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WIKWEMIKONG -TERRAFACT 3D MAPPING ALLIANCE EXPANDS LOCATIONS and SERVICES

The Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve's Department of Lands and Natural Resources group (WDLNR) (http://www.wikwemikong.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=87&Itemid=83) and their business partner Terrafact (Canada) Inc. (www.terrafact.com) have recently opened new offices in Ontario and South America.

The Alliance now well into their second year of 3D Forest Resource Inventory (FRI) for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR), private forest owners, First Nations, and Municipalities have opened offices in the Union of Ontario Indians headquarters on the Nipissing First Nation near North Bay, Ontario and the Universidad Austral's forestry campus in Valdivia, Chile.

Building on the expertise gained over the last two years with Terrafact, WDLNR's staff in Wikwemikong are also mapping their own forests on Reserve as well as establishing the new Island Claim area for the for legal survey of islands in NE Lake Huron using state of the art GIS and 3D remote sensing software out of the lands department in Wikwemikong.

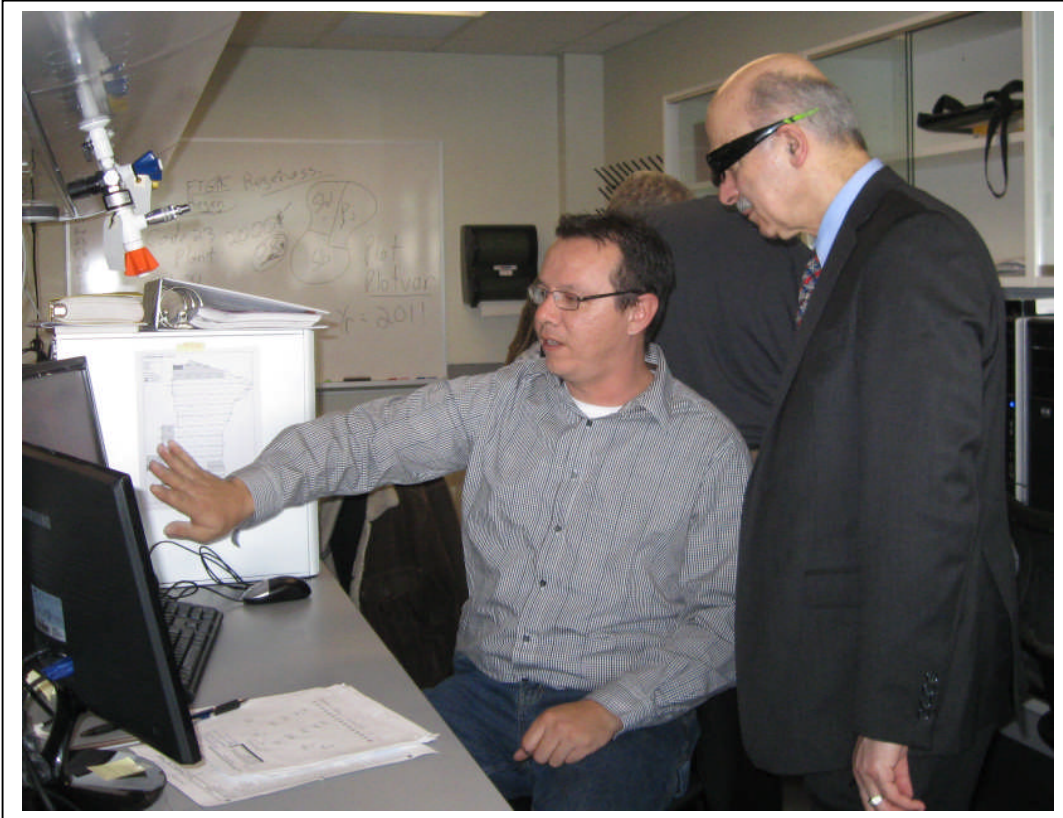
According to Norman Assiniwe one of WDLNR's OMNR certified enhanced forest inventory photogrammetrists *"this will be the first time a First Nation in Canada actually creates their own digital survey boundaries for a land claim settlement in house without contracting out the imagery processing, GIS and remote sensing analysis"*. *"Wikwemikong is also training other First Nations in these skills as well as implementing it into the curriculum at their schools"*.

"We are really breaking new ground with innovative 3D-GIS and remote sensing technologies" says Norm. In partnership with Terrafact, the WDLNR is replacing boots on the ground field surveys used to guide photo interpreters and remote sensing analysts with super high resolution 3D aerial imagery captured close to the ground with specialized cameras to produce zero footprint plot level data that we are using for our own land management without needing to hire outside consultants.

As part of their land management plans the WDLNR will be implementing low level 3D aerial imagery to create forest inventory plot data to establish various verification plots for remote sensing analysis and GIS mapping of cultural heritage sites, abandoned and leaking oil wells, aquatic and terrestrial species at risk and invasive species monitoring and emerging land forms now that water levels are declining in the Great Lakes next to the Reserve lands.

The implementation of this new low level 3D mapping has garnered the attention of the Honourable Reza Moridi, Ontario's Minister of Research and Innovation who toured the Alliance's 3D mapping lab at Algoma University's new Essar Technology Centre in Sault Ste. Marie. According to the John Manitowabi the WDLNR's Senior Manager *"we are getting serious inquiries from Indigenous groups in Canada, Tasmania, Chile and Peru to train their people to do what we are now doing here in Wiky and on Government and private Lands here in Ontario"*.

See Pictures and captions following page:



Pic 1: Norm Assiniwe a WDLNR Surveyor Technician and OMNR certified photogrammetrist shows Ontario's Minister of Research and Innovation (**The Honourable Reza Moridi**) low level airborne stereo imagery combined with Digitalglobe's Worldview2 satellite imagery used for monitoring, reporting and verification of remote sites on Reserve Lands at the Alliance's 3D lab in Sault Ste. Marie.



Pic 2: Student's at Wikwemikong's High School check out the Band's lands in 3D during a cultural event and job fair held in December 2012, a 3D image work station will be incorporated into their High School's geography class this spring.