

## Project Summary

# Traditional Knowledge Study

As a result of the Haida Nation and Taku River decisions in 2004, the Supreme Court of Canada determined that the Crown has a duty to consult Aboriginal peoples and accommodate their rights (proven or asserted) when Government actions might affect their rights or interests. Traditional Knowledge (TK) studies have proved to be an effective means of consultation that engages and empowers Aboriginal communities. By investing in TK studies, government and industry can prevent Aboriginal rights and title litigation and regulatory delays and contribute to local development and capacity building.

**CDCI Research** was retained by the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to conduct a traditional knowledge study on behalf of the rights-bearing Métis community of the Lakehead/ Nipigon/ Michipicoten region of Northern Ontario. The project was undertaken to inform ongoing engagement, consultation, accommodation and monitoring of Industry specific projects in the region that have potential to affect the regional Métis community's rights, interests, and way of life.

### Role

CDCI Research provided a range of services for this project, including:

- Research Methodology planning
- Questionnaire Development
- Facilitating Interviews
- Recording of Interviews
- Transcription
- Report Writing
- Archiving Collected Data
- Presentation of Findings

### Capacity Building

A key component in all phases of the project was building capacity. The research team involved the consultation committee, community liaisons, research assistants and local resources whenever possible. CDCI research also provided opportunities to learn the mechanics of the project with the intent that future Traditional Knowledge studies can be carried out completely by local resources.



"Indigenous Knowledge is (...) the information base for a society, which facilitates communication and decision-making. Indigenous information systems are dynamic, and are continually influenced by internal creativity and experimentation as well as by contact with external systems." (Flavier, Jesus & Navarro. 1995: 479)

