



Peguis First Nation

P.O. Box 10

PEGUIS RESERVE, MANITOBA ROC 3J0

Telephone: (204) 645-2359 Toll Free: 1-866-645-2359 Fax: (204) 645-2360
Website: www.peguisfirstnation.ca

March 25, 2013

Berger Peat Moss Clear Cutting Despite Licence Requirements

Peguis First Nation to Lose Medicinal Plants

Berger Peat Moss is clear cutting Manitoba forest. Manitoba Conservation issued a road building permit to Berger January 1, 2013. Berger Peat Moss' new environment licence, issued late February, after a year and half of appeals, is for a new peat mine in Washow Peninsula on Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba. The company was road building the day after the licence was issued. Clear cutting started recently.

All this is happening despite the new environment licence requiring Berger Peat Moss to file a satisfactory wildlife, habitat and vegetation inventory with Manitoba Conservation before they disturb the land.

Councillor Mike Sutherland of Peguis First Nation indicated, "We thought Berger Peat Moss was a better corporate citizen than this. They are road building and clear cutting forest and bogs instead of fulfilling their environment licence. The Manitoba Conservation Minister needs to order a stop work order immediately. "

" Berger Peat Moss told our First Nation in September 2012 that it would be transparent, and would inform us of their actions, while asking for our participation and knowledge. It seems Berger and our government are intent on draining the Washow Peninsula, that's so important for the health of Lake Winnipeg. The Peninsula is also our pharmacy for medicinal plants, used daily by our people. Berger Moss is operating in our treaty land entitlement area."

"While our community prepares for another round of spring flooding, the company and our government are also damaging Lake Winnipeg."

Lake Winnipeg was named most threatened lake of 2013 by the Global Nature Fund.

Friday March 22, 2013 is World Water Day.

Contact:
Mike Sutherland
1-204-330-4371

