

SHOAL LAKE BAND NO. 40

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PRESS RELEASE
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Shoal Lake #40 Will Oppose City of Winnipeg at International Joint Commission

Chief Erwin Redsky of Shoal Lake #40 First Nation expressed regret today in announcing that Shoal Lake #40 First Nation will have no choice but to formally oppose any application by the City of Winnipeg to the International Joint Commission that would allow Winnipeg to exploit Shoal Lake #40's land and resources for profit.

"We warned the City over a year ago that they did not have the right to use our land or the water for profit. Nearly 100 years ago, without our consent, they expropriated over 3500 acres of our best reserve land for their water works, but it was for very specific, limited purposes and those purposes did not include making money from selling water from Shoal Lake."

"We have always been prepared to discuss the City's economic development plans with them to see if something might be worked out," said Chief Redsky, "but we have been ignored over and over again. To protect our legal rights we had no alternative but to become involved in the court case launched by our neighbours, Iskatewizaagegan #39. Now the City has decided to try to do an end-run around us and go to the IJC to get their permission. We'll be there to block them. The City has to realize that this issue won't be resolved by ignoring us and bullying us into submission."

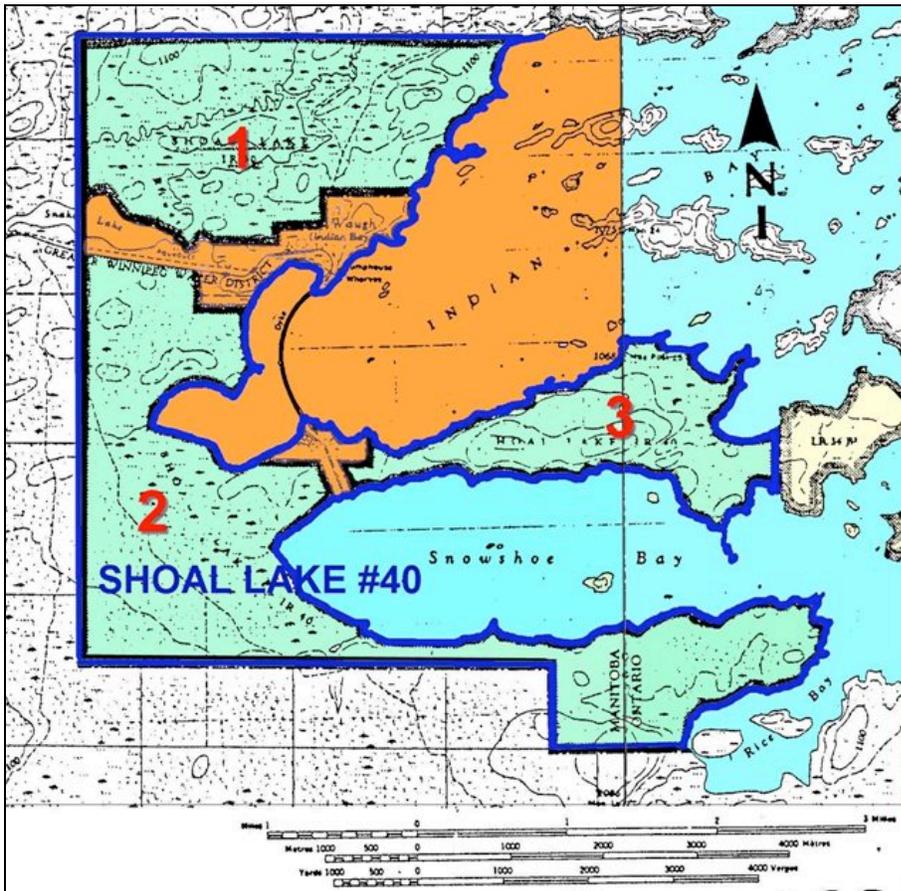
"We know the majority of the citizens of Winnipeg agree that one group of people does not have the right to take another group of peoples' land and economic opportunities so that they can make profits for themselves. That's not how basic Canadian Human Rights work," said Chief Redsky.

For more information contact:

Chief Erwin Redsky -

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Tags: City of Winnipeg, Shoal Lake #40, International Joint Commission, CentrePort Canada, West St. Paul, water sales.



Orange area indicates the Shoal Lake #40 Reserve land taken by the City of Winnipeg without permission of the band. Green indicates the three isolated sections of remaining reserve lands.