



Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations
#201 - 159 King St.
Peterborough, ON K9J 2R8

August 8, 2013

Dear MP/MPP,

The negotiations toward an Agreement in Principle (AIP) for the Algonquin Land Claim by the three parties have reached a crucial phase. On behalf of our members throughout the claim area we respectfully request that you undertake the necessary consultations with the people of Ontario to help deliver a sound and informed Agreement. To date, despite numerous requests and input from area stakeholders, there has been insufficient time and effort provided for meaningful dialogue and input for those people who are impacted by the terms of the AIP.

Following a brief period where area residents were presented with the "preliminary draft" terms of an AIP, it now appears there will be no opportunity to further discuss or explain the context nor the details of a revised Draft, and that only the Algonquins of Ontario will now be party to the proposed terms being offered by Canada and Ontario on our behalf.

Despite official indications that the people of Ontario have in fact been consulted, to date, there has been no updated AIP information provided, and no opportunity to fully understand private property impacts, land use planning implications, fish and wildlife management plans, fair sharing, designated species, conflicting land claims, access and other issues.

We strongly believe that a thorough review and understanding of the potential impact of the claim on private landowners, fish and wildlife populations, the future conservation of land and water resources and on local businesses and the economy should be a priority for both governments.

Our members are your constituents. Waterfront property owners make up a significant portion of the local property tax base, and support millions of dollars of economic activity in this region. As stewards of the resources on and around their private property, this group will be affected by changes to tenure on area lakes and rivers and are due an adequate opportunity to learn about the proposed settlement terms, and to provide input in advance of any settlement.

It is critical that the views of local stakeholders, and the 1.4 million non-aboriginals who live within the claim area, are respected, and heard. We continue to press for more comprehensive consultation around the land claim process that will address the issues outlined above and that will provide the general public with an opportunity to be fully informed in advance of a landmark agreement that may significantly impact on the use, enjoyment, and value of their property. On behalf of the residents and businesses in your municipality we respectfully ask that you support a process that adequately includes public input.

Yours sincerely,

Terry Rees, Executive Director
Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, Inc.

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