

# MUSKWA-KECHIKA

*BC'S WORKING WILDERNESS*



2005–2006

REPORT TO THE PREMIER AND THE PUBLIC



MUSKWA-KECHIKA  
MANAGEMENT AREA

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# Message from the Chair

On behalf of the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board (M-KAB) I am pleased to submit the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (M-KMA) 2005-2006 Annual Report to the public and Premier of British Columbia. The M-KMA was established as a result of the enactment of the M-KMA Act (Bill 37) in 1998, which was subsequently amended in 2001 (Bill 14) and 2002 (Bill 22).

Throughout the past year the nineteen-member M-KAB provided advice on land and resource management planning within the M-KMA and in support of this advice recommended annual expenditures from the Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund to the Trustee.

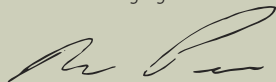
During the past year the M-K Task Group (involving M-KAB members and senior government officials) completed its work regarding M-KMA governance issues. Key deliverables included a long term "M-KMA Strategic Direction and Plan" for 2006-2015 and a "M-KMA Business Plan" for 2006-2009 to provide context for M-KAB annual expenditure planning. The Task Group also reviewed proposed amendments to the M-KMA Act and Regulation which were tabled for future implementation. Existing M-KAB committee structures and processes were evaluated and Task Group recommendations were endorsed and adopted by the M-KAB.

The M-KAB implemented many projects over the year, highlighted by accomplishments such as the "Joint Solutions for Mining in the M-KMA" workshop March 29-30, 2006. The workshop brought together representatives from various perspectives including mining, government, tourism, local governments, and the conservation community. Participants explored potential mining scenarios within the M-KMA and examined ways to reduce barriers to mining, ensuring that mineral exploration and development can occur while achieving the intent of the M-KMA.

As well, the provincial government has provided us with an opportunity to showcase M-KAB experiences and successes in land and resource management. Under the direction of Minister Pat Bell, the M-KAB has been asked to initiate a "Strategic Land Use Plan Implementation Framework" project that will identify a framework for efficient and effective implementation of Land and Resource Management Plans. The M-KAB welcomes the opportunity to contribute knowledge and understanding regarding Land and Resource Management Plan implementation within the M-KMA. The framework developed by the M-KAB will include recommendations that are applicable not only to the M-KMA but to other regions in the province.

In recognition of the importance of the M-KMA for wilderness conservation and resource management, the M-KAB has renewed its effort to increase education and awareness about the M-KMA through website development and increased public outreach.

Looking ahead to 2006-2007, I am confident that the commitment, planning, research and investment in the M-KMA will enable an environment for continuous improvement. As part of the world-class M-KMA model, the volunteer M-KAB members will continue to dedicate their time and energy to finding workable solutions to resource management issues within the M-KMA. We will strive to find a balance in managing the resources of the area, while maintaining its incredible wilderness, wildlife and ecosystem values.



Ross Peck, Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board Chair



Ross Peck

# Executive Summary

The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (M-KMA) is a unique land management model. Comprising 6.4 million hectares in north-eastern British Columbia, the M-KMA boasts an expansive wilderness with abundant resources and opportunities. Resource extraction is permitted in 75% of the area, while 25% is designated under the provincial park system.

As a publicly appointed volunteer board, the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board (M-KAB) strives to ensure balance by sustaining wilderness, wildlife, and ecosystem values while allowing access to resources. To ensure that the vision and intent for the M-KMA is achieved, the M-KAB provides advice to the BC government on land use and resource management in the M-KMA. The Board also works to increase awareness about the M-KMA.

The M-KAB undertook many initiatives in 2005–2006. Examples of how the M-KAB met the goals and priorities identified in its 2005–2006 Expenditure Plan are provided below.

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## New this Year

The new M-KMA Website was launched with updated information and a new look.

- Ipsos Reid conducted a two-part survey to measure the knowledge and awareness of the public in northeast BC as well as to assess the broader provincial awareness.
- The M-KAB held a “Joint Solutions Workshop for Mining in the M-KMA.” The workshop brought together participants from various industries, government agencies and interest groups to review mining regulations and permitting as well as issues associated with mining.
- The M-KAB held two workshops to introduce the Conservation Area Design

Toolkit to resource planners, First Nations and managers. The intent was to solicit feedback regarding usability, value and application of the toolkit to help inform M-KMA resource decisions.

- Minister Pat Bell, M-KMA Trustee, attended the February 2005 Board meeting. The minister asked the M-KAB to undertake a project to review M-KMA and other land use plan implementation in a context that could be applied province-wide.
- Additional resources were retained to assist the M-KAB in the delivery of its mandate.

## Advice to Government

In March 2006, the M-KAB submitted an advice letter to government with its final recommendations for the Redfern-Keily Park Management Plan. In 2006–2007 the M-KAB continued to review local strategic plans for the M-KMA.

## Partnerships

The M-KAB extended its partnership with the University of Northern British Columbia through the “Interim Letter of Understanding between the M-KAB and UNBC,” to March 31, 2007.

## Community Involvement

Board members and staff participated in a number of community events and conferences including the Council of Forest Industries Youth Camp, 2005 Oil and Gas Conference, BC Geophysical Conference, Smithers Symposium on Mountain Community Development, BC Natural Resources Forum, and the 8th Annual Wilderness Conference.





## Projects

The following projects were notable in 2005–2006:

- The M-KAB Advisory Board continued to be actively involved in the North Peace Stone's Sheep Steering Committee, including providing secretarial support;
- The 7th Annual M-KMA Environmental Youth Camp, a tremendous success, was held in the M-KMA on the Turnagain River at Sandpile;
- The Halfway River First Nations and UNBC completed the joint project, "Traditional Ecological Knowledge in Land Use Planning." The final product was an open source geographic valuation system (GVS), which established a means by which First Nations may become more engaged in resource management.

## Governance

The M-K Task Group, a joint initiative between the Board and the BC government, completed a Nine Year Strategic Plan and a Three Year Business Plan for the M-KAB. The Task Group also engaged M-K constituency groups in discussion about Board governance and potential M-KMA legislation updates and revisions. Support was expressed for a new Board governance model.

## Muskwa-Kechika Funding

The provincial government reinforced its support for the continuing role of the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board. Government announced that M-K funding would change from a Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund model to voted funds.







## Background

### Muskwa-Kechika Management Area

The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (M-KMA), situated in north-eastern BC, is an area of land designated for varying levels of protection, conservation and use (for example, economic development, research, back country recreation, and Alaska Highway travel). The M-KMA serves as a model for the future, enabling economic development while maintaining a large, intact and predominantly unroaded wilderness.

Conceived through the Fort St. John, Fort Nelson and Mackenzie Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) process and established by legislation (M-KMA Act) in 1998, the M-KMA is a unique new model for responsible land use, resource planning and management. The M-KMA is not a park; instead it comprises a variety of zones with differing levels of resource management ranging from provincial parks and ecological reserves (where resource extraction is not permitted), to resource management zone categories where objectives and strategies determine the level of human activity. This pattern of multi-resource management zones is a unique approach to managing the land base, including maintaining wilderness, wildlife and cultural values while allowing resource development in areas designated for that purpose.



*Few places on earth match the significance of the M-KMA in terms of raw beauty, isolation, biodiversity, wildlife, wilderness, natural resources, and spiritual and cultural values .*

## Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Vision

“The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area is a globally significant area of wilderness, wildlife and cultures, to be maintained in perpetuity, where world class integrated resource management decision-making is practiced, ensuring that resource development and other human activities take place in harmony with wilderness quality, wildlife and the dynamic ecosystems on which they depend.”

## Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board

The M-KMA Act provides for the establishment of an advisory board mandated with providing advice to the BC government on the planning and management of the M-KMA. The Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board (M-KAB) advises government on natural resource planning, research, monitoring and management in the M-KMA, as well as Trust Fund expenditures.

The M-KAB is a volunteer, Premier-appointed board with members who represent a variety of perspectives.

The Board continually strives to maintain the values of the M-KMA while providing valuable input into sustainable economic development in the M-KMA. There is an ongoing process of informing government, industry, First Nations and the public about the Management Area and the work of the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board attributes its successes to a coordinated effort of individual board members to further the awareness of the M-KMA values, combined with bringing forward differing perspectives for full discussion. As a consensus-based board, the M-KAB believes in the value of listening to and collaborating with its constituents, government agencies and industry to ensure balanced decision-making.



## Muskwa-Kechika Information Office

Located in the Visitor Center in Fort St. John, BC, the M-KMA Information Office serves as a central base of operations through which a range of management, administration and communication services support the daily work of the M-KAB, fundraising, and M-KMA outreach. The M-KMA Information Office serves as a central, publicly accessible location where British Columbians and visitors alike may direct their inquiries and information requests.

The office, which receives local, regional, national and international visitors, offers a small resource library and reading area. Promotional items featuring the M-KMA logo (i.e. oil skin caps) are available for sale to the public. The office also serves as a location for M-KAB committee meetings and other related meetings.

## Advisory Board Coordinator and Associate Coordinator

The M-KAB annually contracts the professional and administrative services of a full-time M-KAB Coordinator and Associate Coordinator to oversee the daily operations and administration of the M-KAB, outreach activities, and the M-KMA Information Office.

Karrilyn Vince continued as the M-KAB Coordinator with Tara Forest continuing as the Associate Coordinator. Karrilyn Vince is an environmental planner with extensive experience in the M-KMA and knowledge of land use planning. Tara Forest, a resident of Fort St. John, has a background in natural resource interpretation, fish, wildlife and recreation management, and park planning.

*The Advisory Board is made up of representatives from First Nations, local and regional government, conservation, tourism, recreation, guide outfitting, trapping, forestry, mining, and oil and gas. They balance decisions for the M-KMA based on core values including: wildlife, wilderness, sustainable development, culture and history, traditional land uses and activities, recreation and tourism.*









# Advice to Government

## From the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board

The M-KAB provided both formal and informal advice to the BC government in 2005–2006. The M-KAB provided the following advice concerning land use, resource planning and management.

### British Columbia Provincial Park Management and Planning

During the 2005–2006 year, the M-KAB Park and Recreation Planning Committee worked to review and provide input to Redfern–Keily and Graham–Laurier Provincial Park Management Plans. The review included meetings with the BC Parks Planning Officer and the Ministry of Environment Regional Manager.

The M-KAB is working to ensure that the M-KMA Park Management Plans are consistent with the intent, purpose and values in the M-KMA Act. The Board considers it essential for BC Parks to complete initial plans that achieve the M-KMA vision; these plans would then set the standard for additional M-KMA park planning.

In March 2006, the Advisory Board submitted an advice letter for Redfern–Keily Park Management Plan to the BC Ministry of Environment. The letter outlined the following recommendations for consideration in finalising the plan:

- Monitor mountain bike activity, and develop and implement management strategies as mountain bike activity and associated impacts increase;
- Develop and implement a Range Management Strategy or plan to address commercial and non-commercial horse forage use, as well as manage emergent horse related issues and concerns such as range burning;
- Hold public consultation prior to establishing new facilities (e.g. development of permanent and temporary structures, and designating campsites and recreational use areas);
- Consult with the public on areas where new signs are recommended, and implement minimum signage with specific characteristics (e.g. rustic, wood, small);

- Coordinate the allocation of commercial recreation tenures within and outside of parks with the ministry charged with leading recreation provincially; and
- Allow the use and transport of firearms within all M-KMA parks for protection purposes.

### **M-KMA Recreation Management Plan**

The M-KMA Recreation Management Plan intent was to provide direction for commercial and public recreation. The Advisory Board submitted an advice letter to government in July 2005 endorsing and supporting the Recreation Management Plan with the following recommendations:

- Currently, a lead agency has not been given the responsibility of the Recreation Management Plan. The Advisory Board recommends that a lead agency be identified to monitor and implement the Recreation Management Plan; and
- The Advisory Board feels that there may be room for further consultation with communities on the west side. The main concern is that some of the consultation, rather than being a singular process to gather direct input from communities, has been combined with other processes such as the LRMP Implementation and Monitoring Committee meeting. To ensure a fair and equitable process, the Advisory Board recommends that the implementation stage involve further dialogue with the Town of Mackenzie and Kwadacha First Nations.

With the exception of the above comments, the Board felt that the review process was both effective and efficient.

Restructuring following May 2005 provincial elections resulted in the formation of the Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts (MTSA). MTSA acquired some responsibility for commercial recreation, and may therefore have some responsibility for the plan. As the plan was not signed and approved by March 31st, 2006, the Advisory Board anticipates a plan update in 2006-2007.

### **M-KMA Wilderness Definition**

In 2004 the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board undertook the development of an M-KMA Wilderness Definition to clearly define the terms “wilderness,” “wilderness quality” and “wilderness characteristics.” The intent was to ensure that M-KMA activities are managed consistently with the intent of the M-KMA Act. The

M-KAB submitted the Wilderness Definition to government, intending that the definition should be tested by managers and utilized as a policy tool as well as at an operational level. The M-KAB anticipates liaising further with government regarding the use and distribution of the M-KMA Wilderness Definition.

### **M-KAB Governance**

Established in February 2005, the M-K Task Group included M-KAB members and BC government representatives. Work continued in 2006 to develop the M-KAB strategic direction, including a Three Year Business Plan and a Nine Year Strategic Plan, which were completed and approved by the Board in February 2006. To ensure efficiencies in M-KAB planning and activities, these plans will be aligned with the BC government planning and budgeting cycles.

In 2005 the Board, via the Task Group, was directed to recommend a new funding mechanism in anticipation of the M-K Trust Fund expiring March 31st, 2006. In 2006, the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands announced that funding would change from a Trust Fund to voted funds.

The Task Group also worked to update M-KMA legislation and regulations. BC government work on legislative amendments was ongoing as of March 31st, 2006.

### **M-KMA Wildlife Management Plan**

The M-KAB submitted an advice letter regarding the M-KMA Wildlife Management Plan to the Ministry of Environment in 2004, following a review of the Plan.

In 2005-2006, the Ministry of Environment reported that it had established a committee represented by various government agencies to review the Wildlife Management Plan. The Plan was being re-drafted into two pieces, a strategic document and a technical manual to address how the strategic objectives would be achieved. The changes would enable statutory decision-makers to use the Plan and to clarify legal interpretations of the wording.

An issue needing to be addressed was the limited resources available to implement the plan. As well, additional work was needed to identify how the Wildlife Management Plan and Pre-Tenure plans would interact.



The Advisory Board continues to recommend that:

- The Wildlife Management Plan precede all other local strategic plans;
- The Plan be pursuant to the new M-KMA legislation; and
- The intent to protect wildlife and wilderness remains intact.

The M-KAB anticipates receiving a copy of the revised Wildlife Management Plan in fall 2006. The Board will review the plan, considering that to be effective it should be made widely available, and clearly communicate to managers how it will affect resource management decisions.

### Mining in the M-KMA

The current M-KMA Act does not require the development of a local strategic plan, standards or guidelines for mining. However, with increasing mining interest in the M-KMA there is a recognised need to plan for mining. To this end, the M-KAB has initiated work with M-K constituency groups, including the BC government and mining industry, to examine mineral exploration and mining activity in the M-KMA.

The M-KAB established a Mining Committee to explore and developing an appropriate process to guide mining activity in the M-KMA. The Board then submitted a letter to Minister of State for Mining, Bill Bennett, advising him of M-KAB work regarding mining interests. The letter indicated that, as per the M-KMA Act, a higher standard of performance is required for all industrial sectors operating within the M-KMA than in the rest of BC. It also pointed out that community and stakeholder concerns have been raised in relation to mining.

The letter went on to convey that discussions occurring in relation to mining may lead to the development of an M-K Mining Guidebook and/or a plan for mining in the M-KMA.

***The M-KMA is a natural treasure. At 6.4 million hectares, it is the largest wilderness area in the Rocky Mountains. It was set aside to: "Maintain in perpetuity the wilderness quality, and diversity and abundance of wildlife and the ecosystems on which it depends, while allowing resource development and use in parts of the M-KMA designated for those purposes, including recreation, hunting, trapping, timber harvesting, mineral exploration and mining, and oil and gas exploration and development." (M-KMA Act)***

### Oil and Gas in the M-KMA

The Oil and Gas Committee requested feedback on the EBA Well Site Evaluation Report recommendations from the Oil and Gas Commission (OGC), and the Ministries of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (MEMPR), and Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM). The Committee outlined the following comments and recommendations:

- The Advisory Board views long-term monitoring, best management practices and adaptive management as vital to the development of well sites and well site access;
- The Advisory Board considers industry support to be a critical component of any future work towards long-term monitoring, best management practices and adaptive management;
- The Committee hopes to initiate the development of a long-term monitoring plan, including development or enhancement of best management practices and a site assessment tool, for oil and gas access and well site development in the M-KMA; and
- The EBA Well Site Report recommendations could provide an avenue for future monitoring of projects; however, the Committee wishes to receive input prior to initiating projects.

There may be an opportunity to partner with the Science and Community Environmental Knowledge (SCEK) Fund, as was done with the first Well Site Evaluation project.







# Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board

The Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board is working to set a world standard for land use, resource planning and management, as well as integrating economic, environmental and social values.

The M-KAB, made up of individuals noted for their experience and expertise, is appointed by the Premier to serve the intent of the M-KMA Act. Board members collectively reflect the diversity of groups and individuals with interests in the M-KMA. The BC Government determines Board member appointments and term lengths.

Board member selection is based on the following criteria:

- Commitment to the M-KMA vision;
- Diversity of age, gender and culture;
- Competency and experience;
- Geographic and sector representation; and,
- Leadership.

## Board Appointments

The following Board members were reappointed for a term ending March 31, 2006:

• Barry Holland	• Bruce McKnight	• Tom Briggs
• Bill Lux	• Craig McCook	• Roslyn Pokiak
• Brian McDonald	• Jack Sime	• Wayne Lewis
• Brian Wolf	• Shelley Middleton	• Wayne Sawchuk

The following new members were appointed for a term ending March 31, 2006:

• Angus Dickie	• Corrine Porter	• Dixie Hammett
• Bob Peart	• David Pryce	



# ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

**Ross Peck**, chair of the M-KAB and Executive Committee, is widely knowledgeable about local history and the outdoors. Appointed as chair in 2002, he also served as vice-chair since the inception of the M-KMA in 1998. Ross represented the guide outfitter perspective at the Fort Nelson LRMP table, and was involved in a family tourism business in the M-KMA for over 50 years. While Ross recently retired from guide outfitting, he remains actively involved in ensuring a viable future for the area and the continual development of the M-KMA model. Ross is a Registered Professional Biologist and raises horses on a small ranch by the Peace River, near Hudson's Hope, BC.



**ROSS**  
peck

Dease River First Nations' perspective on land use and resource planning and management in the M-KMA.

**Angus Dickie**, a Registered Professional Forester and Fort Nelson First Nation member, brings to the Board extensive knowledge and experience working with aboriginal and other communities provincially, nationally, and throughout the boreal forest regions of Canada. Widely experienced in traditional wilderness and camping skills, First Aid, wilderness travel, hunting, trapping and fishing, Angus' interests also include ceremonial drumming and a lifelong respect for nature and the outdoors.



**ANGUS**  
dickie

**Bob Peart** is a Registered Professional Biologist with an undergraduate degree in Fish and Wildlife Biology, a masters degree in Education and a certificate in Dispute Resolution from the Justice Institute. He has been a government employee (Parks Canada), self-employed and employed by non-profit societies. He has served on numerous boards (including Interpretation Canada) and thus is very familiar with board governance principles. Currently he is self-employed as a senior partner with The Nexus Learning Group Inc. He continues to be involved with numerous conservation groups, such as the Grasslands Conservation Council and the World Wildlife Fund.



**BOB**  
peart

**Bill Lux**, vice-chair of the M-KAB, represents the Dease River First Nation. Bill is also the Kaska Dena Council executive vice-chair, Lands and Resources. As one of four Kaska Dena Advisory Board members on the Board, Bill is dedicated to representing the



**BILL**  
lux

**Barry Holland**, a big game hunter, pilot and backcountry traveler, brings experience in petroleum and natural gas technology, as well as occupational safety. Barry actively participated in the Fort St. John LRMP process prior to being appointed to the Board.



**BARRY**  
holland

**Brian McDonald** is widely experienced in supervisory roles in the construction industry. An experienced backcountry traveller and nature enthusiast, Brian maintains a keen interest in environmental issues. Representing Kaska Dena, he has special interest in



**BRIAN**  
mcdonald

natural resource exploration and development, and wilderness recreation.

**Brian Wolf** represents the Prophet River First Nation, and is widely experienced in Treaty 8 First Nations' issues. A wildlife enthusiast, Brian was raised in the Prophet River area of the M-KMA. He has experience in and knowledge of the M-KMA backcountry.



**BRIAN**  
wolf

**Bruce McKnight** is an outdoor enthusiast with senior international experience in the mining industry. Bruce currently works as a minerals advisor in the field of First Nations, public and investor relations. A representative of the mining industry during the Commission on Resources and the Environment (CORE) process, the Whitehorse Mining Initiative and the Land and Resource Management Planning process, Bruce is a member of several corporate boards and the BC Mediation and Arbitration Board. He is also a BC Professional Engineer and a Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy.



**BRUCE**  
mcknight

**Corrine Porter**, a member of the Kaska Nation, was raised in the Fireside area and currently resides in Lower Post, BC. Corrine has worked for the Kaska Nation for the past 10 years and recently graduated with a Natural Resource Science bachelors degree from Thompson River University. Corrine is the Kaska Dena Council Conservation coordinator and vice-president of the Dena Kayeh Institute. She also participates on the North Peace Stone's Sheep Steering Committee, the Yukon Kaska Forest Resource Stewardship Council, and the Watson Lake Citizens on Patrol. Corrine enjoys the outdoors and is active in hiking, horse riding, boating, running, biking and fishing.



**CORRINE**  
porter

**Craig McCook** was born and raised in the M-KMA where he continues to live and work with his family. Representing Kaska Dena, Craig is experienced as an outdoorsman, hunter, trapper, river rafter and wilderness guide. He participated in the Mackenzie LRMP and is an active Board member of Kwadacha Natural Resources.



**CRAIG**  
mccook

**David Pryce** is vice-president, Western Canada Operations with the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers. He has a degree in physical geography from York University that led to a career in environmental management in both Oil and Gas and Mining. David has over 20 years experience in the upstream oil and gas industry. He worked for a major oil company, as a private consultant, and as a regulator with the National Energy Board before joining the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers nine years ago. Key areas of responsibility include or have included resource access issues, air quality related issues, and various regulatory issues.



**DAVID**  
pryce

**Dixie Hammett** began her career as a Licensed Physical Therapist, serving as director of Hand Therapy Services at RHD Memorial Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. She is past president of the Northern BC Guides Association and currently participates on its executive. She is vice-president of the finance committee and fish, wildlife and habitat issues committee chair for the Guide Outfitters Association of BC. Married with three children, Dixie currently co-owns and operates Sikanni River Outfitters near Pink Mountain, BC.



**DIXIE**  
hammett

*The Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board provides information, recommendations and advice to government for informed decision-making.*

**Howard Madill**, sitting as an ex-officio member of the Advisory Board, represents the Government of British Columbia as Regional Manager, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. He brings a broad range of experience working for provincial and territorial governments, as well as a background in natural resource management and planning.



**HOWARD**  
madill

**Jack Sime** has a strong appreciation for, and knowledge of, the M-KMA backcountry. He has extensive experience in municipal government as a former alderman and director for the Northern Rockies Regional District. Jack's background includes work in highway maintenance, gold mining, trapping, retail sales and cable television.



**JACK**  
sime

**Roslyn Pokiak**, Halfway River First Nation Chief, has a broad range of skills and experience representing the concerns and interests of the Halfway River First Nation in policy development, employment, human resources and training. Currently Roslyn is involved in the Traditional Ecological Knowledge project.



**ROSLYN**  
pokiak

**Shelley Middleton**, a resident of Fort Nelson, BC, co-owns and operates Duke's Air Service Ltd., a seasonal commercial air charter service based at Liard River, BC. Shelley is a director for the Northern Rockies Regional District (NRRD), currently holding the Tourism and Parks portfolio. She also represents the NRRD as a director on the Northern Rockies Alaska Highway Tourism Association Board. Shelley acts as a NRRD liaison with BC Parks, the Fort Nelson Historical Society and the Fort Nelson LRMP Monitoring Committee. She brings a local government and wilderness tourism perspective to the M-KAB.



**SHELLEY**  
middleton

**Tom Briggs** and his wife Karen moved to Mackenzie, BC in 1974 where they raised their two children. Tom is community-minded and was involved in municipal politics, from 1986 to 2005. He served seven years as a councillor and 12 years as mayor. He has served on many boards and committees. He was the Northern Treaties Advisory Committee chair, and a director of the North Central Municipal Association. Tom is chair of the M-K Outreach Committee and continues to play an active role in the District of Mackenzie.



**TOM**  
briggs

**Wayne Lewis**, Woodlands Manager with Abitibi Consolidated Company of Canada in Mackenzie, BC, contributed to the Mackenzie Land and Resource Management Plan as well as the Mackenzie addition to the M-KMA. A member of the Association of BC Professional Foresters and the Canadian Institute of Forestry, Wayne works with the Kaska Dena Council in support of forestry initiatives while serving as a director of Tsay Tay Forestry Limited.



**WAYNE**  
lewis

**Wayne Sawchuk**, an experienced backcountry horseman and nature photographer, brings a conservation perspective to the Board as well as extensive knowledge of forestry and oil and gas. He was actively involved in the planning processes that led to the creation of the M-KMA. Wayne is the winner of the 2006 Canadian Environment Award. As a photographer he has captured diverse wildlife and outdoor subjects with skill and artistry, and has donated many photographs for use in M-K publications, including the photos used in this 2005-2006 Annual Report.



**WAYNE**  
sawchuk





## Governance

The Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board Strategic Plan and Business Plan established five M-K program areas, and identified strategic challenges and opportunities for each.

### M-K Advisory Board Mission

“Provide respected and trusted advice that ensures the dynamic ecosystems, wilderness, wildlife and cultural diversity of the M-KMA are maintained in perpetuity.”

### M-K Advisory Board Code of Ethics:

Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board members are guided by a code of ethics, which incorporates respect, accountability, transparency, aboriginal and treaty rights, adaptive management and a commitment to the North. The Code of Ethics is in the M-KAB Business Plan.

### M-K Advisory Board Mandate

Supported by BC Government funding, the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board mandate is to contribute to the stewardship of the M-KMA on behalf of all British Columbians.

The M-KAB carries out a number of duties in support of this mandate, which are listed in the M-KAB Business Plan. One example of how the Board fulfills its mandate is by providing advice to the BC government regarding the management of integrated renewable and non-renewable resources within the M-KMA.

## Committees

While the Board meets as a whole two to three times per year, much of the M-KAB daily work is conducted by M-KAB committees. Committee meetings facilitate timely and effective advice to government on M-KMA planning and management activities.

Active participation of Board members in committees is an integral component of M-KAB work. The committees are also a key link between the M-KAB, sectors, government, and the public.

The M-K Task Group recommended that the M-KAB should reorganise its committee structure in 2005–2006 to be consistent with the program areas. The Board committees are structured to address the strategic challenges and opportunities in their work. M-KAB Committees will be renamed in 2006–2007 to reflect the program areas in the Business Plan. The committees are highlighted below, including major work that occurred in 2005–2006.

### Executive Committee

As the central Board authority, the Executive Committee holds monthly meetings to oversee day-to-day M-KAB activities, operations and programs. The Committee may make decisions on behalf of the Board when situations do not permit full Board participation, but does not set strategic direction or policy for the M-KAB. The Committee serves as an important communication link between committees as well as an effective means of dealing with changes and emerging issues.

### Research Committee

The Research Committee is comprised of Board members and an academic representative from the University of Northern BC (UNBC). The Committee plans, organizes, implements and monitors a broad range of research projects pertinent to M-KMA land use, resource planning and management.

In 2005–2006 work continued towards implementing the Conservation Area Design (CAD) toolkit. Two workshops were undertaken to review the toolkit. Participants worked through development scenarios to provide feedback regarding usability and data gaps. Discussions were held regarding its application to development within the M-KMA, as well as ways to ensure that it would be relevant to future development scenarios.

The Planning and Research Integration Project (PRIP) aimed to identify current land use and resource planning and management in the M-KMA. The project examined M-KMA resources. Two main recommendations provided to the Committee for consideration were to develop:

- a Data Management Plan that involves project status and management, project deliverables and inclusion of spatial data; and
- a Spatially Explicit Sustainable Resource Management Plan (SRMP) that includes development of a species at risk (SAR) strategy and an inventory strategy.

The Research Committee is reviewing recommendations to determine the most appropriate process for a long-term M-KMA research plan.

### Oil and Gas Committee

The Oil and Gas Committee reviews oil and gas related planning in the M-KMA and develops advice to government. This committee also advocates new, innovative and emerging technologies which may help to minimize negative environmental impacts to the land.

In 2005, EBA Waberski Darrow completed the well site evaluation project with funding from the M-K Trust Fund. As well, Committee chair Barry Holland presented to the BC Geophysical Conference regarding the M-KAB mandate and desire to work with industry to achieve the M-KMA vision. The Committee is working with government agencies to increase awareness of the M-KMA and encourage best practices implementation and application of innovative techniques.

### Mining Committee

The Mining Committee was established to address issues arising from mining and mineral exploration in the M-KMA. Although the M-KMA Act does not require a local strategic plan for mining, increased interest in mining is generating concerns regarding impacts. The mining community is also seeking greater certainty for mining in the M-KMA.

To address these concerns, the Committee organised a “Joint Solutions Workshop for Mining in the M-KMA.” Participants were invited from government, First Nations, industry, the Advisory Board, and other interest groups to discuss mining

in the M-KMA. Additional work will be required and may result in a product to help guide mining activity in the M-KMA.

### **Parks and Recreation Planning Committee**

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The Parks and Recreation Committee reviews and provides advice to government regarding park and recreation management planning to ensure consistency with the M-KMA Act. In 2005–2006, the Committee reviewed the M-KMA Recreation Management Plan, Redfern-Keily Park Management Plan, and initiated a review of Graham-Laurier Park Management Plan.

### **Outreach Committee**

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The Outreach Committee works to promote awareness of the M-KMA and the work of the M-KAB locally, provincially, nationally and internationally. The Committee is responsible for communications including M-KMA presentations, educational programs, and M-KAB event planning and organization such as the annual M-K

Environmental Youth Camp. In 2005–2006, the Committee oversaw the completion of the new M-KMA Website, the 2004–2005 Annual Report, revisions to the M-K Environmental Youth Camp Guidelines, and an Ipsos Reid Survey that assessed regional and provincial awareness of the M-KMA. The Committee initiated a communications plan for the M-KMA with a built-in Committee review and input process. The Committee is working to implement the Communications Plan.

### **Human Resources Committee**

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Established in 2005, the Human Resources Committee works to increase support and efficiencies for Advisory Board activities, including staffing and management of the M-K Information Office, contract selection process, contract performance evaluation, and policies and procedures. Work continues in these areas, with the Committee developing advice on human resource related items for consideration by the Board.





## Meetings

The Advisory Board meets as a whole two or three times annually in locations within or close to the M-KMA in northern BC. Full Board meetings, unlike Committee meetings which are held more regularly, are usually held over three days in which the business of the Board is conducted, including planning, decision-making and advice development.

Advisory Board meetings were held in June 2005 at Liard River Hotsprings and February 2006 in Mackenzie, BC where, in addition to full day, in-camera proceedings, the Board received a variety of government and related land use and resource planning and management updates. Board meetings are an important element in the process as it allows the entire Board to discuss issues and management activities. In addition, the public is welcome to attend the winter meetings to ask questions of and receive responses from the M-K Advisory Board.

### ***Extraordinary Board Meeting***

The Advisory Board also met as a whole in October 2005 at a special meeting held in Fort St. John, primarily to review governance work in progress and work towards development of the 06-07 Expenditure Plan. Discussions revolved around draft documents developed to date including the Strategic Direction, Strategic Plan and Business Plan. Additionally, Board members discussed the March 31, 2006 date when government funding responsibility in the M-KMA Act expired, although a commitment for funding is still there. Task Group activities moved the governance process forward, with the M-KAB committing to the following actions: i) approve the Strategic Direction, Strategic Plan and Business Plan, ii) communicate and consult with constituents to determine an overall vision for M-KMA governance, iii) identify relationships between projects, and iv) identifying specific goals and implementation strategies to achieve the M-KMA vision.

## Partnerships

To successfully achieve the M-KMA vision, the M-KAB requires a collaborative and coordinated approach. Therefore the Board partners with organizations and individuals who have interests that are aligned with the M-KAB mandate and mission.

### **UNBC Research Partnership**

The M-KAB research partnership with the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) is gathering research data vital to land use, resource planning and management in the M-KMA, especially in relation to ecological and wildlife sustainability, and biological and human ecology.

The Ian McTaggart-Cowan M-K Research Professorship, currently filled by Dr. Katherine Parker of UNBC, focuses on wildlife biology in the M-KMA (emphasizing research studies in large mammal predator-prey ecosystems, fisheries, wilderness recreation, wilderness management) and the impact of resource development activities on core wilderness values. Additionally, Dr. Parker serves as a consultant and adviser to the M-KAB Research Committee.

The August 2004 interim agreement incorporated:

1. A broad range of research activities including wildlife, resource management and planning;
2. Extension and communication of research results;
3. Education opportunities;
4. Collation and evaluation of research results; and
5. Dialogue with the M-KAB on research priorities and related management issues.

Discussions are ongoing with UNBC to define a long-term relationship with the M-KAB. In anticipation of the agreement expiring March 31st, 2006, and to better define the relationship, the Interim Letter of Understanding was extended to March 31st, 2007.



*While the Advisory Board acknowledges a BC government objective to allow resource development in designated areas of the M-KMA, the Board acknowledges that not all environmental impacts resulting from these activities may be determined in advance.*

*Consequently, with limited capacity and resources, the Board does its best to monitor environmental impacts of resource-based activities, as well as ensure the application of best practices and adaptive management.*









# Initiatives and Achievements

Highlighted below are some of the main initiatives and achievements that were undertaken by the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board in 2005–2006.

## Projects

### Joint Solutions Workshop for Mining

The Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board hosted a mining workshop where mining industry representatives, First Nations, community representatives, guide outfitters, conservation interests, agency staff and others gathered to explore barriers and opportunities for mining in the M-KMA.

Specific objectives were to:

- Share information about the vision for the M-KMA and the planning and management framework for the area;
- Share information about the requirements of the mineral exploration and mining sectors and government permitting agencies;
- Share information so that the mineral sector is more fully aware of the management responsibility of various regional agencies, as well as the interests of First Nations, local communities and stakeholders;
- Identify key issues of concern from a range of perspectives regarding exploration and mining activity in the M-KMA;



- Generate solutions to these issues that can enable exploration and mining activities while ensuring other resource values are respected and protected, through a series of case studies;
- Identify strategies to refine and implement these solutions and disseminate learnings more broadly within government agencies, First Nations and stakeholder groups; and
- Provide opportunities for the building of working relationships among those with interests in mineral exploration and mining in the M-KMA.

Workshop participants worked through three scenarios for mining in the M-KMA which provided an opportunity for the investigation of barriers for mining in the M-KMA. Initial thoughts include the following:

- All parties at the workshop agreed that one of the features that makes the M-KMA “special” is the need for improved consultation and communication “early and often” with all those affected by mining exploration activities;
- Scenario exercises identified a number of potential impacts from proposed exploration activities. The majority of these impacts could be mitigated through strategies such as adjusting timing of activities, location, access routes and usage and avoidance of impacts to wildlife; and
- Requirement for reclamation and security bonds, additional compensation (if also required), clarifying the vision for the M-KMA, and certification.

The results of the workshop will be reviewed by the M-K Mining Committee and follow-up actions will be considered, such as information materials to clarify expectations regarding mining in the M-KMA.

### Well Site Evaluation

In 2005, the M-KMA project, “Evaluating the Environmental Impacts of Well Site and Access Road Construction Methods,” was conducted by EBA Waberski Darrow. The project was intended to assist in the development of a long-term monitoring program, and involved a field assessment of four well sites in the Sikanni area of the M-KMA. The sites surveyed were AMOCO Sidenius, CNRL Sikanni, Husky Sikanni, and Murphy Chicken Creek.

The well sites were assessed for impacts to wildlife, habitat, vegetation,





hydrology, geomorphology, the level of reclamation completed, and construction and engineering methods used to establish well sites and road access. The EBA team evaluated successes and deficiencies of each project, identified what worked well and proposed workable solutions for improvements. The final report identified the benefits and importance of implementing a long-term monitoring plan. The project could also inform updates to best management practices and guidelines.

EBA Waberski Darrow developed a preliminary weighting tool as a precursor to developing a site assessment tool for long-term monitoring. General recommendations included refining the method for future well site monitoring and assessment projects, and establishing field monitoring for the four sites. Specific recommendations were related to construction practices, culvert design and installation, sediment controls, wetland and riparian conservation management, and winter road management.

### **Traditional Knowledge in Land Use Planning**

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“Traditional Knowledge in Land Use Planning,” was a joint project between UNBC and Halfway River First Nation, funded by the M-K Trust Fund. The project resulted in the development of a “Geographic Valuation System” (GVS) mapping and data presentation tool. The GVS provided an excellent opportunity to work on solutions to challenges that First Nations communities face (i.e. the preservation of their history and traditional knowledge, resource management issues, industrial development, etc.).

UNBC and Halfway River First Nation presented the project results to the M-KAB at the February 2005 meeting. The GVS was considered unique compared with other systems (i.e. Traditional Use Studies (TUS) and other Geographic Information Systems (GIS)) because, “it would enable First Nations to participate in non-First Nation management approaches.”

The GVS would provide the same services that a GIS provides, but would also be able to “accommodate any form of information, preserve and transmit history, language, traditions, community functions, beliefs and values, and enable communities to use their own information and knowledge based on their own values within their worldview.”

UNBC has made the GVS available as an open-source tool.



## Communications

### Events, Presentations and Promotions

In the 2005–2006 fiscal year, office staff and Board members participated in events, hosted the M-K display and delivered a number of presentations profiling the M-KMA and the M-KAB including:

- Fort St. John and Mackenzie Trade Shows, Fort St. John Forestry Appreciation Day and the 2005 Oil and Gas Conference in Fort St. John (attended and hosted M-K display);
- BC Geophysical Conference (presentation by Barry Holland);
- Smithers Symposium on Mountain Community Development *Planning for Tourism, Amenity Migration and Resorts* (presentation by Karilyn Vince);
- 8<sup>th</sup> World Wilderness Congress in Alaska (poster presentation by Wayne Sawchuk);
- Council of Forest Industry's (COFI) Youth Camp (presentation by Tara Forest); and
- Fourth Annual BC Natural Resources Forum in Prince George (attended).

An advertorial about the M-KMA was published in the northern *Hello North* tourism magazine, aimed at raising general public awareness about the M-KMA. As well, M-KMA merchandise was provided for sale to the public, and donated for promotional purposes to a variety of special events, organisations, and presenters to M-KAB meetings and workshops.

### Website

The M-KMA website is a central communication tool for providing information about the M-KMA and land use, resource planning and management activities. This vital electronic information tool, which is accessed locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, provides a range of information and documents profiling the M-KMA and the work of the Board. The M-KMA website, launched in July 2005, continues to be maintained and updated to ensure accurate and timely information. The website also provides the M-KAB with a secure web page to access materials for review, such as draft meeting records.

### M-KMA Annual Environmental Youth Camp

Hosted in 2005 by the Kaska Dena, at Sandpile on the Turnagain River, the annual M-KMA Environmental Youth Camp provided opportunities for First Nations and non-First Nations youth to learn about the M-KMA, the environment, traditional Aboriginal culture, and themselves.

Funded by the M-K Trust Fund, this unique, two-week wilderness experience brought teachers, elders and youth together in an atmosphere of learning about traditional ways of outdoor survival and First Nations spirituality, and contemporary issues of land use and resource planning and management.

### Survey

The M-KAB commissioned Ipsos Reid to conduct two public surveys to determine British Columbians' current awareness, knowledge, and perceptions of the M-KMA. This study will serve as a benchmark for tracking changes over the next 10 to 20 years.

### Overview of Results

Awareness of the M-KMA is high among those living in and around the area: two-thirds (68%) of respondents stated they had heard of the M-KMA. In addition, of those aware of the M-KMA, 62% felt fairly familiar with the area. Yet many of those respondents were unable to recall specific details about the M-KMA. Details that respondents were generally able to recall focused on conservation and protection.

Among British Columbians as a whole awareness is much lower: only 13% of British Columbians stated that they had heard of the M-KMA. Similar to those living in and around the M-KMA, 39% of those British Columbians who were aware of the M-KMA were unable to recall specific details about the area.

***Some results from the survey: 68% of local residents have heard of the M-KMA; 13% of British Columbians have heard of it; 88% agree "the M-KMA has local, regional, national, and global significance"; 78% agree "the M-KMA will set a world standard for environmental sustainability and economic stability"; and 73% agree "the M-KMA will create a positive climate for long-term investments in British Columbia".***

***Ninety three percent of respondents consider areas like the M-KMA important to BC as a whole.***

## ***Impressions***

Overall impressions of the M-KMA were predominantly positive: 75% of those aware of the M-KMA stating that they had a favourable impression of the area. When asked to point to the most negative thing that comes to mind when thinking about the M-KMA, 52% were unable to think of anything negative.

Impressions towards the role of the M-KMA were also favourable, with the majority of respondents considering that the M-KMA played an important role.

## ***Recommendations***

Recommendations for communicating about the M-KMA include developing champion messages that focus on environmental protection and wildlife conservation, and that manage concerns about development. The results of the survey will be incorporated into the M-K Communications Strategy to guide some of the messaging and communications activities. For a copy of the survey results please visit our website at [www.muskwa-kechika.com](http://www.muskwa-kechika.com)

## **M-K Governance**

The M-K Task Group was a joint initiative between the M-KAB and the provincial government. Initially created to address direction provided by the M-K Trust Fund Trustee (Minister George Abbott) in February 2005, the Task Group worked on a number of projects. Tasks included:

- Developing a new strategic direction, a strategic plan, and a business plan;
- Proposing changes to the M-K financial model, which was to expire March 31st, 2006;
- Proposing changes to legislation (the M-KMA Act and Management Plan Regulation); and
- Developing a communications plan to gather input on the process.

During the time that the Task Group conducted its work, elections were held and the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management changed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB). Minister Pat Bell was appointed as the M-K Trustee.

The Task Group successfully completed the Nine Year Strategic Plan and Direction, and the Three Year Business Plan which were approved by the M-KAB. Further, the Task Group proposed a number of changes to the M-K financial model, and that

the legislation be updated and revised to fit the current situation. Proposed changes included updating ministry names, and references to other pieces of legislation within the Act. A communications plan was developed, and M-KAB members engaged with constituency groups to provide an overview of the work, seeking feedback and support regarding governance changes. Constituency groups were supportive of the proposed changes and some provided letters of support to the M-K Trustee.

In response to the expiration of the funding model on March 31, 2006, Minister Pat Bell met with the M-KAB in February 2006. He proposed a funding commitment through provincially voted funds. As well, the M-KAB completed its 2006-2007 Expenditure Plan for the Minister's review. Legislative changes proposed by the Task Group were taken into consideration by the provincial government that had not yet been implemented at the end of 2005-2006.

The Task Group also cultivated a stronger relationship between the M-KAB and senior government officials and held important discussions with the Inter-Agency Management Committee (IAMC) regarding business planning for the M-KMA. The M-KAB agreed in February 2006 that the Task Group would be dissolved after a final meeting, having completed its objectives.

## **Strategic Land Use Plan Implementation Framework**

Under direction from Minister Bell, the M-KAB was provided with an opportunity to develop a land use planning framework for the M-KMA. This framework would also inform the larger provincial land use plan implementation process. In the final months of 2005-2006, the M-KAB considered how this project could be conducted, incorporating the following:

- Fort St. John, Fort Nelson and Mackenzie LRMP implementation in the M-KMA;
- Lessons learned from the M-KMA (both successes and challenges);
- Constituency involvement in management of the M-KMA, First Nations and local community involvement in particular; and
- The legislative framework.

The M-KAB would need to consider how these elements could inform a broader area. Further work would be conducted in the upcoming 2006-2007 fiscal year.







# Inter-Agency Management Committee

## Partnership

Consistent with the intent of the M-KMA Act and the M-KMA Plan, the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board is responsible for providing advice to the Inter-Agency Management Committee (IAMC) on priorities for, and coordination of, local strategic planning in the M-KMA.

Consistent with the M-KMA Act and outlined in the M-KMA Plan, the IAMC fulfilled its responsibilities by working with the M-KAB to coordinate public review and consultation for local strategic planning and prepare the 2005-2006 IAMC Report.

Key responsibilities of the IAMC include:

- Assistance to resolve conflicts that may arise between land users in the M-KMA and ministries and agencies responsible for land use;
- Provision of a central registry for M-KMA land use plans, related documents and their amendments;
- Review of proposed amendments to land use plans, and provision of recommendations based on those reviews to the Environment and Land Use Committee;
- Working in partnership with the M-KMA to coordinate: the implementation of the M-KMA Management Plan; ways and means of monitoring implementation of the Plan; and processes allowing for public consultation in relation to review of plans.

## Report Overview

Consistent with the intent of the M-KMA Act and the M-KMA Plan, the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board is responsible for providing advice to the Northern Region Inter-Agency Management Committee (IAMC) on priorities for and coordinating of local strategic planning in the M-KMA.

As well, consistent with the M-KMA Act, and outlined in the M-KMA Plan, the IAMC worked with the Advisory Board and to date has completed coordination of a public review and consultation for local strategic planning. The 2005–2006 IAMC Report to the M-KAB will be completed by late fall.

### IAMC Key Responsibilities:

- Assisting with the resolution of conflicts between agencies and resource users;
- Maintaining a registry of plan documents and plan amendments, including the Muskwa-Kechika Management Plan and local strategic plans, available to the public and any other interested parties;
- Reviewing and providing recommendations to the Environment and Land Use Committee on any proposed amendments;
- Working in partnership with the Advisory Board, to provide for and coordinate public review and consultation as necessary;
- Working in consultation with the Advisory Board, to prepare an annual inter-agency work plan to facilitate the implementation of the M-KMA Management Plan; and
- Working in partnership with the Advisory Board to prepare an annual monitoring report on plan implementation, amendments and expenditures.

While land use and resource development in the M-KMA remained, as expected, at relatively low levels, significant planning and management activities prompted the development of oil and gas best practices guidelines and revisions in oil and gas pre-tenure planning, forest management, processes of commercial recreation tenure approval, monitoring and enforcement activities, as well as First Nations consultations. Additionally, progress was made towards completing the M-KMA Wildlife Management, Park Management and Recreation Management plans.

Furthermore, a number of government ministries and agencies cooperated to initiate a number of studies and projects including the Stone's Sheep Study.

Mechanisms are required for closer collaboration in the future between the M-KAB and IAMC. Governance consultation had been presented to the IAMC which responded favourably to M-KAB governance information and expressed interest in:

- commenting on the draft legislation;
- arranging a joint meeting with the M-K Task Group to discuss the Three Year Business Plan; and
- meeting yearly to review and update the Three Year Business Plan.

IAMC could draw parallels to the M-KMA. Presentations served an important role by sharing information and setting the stage for closer future collaboration. The M-KAB is hopeful that attention will focus on engaging at the strategic level rather than just on a year-to-year project basis.

## Activity Report Summary

While several ministry and agency reports have yet to be received, land use and resource development in the M-KMA remained, as expected, at relatively low levels when compared to areas outside of the M-KMA. Activities and challenges of note for fiscal 2005–2006 include the following:

- An increase in backcountry issues;
- Coordinated access issues;
- An increase in online staking and exploratory activities associated with mining;
- Several planning processes have reached key stages including the M-KMA Wildlife Management Plan, the M-K Recreation Plan and several park plans;
- Development by the Ministry of Environment of best management practices and guidelines for various activities;
- Multiple government participation with the Stone's Sheep Research Project; and
- Significant changes have occurred within government, including restructuring of ministries and development of new ministries.

Of particular interest is the new Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts, now responsible for all-seasons resorts/alpine skiing, implementation of the BC Resort



Strategy and Action Plan, Adventure Tourism/Commercial Recreation and Forest Recreation Sites and Trails. The new Ministry of Agriculture and Lands Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) has set out a priority to revitalize the M-KMA through the Strategic Land and Resource Planning business area. ILMB coordinates applications for access to Crown resources through regional Front Counter BC offices, develops, implements and revises land use plans, manages and delivers resource information, and prioritizes and coordinates recovery planning for species-at-risk.

Significant planning and management activities prompted the development of oil and gas best practices guidelines and revisions in oil and gas pre-tenure planning, forest management, commercial recreation tenure approval processes, monitoring and enforcement activities, as well as First Nations consultation. Additionally, progress was made toward completing the M-KMA Wildlife

Management, Park Management and Recreation Management plans. Furthermore, a number of government ministries and agencies cooperated to several studies and projects, including the Stone's Sheep Study.

The Advisory Board continues to work closely with the IAMC and looks forward to completing activities associated with M-KMA resource planning and management.

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*For information regarding BC government work in the M-KMA, a copy of the "Northern Interior IAMC Annual Report 2005-2006 on the M-KMA", may be requested from:*

**Ministry of Agriculture and Lands,  
Integrated Land Management Bureau  
Suite 400-10003 110th Ave.  
Fort St. John, BC V1J 6M7**

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# 2005–2006 Expenditure Plan: Year in Review

## Overview

The M-KMA Act requires the Advisory Board to make recommendations to the Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund Trustee (a position filled by the Minister of Agriculture and Lands) concerning annual expenditures from the Trust Fund.

## Financial Report

Ongoing Commitments	\$158,932.01
Strategic Planning	\$165,834.16
Multi-Year Projects to be Completed this Fiscal	\$10,000.00
Multi-Year Projects	\$240,463.20
New Projects	\$141,913.02
Ongoing Operations of the Board	\$291,100.03
2005–2006 Contingency	\$148,487.49

## Successes

- Integrity of wildlife, wilderness and cultural values in the M-KMA remains intact;
- Resource activities are proceeding in a manner that is respectful of M-KMA values;
- Collaboration continues with government agencies, stakeholders and the public to increase awareness of M-KMA values;
- The M-KAB is strengthening its involvement and cooperation with organizations participating in M-KMA tourism opportunities; and,
- The M-KAB is strengthening its involvement and cooperation with the mining industry to increase awareness of the values of the M-KMA and to promote sustainable development.

## Fundraising

Through the Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund, the BC Government matches financial contributions from a variety of corporate and private benefactors. This year match-funding contributions were designated for use mainly by the M-K Environmental Youth Camp, and the Stone's Sheep Project.



## M-K Trust Fund Projects

The Advisory Board works closely with ILMB to allocate annual expenditures from the M-K Trust Fund. All expenditures reflect statutory responsibilities defined in the M-KMA Act and M-KMA Management Plan. The M-KAB, through the M-K Trust Fund, supports a broad range of resource-related research projects, as well as initiatives aimed at preserving cultural values.

M-KAB Projects range from M-KMA wildlife biology and ecology studies, to cartography, research in First Nations Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and various resource inventories. From planning for low environmental impact resource development to parks and wilderness recreation opportunities, the goal of the M-K Trust Fund is to generate information on a variety of subjects from a variety of disciplines, in support of land use, resource planning and management activities in the M-KMA.

The M-KAB established the following “2005-2006 Expenditure Plan” project funding priorities:

- Ongoing Commitments — to support projects identified through the former Strategic Plan and the formal agreements and research partnership with UNBC;
- Strategic Planning — to support the Nine Year Strategic and Three Year Business plans as well as engaging communities in consultation regarding M-KAB governance and strategic planning;
- Multi-Year Projects to be Completed this Fiscal — to support the Northern Ecology Caribou Project identified for completion in 2005-2006;
- Multi-Year Projects — to support projects identified as adding to baseline information, monitoring and compliance as well as to support learning opportunities for youth;
- New Projects — to support projects to collect baseline information or to support projects conducted in previous years; and,
- Ongoing Operations — maintaining a level of professional capacity to support the work of the M-KAB, government integration and Board expenses.

## Ongoing Commitments

Project		An Ecosystem Approach to Habitat Capability and Cumulative Effects Management
Priorities and Actions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete year five of a five year study.</li> <li>• Achieve overall objective to quantify large mammal predator-prey system dynamics in the Besa-Prophet Pre-Tenure Area, with five separate research components.</li> </ul>
Results		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Made results of research work available to land and resource managers.</li> <li>• Worked with UNBC as lead proponent to ensure results are appropriately documented and reported.</li> </ul>
Next Steps		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide results as input to pre-tenure plans, Cumulative Impact Management, development scenarios and ecosystem management.</li> <li>• Use information in local strategic plan development and amendments, as well as to inform adaptive management processes and advice from the M-KAB to government.</li> </ul>
Project		M-KAB Research Partnership with the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC)
Priorities and Actions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue the UNBC Partnership to support ongoing research, graduate student work, public presentations profiling research in the M-K, and an M-K/UNBC professorship.</li> </ul>
Results		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established an interim agreement to March 31st, 2007.</li> </ul>
Next Steps		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue discussions to finalise a longer-term partnership with UNBC.</li> <li>• Develop a long-term research plan in partnership with UNBC.</li> </ul>
Project		Conservation Area Design (CAD) Implementation
Priorities and Actions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake pilot project workshops to assess CAD opportunities and limitations.</li> <li>• Increase awareness of the CAD toolkit.</li> <li>• Provide CAD toolkit to managers, planners, policy and decision-makers</li> </ul>
Results		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Held two workshops to assess the CAD using forest development scenarios.</li> <li>• Received valuable feedback regarding the data and usability of the toolkit.</li> <li>• Established a working group to develop a long- and short-term work plan to update, maintain, and improve the usability of the toolkit.</li> </ul>
Next Steps		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update the CAD toolkit platform.</li> <li>• Validate and update the CAD.</li> <li>• Encourage First Nations, industry, managers and planners to use the CAD to assist in making resource management decisions.</li> </ul>
Project		Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and CAD Integration
Priorities and Actions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support work to integrate TEK, gathered through research, into the CAD.</li> <li>• Develop a method to integrate TEK with participation from Treaty 8 and Kaska Dena.</li> </ul>
Results		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delayed, as collection of TEK and CAD implementation had yet to occur.</li> </ul>
Next Steps		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider undertaking TEK and CAD integration in 2006-2007.</li> </ul>

Project		Incorporating TEK and Traditional Land Use Knowledge in Planning
	Priorities and Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete stages three and four of a four-stage project: i) establish a research partnership between UNBC and Halfway River First Nations; ii) build relationships and understanding among participants; iii) build prototype data and an information system compatible with differing world views and values; iv) test the data and system, providing recommendations for further application.</li> <li>• Evaluate and enhance capacity to incorporate traditional aboriginal world views and values in modern resource management planning using geospatial approaches.</li> </ul>
	Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed to stage four and a Geographic Valuation System (GVS) produced.</li> <li>• Presented completed product, findings and recommendations to the M-KAB.</li> <li>• Made the product available as an open-source tool, which could be used to record, present, and analyse information spatially, as well as to preserve and transmit community history, language, traditions, values, etc.</li> </ul>
	Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the GVS is accessible to collect and manage traditional knowledge.</li> </ul>
Project		M-K Stone's Sheep Sustainability Steering Committee
	Priorities and Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support initiatives developed during the Sulphur/8 Mile Area pre-tenure planning process.</li> <li>• Provide administration support to the Committee.</li> <li>• Develop a Stone's Sheep Research Plan.</li> </ul>
	Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaged in multi-sector collaboration to develop a long-term Stone's Sheep Management Plan.</li> </ul>
	Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue work in support of the Research Plan and project identified in the Plan.</li> </ul>
Project		Stone's Sheep Mapping Project
	Priorities and Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a mapping pilot project in the Sulphur/8 Mile Area</li> </ul>
	Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delayed field component due to late start date.</li> </ul>
	Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake field work and map development for the area.</li> <li>• Use data to determine key alpine habitat for Stone's Sheep and inform pre-tenure plans.</li> </ul>
Project		Stone's Sheep Research Support Project
	Priorities and Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work to support Sulphur/8 Mile pre-tenure planning process initiatives.</li> <li>• Engage in a process to develop a comprehensive, long-term M-K Stone's Sheep Management Plan.</li> </ul>
	Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secured third party contributions, with matching funds from the M-K Trust Fund.</li> <li>• Hired a project manager biologist to refine the management plan and lead research.</li> <li>• Collared Stone's Sheep ewes, using 79 VHF and 25 GPS collars.</li> <li>• Initiated phase I baseline inventory and research.</li> </ul>
	Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue monitoring collars and collecting biological samples.</li> <li>• Implement phase II management trials and phase III policy development.</li> </ul>



# Strategic Planning

Project	M-K Governance and Strategic Planning
Priorities and Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with ILMB to form a joint M-K Task Group.</li> <li>Work on the <b>M-KMA Act</b>, the <b>M-KMA Management Plan</b>, the financial model, the <b>M-K Strategic Plan</b> and <b>Business Plan</b>, Board structure, membership and communications.</li> </ul>
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed Strategic Direction, Strategic Plan and Three-Year Business Plan.</li> <li>Provided recommendations for a financial model for the Advisory Board.</li> <li>Developed new Advisory Board and Committee Structure.</li> <li>Developed a consultation and communications plan.</li> <li>Met with various constituency groups including conservation, local governments, mining, non-commercial recreation and hunting, oil and gas, tourism, Treaty 8 Tribal Association and Kaska Dena Council, Fort St. John and Fort Nelson LRMP tables, and the provincial government.</li> <li>Received overall support, particularly for M-KAB work and a new governance model.</li> <li>Provided recognition that the Advisory Board is dedicated to and focused on the vision for the M-KMA, their mandate, and their responsibility to provide advice to government.</li> </ul>
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete recommendations for revisions to the <b>M-KMA Act</b>.</li> <li>Complete work by 2006–2007 and dissolve the M-K Task Group.</li> <li>Implement a new financial model in partnership with the Provincial Government.</li> <li>Implement the <b>Strategic</b> and <b>Business</b> Plans, and revise as needed.</li> </ul>

Project	Engaging Communities in M-KMA Governance
Priorities and Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support travel to various communities in and around the M-KMA to inform the governance model and strategic plan development, and to gather input from communities.</li> <li>Inform constituencies of the work of the M-K Task Group.</li> <li>Build support for governance changes and for long-term viability of the M-KMA.</li> </ul>
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No funds were expended for this project; however, components of this project were undertaken through the M-K Governance and Strategic Planning project.</li> </ul>
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>

# Multi-Year Projects for Completion in 2005-2006

Project	Finalization of Northern Ecology Caribou Project
Priorities and Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete a multi-year project to collect important baseline ecological and biological data.</li> <li>Increase knowledge of population parameters and caribou habitat associations by mapping habitat and analysing caribou seasonal habitat use.</li> </ul>
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project completed and final reported submitted.</li> </ul>

**Next Steps**

- Ensure wide distribution of the report and data so that managers have the information to make informed management decisions.

**Multi-Year Projects, On-going****Project****M-KMA Fisheries Initiative****Priorities and Actions**

- Continue research and inventory related to the management of fish values in the M-KMA.
- Collect fish habitat inventory information that will facilitate integrated resource and fisheries planning and decision making.
- Provide information on fish species distribution, relative abundance, and stream biophysical data.

**Results**

- Completed overview assessment of fish and fish habitat in the Fox River watershed.
- Identified species presence and probable distribution within the watershed.
- Provided broad habitat classification to help interpret habitat sensitivity and fish fecundity.
- Used fish and fish habitat information gathered during project to report key sport fish habitat values and management concerns within the project area.
- Exceeded the minimum requirements for baseline inventory collected in order to classify streams for the **Forest and Range Practices Act** suitable for use in integrated forest management planning.

**Next Steps**

- Use data to assist in management of fish populations and key habitats

**Project****Improving Capabilities for Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement in the M-KMA****Priorities and Actions**

- Support monitoring, compliance and enforcement functions provided by the Conservation Officer Service in the M-KMA.
- Support an additional Conservation Officer trainee whose duties will include roving patrols of the M-KMA to ensure that resource management legislation is adequately enforced for designated routes, enforcement of angling locations and other resource user areas.

**Results**

- Hired an auxiliary Conservation Officer dedicated to the M-KMA.
- Provided additional enforcement capacity.
- Conducted patrols.
- Undertook a number of investigations of hunting and fishing violations.
- Participated in meetings in a number of First Nations communities.

**Next Steps**

- N/A

**Project****M-KMA Environmental Cleanup****Priorities and Actions**

- Support an ongoing, multi-year environmental cleanup project in the M-KMA, aimed at locating and removing waste and other debris.
- Conducted in partnership with government agencies, private enterprise and individuals having interests in the M-KMA; this project benefits from significant public awareness.

**Results**

- Deferred to 2006–2007 as a funding agreement was not in place in time.

**Next Steps**

- Initiate the M-KMA Environmental Cleanup project in 2006–2007.

<b>Project</b>	<b>M-KAB Environmental Youth Camp</b>
<b>Priorities and Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the Annual M-K Environmental Youth Camp in the M-KMA.</li> <li>• Alternate the camp between Treaty 8 and Kaska Dena First Nations as camp hosts; Kaska Dena hosted in 2005–2006.</li> <li>• Provide important learning opportunities for both First Nations and non-First Nations youth to learn about the M-KMA, traditional activities, culture, and land use and management issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosted a successful camp on the Turnagain River.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to support future M-KMA Environmental Youth Camps.</li> <li>• Continue supporting increased education and capacity for First Nations community and youth.</li> </ul>
<b>Project</b>	<b>Planning and Integration Research Project (PRIP) Stages II and III</b>
<b>Priorities and Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow up from Stage I which involved a comprehensive overview summarizing the current state of land use and resource planning and management in the M-KMA including a feasibility study determining costs associated with further project stages.</li> <li>• Develop the proposed model for monitoring land use and resource activities in the M-KMA (Stage II).</li> <li>• Develop a framework for additional research-related decision-support tools that can be used by resource managers and others (Stage III).</li> </ul>
<b>Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed Stage I.</li> <li>• Provided final report and presentation with detailed recommendations to the M-KAB.</li> <li>• Identified: that there are 219 separate objectives in the four Local Strategic Plans (LSPs); that LSPs are inconsistent in terms of how objectives, indicators, targets and strategies are defined; that variation in scale and scope of objectives and indicators, reporting and monitoring of each LSP is costly; that a data management system is required; that there are gaps in inventory and research; and that coordination and consolidation of LSP objectives and indicators is required.</li> <li>• Recommended that a Data Management Plan and a Spatially Explicit Sustainable Resource Management Plan (SRMP) be developed.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review recommendations and determine the most appropriate course of action.</li> <li>• Scope out Stages II and III.</li> </ul>
<b>Project</b>	<b>M-KMA Range Campsite Assessments</b>
<b>Priorities and Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build on the current information base of range and campsite use that is needed for planning.</li> </ul>
<b>Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted 39 range assessments in the Rabbit River, Terminus, Scoop Lake, Gundahoo River, Trout River and Berg/Hole Creek areas of the M-KMA.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the assessments to help allocate range tenures issued by the Ministry of Forests and Range to support commercial backcountry recreation management in the M-KMA.</li> </ul>

## New Projects

Project		Comprehensive Communications and Marketing Strategy
Priorities and Actions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a comprehensive communications and marketing strategy for the M-KMA and the M-KAB</li> <li>• identify current activities and roles, communication programs, product lines, etc.</li> </ul>
Results		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Public Relations completed a draft communications plan.</li> <li>• Provided strategy with tactics and messaging designed to meet communications objectives.</li> <li>• Recommended communication strategies for stakeholder relations processes that the M-KAB may wish to adopt.</li> </ul>
Next Steps		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the communications plan and implement elements of that plan.</li> </ul>
Project		Communications Strategy Implementation
Priorities and Actions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct an Ipsos Reid survey to assess awareness and understanding of the M-KMA.</li> <li>• Implement elements of the communications strategy.</li> </ul>
Results		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessed awareness by telephone interviews of: 600 people from the region surrounding the M-KMA including the Fort St. John, Mackenzie and Fort Nelson LRMP areas; and 800 people from across British Columbia.</li> <li>• Determined that awareness varied by region, with predominantly positive impressions.</li> </ul>
Next Steps		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate findings of surveys into the Communications Plan.</li> <li>• Undertake a follow-up survey to measure results of the Communications Plan once implementation has been in place for a period of time.</li> </ul>
Project		M-K Trust Fund Manager
Priorities and Actions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract a professional to coordinate projects funded through the M-K Trust Fund.</li> <li>• Manage projects to meet budget parameters and anticipated project deliverables.</li> </ul>
Results		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managed and implemented M-K Trust Fund projects successfully.</li> <li>• Developed, with M-KAB input, the 2006-2007 Expenditure Plan.</li> <li>• Assisted with intergovernmental relations and capacity.</li> </ul>
Next Steps		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend the Project Manager position for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.</li> <li>• Implement and manage projects recommended in the 2006-2007 Expenditure Plan.</li> </ul>
Project		Collection and Processing of Traditional Environmental Knowledge (TEK) for the Conservation Area Design (CAD)
Priorities and Actions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the collection and processing of TEK for the CAD.</li> <li>• Discuss and refine methodology for collection and documentation of TEK with Treaty 8 and Kaska Dena Project (Phase I).</li> <li>• Collect, process and format information to be included in the CAD (Phase II).</li> </ul>
Results		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed a methodology jointly with the Kaska Dena (Phase I complete).</li> <li>• Undertook limited collection of TEK.</li> </ul>
Next Steps		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop strategies for collection of TEK.</li> <li>• Establish protocol agreements with First Nations where necessary.</li> </ul>



<b>Project</b>	<b>Redfern Trail Maintenance</b>
<b>Priorities and Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support work on the trail to decrease environmental impact while maintaining the trail for recreational use.</li> <li>• Manage the project jointly with BC Parks.</li> </ul>
<b>Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project was deferred.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>
<b>Project</b>	<b>Management Guidelines for Sites of Special Significance</b>
<b>Priorities and Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop guidelines for hydrological features in the M-KMA, in particular hot springs.</li> </ul>
<b>Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project was not initiated.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>
<b>Project</b>	<b>Signage Upgrade and Evaluation</b>
<b>Priorities and Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess and implement M-KMA designated route signage along the Alaska Highway.</li> <li>• Assess and implement M-KMA information signage in locations near the M-KMA.</li> </ul>
<b>Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project was not initiated.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>

## Ongoing Operations

<b>Project</b>	<b>Government Integration</b>
<b>Priorities and Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cover ILMB Regional Manager Expenses required to manage M-K Trust Fund projects.</li> </ul>
<b>Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hired a Coop Student to assist with planning and projects.</li> <li>• Improved capacity to complete local strategic plans.</li> <li>• Supported M-KAB governance revisions.</li> <li>• Attended M-KAB meetings and provided updates at committee meetings.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>
<b>Project</b>	<b>M-KAB Coordinator, Associate Coordinator, Materials and Supplies</b>
<b>Priorities and Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract professional and administrative services of a full-time M-KAB Coordinator and Associate Coordinator.</li> </ul>
<b>Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fulfilled daily management of a publicly accessible M-KMA Information Office.</li> <li>• Coordinated and supported M-KAB meetings and daily work of the Board and Committees.</li> <li>• Attended numerous events related to the M-KMA to raise awareness about the M-KMA.</li> <li>• Developed outreach materials.</li> <li>• Developed the 2004/2005 Annual Report to the Premier and the Public.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure continued administrative support for the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board.</li> </ul>

### Project M-KMA Information Office Rental Fees

- Priorities and Actions** • Covers yearly M-KMA Information Office rental fees (rented from the City of Fort St. John).
- Results** • Provided a location for M-KAB committee meetings and a central office from which to provide information about the M-KMA
- Next Steps** • N/A

### Project M-KAB Member Travel Expenses and Committee and Staff Travel

- Priorities and Actions** • Covers yearly M-KMA Information Office rental fees (rented from the City of Fort St. John).
- Results** • Supported ongoing Board operations and Committee meetings.
- Next Steps** • N/A

### Project M-KAB Meeting Facilitation

- Priorities and Actions** • Contract professional services of consultants and facilitators.
- Results** • Provided analysis and advice regarding certain strategic planning and governance in addition to support for facilitation of Board and committee meetings.
- Next Steps** • N/A

### Project M-KAB Chair Honourarium

- Priorities and Actions** • Support the M-KAB Chair.
- Results** • Supported the Chair's workload, including the time required for travel, meetings and conferences related to the M-KMA and the M-KAB.
- Next Steps** • N/A

### Project M-KMA Outreach Events and Conferences

- Priorities and Actions** • Provide for participation at outreach events and conferences attended by the Information Office staff and Board members to further the awareness and profile of the M-KMA.
- Results** • Staff participated in tradeshow in Fort St. John and Mackenzie.  
• Board members and staff attended and presented at several conferences.
- Next Steps** • N/A

### Project Annual Report to the Premier and the Public

- Priorities and Actions** • Develop an annual report to the Premier and the public as a statutory requirement of the Advisory Board under the **M-KMA Act** for 2004-2005.
- Results** • Completed and distributed the 2004-2005 Annual Report to the Premier and the Public.
- Next Steps** • Develop an Annual Report to the Premier and the Public for 2005-2006.

<b>Project</b>	<b>M-KMA Information Brochure and Advertising</b>
<b>Priorities and Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a brochure to provide information about the M-KMA and the activities of the M-KAB to the public.</li> <li>• Create, design and layout advertising to provide information to the public about the M-KMA and the activities of the M-KAB.</li> </ul>
<b>Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deferred new brochure development pending M-K Communications Strategy completion.</li> <li>• Completed design of an advertising page for <b>Hello North</b> magazine.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine whether a brochure should be developed based on M-K Communications Strategy.</li> </ul>
<b>Project</b>	<b>M-K Website</b>
<b>Priorities and Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redesign and launch the M-KMA Website.</li> </ul>
<b>Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed M-KMA website design work and content development.</li> <li>• Launched the new M-KMA Website in July 2005.</li> <li>• Received positive feedback regarding design and content.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain and update the M-KMA Website on an ongoing basis.</li> </ul>
<b>Project</b>	<b>M-KMA Promotional Items</b>
<b>Priorities and Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-stock and purchase new M-KMA promotional items used to raise awareness and for sale to the public.</li> </ul>
<b>Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchased additional items and researched new items for sale.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess M-K promotional items needs based on the M-K Communications Strategy.</li> </ul>

## Contingency Fund

<b>Project</b>	<b>M-KMA Promotional Items</b>
<b>Priorities and Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommend a percentage of the M-K Trust Fund as contingency in anticipation of expenses that may arise from unexpected project and Advisory Board operation costs.</li> </ul>
<b>Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported the following projects (including additional work needed): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Northern Rockies Alaska Highway Tourism Association (NRAHTA) workshop;</li> <li>» One time only Conditional Grant to the Kaska Dena First Nations to allow the Kaska to be fully engaged in the M-KMA to ensure that their interests were represented;</li> <li>» M-KAB Joint Solutions for Mining in the M-KMA Workshop;</li> <li>» Additional copies printed of the 2004-2005 Annual Report to the Premier and the Public; and</li> <li>» Stone's Sheep Research Project.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reassess contingency for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.</li> </ul>

Table 1: Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund Donations

Donor	Project	Amount
Northern BC Guides Association	Stone’s Sheep Research Support Project MK2005-2006-25	\$20,000.00
Dawson Creek Sportsman’s Club	Stone’s Sheep Research Support Project MK2005-2006-25	\$2,500.00
Teck Cominco Limited	M-KMA Environmental Cleanup MK2005-2006-31	\$16,108.48
Abitibi-Consolidated Company of Canada	M-KAB First Nations Environmental Youth Camp MK-2005-2006-36	\$25,000.00
Trans Canada Pipelines Limited	Stone’s Sheep Research Support Project MK2005-2006-25	\$35,000.00
BP Canada Energy Company	Stone’s Sheep Research Support Project MK2005-2006-25	\$8,000.00
North Peace Rod & Gun Club	Stone’s Sheep Research Support Project MK2005-2006-25	\$10,000.00
2005-2006 Total		\$116,608.48

Table 2: Advisory Board Expenditures April 1st, 2005 – March 31st, 2006

Ongoing Commitments Total Allocation: \$284,000			
Project Number	Project Title	Project Allocation in the M-KAB Expenditure Plan	Expenditure March 31, 2006
M-K-2005-2006-19	Ecosystem Approach to Habitat Capability & Cumulative Effects Management	\$100,000.00	\$37,076.00
M-K-2005-2006-37	M-KAB Research Partnership (UNBC)	\$40,000.00	\$23,605.00
M-K-2005-2006-27	Conservation Area Design (CAD) Implementation	\$25,000.00	\$18,695.10
M-K-2005-2006-28	TEK & Conservation Area Design (CAD) Integration	\$9,000.00	\$4,350.70
M-K-2005-2006-20	Incorporating TEK & Traditional Land Use Knowledge in Planning	\$50,000.00	\$40,000.00
M-K-2005-2006-23	M-K Stone’s Sheep Sustainability Steering Committee	\$30,000.00	\$20,206.01
M-K-2005-2006-24	Stone’s Sheep Mapping Project	\$30,000.00	\$15,000.00
M-K-2005-2006-25*	Stone’s Sheep Research Support Project	\$-	\$177,616.00
Total			\$313,180.31
Strategic Planning Total Allocation: \$160,000			
M-K-2005-2006-09	M-K Governance and Strategic Planning	\$145,000.00	\$165,834.16
M-K-2005-2006-10	Engaging Communities in the Governance of the M-K	\$15,000.00	\$-
Total			\$165,834.16



**Multi-Year Projects To Be Completed this Fiscal Total Allocation: \$10,000**

M-K-2005-2006-21	Finalization of Northern Ecology Caribou Project	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>

**Multi-Year Projects Total Allocation: \$243,000**

M-K-2005-2006-26*	M-KMA Fisheries Initiative	\$-	\$45,000.00
M-K-2005-2006-30	Improving Capabilities for Regulatory Compliance & Enforcement in the M-KMA	\$43,000.00	\$43,000.00
M-K-2005-2006-31	M-KMA Environmental Cleanup	\$35,000.00	\$-
M-K-2005-2006-36*	M-KAB First Nations Environmental Youth Camp	\$50,000.00	\$100,000.00
M-K-2005-2006-29	Planning and Integration Research Project (PRIP) Stage II and III	\$100,000.00	\$33,963.20
M-K-2005-2006-32	M-KMA Range and Campsite Assessments	\$15,000.00	\$13,500.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$235,463.20</b>

**New Projects Total Allocation: \$292,500**

M-K-2005-2006-15	Comprehensive Communications & Marketing Strategy	\$25,000.00	\$17,182.45
M-K-2005-2006-16	Communications Strategy Implementation	\$35,000.00	\$31,800.00
M-K-2005-2006-18	M-K Trust Fund Manager	\$75,000.00	\$42,930.57
M-K-2005-2006-22	Collection & Processing of TEK for the Conservation Area Design (CAD)	\$100,000.00	\$50,000.00
M-K-2005-2006-33	Redfern Trail Maintenance	\$25,000.00	\$-
M-K-2005-2006-34	Management Guidelines for Sites of Special Significance	\$25,000.00	\$-
M-K-2005-2006-35	Signage Upgrade and Evaluation	\$7,500.00	\$-
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$141,913.02</b>

**2005-2006 Expenditures**



Ongoing Operations of the Board Total Allocation: \$361,000

M-K-2005-2006-17	Government Integration	\$40,000.00	\$47,959.33
M-K-2005-2006-01	Advisory Board Coordinator, Associate Coordinator	\$125,000.00	\$107,934.62
M-K-2005-2006-02	M-KMA Information Office Rental Fees	\$8,500.00	\$8,472.00
M-K-2005-2006-03	M-K Information Office Materials	\$30,000.00	\$21,103.78
M-K-2005-2006-04	M-K Board Member Travel Expenses	\$45,000.00	\$28,594.52
M-K-2005-2006-05	M-K Committee and Staff Travel	\$20,000.00	\$11,784.77
M-K-2005-2006-06	Advisory Board Meeting Facilitation	\$30,000.00	\$14,109.60
M-K-2005-2006-07	Advisory Board Chair Honorarium	\$24,000.00	\$24,000.00
M-K-2005-2006-08	M-KMA Outreach Events and Conferences	\$8,000.00	\$8,091.11
M-K-2005-2006-11	Annual Report to the Premier and the Public	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00
M-K-2005-2006-13	M-KMA Information Brochure and Advertising	\$10,000.00	\$-
M-K-2005-2006-12	M-K Website	\$11,000.00	\$9,551.11
M-K-2005-2006-14	M-KMA Promotional Items	\$4,000.00	\$3,999.19
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$291,100.03</b>

2005-2006 Contingency Fund Total Allocation: \$54,000.00

M-K-2005-2006-38			
	Northern Rockies Alaska Highway Workshop	\$5,000.00	
	Tech Cominco (outstanding amount from 04-05 Churchill Mine Cleanup)	\$212.52	
	Additional copies of the Annual Report to the Premier and the Public	\$2,755.00	
	M-KAB Mining Joint Solutions Workshop in Fort St. John	\$20,243.14	
	Stone's Sheep Research (MOE research completed prior to Project Manager)	\$20,859.83	
	Kaska Dena Council (funding to support participation in M-KMA projects)	\$99,417.00	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$148,487.49</b>
		<b>Total Expenditures 2005-2006</b>	<b>\$1,305,978.21</b>

\* Footnotes:

M-K2005-2006-25 100% funded through donations & matched by M-K Trust

M-K-2005-2006-26 \$0 allocated, funding became available with base of \$50K

M-K-2005-2006-36 50% funded through donations & matched by M-K Trust