



ALGONQUIN NEGOTIATION REPRESENTATIVES NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA AND ONTARIO - *October 2009*

Dear Elector,

In my role as Principal Negotiator for the Algonquins of Ontario (“AOO”), I am writing to provide you with another update regarding the momentum and continuing progress being made in the treaty negotiations with the governments of Canada and Ontario (the “Governments”).

Your elected representatives continue to work diligently on a wide range of matters that are pertinent to these Treaty negotiations and establishing the Algonquin Nation of Ontario. The Algonquin Negotiation Representatives (“ANRs”), who are in their second year of a three-year term, have a busy schedule of meetings throughout the Traditional Territory, both as a group and in various committees and ad hoc groups.

Our goal remains reaching a draft Agreement in Principle (“AIP”) with the federal and provincial governments by the Spring of 2011 and Ratification of its terms by Algonquin beneficiaries, as well as approval of an Algonquin Constitution to govern the Nation’s affairs and other matters shortly thereafter. A Treaty document will be finalized for approval in a further formal vote by the Algonquins following their approval of the AIP.

An important milestone in this journey to a formal Treaty was reached in late spring. After some delays due to the federal election and last fall’s economic crisis, negotiators for both governments were provided with detailed mandates from their respective Cabinets. These mandates will provide the basis for moving forward on the outstanding issues that we have raised with governments that need to be dealt with to reach a comprehensive settlement. It is clear to us that the extensive resources being allocated by governments signifies a commitment on their part to reach a fair and just settlement with the Algonquins in a timely manner, although we still all have a great deal of hard work ahead of us to achieve an AIP that will meet the interests of the Algonquins of Ontario.

All three Principal Negotiators are supported by teams of highly qualified experts. The Algonquin Negotiation Team is comprised of myself, the ANRs and our technical and legal advisors. On your behalf, the Algonquin Negotiation Team formally submitted an Economic Development Plan (“EDP”) to the Governments last year that outlined the

requirements for the creation of meaningful economic opportunities for Algonquins and to support the development and prosperity of Algonquin culture. This plan serves as the basis for negotiating an AIP and resulting Treaty. Using this document, the Government negotiators acquired mandates from their respective governments to respond to our proposal. Matters under negotiation include a financial settlement, Crown land to be transferred to the Algonquins, harvesting and future revenue sharing, among others.

As a key part of these negotiations, two agreements were signed with governments during the summer to provide the framework for these negotiations over the next few months. A Negotiation Framework Agreement formally establishes detailed processes that will guide the three parties through negotiation of an AIP. A second agreement relating to the Governments' obligations to consult and accommodate with the AOO sets out a clear and efficient means for the two Governments to consult the Algonquins of Ontario and the 10 Algonquin communities they represent on proposed activities or projects in the region while the negotiations are ongoing.

Your elected representatives are in essence engaged in two initiatives, both of which are fundamental to the successful ratification of the Treaty. The first is providing input and direction for the detailed negotiations to settle the outstanding land claim. The second is acting as representatives of their communities for formal consultation and accommodation by the Governments on land and resource matters while the negotiations are ongoing and *before* any agreement is reached. The ANRs are fully engaged in both areas, and the next few months promise to be filled with hectic activity and many challenges.

The ANRs have successfully put into place some modest support for the consultation portion of their responsibilities. I am very pleased to announce to you that as I write this communication, we have opened an Algonquin Consultation Office in Pembroke. When staffing is completed, the office will serve as a base for future operations, providing support to the ANRs in dealing with the many matters before them. A formal opening of this office is expected later in the fall, and we expect that this will bring additional positive attention to the Algonquins of Ontario.

The following provides further detail about some key issues under consultation with governments.

MNDM/AOO Consultation Protocol

The AOO and the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines are currently developing a workplan which will allow for comprehensive consultation strategies to be developed that will guide mineral and mining activity within the Traditional Territory. This work program will include extensive community input to identify Algonquin issues and concerns and will soon result in a Memorandum of Understanding and a Consultation Protocol Agreement to protect Algonquin interests. It will also include direct input into the regulations that will be prepared under new provisions of the *Mining Act* dealing with Aboriginal consultation relating to mineral prospecting, staking and exploration activity.

PWGSC Initiative - Interest Based Consultation Pilot Project

The ANR's are engaged in an interesting and collaborative process with Public Works and Government Services Canada ("PWGSC") to explore ways to develop real

opportunities for Algonquins in federal government procurement processes. We anticipate that this will shortly result in one or more pilot projects being initiated which will demonstrate how this new collaborative approach can provide real economic opportunities for the Algonquin people. If successful, this approach may be extended to provide additional opportunities for Algonquins and, eventually, for other aboriginal people across Canada. The interest and efforts being made by PWGSC to work with the Algonquins in a meaningful way is encouraging to say the least, and is a reflection of the constructive and professional approach that the ANRs have adopted in the land claim process over the last five years.

Parks Canada Initiative - Rideau Canal

Based on AOO consultation work with Parks Canada over the past two years on property dispositions along the Rideau Waterway, Parks Canada is now acknowledging the need to work together with the Algonquin Nation on various historical, cultural and economic development opportunities related to the Rideau Waterway World Heritage Site. Parks Canada recognizes and respects the important role the Algonquins have had in the Rideau Waterway Corridor over many years and is now seeking to work closely with the Algonquin people to ensure their story is told.

Algonquin Park - Lightening the Ecological Footprint

This very important and complex matter has been the subject of much discussion over the past 18 months. A draft summary of the Algonquins position has been prepared and will be reviewed with all communities through a series of meetings during the fall of 2009.

Ontario Green Energy and Green Economy Act

The recent passage of the *Ontario Green Energy and Green Economy Act* and contemplated regulations to implement the Act offers significant opportunities for the Algonquins of Ontario to advance their cultural, environmental and economic interests where water power, wind power, solar power and biomass projects are proposed within Algonquin Traditional Territory. Renewable energy projects proposing to use Algonquin resources (water, wind, biomass) within Algonquin Traditional Territory represent an important economic development opportunity that could provide long term, low risk revenue streams and business and employment opportunities for the AOO.

Nation Gathering

A Nation Gathering was held at Pikwàkanagàn in August. This event provided an opportunity for all Algonquins to join in a series of cultural presentations and events that celebrated Algonquin heritage. More such events will be held in the future.

Other work underway includes:

- Establishing the draft beneficiary criteria for consideration by the AOO for those of Algonquin descent that would apply once a Treaty is in place;
- Developing a draft Algonquin Nation Constitution for discussion by the AOO which will deal with citizenship, nation and community governments, Algonquin law and enforcement and other matters;

- Working with the Ministry of Natural Resources (“MNR”) with respect to ongoing harvesting enforcement matters and other issues;
- Ongoing discussions with the City of Ottawa regarding the City’s Official Plan Amendment and the National Capital Commission and Canada regarding, interprovincial bridges, CFB Rockcliffe, Chaudiere and Victoria Islands, and the disposition of various public buildings;
- responding to various Wind Energy and Water Power initiatives by private sector interests throughout the Territory;
- addressing the assertion of Métis Aboriginal rights in Algonquin Territory by monitoring the progress of a research study into whether or not ancestral Métis communities/Métis harvesting rights exist within the Algonquin Territory.

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.

I would also like to thank the large number of you who have taken the time to complete the recent survey and would encourage those of you who have not completed the survey to do so in the near future.

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,

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