

From: Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation <Minister.MIRR@ontario.ca>
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To: Terry Rees, FOCA
Subject: Algonquin Land Claim Agreement-in-Principle

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Mr. Terry Rees
Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations Incorporated

I am very pleased to provide you with an update on the Algonquin land claim negotiations, which have now reached a significant and long-awaited milestone.

Earlier this week, I had the honour of joining with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett and the Algonquin Negotiation Representatives to officially sign the Algonquins of Ontario Agreement-in-Principle.

This signing ceremony on Parliament Hill in Ottawa is of historical significance as a landmark event in our progress toward Ontario's first modern-day treaty. There is much work still to be done.

As a member of Ontario's Committee of External Advisors, you have made a very real contribution to the negotiations, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your commitment and the constructive and practical advice you have provided to the Ontario negotiation team.

I understand that you have had opportunities to discuss Ontario's stakeholder engagement processes with members of the Ontario negotiation team and with senior staff of the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and that most committee members agreed that the Committee of External Advisors model should be refined and enhanced.

As we enter the next phase of negotiations toward a Final Agreement, the Ontario negotiation team plans to engage in new avenues of consultation that are better suited to the more detailed discussions that will be required.

I must acknowledge the long-term commitment of the many members who have been involved since the inception of the Committee of External Advisors in 1996, and I

sincerely thank all of you for sharing your knowledge, various perspectives and candid advice.

Those discussions will take various forms depending on the topics to be addressed. In addition to broad outreach initiatives such as open houses and negotiation updates, Ontario will be planning future opportunities for engagement on natural resource management matters identified in the Agreement-in-Principle. The timing of these initiatives is still to be determined, depending on the course of the negotiations. The Ontario negotiation team will provide invitations, notices and updates as the work progresses.

There will be many other forums for input and discussion as the negotiations proceed, and I encourage you to keep in contact with Ontario's Chief Negotiator, Doug Carr who can be reached by phone at 416-531-0639 or by e-mail at dougcarr905@gmail.com.

I look forward to continuing our work with Canada, the Algonquins of Ontario, and with those who have interests in the land claim territory, as we all contribute to the important pursuit of true reconciliation with the Indigenous communities of our province.

Sincerely,

David Zimmer
Minister

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