

February 23, 2015

Brian Crane, QC, Co-Chair
Chief Provincial Negotiator
Gowlings
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Ottawa, Ontario
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Al Stewart, Co-Chair
43 Kevin Crescent
Bracebridge, Ontario
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Norm Lemke, Co-Chair
31 Riverside Drive
Pembroke, Ontario
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Dear Messrs. Crane, Stewart and Lemke:

As members of the Committee of External Advisors (CEA) on the Algonquin Land Claim, we are writing to express our profound concern over the long-standing absence of information and consultation with stakeholders and the public around this critical issue.

You are aware that the last meeting of these committees occurred several years ago. In the interim, we have continued to hear claims from government sources that stakeholders, most of whom sit on these committees, have been kept apprised of developments in the negotiations; this is factually incorrect. The lack of information provided, and the absence of any meaningful consultation since the last meeting, has resulted in a complete vacuum of stakeholder awareness, and no evidence that our input was adequately considered. We are left to deal with a number of rumours about the current status of the negotiations, rumours about the number of changes that have been made to the Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) without any knowledge of what they might be, and rumours as to the current position of both levels of government regarding the claim.

Accordingly, we are requesting that you convene a joint emergency meeting of the CEA and Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) in the next two to three weeks, including the chief negotiators for both levels of government, to provide clarity on the following: 1) the current state of the negotiations; 2) the changes to the AIP that have occurred since the last CEA/MAC meeting and the last public information sessions held in March 2013; 3) the current position of both levels of government regarding the AIP; and 4) details of how public and stakeholder input was taken to the negotiating table and the specific outcomes of those discussions. In the absence of such a meeting, the contention that stakeholders and the public are being kept informed and consulted rings hollow.

We look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible regarding our request.

Yours in Conservation,



Greg Farrant
Manager, Government Affairs & Policy
Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters



Phil Morlock
Chair
CSIA Government Affairs Committee

GF/PH/gh

cc: Members of the Committee of External Advisors
Members of the Municipal Advisory Committee
Jay Aspin, MP
Tony Clements, MP
Royal Galipeau, MP
Cheryl Gallant, MP
Guy Lauzon, MP
Pierre Lemieux, MP
Larry Miller, MP
Gordon O'Connor, MP
Pierre Poilievre, MP
Robert Sopuck, MP
Gary Schellenberger, MP
Scott Reid, MP
Vic Fedeli, MPP
Randy Hillier, MPP
Jack MacLaren, MPP
Jim McDonell, MPP
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