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Key Words Describing Areas of Research

Protected areas: northern parks, northern marine protected areas Tourism: last-chance, aboriginal, wildlife Wildlife management: polar bears, insects

Local Knowledge and Lake Superior: Documenting An Oral History

By engaging First Nations and northern communities, various agencies (Parks Canada), & tribal councils (NAN, KORI) on projects that are locally driven, we will develop local and regional solutions to challenges facing Northern communities in Ontario & throughout Canada.

Visual interviews will be conducted with various individuals (i.e., fishers, sailors, tourism operators, long-term residents) knowledgeable of Lake Superior and its history in the fall of 2010 and throughout 2011. The aim of this study is to document the local lore (stories, knowledge, experiences) of Lake Superior from non-Aboriginal perspectives. All of the participants will be asked to talk about their experiences, memories, background, their family's history in the region and their present life situation in general. Questions will also focus on socio-environmental aspects and on people's relationship to Lake Superior.

The development of the project is guided by a collaborative research approach, emphasizing the production of knowledge and information dissemination. Given the specific cultural context of the project, we will be using in-depth informal ethnographic visual interviews (i.e., with the use of audio-visual equipment) where respondents can express their positions and beliefs. One of the expected final product from this study will be the documentation of the local lore of Lake Superior. The interviews will be made available to citizens of Rosspport and invited others through a secured-access website.

The community is expected to participate in possible publications emerging from the findings and conference and/or workshop presentations.