Appendix 1 - Validation Exercise

We interviewed J. Munroe, a representative in charge of resource development issues for the Maiyoo Keyoh, (interviewed 11/01/2010) as a validation exercise. In this validation exercise we asked how roads affected the Maiyoo Keyoh territory in order to determine whether similar issues would be observed in a different community at a different geographic site. All comments and ideas extracted from the interview were then checked and validated against the Québec data. The Maiyoo Keyoh (Keyoh is a family territory) of British Columbia (Canada) developed forestry scenarios to assist the members in participating in future development and establishment of management decisions in their forest (17013 Ha) which has undergone increasing forestry operations over the past 40 years. When defining scenario preferences, roads emerged as a determining parameter against many scenarios (Morben et al., 2009). Furthermore, the Maiyoo Keyoh are presently concerned with the resulting roads planned as a consequence of the increasing forestry activities in their territory (Morben et al., 2009). The level of disturbance as a result of forest operations is projected to increase from 17% to 84% of the territory.

The validation exercise raised similar preoccupations to those found in this study. The following paragraphs show how respect, value for the land, and socio-environmental dynamics have changed in association with road development.

The effects of roads on issues of respect and its effect on access mechanisms used to control and maintain access was raised. According to the respondent, traditional Keyoh land use and rules have changed. “The passing of respect for Keyoh has been lost”. The way people travel the land is different. People travel down a road and have to go through other Keyoh to use their Keyoh, traditional routes are no longer used so the rules have changed. As such the families of other Keyohs often feel they are disrespected.

Road hunting was also raised as an issue affecting land use, traditional practices and socio-environmental relations. “On one hand the older generations are disoriented by the new access mechanisms because they used to travel by trails and now they access by roads. On another hand the kids do not recognize the land in the same way as elders. People used to walk the trails now they use the roads. As a result their attachment to the land is challenged”. The changes in knowledge (socio-environmental or territorial) which influence access mechanisms were therefore mentioned here as well. The environmental experience derived from the environment has been changed and is also creating generational conflicts.

Intra-, inter-Aboriginal relations have been affected by roads as well as foreign relations in this case. “We (the keyoh and community) avoid access to the land. We don’t go because we don’t want to be seen nor do we want hunters to know where the cabin is. We feel alienated from the land. This fear exists because of hunters but also because of all other users including natives. We (community and keyoh members) build cabins which are hidden. The land is no longer ours and we don’t feel we can protect it ... so we hide. This is taxing to the community. We (the community) have meetings to plan how to protect our culture. There is so much change and activity which we need to synthesize, it is exhausting and at the same time we are on guard to preserve our relationship with the land.” In this
case we get a sense of a loss of control over who and how actors can benefit from the resources. Roads are disturbing the role of Aboriginal identity and Aboriginal rights in influencing access.