Memories of Mining: First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Elders’ perspectives

Pre-Contact & Fort Trade era
First nations people have lived on the traditional territory for many thousands of years. Traditionally, our ancestors lived on the land, maintaining close-knit relationships with the environment, the animals and our people. But there were so many borders and we could not make contact in a meaningful way. In recent years, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun has been working towards traditional territory from which our ancestors lived. The Goodniips and Freida of the North West Territories like to say this is what we mean when we talk about the territory. It may not be the same as the land and water that everyone considers.

1950s Relocation and Life in Mayo
Electricity connected to Mayo and Na-Cho Nyäk Dun was the major lifeline to the world. The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Elders emphasised that continuing a journey and maintaining an identity around the mining town of Mayo were crucial to their spiritual well-being. Whether it was for fun or for work, Mayo was an opportunity to maintain their identity in the midst of a world that was very different from their traditional communities. In Mayo, they had access to stores, hospitals, and schools. While Mayo provided a sense of identity and belonging, the Elders also expressed that it was a difficult time, as they were forced to leave their homes and families.

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1960s Life in the Old Village
At the same time, the Elders were working and raising families, they were also supporting their communities. They were involved in the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun’s traditional ways of life. They were involved in the traditional culture of the area, and they were also involved in the traditional ways of life. They were involved in the traditional culture of the area, and they were also involved in the traditional ways of life. They were involved in the traditional culture of the area, and they were also involved in the traditional ways of life.

1970s to 1980s: Life and work in Mayo
Opportunities to work for the United Keno Hill Mines company in the area were an opportunity to make a living. Many people moved to Mayo to work and to be close to their families and communities. While the work was demanding, it provided a sense of purpose and a way to maintain the identity of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun. The Elders also expressed that it was a sense of pride to be a part of the mining industry and to contribute to the economy of the area.

Gendered Experiences
Women were also working and raising families in the area. They were involved in traditional ways of life, such as pick berries, and they were involved in the mining industry. Women were involved in the mining industry. Women were involved in the mining industry. Women were involved in the mining industry. Women were involved in the mining industry. Women were involved in the mining industry. Women were involved in the mining industry. Women were involved in the mining industry. Women were involved in the mining industry. Women were involved in the mining industry. Women were involved in the mining industry. Women were involved in the mining industry. Women were involved in the mining industry. Women were involved in the mining industry. Women were involved in the mining industry. Women were involved in the mining industry. Women were involved in the mining industry. Women were involved in the mining industry. Women were involved in the mining industry. 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