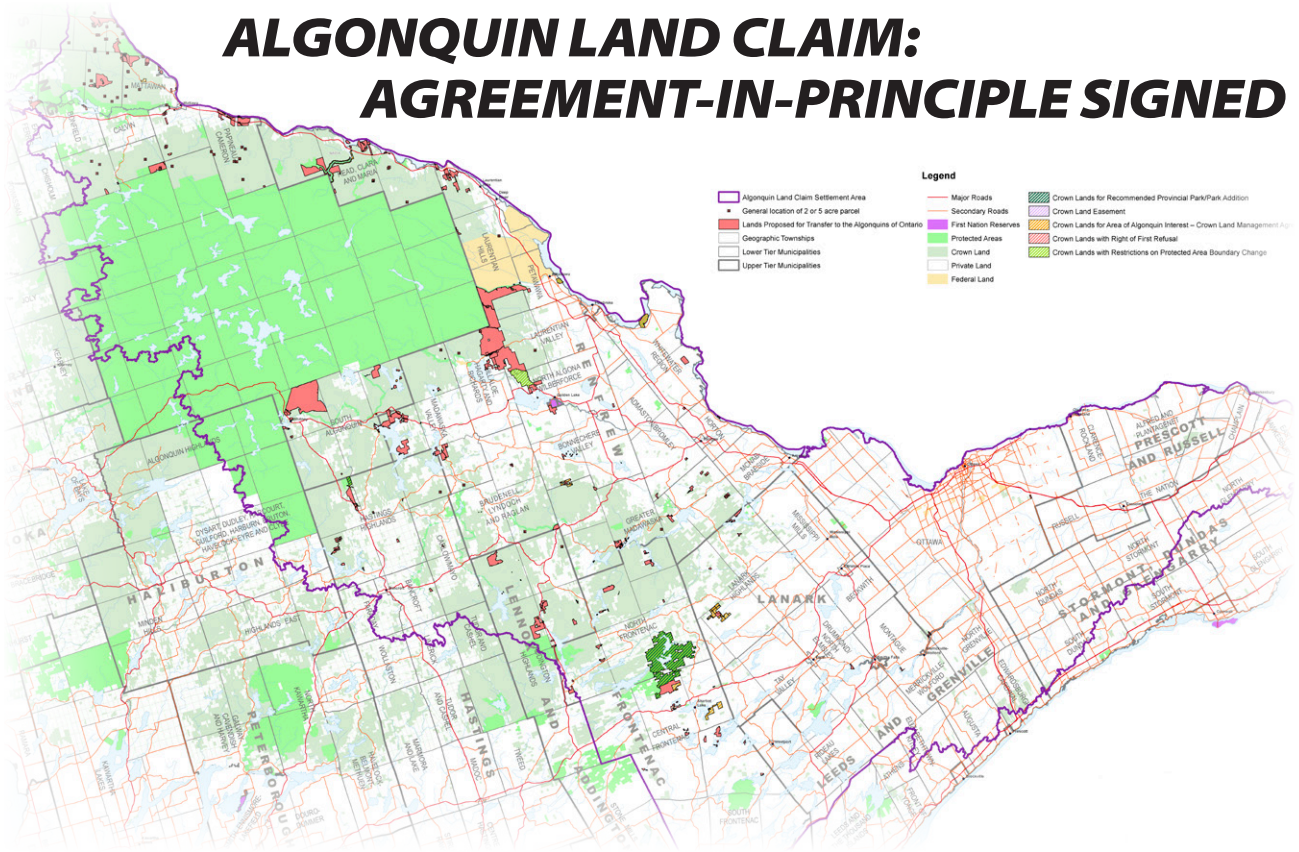


ALGONQUIN LAND CLAIM: AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE SIGNED



Federal and provincial governments put pen to paper on land claim AIP with Algonquins of Ontario

On Oct. 17, the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario and the Algonquins of Ontario announced the signing of the Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) for the Algonquin Land Claim.

According to a government press release, the AIP paves the way for continued negotiations toward a final agreement that will define the ongoing rights of the Algonquins of Ontario to lands and natural resources within the settlement area, which represents approximately 117,500 acres of provincial Crown lands in eastern Ontario.

In addition to the transfer of lands, the Algonquins will also receive \$300-million in capital funding from the two governments. Following the signing of the AIP, multiple news outlets in Ontario reported that the \$300-million figure was representative of a minimum amount and that the final figure could potentially be much larger.

The AIP was shaped by consultations with 10 Algonquins of Ontario communities, other indigenous groups, along with limited public and stakeholder consultations.

Negotiations toward reaching a final treaty agreement will continue and if an agreement is reached, a ratification vote from the Algonquins of Ontario will be required before it reaches the Ontario Legislature and Parliament of Canada for final approval.

The OFAH is disappointed the Algonquin Land Claim process has reached this point without the benefit of any meaningful public consultation -- though we will continue to push for that going forward.

"We've said this before, but it bears saying again that this process needs public and stakeholder involvement," says OFAH manager of government affairs and policy Greg Farrant. "This process cannot be driven by the government and Algonquins alone and everyone involved needs to have a very clear understanding of how fish, wildlife and land use will be managed within the claim area in the future."

BY THE NUMBERS

• 117,500
ACRES
AFFECTED

• \$300-PLUS-
MILLION
PAYOUT TO
ALGONQUINS

• MILLIONS
OF ONTARIO
RESIDENTS
IMPACTED