

**Ministry of Natural Resources
and Forestry**

Land Claims and Treaties Section
Strategic and Indigenous Policy Branch
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**Ministère des Richesses naturelles
et des Forêts**

Section des revendications territoriales et
des traités
Direction des politiques relatives aux
stratégies et aux affaires autochtones
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300, rue Water
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Dear Sir/Madam:

For some time, Canada, Ontario and the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) have been actively negotiating towards a settlement of the Algonquin Land Claim. As a result of these negotiations, the three (3) parties reached an important milestone on October 18, 2016, with the signing of the Agreement-in-Principle (AIP).

A key component of the AIP is the proposed transfer of provincial lands to AOO ownership. The transfer would occur following the approval of a final Settlement Agreement and include the transfer of approximately, but not less than, 117,500 acres of provincial lands.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) has prepared a Draft Environmental Evaluation Report (EER) to assess the potential environmental effects and proposed mitigation measures of the proposed transfer of lands in accordance with the requirements for Category C projects under the Algonquin Land Claim Declaration Order made under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The Draft EER includes:

- The transfer of approximately, but not less than, 117,500 acres of provincial lands lands;
- The transfer of associated assets (e.g. Ministry of Transportation (MTO) patrol yards, former ranger camps); and
- Other activities such as amending boundary regulations for affected non-operating provincial parks (e.g. Foy Property Provincial Park).

The Draft EER addresses environmental effects, which under the *Environmental Assessment Act* include social, cultural, economic and natural environment effects. Therefore, in assessing the environmental effects of the transfer of provincial lands, the Draft EER documents the effects to:

- access;
- industries, public utilities and business interests;
- recreational uses;
- adjacent land uses;
- natural environment; and
- cultural environment.

Ontario is seeking comment on the Draft EER from **August 28, 2017 through October 17, 2017**. All comments received during the notice period will be considered and a Final Environmental Evaluation Report will be prepared and released for public inspection.

The Draft EER can be reviewed and commented upon during nine public open houses or electronically.

Public open houses are scheduled from 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM at the following locations:

Mattawa – September 20, 2017

Rodden Arena, 450 Hurdman Street, Mattawa, ON P0H 1V0

North Bay – September 21, 2017

Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 445, 345 Lansdowne Avenue, Callander, ON P0H 1H0

Kingston – September 26, 2017

Ambassador Hotel, 1550 Princess Street, Kingston, ON K7M 9E3

Perth – September 27, 2017

Code's Mill on the Park, 17 Wilson Street East, Perth, ON K7H 1L3

Ottawa – September 28, 2017

The Royal Canadian Legion, Montgomery Branch 351, 330 Kent Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 2A6

Whitney – October 3, 2017

Lester B. Smith Community Centre, 32 Hay Creek Road, Whitney, ON K0J 2M0

Bancroft – October 4, 2017

Faraday Community Centre, 13 Lower Faraday Road, Bancroft, ON K0L 1C0

Pembroke – October 5, 2017

Germania Club, 15 Bennett Street, Pembroke, ON K8A 3Y6

Toronto – October 11, 2017

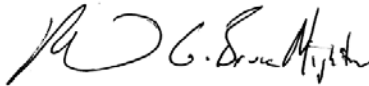
Delta Toronto East Hotel, 2035 Kennedy Road, Scarborough, ON M1T 3G2

To obtain a copy of the Draft EER and/or provide comments online, please visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/algonquin-land-claim-draft-environmental-evaluation-report> (French <https://www.ontario.ca/fr/page/revendication-territoriale-des-algonquins-ebauche-de-rapport-devaluation-environnementale>).

For further information or to provide comments please contact:

Ontario Information Centre
Algonquin Land Claim
31 Riverside Drive
Pembroke, Ontario
K8A 8R6
Phone: 1-844-276-9091
E-mail: eerfeedback@ontario.ca

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Bruce Mighton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

G. Bruce Mighton
Manager
Land Claims and Treaties Section
Strategic and Indigenous Policy Branch
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Comments and personal information concerning the proposed transfer of provincial lands to Algonquin ownership are collected to assist with decision making and potential follow-up with individuals as required. The collection of information complies with *Environmental Assessment Act* requirements. Comments not constituting personal information as defined by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, may be shared with others as appropriate, including the proponent ministries (MNRF, MTO, Ministry of Infrastructure and Ministry of Northern Development and Mines) and may be included in documentation available for public review. Personal information will only be used / disclosed in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. If you have questions regarding the collection, use or disclosures of your personal information please contact the Ontario Information Centre (contact information above).