



## **ALGONQUIN NEGOTIATION REPRESENTATIVES**

### **NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA AND ONTARIO**

Spring 09

Dear Elector,

I am writing to provide you with further information regarding the ongoing Treaty Negotiations between the Algonquins of Ontario (“AOO”) and the governments of Canada and Ontario (“Governments”).

In summary, there is much activity, very positive momentum and important progress being made on a number of fronts. Subject to Canada acquiring its mandate shortly we remain confident that an Agreement In Principle (“AIP”) with the Governments is possible by the end of 2010.

Meanwhile, the Algonquin Negotiation Representatives (“ANR’s”) continue to be engaged in a variety of activities that are intended to lay a solid foundation for the Algonquin Nation in Ontario. All are working hard to build awareness and a presence throughout the Ottawa Valley and the Traditional Territory.

We now expect to open a Consultation Office in Pembroke this Spring in space leased from the Ontario Government at 31 Riverside Drive. This office will initially employ two staff whose role will be to assist ANRs in dealing with the land dispositions, environmental assessments, Public Works projects and Official Plan matters throughout the Traditional Territory. Once the Treaty is in place, this office will be responsible for coordinating the expected volume of Algonquin land and resource matters that must be overseen by the Nation.

The volume of consultation requests now being received from governments by the AOO, as well as the future activity expected post Treaty, will keep the office and staff busy. Its immediate role will be to coordinate the efforts of ANRs to manage the affairs of the Nation. Advertising for the initial full-time positions to staff this office will take place during the next few weeks and priority consideration will be given in hiring persons of Algonquin descent. Opening of the office will take place after renovations are completed and the staff is hired.

The Economic Development Plan (“EDP”) submitted to the Governments last year remains our framework for a settlement. With a more stable political environment in Ottawa now in evidence, we expect mandates from both Governments for their Chief Negotiators will be determined over the course of the next few weeks, which will allow the negotiation process to gain new impetus this spring. Representatives of the Governments continue to meet with the ANRs and enthusiastically participate in the work of the main table meetings and the various Working Groups.

As we await the government mandates, there are many building blocks for the AIP and Treaty now being put into place. Work on these is being done at monthly meetings of the ANRs, each of which usually lasts 3-4 days, as well as by Working Groups that convene at other times. The following is by no means a comprehensive summary of matters that are underway but it provides a flavor of the scope and intensity of this activity.

- Substantial portions of the “beneficiary criteria” and the Algonquin Nation Constitution have now been drafted. ANRs are considering various means of establishing eligibility for receiving benefits under the Treaty as well as dealing with provisions for citizenship, nation and community governments, and Algonquin law and enforcement. We plan to have proposals for Algonquin Electors to review and consider this Spring;
- The ANRs are in the midst of scheduling meetings in their communities to discuss the draft report by the Ontario Parks Board called “Algonquin Park, Lightening the Ecological Footprint of Logging in Algonquin Park.” These meetings which will take place in all of the Algonquin communities over the next few months are an important step by the Ministry of Natural Resources (“MNR”) in consulting with the Algonquins. Input from these community meetings will be incorporated into our formal response later this Spring. Further details about Algonquin concerns will be provided by your respective ANR at these community meetings.
- The ANRs’ Minerals and Aggregates Working Group is continuing discussions with Ontario’s Ministry of Northern Development and Mines regarding a Consultation Protocol and amendments to the *Mining Act*. A draft “outline” of a protocol agreement has been prepared and is being considered by the ANRs. It is hoped that a final protocol agreement will provide a framework for consultation during different phases of mineral exploration and development activity within the Algonquin Territory.
- Discussions are underway with Canada’s Public Works Department regarding the development of a pilot project with the AOO. This project will serve as a model for constructive, mutually beneficial aboriginal-government relations. This project may also involve the development of one or more training or apprenticeship programs for Algonquin people. It is hoped that this project will be the first of many for the AOO to do business with Canada.
- Additional meetings with the Governments are underway to develop further detail over land selections within the Territory to be included within the Treaty. There are

two types of land selections: Nation Lands and Community Lands. These meetings involve identifying Community Land selections that meet individual community aspirations and Nation Lands which will serve the needs of the AOO.

- The ANRs are participating in the review of Official Plan amendments required under the *Planning Act* for all municipalities located within the Algonquin Traditional Territory to ensure they address Algonquin issues and concerns.
- Other meetings with proponents and Governments to deal with ongoing harvesting issues, green energy initiatives and the myriad of zoning changes and other permissions under the Official Plans of municipalities throughout the Traditional Territory are being held. Ottawa is the focus of many meetings to deal with issues relevant to Algonquin interests that include the City's Official Plan, interprovincial bridges, CFB Rockcliffe, Chaudiere and Victoria Islands, and the disposition of various public buildings.

Should you wish to acquire further information with respect to any of the aforementioned initiatives or with respect to the ongoing development of the AIP, please contact your Community ANR. We are extremely interested in any suggestions or concerns that you may have and your views, I can assure you, will be taken into consideration as the AIP and other initiatives take shape.

Contact information for your Community can be found at:

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You may also get more information on the claim at the AOO website at [www.aoo.ca](#), which will be continuously updated with new information as it becomes available.

Once again, thank you for your continuing interest and support with respect to this extremely important project which we are undertaking on behalf of the Algonquins of Ontario.

Yours very truly,

Robert J. Potts  
Principal Negotiator and Senior Legal Counsel  
Algonquin Treaty Negotiations