean Tsannie, Curtis Tsannie, Tricia St. Pierre – Hatchet Lake / Wollaston Lake Post

Margaret Powder, Wayne Powder – Uranium City

Dennis Larocque – Camsell Portage



www.yathinene.com/staff

Ya'thi Néné's Role

- Prior to YNLR, Athabasca communities were largely uninformed about exploration and mining projects and benefitted little from these projects
- Damage to lands and waters occurred
- Now, YNLR liaises between communities and industry and government on projects of mutual interest
- To strengthen the relationship and support the discussion of issues or concerns, YNLR and CNSC established a Terms of Reference in July 2022



CNSC ROR 2022 Meeting: 20 September 2023

- Attended by YNLR Staff & Athabasca Land Protection Committee
- YNLR's concerns and feedback:
 1. Community engagement and comprehension
 2. Use of the term 'safe'
 3. Commission response to YNLR interventions and hearing procedures
 4. Cumulative effects
 5. Participant Funding Program
 6. Suggestions about future meetings





1. Indicator of community engagement and comprehension as a Safety and Control Area (SCA)

- Community members do not always understand activities and incidents at uranium mines and mills
- Request for increased communication with Industry, CNSC, and Government of Saskatchewan
- Addition of Community Comprehension as 15th SCA
- Or establish other means of community engagement with objective measures
- Needs to align with existing regulatory documents (i.e., 3.2.2) and forthcoming reconciliation commitments (i.e. UNDRIP)



2. Beaverlodge: use of the term 'safe'

- There are fish and water consumption limitations in and around Beaverlodge Lake
- These areas are therefore not “safe”
- “Safe” is used as a technical term but is confusing to land users as it poses as natural language but with a technical meaning
- YNLR appreciates the CNSC for working to eliminate the use of “safe” in presentations
- CNSC should use technical language that better reflects natural terms used by Basin communities
- CNSC should ensure use of appropriate terms by Industry

3. CNSC Commission response to YNLR interventions and hearing procedures

- YNLR opposed long license durations of 15 and 20 years for Rabbit Lake, Key Lake, and McArthur River Operations in written intervention and at Hearing
- Yet, Cameco received long license lengths
- YNLR is upset about this decision; the voice of communities was ignored
- Eroded trust in the CNSC



3. CNSC Commission response to YNLR interventions and hearing procedures (cont'd)

- YNLR urges the Commission to modernize hearing procedures and place more weight on perspectives of impacted rights holders
- Limited notice on upcoming hearings
- At hearings, only given 10 minutes to speak
- No constructive dialogue at hearings





4. Cumulative effects

- Cumulative effects of uranium mining in Athabasca Basin have been ignored
- Requires attention and resources
- Potential for at least three new Operations in Nuhenéné in coming decade

5. Participant Funding Program

- Each year, YNLR responds to numerous CNSC-regulated issues
- Each response requires a separate PFP
- Administratively burdensome
- Perhaps a comprehensive agreement to address several issues?





6. CNSC Response to Suggested Improvements to Future Meetings

- CNSC received feedback about 2021 ROR meeting: time limitations prevented important discussions
- In response, the 2022 ROR meeting (in Sept 2023) consisted of a shorter agenda to allow for such discussions
- Meeting agenda also allowed time for updates from Indigenous Communities on a voluntary basis
- These changes were appreciated by YNLR

Closing Remarks

- YNLR acknowledges initiatives by CNSC that contribute to relationship-building and engagement with Basin communities
 - Terms of Reference
 - YNLR involvement IEMPs
 - Nuclear Energy Agency conference
- YNLR welcomes further collaboration with CNSC Commission to incorporate our voice into the decision making process

Contact:

www.yathinene.ca

admin@yathinene.com