

Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs

Ministère des Affaires autochtones

Office of the Minister

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MAY 15 2015

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Mr. Greg Farrant
Manager, Government Affairs & Policy
Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
PO Box 2800
4601 Guthrie Drive
Peterborough ON K9J 8L5

Mr. Phil Morlock
Canadian Sportfishing Industry Association
Government Affairs Committee
171 Rink Street, Suite 102
Peterborough ON K9J 2J6

Dear Mr. Farrant and Mr. Morlock:

Thank you for your letter of April 13, 2015.

The three parties to these negotiations – the Algonquins of Ontario, Canada and Ontario – are currently in the process of reviewing a proposed non-binding Agreement-in-Principle which will be submitted to the Algonquins of Ontario for a ratification vote. The proposed Agreement-in-Principle will be published before the ratification vote is held.

Following a successful Algonquin ratification vote, the proposed Agreement-in-Principle will be submitted to Ontario and Canada for approval. After the Agreement-in-Principle is formally signed by the parties, negotiations leading to a Final Agreement will commence.

You reference the 1994 Statement of Shared Objectives and the three parties' commitment to consult with interested parties throughout the negotiations process and to keep the public informed on the progress of the negotiations. Ontario has engaged with stakeholders throughout the course of these negotiations, and in particular has conducted extensive consultations since the Preliminary Draft Agreement-in-Principle was released for public review in December 2012. In fact, the public release of that level of information in advance of an Agreement-in-Principle set a new benchmark in terms of keeping the public informed regarding an active negotiation process.

As you know, the Algonquin land claim negotiations are very complex and it has been impossible to predict exactly how long the various stages of the work will take. Since this is a tripartite process involving Canada, Ontario and the Algonquins of Ontario, the content of the proposed Agreement-in-Principle and when it will be publicly released are matters to be coordinated among the three negotiating parties.

Ontario remains committed to working with all interested parties as the negotiations proceed. Consultations with stakeholders are important in helping to identify practical and enduring settlement options. As such, further meetings and discussions will be scheduled at the appropriate time.

Again, thank you for sharing your perspective regarding the Algonquin land claim negotiations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Zimmer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

David Zimmer
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs