

Registrations Pursuant To Section 49 of  
The Environmental Protection Act

Name of Undertaking: J. F Fur Farms -5000 breeders.

Chief Executive Officer: Mr. Jonathan Edmunds  
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## **The Undertaking:**

### **(i) Nature of the Undertaking**

Proposed development of a mink and fox farm at a site in near Postville, Labrador. The Farm is being developed to produce high quality mink varieties for sale through the North American auction houses. Farm construction is proposed to begin in the summer of 2012. The project proponents, Jonathan Edmunds and Frederick Vincent are established entrepreneurs and community leaders and will be establishing the farm on a new agriculture lease, application number A2011-021.

### **(ii) Purpose/Rationale/Need for the undertaking**

The proponents, Mr. Edmunds and Vincent views Newfoundland and Labrador, and more specifically, Northern Labrador as offering a unique opportunity for the development of world class mink industry. The area has the proper climate for mink production as well as offering potential advantages in land, feed and labor availability as compared to other jurisdictions.

Mr. Vincent has an extensive entrepreneurial background as the owner of several ventures in retail, hotel, tourism, contracting, hydro as well as being the former mayor of Hopedale Labrador and over thirty years of being involved in the municipal and social activities of Northern Labrador. **To provide the necessary mink farm experience for this operation, both owners will be trained at the established mink operation in Charlottetown, Labrador.**

## **Description of the Undertaking:**

### **Geographical Location:**

The proposed site consists of a new agricultural lease for which Mr. Edmunds has made application to the Nunatsiavut Government # A2011-021 of approximately forty (40) acres in total. The site is located near the town of Postville. Maps of the proposed site are attached in Appendix 1. These maps include a location map.

Distances: 15km to the nearest house.

## **Physical Features**

Physical requirements for the mink and fox farm to be added to the site include mink and fox sheds, a storage shed, perimeter fencing, temporary manure storage, a food kitchen, power shed and windmill. An existing road to the site will give access. A total area of 4 to 6 acres will be leveled to encompass the sheds and fencing. The main farm area will be situated with a treed buffer maintained to limit exposure. Additional land will be developed as required, for manure spreading. Each of the physical features is further described below:

### **Road**

Access to the site from Postville will be gained using existing access roads adjacent to the site. No water bodies are to be crossed in the required access.

### **Mink and Fox Sheds**

The proposed mink sheds for this farm will be 300ft long by 48ft wide and will hold six rows of mink cages. The fox shed will be 100 ft by 16 ft and will hold two rows of fox cages. Both the mink and fox shed will be constructed using simple post and beam wooden construction with galvanized aluminum sheeting attached for roofing as well as fiberglass skylights and a plastic fabric material used on the exterior sides (to enable natural light penetration)

An automatic watering system will be installed in the sheds such that the mink will have access to a continuous supply of water. A well point will be used to provide the necessary water requirements.

### **Storage/Auxiliary Sheds**

One small shed will be constructed on site to provide storage space for equipment and materials as well as a small staff room facility. In addition an 1800 sq ft kitchen and a 400sq.ft. power shed will be constructed powered by wind generation with an installed windmill.

### **Perimeter Fencing**

Fencing the farm site will be completed as per the requirements established by the Department of Natural Resources.

### **Manure Storage**

A temporary manure storage area will be constructed consisting of a concrete pad and a bucking wall and roof covered by a heavy tarp to prevent washout by precipitation. This facility will be constructed and located in keeping with the Environmental Guidelines for livestock Producers. For the ultimate 5000 breeder operation, around 6000 cubic feet of storage will be required. Manure pads will be added in increments to meet the breeder requirements for the upcoming production season. The facility will provide for temporary storage or composting, with manure ultimately being used on field developed by the proponents.

### **Construction**

Project construction is projected to occur from June to October 2012 to November 2017. Construction will be undertaken in a staged approach to meet the requirements of the expanding farm. Following are the construction requirements for each phase.

June to Oct. 2012

Upgrading and leveling of land

1 mink shed for initial breeding stock (1000 females)

1 fox shed for initial breeding stock (30 females)

1 storage shed

Perimeter fencing

Manure storage pad 6000 cubic feet for 1000 breeders

Food kitchen and power house buildings and one 15kw windmill.

June-Nov 2013

1 mink shed for expansion at 2000 breeders

1 fox shed for 60 breeders

June-Nov. 2014

1 mink shed to expand to 3000 breeders

June-Nov. 2015

1 mink shed to expand to 4000 breeders

1 manure pad for expansion of additional breeders

June-Nov. 2016

2 mink sheds for expansion to 5000 breeders

1 additional storage shed

### **Construction Con't.**

The main site will be selected to minimize clearing and leveling requirements and to utilize a natural buffer to minimize visibility. Construction involves simple structures with low potential for environmental impact. Good drainage will be maintained under the mink and fox sheds to minimize potential pollution and pest production.

### **Operation**

The process of farming mink and fox is closely tied to the natural breeding cycle of the animal and are similar for both species. For mink farming in Newfoundland and Labrador the primary seasons are as follows:

Breeding- breeding to start in early March

Whelping – The breeding females will start having their kits as early April 20<sup>th</sup>. Litters may range from as few as three to as many as 13 but the average is four to six.

Weaning; separating the kits from their mother and getting them on solid food starts after six to eight weeks, in late June or early July

Growth and Furring- from August through to pelting time in November/December the focus is on kit growth and proper fur development.

**Grading and pelting-** prior to pelting, the mink are graded such that the best performers can be retained as breeding stock. Pelting starts in early November and can continue to early December.

J & F Fur farms plans to start with 1000 disease free, high quality mink females and 30 fox females from an established farming operation. On average mink and fox will produce between four to six offspring. In the projected kit production will be approximately 4000 -6000 mink kits and 120 fox kits. Over the following three to five years the operation will expand to 5000 mink breeders producing 20,000 kits per annum and 60 fox producing 240 pups per year.

This proposed operation will consist only of the farm. The proponent will be utilizing external suppliers for feed and pelting.

## **Waste Production/Handling**

Waste production from a mink farm consists of two primary waste streams, manure and urine from the animals which is mixed with wood shavings and straw from the nest boxes and carcasses. Manure production varies with the time of year with the lower volumes produced from late November to May, as the farm is populated only with breeding stock and larger and increasing volumes produced from June to November as kits grow. The mixing of the manure/urine waste with the wood shavings/straw produces a very manageable solid waste product. The projected maximum waste production for 5000 female mink and 60 fox is:

### **Mink**

Manure	900 tonnes
Shavings straw	125 tonnes
Carcasses	0 tonnes (these will be shipped out to a disposal Firm )

### **Fox**

Manure	3000lbs for 30 fox and 12000 lbs for 60 breeders
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## **Waste Collection**

With all animals held in cages the manure and urine will collect directly under these cages in the sheds. In a vast majority of cases the mink will return to the same spot to deposit their waste on an ongoing basis. In addition, straw and/or wood shavings used in the nest boxes and the manure/urine become mixed producing a manageable waste product. For hygiene purposes and to reduce odor waste will be collected from the sheds on a regular basis consisting of every two weeks from mid June to October and less often in cooler periods.

Waste will be collected by workers using manual labor.

### **Waste handling and Disposal**

The handling and disposal of waste will be undertaken using approved manure management strategies and in accordance with the best practices being developed for the industry. The primary handling and methodologies to be used will include short term stockpiling land application and potentially composting.

#### **Short Term Stockpiling**

Stockpiling of waste will only take place on a short term basis, to accumulate for land application or composting. Stockpiling will be done in an approved manner and at a site on the farm of sufficient distance and location from the sheds and wells to ensure no risk of contamination. Tarping of the stockpiles will be utilized to improve fly control.

#### **Land Application**

A total of 150 female mink plus kits and males per acre is recommended maximum from the "Environmental Farm Practice Guidelines For Livestock Producers in Newfoundland and Labrador" for manure spreading. As such, for a 5000 female farm the recommended minimum acreage for manure spreading would be 33 acres. This site has a land base of 40 acres with the potential to clear all this acreage over time for spreading.

#### **Carcasses**

Pelting will not take place on site. The animals will be forwarded to a pelting facility for processing and disposal of carcasses. A decision has not been made on the pelting contractor to be utilized. Options include Nova Scotia Co-op or established pelting operations in the province, such as Charleston Mink or Viking Fur.

#### **Occupations:**

The proposed farm will require a projected 4-6 employees during the construction and operations phases. This will include one site foreman and the remainder as general laborers. This labor pool will meet the requirement for farm construction during the first three years as well as ongoing farm operations as the farm grows from 1000 female breeders to a proposed 5000 breeders by the fifth year.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Site maps**

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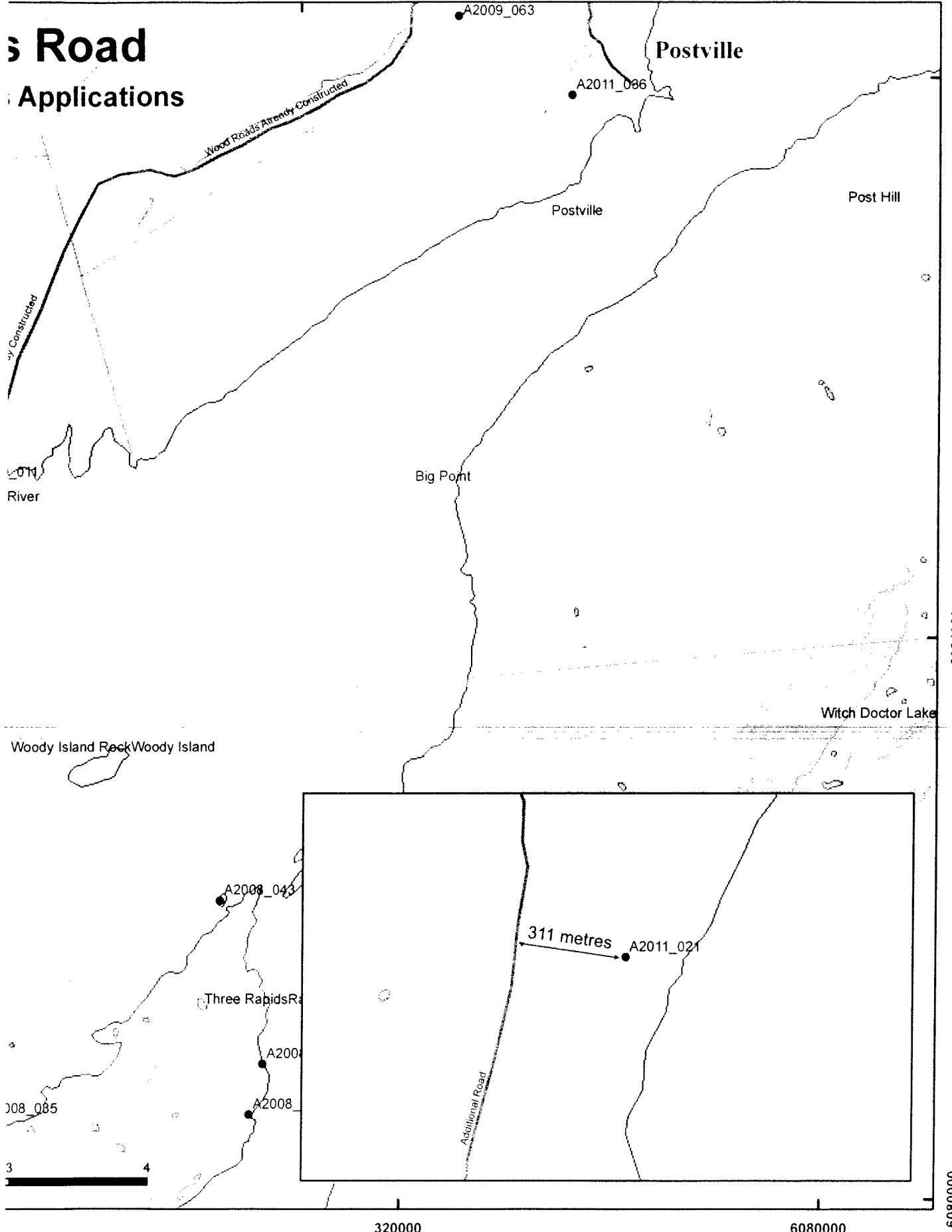
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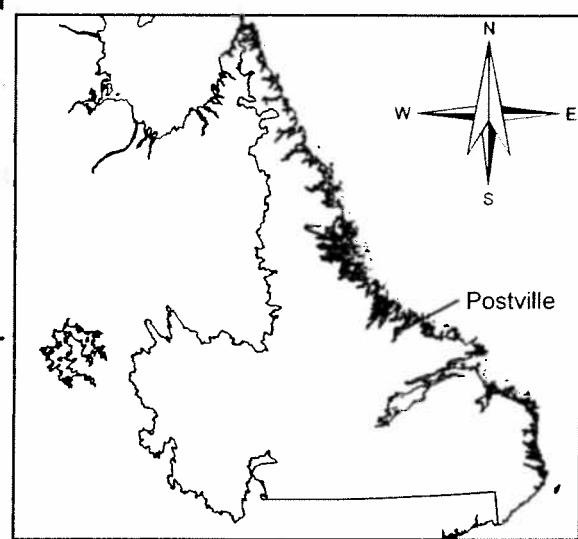
# Road

## Applications

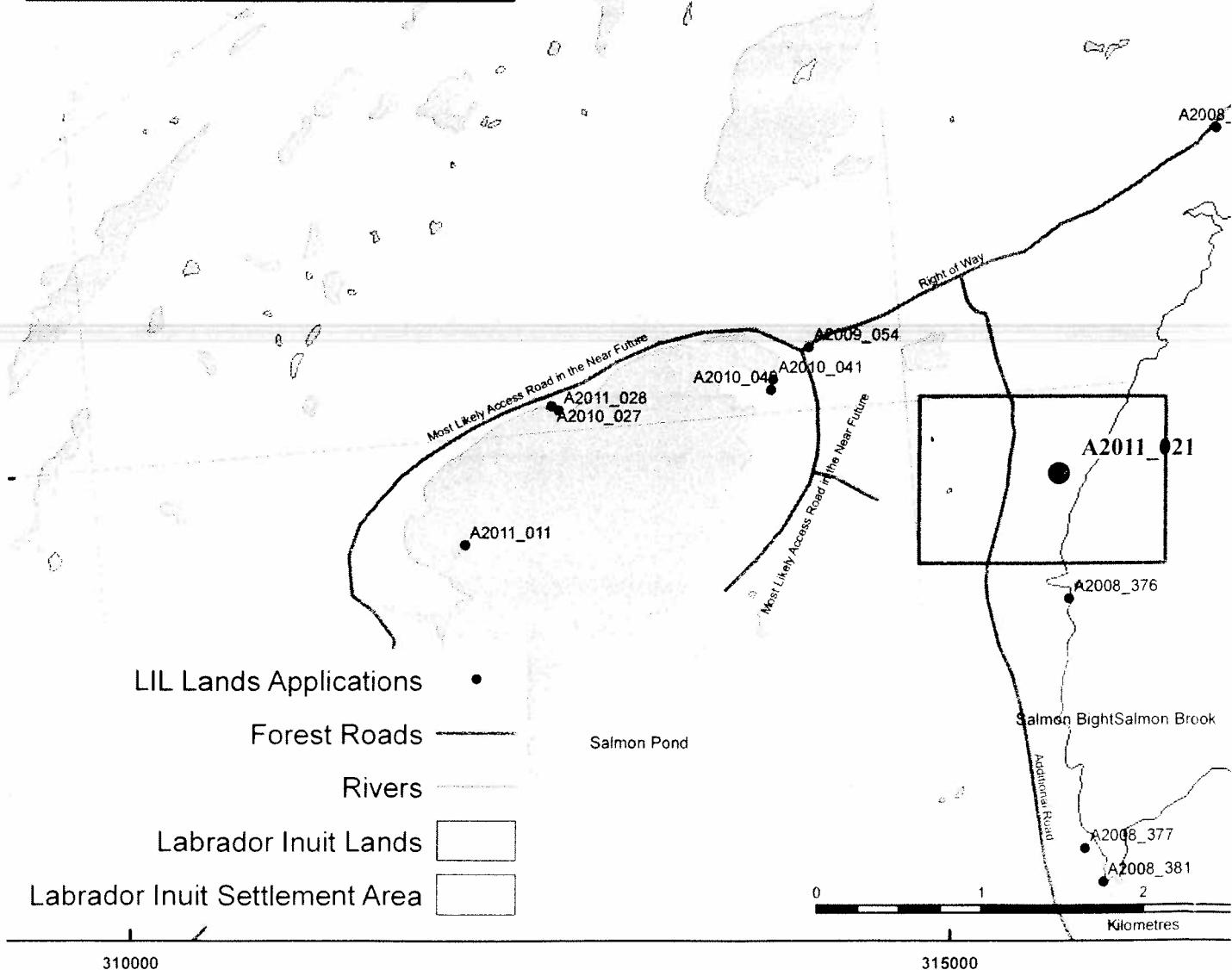


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## Postville Forest Acc with Surrounding Labrador Inuit L



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