**THE FOND DU LAC RESERVATION ELDERS CONCERN GROUP** **CONDEMNS SULFIDE ORE MINING IN** **(the 1854 Treaty Ceded Territories) NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA**

Due to the fact that there is no such thing as a safe, non-polluting, Sulfide Ore Mining  Operation in the world, the Elders Concern Group of the Fond du Lac Reservation wish to announce their condemnation of any new, or proposed, Sulfide Ore Mining Operation in Northeastern Minnesota.

Every Sulfide Ore Mining Operation in the world has the high probably of creating a new, and toxic, Brownfield (Superfund) site with their discarded ore (“tailings”).   What these mines will be doing is basically; just taking the good stuff out of the earth, and dumping the used extracted earth in a dump site.   These dump sites can, and do, create toxic waste (Sulfide Ore + Air + Water = Sulfuric Acid) wherever the Sulfide Ore dump sites are located.

After the Sulfide Ore is mined, the toxic waste sites are usually abandoned by the local companies and their Multi-national Corporation partners.   The local companies will usually declare bankruptcy, or change their name, and the huge Multi-national Corporations will leave the area.   Meanwhile, the toxic waste dumps remain behind for the locals to take care of.   As a result, the toxic waste sites seldom if ever get cleaned up, and will remain Brownfield Sites forever.

We, as Lake Superior Chippewa Elders respect our Mother, the Earth.   We, as Lake Superior Chippewa Elders consider ourselves stewards of the land.   We, as Lake Superior Chippewa Elders know the value of a safe non-toxic environment.   And we, as Lake Superior Chippewa Elders, must look seven generations into the future to see that the events that happen today, do not effect those generations yet unborn, seven generations into the future.

As a result, we condemn the whole process of Sulfide Ore Mining Operations within the 1854 Treaty Ceded Territories (Northeastern Minnesota).

**The Mission Statement of the Fond du Lac Elders Concern Group**

The mission of this group is to actively work on tasks to support the health, and well being, of the Fond du Lac Elders of the Fond du Lac Reservation.   This is a working group, and each individual member is to be an active participant to support the mission of the group.