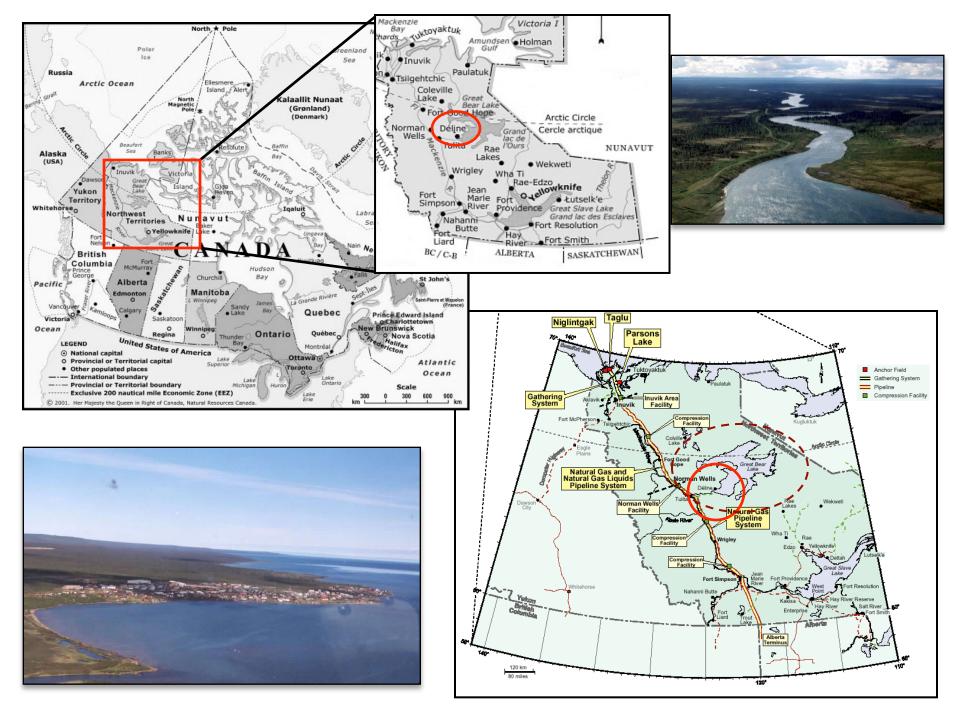
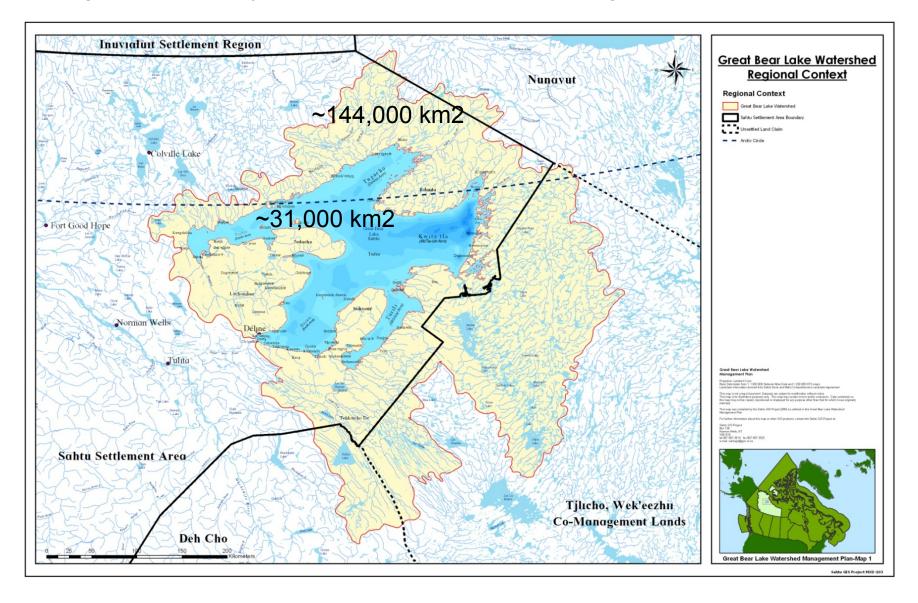
Locating the Waterheart: Great Bear Lake Watershed Management in the Northwest Territories, Canada

Ken Caine
Assistant Professor,
Department of Sociology
University of Alberta

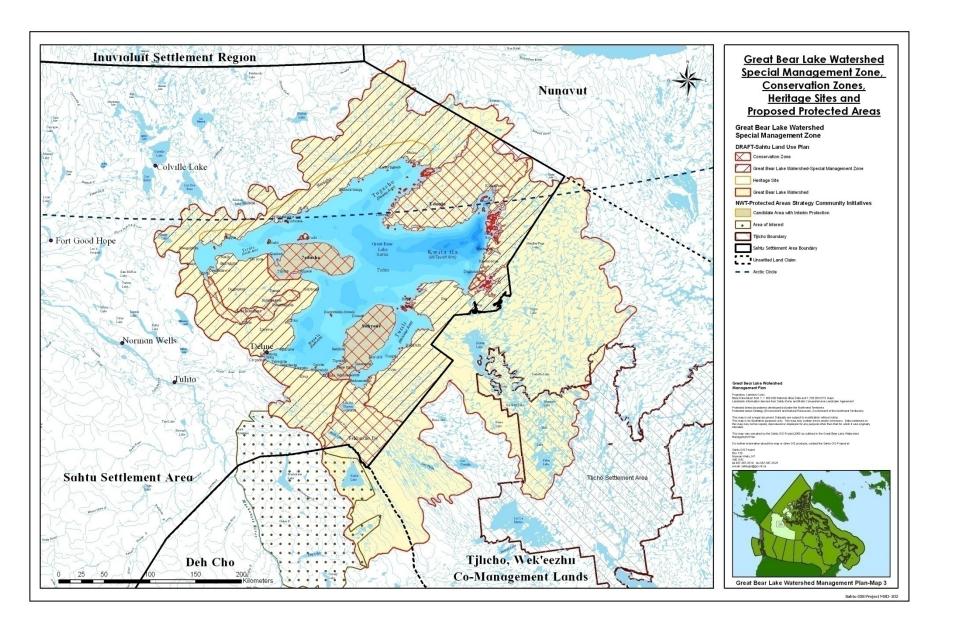


Great Bear Lake

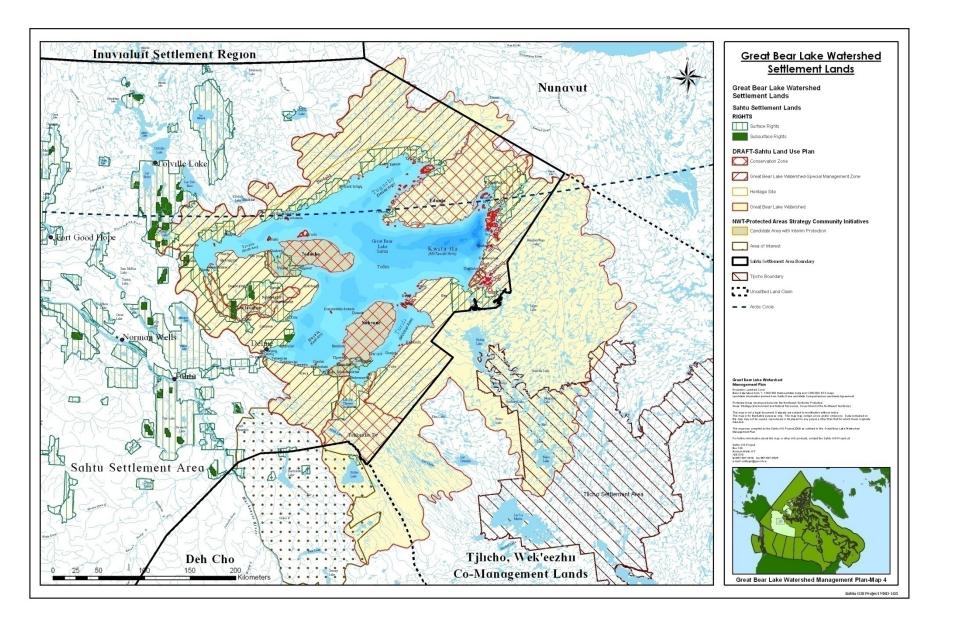
Largest lake entirely within Canada's borders; 9th largest in the world



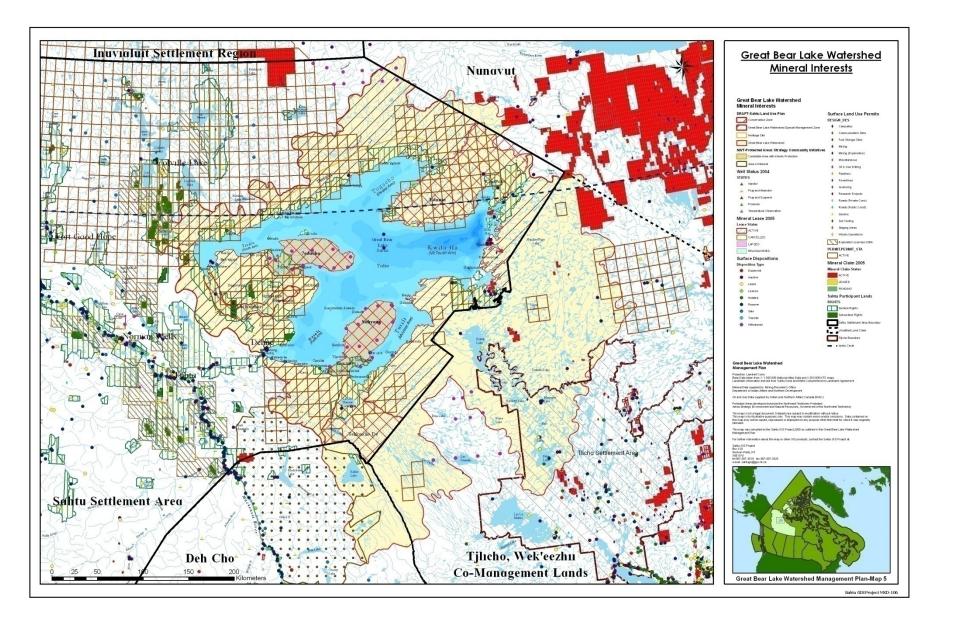
A changing landscape



A changing landscape



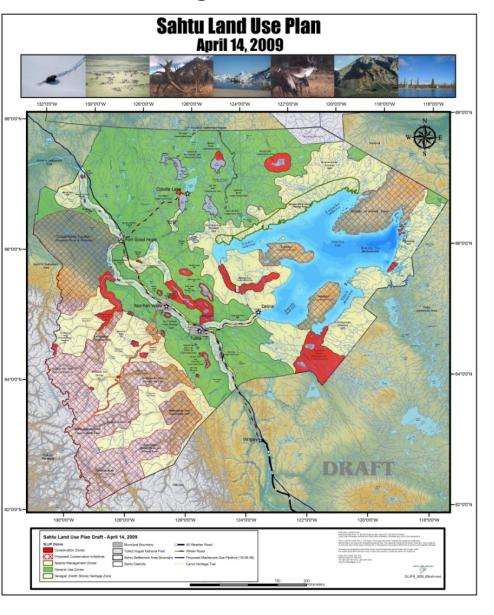
A changing landscape



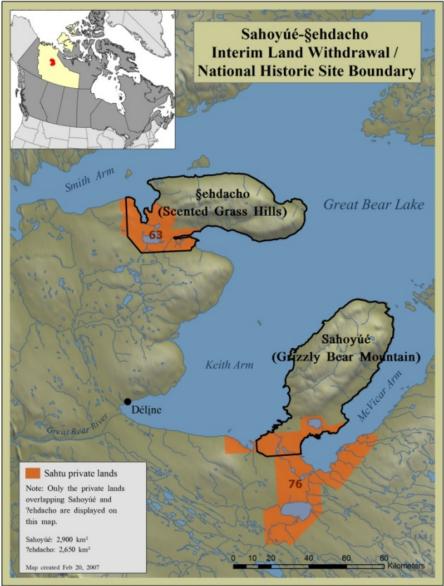
Ethnographic research

- How do Déline community leaders and outside resource managers perceive, negotiate, and practically apply one another's diverse understandings of natural resource management?
- Great Bear Lake Watershed Management Plan
- Protection of Saoyú-?ehdacho Aboriginal Cultural Landscape

Great Bear Lake Watershed Management Plan



Saoyú-?ehdacho: Aboriginal cultural landscape



Inter-Cultural Narratives

- Elders' stories laid the groundwork for the way that the watershed will be managed
 - The Waterheart
 - Storied form to proper social relations
 - "Leakage of Meaning"
- The telling of stories and their use in directing each section of the plan provided connection between commonly misunderstood or miscommunicated worldviews

"THE WATER HEART":

A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR GREAT BEAR LAKE AND ITS WATERSHED

- GBLMP based on guiding Dene principles
 - Included technical Ecological and Cultural Research and Monitoring Plan

Directed by

The Great Bear Lake Working Group

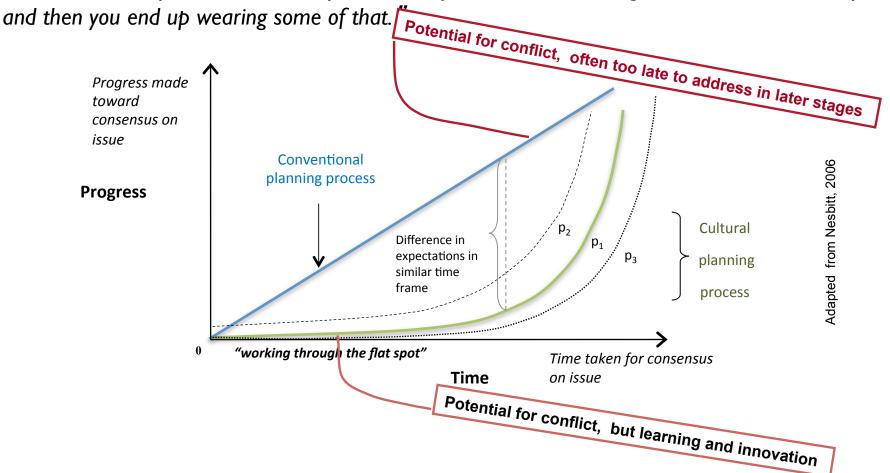
May 31, 2005

With Caveat of February 7, 2006

Cultural borrowing and multi-purpose institutions ...improvisation

- Perceived success of formally using oral traditions and Dene language
- Influence of GBLMP approach on other planning and NRM processes
- Decision by DFO to provide a community boat
 - "Déline in my heart and mind" (DFO fisheries manager) ... (really!)
- Facilitators comfortable working in both Dene traditional knowledge and western science traditions

"you know we're really at a community crisis level with them over this whole thing because they've lost when we were supposed to release these terms of reference of what we were going to do...we pissed away for a whole year here and when they see this, they're gonna go 'What, what did you hold this for a year for?'...you lose, I find the organization loses credibility,



"Well, I think people come increasingly to <u>understand each other and they furthermore</u> come increasingly to <u>influence each other</u> so that the culture of the table is formed and they <u>learn from each other</u>"

Political Engagement

leakage of meaning and borrowing of ideas coincide with strategic action and power relations

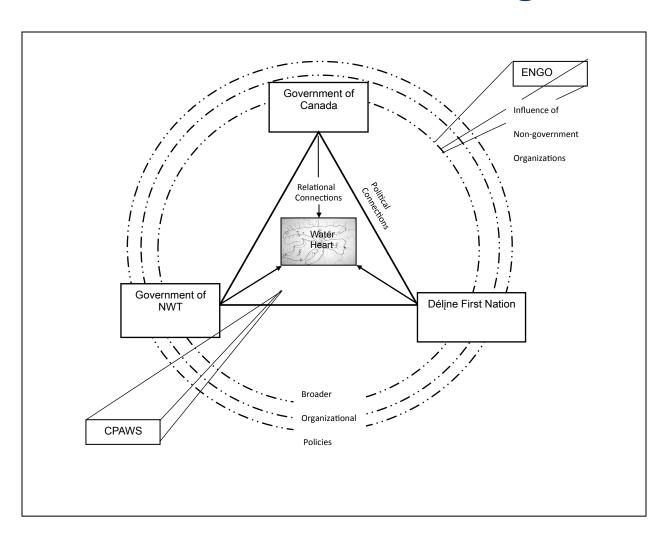
- Sahtu Land Claim Agreement a source of power used to access other forms of power
- Symbolic capital and power of historical agreements and formal obligations
 - 'Going to Power'

Practical Dis-engagement

- Intentional dis-engagement an equally valuable way of controlling the pace of the relationship and negotiations
 - Pulling back when unsure of process or need to wait for community leadership and elders to address internal issues
 - (from "caucasing" to visiting)
 - Government agencies holding back of promised key documents while policy development catches up; manipulate control over the process

"weird stalling thing ...where Parks Canada just sat on their haunches and waited..."

A Socio-Cultural Perspective on Great Bear Lake Management



Conclusions

- Co-management is not a fixed process multiple approaches / needs to be flexible in design
- Stories and oral traditions are extremely valuable to planning processes and governance strategies that try to incorporate indigenous cultures
- Seems simple: much more time is needed early on (and at a sustained level) to learn about one another on a more personal level
- Understanding one another is not enough when local people work with outside people – engagement, understanding, and power ("practical understanding")
- GBLMP & S-E: illustrate elements of a socio-cultural model for C.B. planning

Sahtúot'ine, Déline First Nation Government, Déline Lands Corporation





Pierre Elliot Trudeau Foundation

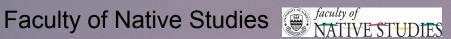


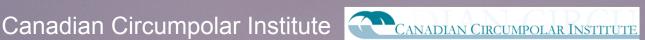
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada



Department of Rural Economy

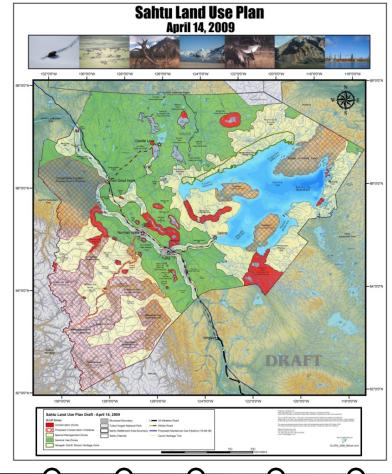








Great Bear Lake Watershed Management Plan



GBL Advisory Committee 1993 SLCA

1986-2001

2000 DIAND/ DFN 2001 Issues Paper

Oct **2002** GBLWG Oct **2003** Framework Jan **2004** *Water Heart* story

May 2005
GBLWMP
Cultural &
Ecological
Integrity

2006present: Sahtu Land Use Plan

1996National
Historic
Site
1999
NWT PAS

1986-1990

Saoyú-?ehdacho:

Cultural landscape, Protected area, **National Historic Site**

> Saoyú and **?ehdacho** Management Board; Mgmt Plan

2000 CIS & 5 yr withdrawal

NWT-PAS Resource

Assessments

2005 Withdrawal

extension

2000-2006