



*Peguis First Nation*

P.O. Box 10  
PEGUIS RESERVE, MANITOBA R0C 3J0  
Telephone: (204) 645-2359 Toll Free: 1-866-645-2359 Fax: (204) 645-2360  
Website: [www.peguisfirstnation.ca](http://www.peguisfirstnation.ca)

## Peat Mining in Peguis First Nation Traditional Territory

BERGER DEER LAKE  
BOG MINE  
&  
SUNGRO RAMSAY POINT  
BOG MINE

*For additional information, contact*  
Cheyenne Parisian or Lloyd Stevenson  
(1.204.645.2359)  
or Councillor Mike Sutherland  
(1.204.330.4371)

*Whelan Enns  
Associates Inc*

The Province of Manitoba enacted a 2-year moratorium on new peat mines in the province as part of the Save Lake Winnipeg Act June 2011. Some peat mines received licenses without First Nations consultation, and over objection of the Aboriginal Relations Branch in Manitoba Conservation. Two proposed peat mines are located within Peguis First Nation's Community Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Notification Zone. Other nearby First Nations, such as Fisher River First Nation, have also raised objections to the peat mines. Cottagers and others have appealed these peat mine licenses.

### **What is Peat?**

Peat is thick water-logged organic soil layer made up of dead and decaying plant material. Peatlands include moors, bogs, mires, peat swamp forests and permafrost tundra. Peatlands act as important water filters, reducing harmful nutrients that enter the lake. Peatlands are moose habitat and provided us with medicinal plants. Peat bogs also serve as important carbon sinks. Mining them releases both carbon and methane into the atmosphere.

**Why Is Peat Mined?** Peat is used in agriculture where it is mixed into soil to improve its structure and helps retain moisture. It is also used in water filtration. Most of the peat mined in Southern Manitoba goes to the USA market for gardens, greenhouses, orchards, etc.

**Sun Gro Horticulture (Canada) Inc.** applied to Manitoba Conservation for an *Environment Act* license to develop peat-mining operations on 1170 hectares of crown-owned land in the **Ramsay Point Bog** (located 40km northwest of Riverton) December 9, 2010. On June 29, 2011 just after the moratorium started, Sun Gro was granted *Environment Act* license 2964. Peguis First Nation appealed this license to the Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship.

**Berger Peat Moss Ltd.** applied to Manitoba Conservation for an *Environment Act* license to develop peat-mining operations on 2257 hectares of crown land in the **Deer Lake Bog** (located 60km north of Riverton) February 25, 2011. On July 20, 2011 Berger was granted *Environment Act* license 2964. Peguis First Nation appealed this license been to the Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship.

Both peat mines received licenses without First Nations consultation, and over objection of the Aboriginal Relations Branch in Manitoba Conservation. The two proposed peat mines are located within Peguis First Nation's Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Notification Zone. Other nearby First Nations, such as Fisher River First Nation, have also raised objections to the peat mines.