

**Fort McKay
Water Communication Materials**

**Prepared for:
The Fort McKay
Industry Relations Corporation**

**Prepared by:
Highwood Environmental Management**

November, 2001



Acknowledgements

This information has been prepared for the Fort McKay Industry Relations Corporation by:

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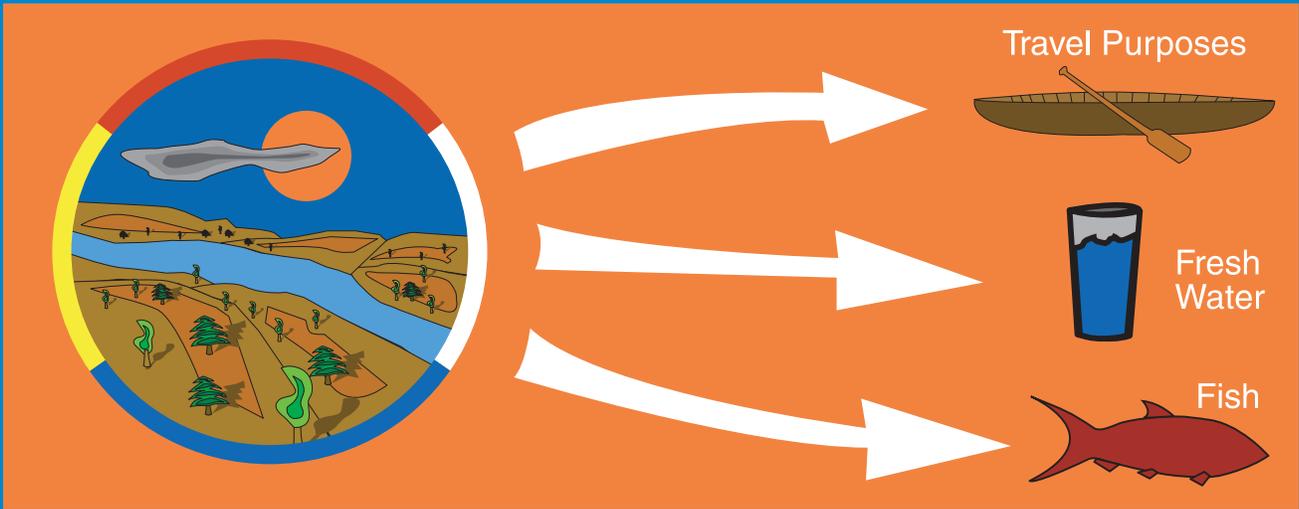
Graphic design by Peter St. John of Fox Design.

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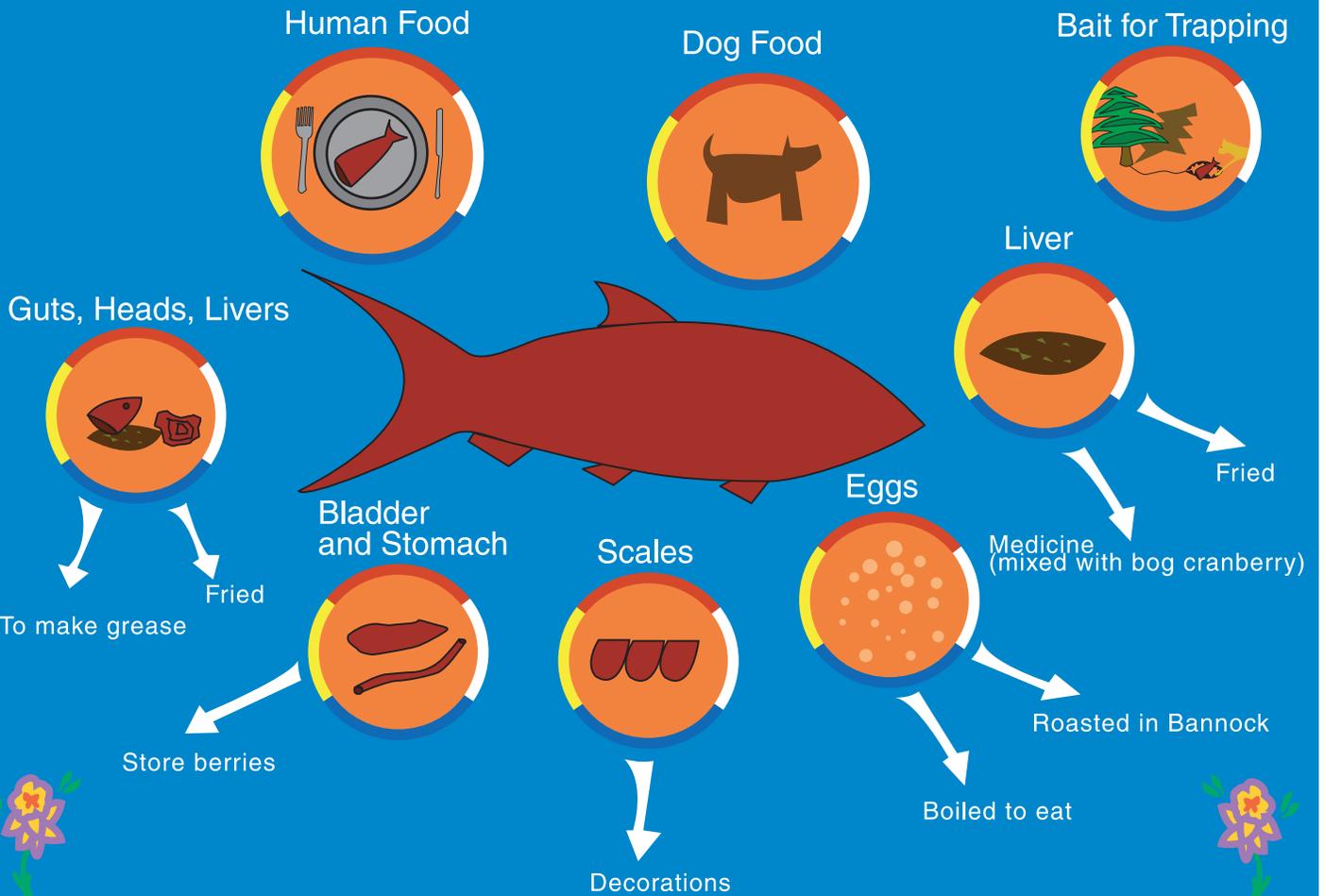
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Traditional Use of Water



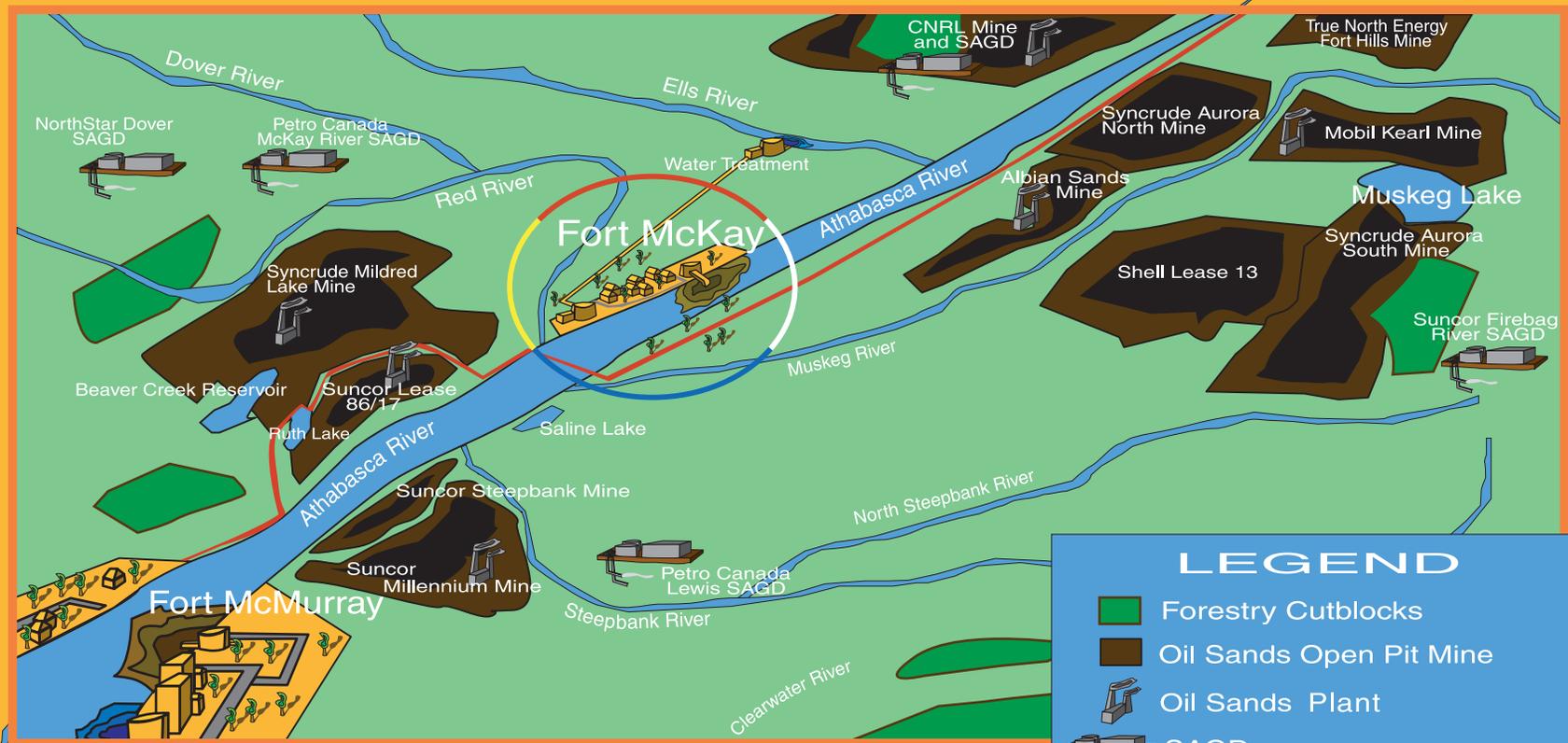
Traditional Use of Fish



The Water Cycle



Possible Development Around Fort McKay In the Next 50 Years

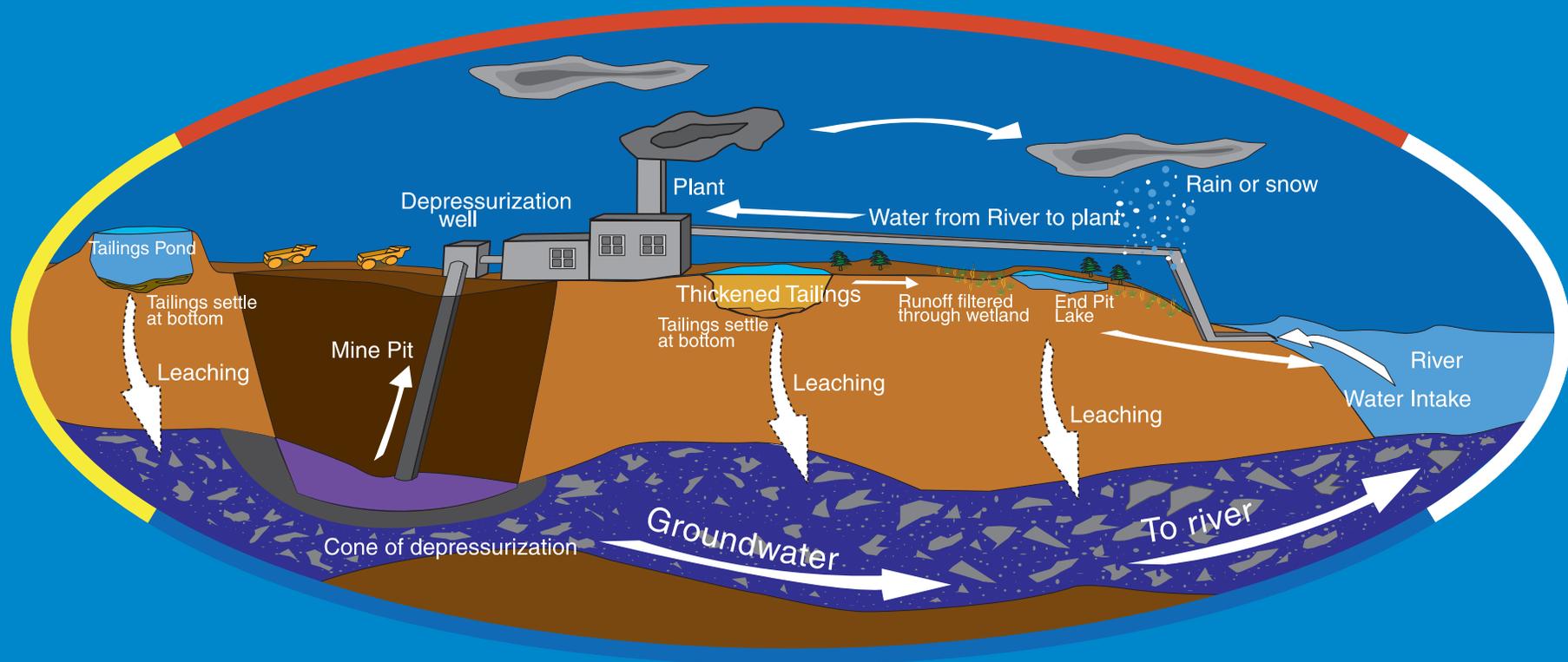


*This map is a guide. Not to scale

LEGEND

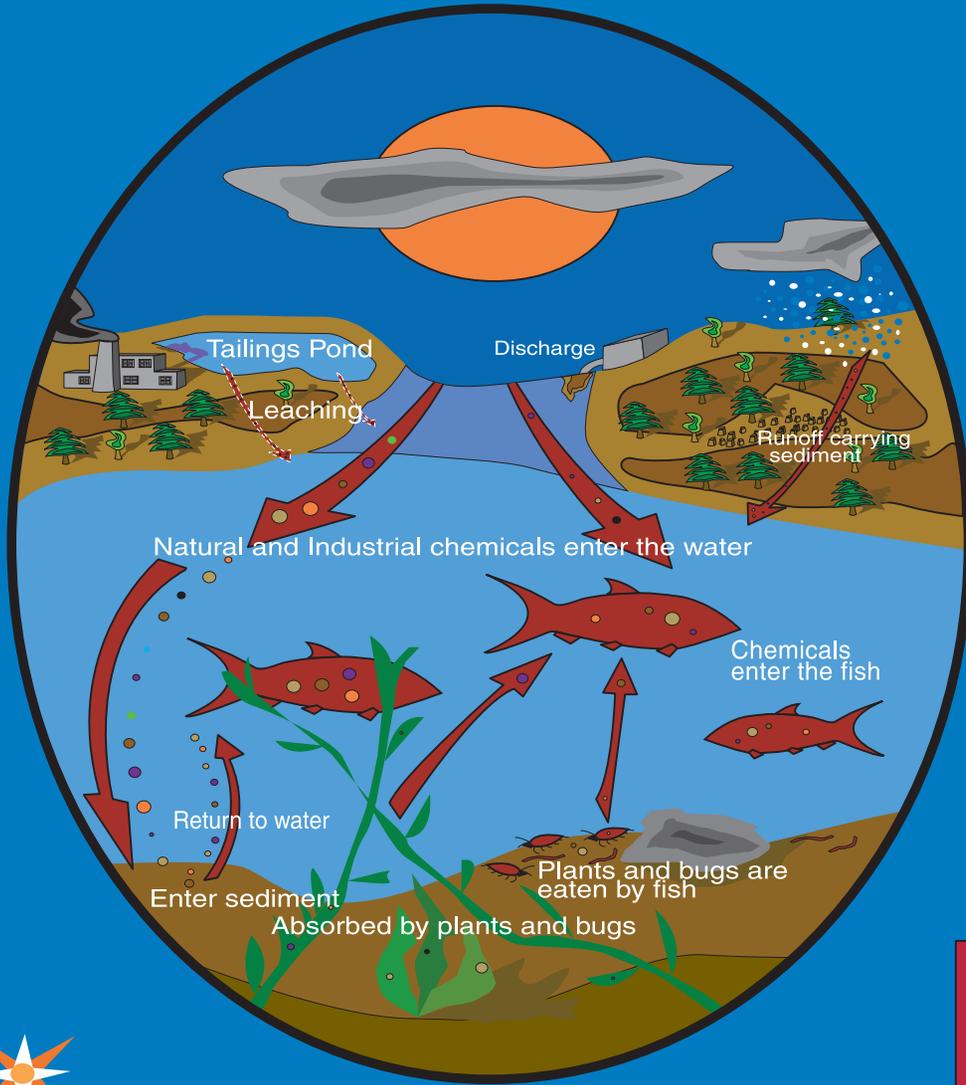
- Forestry Cutblocks
- Oil Sands Open Pit Mine
- Oil Sands Plant
- SAGD
- Highway 63

How Can Oil Sands Open Pit Mines Affect Water?



- Water can be taken out of rivers and groundwater.
- Water that is put back into the river can be less clean than natural river water.
- Emissions from plants put chemicals into the air that can contribute to acid rain.

Can We Eat the Fish ?

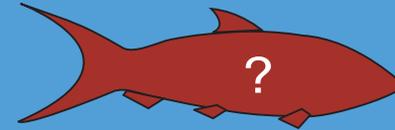


Government Guidelines

- Walleye have high mercury levels. Women of childbearing age and children under 15 should not eat walleye from the Athabasca River or its tributaries. The rest of the community should only eat one meal of walleye a week. The source of the mercury is unknown and might be natural.

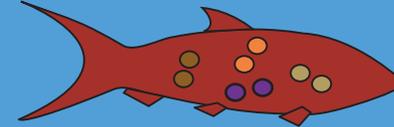
The Way Things Were (pre-1957)

Unknown levels of natural chemicals



The Way Things Are (2001)

INDUSTRY	Oil and Gas particles	Metals	Nutrients	Soil	Pulp Mill chemicals	Taste/Odour
Oil/Gas	•	•		•		•
Pulp Mills			•		•	•
Sewage		•	•			•
Logging			•	•		



Recommendations

- Some fish from the Athabasca River or its tributaries may have a bad taste or odour, but they are safe to eat.
- Burbot livers have high levels of pulp mill chemicals in them. No one should eat Burbot liver.
- It is safe to eat fish from lakes.