



FACT SHEET 1: ALGONQUIN LAND CLAIM

Public Land and Water Transfers - *What do non-Algonquins stand to lose?*

This is what we know based on the Agreement in Principle (AIP):

Public land will become private land. Non-Algonquins are going to lose the use of at least 117,500 acres of public land in the Algonquin Land Claim area. There are 200 parcels of Crown land ranging in size from a few acres to more than 30,000 acres that will no longer be available to the public.

Public lakes will become private lakes. The beds of waterbodies wholly contained within settlement lands and large sections of rivers and streams crossing settlement lands may become private. In most cases, public access to these waters will not be guaranteed.

MNR-stocked lakes will become private lakes. A number of lakes wholly within the land transfers have been stocked with Brook Trout, Rainbow Trout and Splake for public fishing. Anglers and hunters pay for fish stocking through licence fees (the Special Purposes Account) and have done so with the understanding that stocked lakes would be available for public use.

Many of the lands to be transferred to the Algonquins are in high quality locations. Although some of the transferred parcels are relatively small, many are prime real estate with significant values for recreational users. Some transferred lands may be deer yards, some may have high-quality moose habitat, and some may be important for accessibility of lakes or larger tracts of remaining Crown land.

Access to remaining public lands will become restricted. Not all public land has the same level of accessibility, and therefore, some large areas of public land are best accessed through one critical access point. This could be a Crown forest access road or trail, a public boat access point or a chain of closely linked waterbodies. Even small, strategically located land transfers can remove these critical access points and functionally restrict the use of a much larger area of remaining public land, resulting in the loss of values associated with those lands.

Accessibility of remaining public waters will be more challenging. Many of the Crown land parcels being transferred have significant waterfront acreage, some of which may be the only remaining Crown land on a given waterbody. This will be of particular concern for public accessibility of public waterbodies within the Claim area.

Crown land will become Provincial Park land. Almost 15,000 more acres of public land have been proposed for re-designation as a Provincial Park. Although Provincial Parks are available for public use, there will be significant changes to the way the land can be used for outdoor recreation. There will be no more free use because a Provincial Park will likely have fees, motorized access restrictions and other limitations that do not currently exist.

Existing Provincial Parks will Change/There will be co-management of Provincial Parks. Algonquins and Ontario will jointly develop/amend/examine management plans for 16 provincial parks/conservation reserves. The level of Algonquin participation for the remaining 39 Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves is uncertain.

The total amount of Crown land lost or functionally lost to the public. In total, non-Algonquins will lose the use, as they know it, of almost 150,000 acres of Crown land in the Algonquin Land Claim area. And that is just what we know of based on direct land transfers or re-designations of Crown land to Provincial Parks.

Existing Crown land tenure (e.g. Land Use Permits) will need to be negotiated with the Algonquins. There will be no certainty that Crown land occupancy will continue long term.

Although we know the AIP will have significant implications on outdoor recreation, many uncertainties remain.

1. How many Crown land hunt camps, bait harvest areas, bear management areas and traplines will be impacted by the land transfers and in what way will they be affected?
2. What is an Algonquin Specified Land and how will it impact public use of remaining Crown lands?
3. What is an Area of Algonquin Interest and how will it impact public use of remaining Crown lands?
4. Will the MNR's White Lake Fish Hatchery be closed? If so, how will the loss of fish production be replaced?
5. Will some municipally-owned public forests in Renfrew County become Private land?
6. Will MNR continue to stock fish in lakes that are wholly within the settlement lands?