



Teme-Augama Anishnabai BACKGROUND

BACKGROUND – August 24, 2025

This is not an issue of “overlapping” rights. The Teme-Augama Anishnabai (TAA) hold and exercise inherent, Indigenous rights within N’dakimenan which are protected under section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. This fact has been confirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada in *Bear Island [1991]* and recognized by Ontario.

There are no Métis communities who hold established or credibly asserted rights within N’dakimenan.

The fact that Ontario and the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) have agreed to recognize the existence of purported historic Métis communities does not establish a credible claim for Métis rights in our territory.

To be recognized under Canadian law, Métis rights must meet the threshold established by the Supreme Court in *R v Powley*. This includes establishing the existence of a historic Métis community which existed in a specific area prior to the date on which Europeans established effective control, and the existence of a contemporary rights-bearing community which is a continuation of the historic community. Unless the *Powley* test has been met, Métis individuals and communities cannot hold section 35 rights.

We, the Teme-Augama Anishnabai, are the sole rights-bearing entity within N’dakimenan to whom the Crown owes a duty to consult and accommodate when considering conduct that may adversely impact established Aboriginal rights.

MISCONCEPTION

Métis = mixed blood/half-breed.

TRUTH

Métis = a distinct Red River Nation with culture, land, and governance.

Any Indigenous individuals with historic ties to the lands and waters of N’dakimenan have been naturalized into the Teme-Augama Anishnabai. Also, the boundaries of N’dakimenan are not disputed by our First Nations neighbours. In *Bear Island [1991]* the Supreme Court of Canada recognized the boundary of N’dakimenan when it adhered us to the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850.

In 1975 and 1976, we exercised our inherent right to determine our citizens. All known descendants of the Teme-Augama Anishnabai were recognized and confirmed under Teme-Augama Anishnabai law and governance, supported by the Temagami First Nation and The Temagami Metis and Non-Status Indian Association. Our Teme-Augama Anishnabai Citizens include all those Indigenous peoples whose ancestors lived within N’dakimenan and are recognized by the Teme-Augama Anishnabai community; this includes non-status individuals who were previously referred to in the colonial record as unregistered Indians, métis, or half-breeds. The TAA is currently finalizing an updated Citizenship Law to clearly reflect this.

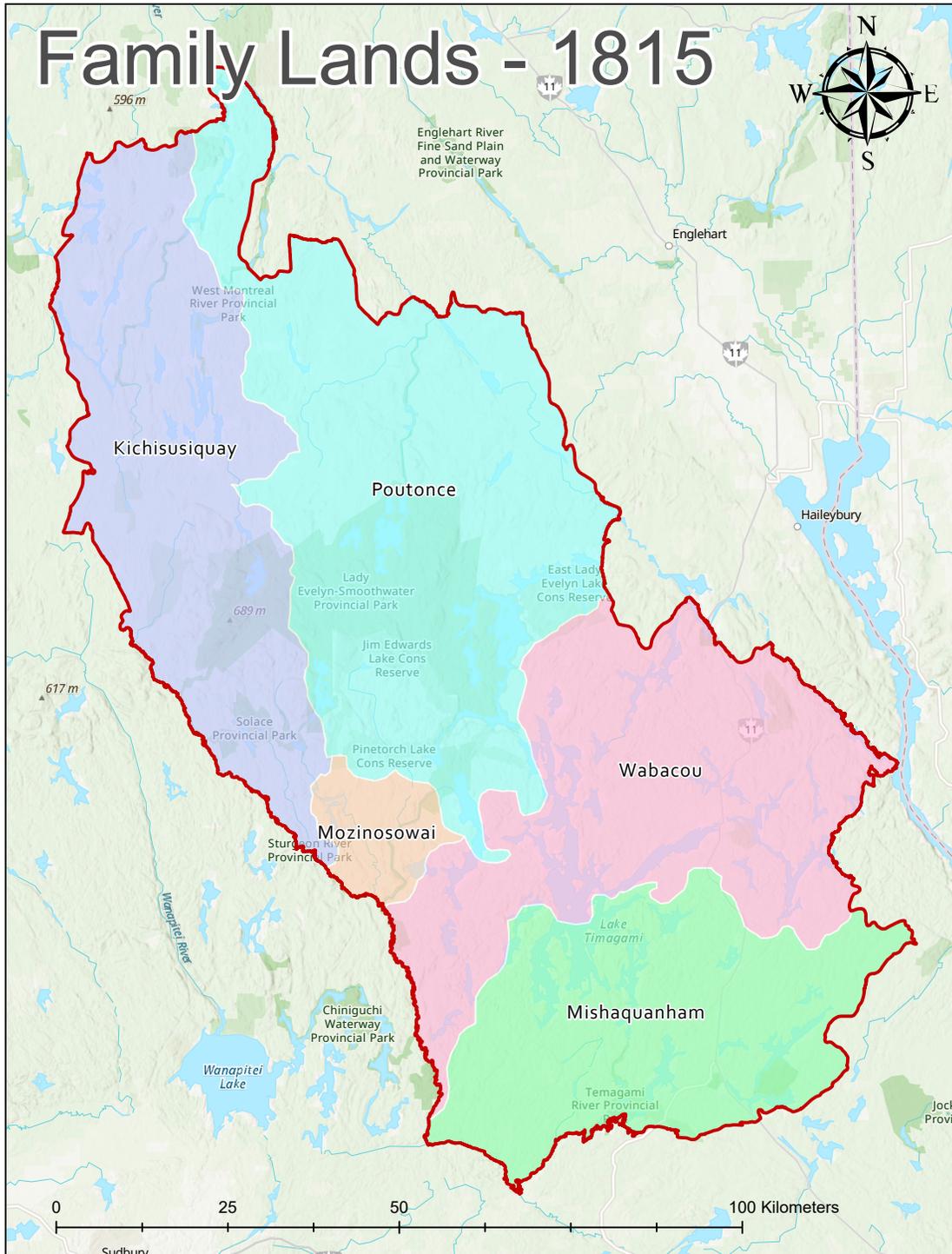
There are several examples of clearly fraudulent identity claims by MNO, using verified Teme-Augama Anishnabai ancestors as “Métis root ancestors.” We take issue with any claims by “citizens” of the MNO claiming Métis status as descendants of John Turner of N’dakimenan. Oochim (old John Turner), from Moose Factory, arrived N’dakimenan in the 1860’s as an employee of the HBC and built a new post at Bear Island. He was adopted under Teme-Augama Anishnabai laws and provided a trapping ground

The MNO identity theft of Teme-Augama Anishnabai Ancestors goes well beyond the case presented in this release. The MNO also claims as “Verified Métis,” the Bear Island Potts, Paul, Friday, Moore and Petrant families to name a few, in addition to the Bear Island Turner family.

(See attached 1815 and 1890 maps of **Teme-Augama Anishnabai Traditional Territory**).

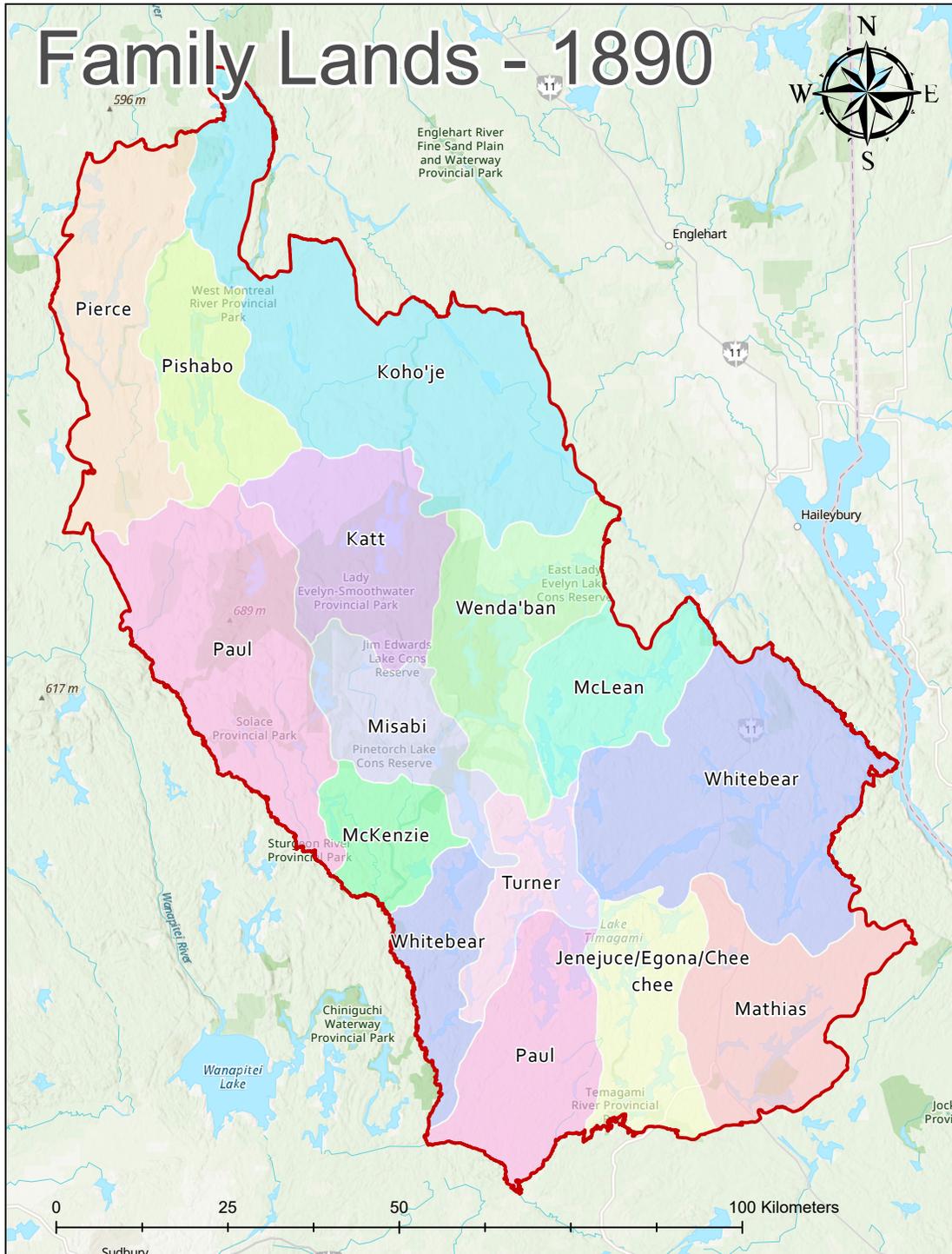


Teme-Augama Anishnabai • Traditional Territory





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