

August 3, 2013

WHEREAS the parties conducting the Algonquin Land Claim negotiations released the Preliminary Draft Algonquin Land Claim Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) to the public in December, 2012;

AND WHEREAS several provisions of the draft AIP are of serious concern to the Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Association (LWCA);

AND WHEREAS the LWCA has issues/concerns with respect to the manner in which the negotiations process has been conducted in that the Canada and Ontario Negotiation Teams, which are responsible for representing the approximately 1.4 million non-Algonquin residents in the land claim area, have failed to conduct dialogue or reasonable consultation with their constituents when negotiating issues of paramount importance to organizations such as the LWCA;

AND WHEREAS the owners of property on Lake Weslemkoon adjacent to land to be transferred to the Algonquins have been unrepresented to date in the negotiation of the draft AIP;

AND WHEREAS the draft AIP provides for unlimited fishing 365 days per year by Algonquin Treaty beneficiaries with no limits on daily numbers, size or equipment such as any kind of nets so that the sensitive fishery in Lake Weslemkoon could potentially be devastated should abuse occur;

AND WHEREAS the draft AIP provides for unlimited hunting 365 days per year on Crown Land by Algonquin Treaty beneficiaries so that any persons/families engaging in activities such as picnicking or hiking on Crown land in the non-traditional hunting seasons could be subject to observing the shooting of deer or other wild game without any restrictions respecting conservation or safety;

AND WHEREAS the Canada and Ontario Negotiation Teams have a responsibility to the non Algonquin property owners on Lake Weslemkoon who also deem the public lands and waters and its fish and wild life values enormously important for our economy, our culture, our heritage, our way of life and our quality of life;

NOW THEREFORE THE LAKE WESLEMKOON CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Provincial and Federal governments commit to the appointment of an independent negotiator whose responsibility will be to represent the interests of non-Algonquins, including members of the LWCA affected by the land claim, and the Provincial government will provide the funding necessary to cover all costs for the negotiator;

2. All parties involved in the AIP negotiations formally be requested to negotiate amendments to the draft AIP to provide for reasonable conservation measures that would eliminate the potential for abuse and destruction of the carefully nurtured fishery in Lake Weslemkoon.

3. All parties involved in the AIP negotiations formally be requested to negotiate amendments to the draft AIP to provide for reasonable conservation and safety measures to eliminate the public danger and potential conservation abuse involved in unlimited and uncontrolled hunting and trapping on Crown Land on a year-round basis.

4. All parties involved in the AIP negotiations formally be requested to consider that in the early 2000's Lake Weslemkoon was designated an environmentally sensitive lake and at that time it was determined that further development of lots beyond those already surveyed and approved would be highly restricted and regulated, and we request that the Algonquin Land Claim also accept and respect that designation, and that amendments be negotiated concerning the placement of appropriate restrictive covenants on the title of land being transferred to the Algonquins.

AND FURTHER that this resolution be also circulated to the Federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, the Provincial Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and to all MPs and MPPs in the land claim area.