

Fond du Lac – January 19, 2016

Attendees

- SRC: Mark Calette (Aboriginal Senior Advisor), Elizaveta Petelina (Remediation Specialist) and Ian Wilson (Manager, Environmental Remediation)
- Elders: Joe Marten, Louie M. Mercredi, John James Mercredi, Mervin Adam and Joe Mercredi
- Dene Translator: Ted Robillard

Agenda

1. Revegetation Elder Workshop
 - Overview of SRC Revegetation Approach
 - Plants, seed samples and pictures shown
 - Discussion regarding plants to be used for site revegetation

General Comments

- Common Yarrow is found around Fond du Lac. The Dene term for this plant is “Mean Grass.” It has been traditionally used for burns (boil plants and mix with oil or lard and apply to burn).
- Is there any way to use moss? It has been destroyed by fires and takes 50 years to grow back.
- The plant Rocky Mountain Fescue is something that can grow and is seen in the area.
- The plant Fireweed grows everywhere. After a fire you can see the red plant growing all over the place.
- Blueberries grow very well, especially after fires. It is believed they can grow in the sandy soil.
- Hay Sedge is a plant that is seen quite often. It has thorns that can puncture skin.
- 111 different plant species in the sand dunes across the lake.
- Some of the provincial resource people know where “special plants” grow.
- Labrador tea is another plant that is used quite often. It is used for tea. It is also dried in an oven. Once dried, it feels like cotton. You can mix it with lard for burns.
- Moose and caribou eat grass for food. All of the grass pictured in the presentation are food for these animals.
- Willow, birch and poplar all grow fast once seed takes. Spruce grows well too.
- It’s important to note that lichen grows on black spruce trees.
- Wild Mint is good for tea. It grows around Fond du Lac. August is a good time to harvest.
- It’s too cold in spring for plants to grow much. Plants are seen well in the summer. Don’t always see plants on trap line because it is too cold while trapping.
- Rabbit Lake is polluted. Sea weed is growing and is consuming the pollutants.