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Quatre projets de réserves de biodiversité  
dans la province naturelle du Plateau de la  
Basse-Côte-Nord

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6212-01-206

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Proposed

Biodiversity Reserve

Middle St. Augustin Area

Hi,

MY NAME IS NICHOLAS SHATTLER I'M THE PRESIDENT OF OUR METIS INUIT COMMUNITY HERE IN ST. AUGUSTIN ON THE LOWER NORTH SHORE.

OUR COMMUNITY HAS A RICH HISTORY & CULTURE IN HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING, WOOD CUTTING AND GATHERING OF FOOD. FOR US THESE ACTIVITIES ARE A DAILY RITUAL AND AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR LIVES.

OUR METIS INUIT COMMUNITY AND ALL OF ITS MEMBERS REJECT THE BIODIVERSITY RESERVE THAT B.A.P.E. HAS PROPOSED. WE THE METIS INUIT COMMUNITY OF ST. AUGUSTIN FEEL THAT THERE IS NO NEED FOR A RESERVE IN OUR AREA. WE FEEL THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS OF

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B.A.P.E. IS OVER EXAGGERATED. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU HAVE NOTICED OR NOT BUT THERE IS NOT MUCH TRAFFIC COMING IN OR GOING OUT OF OUR METIS INUIT COMMUNITY. IT HAS BEEN THIS WAY FOR CENTURIES AND THE WILD FLOWERS AND THE LIMESTONE ARE STILL IN ITS NATURAL PLACE. SO WHY NOW ALL OF A SUDDEN DO WE NEED A RESERVE. OUR METIS INUIT COMMUNITY FEELS THAT THIS IS ANOTHER GOVERNMENTAL TACTIC TO TRY AND DISCOURAGE THE PEOPLE ON THE COAST SO THAT WE WILL EVENTUALLY LEAVE THIS LAND. IT WAS TRIED IN THE PAST TO TRY AND REMOVE OUR ANCESTORS FROM THIS LAND BUT THEY DID NOT SUCCEED, WE ARE STILL HERE AND

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WE WILL REMAIN HERE FOR CENTURIES TO COME. IF B.A.P.E IS GENUINELY CONCERNED ABOUT HOW WE FEEL THEN LISTEN TO OUR VOICES. WE DO NOT NEED A BIODIVERSITY RESERVE BUT WHAT WE REALLY NEED IS A ROAD. GIVE US THE ROUTE 138 AND GIVE US THE CHANCE FOR OUR COMMUNITIES TO SURVIVE.

OUR METIS INUIT COMMUNITY IS CURRENTLY IN THE COURTS WITH THE PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS OVER OUR ANCESTRAL RIGHTS AND WE HOPE THAT ONE DAY WE WILL HAVE THESE RIGHTS RECOGNIZED.

BEFORE B.A.P.E. MAKES ANY DECISION ON AN IMPORTANT ISSUE AS THIS ONE THEY

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SHOULD LOOK AT THE HISTORY AND CULTURE  
OF OUR COMMUNITY. WE THE METIS INUIT  
COMMUNITY OF ST. AUGUSTIN ASK B.A.P.E  
TO WORK WITH US NOT AGAINST.

NICHOLAS SHATTLEW

  
PRESIDENT