



CALL FOR SUPPORT

RE: PROTECTION OF ALGONQUIN SACRED WATERFALLS AREA: AKIKODJIWAN KICHI ZIBI (Chaudiere Falls, Ottawa River)

Dear Friends and Supporters;

We are calling for your support to help us stop a high intensity urban development project within Akikodjiwan: a sacred Algonquin waterfalls area on the Ottawa River between the cities of Ottawa, Ontario and Gatineau, Quebec.

Since the early 19th century our sacred waterfalls area has been overrun by early colonial settlement on both northern and southern waterfronts, followed by log driving and then it was dammed for hydroelectric power to supply papermills that deforested our Algonquin homelands. Despite all of this Akikodjiwan remains a sacred waterfalls area for the Algonquin Peoples!

Recently, Windmill Development Inc. purchased the Chaudiere and Albert Islands from the logging company Domtar Inc. the lands border parcels of land owned by Hydro Quebec, the National Capital Commission, Public Works and the cities of Ottawa and Gatineau.

Our Algonquin First Nations were not legally or meaningfully consulted or accommodated on this matter as per the directions of the Supreme Court of Canada in the *Haida*, *Delgamuukw* or *Tsilhqot'in* decisions. Moreover, we are calling on all parties to respect the Articles of the **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples'**, in this case Article 11, among others, clearly applies:

Indigenous peoples have the right to practise and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites.

We do not agree with re-zoning the lands near our sacred area Akikodjiwan Kichi Zibi from parks and open space to mixed-use for the proposed Windmill Development. We also do not believe it is anyone's interest to privatize those lands. We understand that an agreement between Domtar and the National Capital Commission to purchase those lands fell through several years ago.

The federal and Ontario governments should purchase those lands for return to an Algonquin controlled institution set up by legitimate Algonquin First Nations.

Moreover, we have just learned that the City of Ottawa's Hydro Ottawa Inc. and its subsidiary Energy Ottawa has started construction on a new 29 megawatt hydroelectricity plant to replace the two existing generator stations at our sacred water falls, AKIKODJIWAN KICHIZIBI (Chaudiere Falls, Ottawa River). Again, our Algonquin First Nations have never been consulted on this project. We strongly object to this project proceeding without our Algonquin First Nations first being consulted about this project.

We are calling for those islands and waterfront to be designated an Algonquin Cultural Park and Historic Commemorative Site and we are actively seeking national support for our Algonquin land use vision as a step towards reconciliation with our legitimate Algonquin First Nations, which we believe is consistent with the vision of the late Kitigan Zibi Elder, William Commanda who advocated for the return of this Algonquin sacred waterfalls area, including the Chaudiere, Albert and Victoria Islands.

Our request is in line with the following recommendations of the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission**:

Canadian Governments and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People

43. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation.

44. We call upon the Government of Canada to develop a national action plan, strategies, and other concrete measures to achieve the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

47. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and lands, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius, and to reform those laws, government policies, and litigation strategies that continue to rely on such concepts.

68. We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, and the Canadian Museums Association to mark the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation in 2017 by establishing a dedicated national funding program for commemoration projects on the theme of reconciliation.

79. We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal organizations, and the arts community, to develop a reconciliation framework for Canadian heritage and commemoration. This would include, but not be limited to:

- i. Amending the Historic Sites and Monuments Act to include First Nations, Inuit, and Métis representation on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and its Secretariat.*
- ii. Revising the policies, criteria, and practices of the National Program of Historical Commemoration to integrate Indigenous history, heritage values, and memory practices into Canada's national heritage and history.*

Further to the above cited TRC recommendations, our four Algonquin First Nations are looking for individuals, groups and organizations to **ENDORSE OUR LIST OF DEMANDS** in order to build pressure on the federal, provincial, municipal governments and corporations, particularly the Windmill Development Group.

Please send letters or resolutions of support to:

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau - Fax: 613-941-6900

Premier Kathleen Wynn, Government of Ontario: premier@ontario.ca

Premier Phillippe Couillard, Government of Quebec – FAX: 418 643-3924

Mr. Russell Andrew Mills, Chair, National Capital Commission: info@ncc-ccn.ca

Mr. Jim Watson, Mayor of Ottawa - Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca

Mr. Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin, Mayor of Gatineau: maire@gatineau.ca

Mr. Jonathan Westeinde, Windmill Development Group: hello@zibi.ca

For more information please view the attached Backgrounder.

Please send copies of all support letters or resolutions to Ms. Brenda St. Denis at forestry@wolflakefirstnation.com

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR DEMANDS:

1. The federal and Ontario governments should purchase the lands within our Algonquin Sacred Area for return to an Algonquin controlled institution set up by legitimate Algonquin First Nations.

2. The Algonquin Sacred Waterfalls Area Akikodjiwan must be protected in perpetuity and recognized within the National Capital Region as an Algonquin Nation Cultural Park and Historic Commemoration Site under an Algonquin controlled institution to be established by the legitimate Algonquin First Nations.
3. The governments of Canada, Quebec, Ontario, the National Capital Commission and the municipalities of Gatineau and Ottawa must contact the duly elected Algonquin Chiefs and Councils to negotiate the establishment of a proposed Algonquin Nation Cultural Park and Historic Commemoration Site under an Algonquin controlled institution to be established by the legitimate Algonquin First Nations.

ISSUED ON OCTOBER 30, 2015, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF:

Chief Harry St. Denis Office: (819) 627-9161
Wolf Lake First Nation

Chief Terence McBride Office: (819) 723-2370
Timiskaming First Nation

Chief Lance Haymond Office: (819) 627-3455
Eagle Village First Nation

Chief Casey Ratt Office: (819) 435-2181
Algonquins of Barriere Lake

PROTECTION OF AKIKODJIWAN

OUR ALGONQUIN SACRED WATERFALLS AREA





BACKGROUND

Since time immemorial the Ottawa River Watershed has been the territory of the Indigenous Peoples who form the Algonquin Nation today. The Kichi Zibi (Ottawa River) is an ancient trade and travel route through the Territory of the Algonquin Nation, as are the shores, islands and portages along the route.

The Akikodjiwan (Chaudiere) waterfalls and the adjacent lands and islands are a sacred area for all Algonquin Peoples, in 1613, Samuel du Champlain witnessed our Algonquin Peoples making a tobacco offering to our sacred waterfalls for good travel and good health as is the Algonquin custom.

In 1801 when Philemon Wright arrived in what is now known as Hull (Gatineau), Quebec he witnessed Algonquin Peoples' hunting and operating sugar bush camps on the North shore of our sacred area, and was later visited by Chiefs from the Lake of Two Mountains who questioned his settlement activities on Algonquin territory.



“UNCEDED, UNSURRENDERED TERRITORY OF THE ALGONQUIN NATION

What is now known as the Gatineau Waterfront and the islands of Chaudiere, Albert and Victoria held for decades by the federal government and now the Cities of Gatineau and Ottawa, are part of a sacred area for all of the Algonquin Peoples and remains within the unceded, unsundered territory of the Algonquin Nation.

Our Algonquin sacred waterfalls area is now surrounded by the municipality of Gatineau on the North side and the municipality of Ottawa on the South side, but is located within the National Capital Region of Canada.

Our sacred waterfalls area Akikodjiwan symbolizes the environmental destruction, starvation and impoverishment of Algonquin Peoples' since the pre-confederation era of Canada caused by:

- 1 Massive flooding of our Algonquin Nation territory (Ottawa River Watershed) by unauthorized, non-consensual construction of dams for log driving and then hydro purposes now operated by Hydro Ontario, Hydro Ottawa, Energy Ottawa & Hydro Quebec; and
- 2 Massive deforestation and destruction of Algonquin cultural landscapes and wildlife habitats by unauthorized, non-consensual logging for sawmills and then pulpmills by logging companies like E.B Eddy, J. R. Booth, Domtar; and
- 3 Relocation and displacement of Algonquin Peoples' from what is now called the “National Capital Region” due to colonization, settlement and urbanization including the unilateral establishment of Canada’s National Capital Region within the unceded, unsundered Territory of the Algonquin Nation.



WE HAVE NEVER ENTERED INTO A LAND CESSION TREATY SURRENDERING OUR ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

In 1983, without any agreement from the other Algonquin First Nations, Pikwakanagan (Golden Lake) submitted a land claim to the Ontario side of the Kichi Zibi (Ottawa River), which the government of Ontario accepted for negotiations in 1991 and the federal government accepted for negotiations in 1992. Following the acceptance of the land claim for negotiations the governments of Ontario and Canada fabricated the "Algonquins of Ontario" for the purposes of negotiating the extinguishment of Algonquin Aboriginal Title and Rights in the Province of Ontario.

Windmill Development Inc. is planning on building a massive urban environment of condominiums, offices and retail stores within our Algonquin sacred area on the Chaudiere and Albert Islands. Windmill development Inc. has purchased support for its urban development project on the Chaudiere and Albert Islands from the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan (Golden Lake) and the so-called "Algonquins of Ontario", as well as, individual Algonquins based upon the land claim unilaterally submitted by the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan (Golden Lake) to the governments of Ontario and Canada.

Our four First Nations are legitimate members of the Algonquin Nation and we have never entered into a land cession treaty surrendering our Aboriginal rights and title; nor have we authorized any other nation or entity to negotiate on our behalf for such title and rights, including the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan (Golden Lake), as such, our Aboriginal rights and title have never been extinguished and exist to this present day.

In fact, our position is that we are not "Quebec Algonquins"; nor do we agree to be called Algonquins "located in Quebec" as proposed in a new clause put forward by the Ontario and federal negotiators in the proposed "Algonquins of Ontario-Preliminary Draft Agreement-in-Principle". Our First Nations have names, which derive from the territories we have inhabited from time immemorial. Our ancestral territories include portions of what is now Ontario and Quebec, including Akikodjiwan, which is a sacred area for the whole Algonquin Nation.



THE FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS (GATINEAU AND OTTAWA) ARE VIOLATING CANADIAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

The "Algonquins of Ontario" is not a band, First Nation, Nation or entity possessed of Aboriginal title or rights, under Algonquin law, Canadian law or international law. It is a formulation of the Ontario and federal governments: it does not represent our communities, and has never been mandated to negotiate on our behalf, or with respect to our Aboriginal title and rights interests in the province of Ontario. We find it frustrating that after decades of trying to engage the Ontario and federal governments and explain the nature and territorial scope of our rights and interests, we continue to be treated as if our Aboriginal title interests in Ontario do not exist.

Our Algonquin First Nations are recognized as "Bands" within the meaning of the Indian Act, and come within the meaning of "Indian peoples" in section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

The federal, Ontario, Quebec governments and the municipal governments of Gatineau & Ottawa, without consulting or accommodating our First Nation, or seeking our Free, Prior, Informed Consent, have now amended the National Capital Commission's and City of Ottawa's master-plans to rezone the lands beside our sacred waterfalls area Akikodjiwan Kichi Zibi from "parks and open area" to "mixed use" for the planned Windmill Development Project, which will place high intensity use buildings next to Akikodjiwan (Chaudiere) our sacred waterfalls area.

The federal, provincial and municipal governments (Gatineau & Ottawa) are violating Canadian constitutional law by proceeding to change the status of the lands within our sacred area without meaningful consultation or accommodation.

UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The federal, provincial and municipal governments (Gatineau & Ottawa) are also violating our International human rights as Indigenous Peoples, by proceeding to change the status of the lands within our sacred area without meaningful consultation or accommodation, particularly by ignoring the following Articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:

Article 11

- 1 Indigenous peoples have the right to practise and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.
- 2 States shall provide redress through effective mechanisms, which may include restitution, developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples, with respect to their cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property taken without their free, prior and informed consent or in violation of their laws, traditions and customs.

Article 12

- 1 Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practise, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to the use and control of their ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of their human remains.
- 2 States shall seek to enable the access and/or repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains in their possession through fair, transparent and effective mechanisms developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned.

UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Article 25

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.

Article 32

- 1 Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.
- 2 States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.
- 3 States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.

Our four Algonquin First Nations have confirmed in writing we were not consulted by the governments of Canada, Quebec or Ontario, or the National Capital Commission or the municipalities of Gatineau or Ottawa regarding changes to the status of lands and islands within our Algonquin sacred waterfalls area Akikodjiwan and that our Algonquin First Nations oppose the re-zoning of our sacred area Akikodjiwan (Gatineau Waterfront and Chaudiere, Albert and Victoria islands in Ontario) from parks and open space to mixed use.

Our four Algonquin First Nations also confirmed in writing that we are opposed to the Windmill Development Project proceeding within our sacred waterfalls area Akikodjiwan and that we assert Aboriginal rights to the Akikodjiwan Sacred Waterfalls Area.



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR DEMANDS

- 1 The federal and Ontario governments should purchase the lands within our Algonquin Sacred Area for return to an Algonquin controlled institution set up by legitimate Algonquin First Nations.
- 2 The Algonquin Sacred Waterfalls Area Akikodjiwan must be protected in perpetuity and recognized within the National Capital Region as an Algonquin Nation Cultural Park and Historic Commemoration Site under an Algonquin controlled institution to be established by the legitimate Algonquin First Nations.
- 3 The governments of Canada, Quebec, Ontario, the National Capital Commission and the municipalities of Gatineau and Ottawa must contact the duly elected Algonquin Chiefs and Councils to negotiate the establishment of a proposed Algonquin Nation Cultural Park and Historic Commemoration Site under an Algonquin controlled institution to be established by the legitimate Algonquin First Nations.

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