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Cultural Heritage Department Archaeological Guideline Call before you “plan” to Dig!

At Little Shuswap Lake Band, any proposed ground altering development requires an archaeological assessment to be conducted prior to the proposed development. The type of assessment will be determined by the Cultural Heritage Protection Department. Planning is the most important stage. The following steps are outlined below:

1. Once a proposed plan and map has been developed, please send it, and make sure to include a kml/kmz map shapefile, as that it was the Cultural Heritage Department will need immediately. Ensure all aspects of the development are included on the proposed development plan (i.e., residential construction plans should include the proposed building and any associated utilities).
2. The Cultural Heritage Department will need ample notice to schedule the proposed project, the work will not get completed with a last-minute request. Most proposed projects or any ground altering activities are known more than two months or more ahead of when they want to begin the work.
3. The Cultural Heritage Department will provide a proposal of the type of assessment that needs to be completed based on the proposed work and all the details provided by the client. In some cases, if it is a small job an email quote may be submitted.
4. A meeting (i.e., phone call, teams meeting, or in-person) to discuss the proposed project will need to be held to ensure clear communications prior to the assessment moving forward.

As part of responsible development practices, an archaeological heritage assessment is required to be completed, prior to any construction or development, including residential buildings, mobile homes, boat ramps, pathways, gardens, garages, driveways, underground utilities, and septic components, including capped areas. Any development that may cause ground disturbance within an area or known or presumed archaeological potential may trigger the need for an assessment.

The archaeological heritage assessment serves to ensure potential impacts to Little Shuswap cultural heritage resources (e.g., ancient sites, culturally modified trees, cultural depressions, cache pits, trails, stone and bone artifacts, etc.) are assessed and if necessary mitigated, prior to any proposed development (ground altering disturbances) on Little Shuswap lands. The types of an archaeological heritage assessment required may include one or more of the following:

- 1) Archaeological Overview Assessment/Preliminary Field Reconnaissance;
- 2) Archaeological Impact Assessment;
- 3) Systematic Data Recovery; and/or,
- 4) Construction Monitoring.

Archaeological Overview Assessments (AOA) allow for a desktop assessment of several variables (e.g., known archaeological sites, cultural heritage land use, or environmental variables) to identify and assess the potential of an area for as-yet unrecorded archaeological sites. This process identifies high potential landforms where sites may exist. This process is often combined with a Preliminary Field Reconnaissance, which is a pedestrian foot survey of the proposed project area. The results are provided that includes management recommendations if further archaeological work is required, such as an AIA.

Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIA) are conducted by experienced archaeologists (field directors/permit holders) and allow for subsurface investigations conducted through manual shovel testing to discover and define the extent of buried archaeological sites. Where there is a likelihood of deeply buried archaeological sites, mechanical procedures such as auger or backhoe testing may be implemented. Generally, an evaluative unit (1m x 1m) is conducted dependent upon the site type. The results of the AIA are provided in a report that includes the inventory of the test areas, artifacts collected, with management action requirements. In some cases, monitoring with a percentage of sifting is required, or a systematic data recovery project may be required dependent upon the archaeological site that may be impacted. If an archaeological site has been found, artifacts are collected, and to-scale maps are produced of the site.

All artifacts collected are catalogued and stored at the Cultural Heritage Department, Secure Repository for research and analysis. Site maps and site forms are submitted to the Archaeology Branch to obtain a Borden site number (i.e., EfQv-1). The results of the AIA provide recommended strategies that may include site avoidance, protection measures, excavation programs (systematic data recovery) and/or construction monitoring.

Systematic Data Recovery (SDR) assessments are conducted by qualified archaeologists for the purposes of further inquiry before a site is altered permanently by the proposed development. This work is conducted if the proposed development is unable to avoid impacting the site. The goal of the data recovery is to gather the information content that exists in these sites before they are destroyed, and the information is lost forever. Ancient sites are finite and non-renewable, therefore the links of the Secwépemc past lifeways are lost. This is a large undertaking and expensive and requires detailed research to be completed that includes the cultural and historic contexts of the archaeological sites within the local and regional areas.

Construction Monitoring Construction monitoring can occur concurrent with an AIA (e.g., small site, low density), or after SDR fieldwork has been completed and impacts will be made to an existing archaeology site. An archaeologist will monitor a project by working closely with construction personnel to observe and record the excavation of an archaeological site. This is also used if there is a reasonable chance that an archaeological site is deeply situated. There are specific archaeological methods applied during construction monitoring that can include for example, observation, additional sample screening or controlled lifts of sediments, and the use of Hydrovac methods.

All heritage related assessments must be undertaken by Little Shuswap archaeologists, as determined by the Cultural Heritage Protection Department, and guided by the Little Shuswap Heritage Permitting system, and Little Shuswap Lake *Draft* Heritage Policy. Heritage Sites and/or cultural materials and

objects, including human remains, may not be disturbed without the completion of a proper archaeological assessment¹.

Failure to comply may result in a fine no less than \$10,000.00 or greater depending upon the severity of the damage. This includes a work stop order on the construction work in progress.

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¹ This includes areas where previous disturbance has occurred. Disturbance does not eliminate the presence of an archaeological site. Archaeological sites found in a disturbed context are also protected and subject to assessment