

Algonquin land claim Backgrounder

March 2013



The negotiators have drafted a proposed Agreement-in-Principle that sets out the main elements of a potential settlement.

The final settlement is expected to include a financial component, the transfer of some Crown lands to Algonquin ownership, and agreement regarding the nature of Algonquin harvesting rights (hunting and fishing).

The draft Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) will be subject to a vote by the membership of the Algonquins of Ontario. The Governments of Ontario and Canada will also have to approve the draft AIP before the next phase of negotiations toward a Final Agreement can begin.

The final settlement of this land claim is still a number of years away. It will be several years before any land is transferred to the Algonquins.

Consultations with stakeholder groups, including FOCA (which has been a member of Ontario's Committee of External Advisors - since 1996) have been limited to date.

Meetings to discuss details with stakeholders and municipal governments have been promised but have been limited to date.

Public meetings were held in March of 2013 to communicate the contents of the AIP.

Private property will not be expropriated to settle this land claim.

No new First Nation reserves will be created. The lands transferred to the Algonquins will become private land and will be subject to laws of general application. The Algonquin-owned lands will fall within existing municipal jurisdiction.

All three negotiating parties are looking for workable solutions that respect the interests of all society, provide continued public access to Crown lands and natural resources, and protect biodiversity, resource sustainability and conservation.

Ontario government negotiators have committed to minimizing the impacts of land selections on other users of Crown land.

Any legal interest holders who may be directly affected by proposed Algonquin land selections should have been notified with the release of the AIP – this includes an offer to meet with representatives of the Ontario land selection team.

Owners of private property who are adjacent to or abutting land that is being identified for potential transfer to Algonquin ownership are all supposed to be notified and provided with further information.

Algonquin Park will remain a park for the appropriate use and enjoyment of all peoples. This has been an agreement of all three negotiating parties since 1994.