



Canadian Sportfishing Industry Association

Association canadienne de l'industrie de la pêche sportive

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January 23, 2012

Hon. Kathleen Wynne, MPP
Minister
Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs
Suite 400
160 Bloor Street East
Toronto, ON M7A 2E6

Dear Minister Wynne,

The Canadian Sportfishing Industry Association (CSIA) represents the manufacturers, distributors, retailers and sales agencies which serve the 8 million Canadians who fish as an outdoor heritage activity. According to federal government figures our industry currently generates an annual national economy of over \$8 billion dollars which combined with hunting supports over 100,000 jobs in all regions of the nation. Canadians annually spend as much on fishing as they do on beer. Ontario is 43% of the national recreational fishing economy.

Enclosed please find a copy of our January 20, 2012 letter to Mr. Ron Doering, Chief Federal Negotiator for the Algonquin Land Claim covering 36,000 sq. km. in eastern Ontario. To the best of our knowledge Ontario has not yet reached a decision on the 2012 contracts for the provincial Chief Negotiator, the Chair of the Committee of External Advisors or the Special Advisor for Fish, Wildlife and Natural Resource issues. However, in order for us to adequately prepare for the upcoming 2012 early spring stakeholder consultations, we would appreciate receiving a detailed response from you by mid-February to the questions in the enclosed letter, given that jobs and economy are equally important as provincial and federal responsibilities.

Information provided by Ontario at the November 30, 2011 Pembroke meeting of the Committee of External Advisors (CEA) indicated that the majority of the Crown land acreage / provincial parks have now been identified for re allocation in the claim settlement as part of the Agreement in Principle. We presume Ontario has, in preparation for drafting the Agreement in Principle for this land claim, observed commonly accepted

business practices in order to avoid creating injustices for anyone and to fairly assess Crown land / provincial park allocations, public land and water access, fish and wildlife conservation / allocation, etc. and the diverse range of other economic impact issues on existing businesses as covered in our enclosed letter.

That being said Ontario has failed to honor the June 10, 2009 written commitment to CSIA by former MNR Minister Cansfield that 'direct discussion' would take place with us 'once formal negotiations toward an Agreement in Principle begin'. In fact substantive discussion on this land claim has not occurred between Ontario and our industry since the Harris government era in the mid-'90's, and no forum for this oft promised stakeholder consultation has been re-established during the term of the McGuinty government. The Harris government was clear in stating what Ontario's position was on key issues, although the actual substance and detail of the land claim negotiations were not made public. In recent years the few CEA sessions have been little more than repetitive 'coffee and donut' meetings with superficial information and minimal substance provided to us by Ontario and Canada.

Since 2008 we have been asked by Ontario and Canada to be patient 'until there was something of substance and relevance to our industry to discuss'. In striking contrast to this request and the commitment to CSIA by Minister Cansfield, the presenters at the November 30, 2011 CEA meeting made it clear the AIP was virtually a finished document in major areas of potentially serious consequence to our industry, related businesses and jobs in Ontario. The questions in the enclosed letter are equally relevant to Ontario as the CEA presentations were made on behalf of both governments. We trust you will find them complete and you will be able to provide a detailed reply to each.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "P. Morlock".

Phil Morlock
Chair, CSIA Government Affairs Committee