

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS & HUNTERS

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OFAH FILE: 450
March 11, 2013

Honourable Bernard Valcourt, PC, MP
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and
Northern Development
10 Wellington Street, 21st Floor
Gatineau, Quebec
K1A 0H4

Dear Minister:

On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH), our 100,000 members, supporters, and subscribers, and our 710 member clubs across Ontario, please accept our heartfelt congratulations on your recent appointment as the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.

For several years, the OFAH has been pleased to work with your predecessors, Minister Duncan and Minister Strahl, with respect to the Algonquin Land Claim. More recently, we have also had discussions with your staff and members of the Prime Minister's office regarding the ongoing legal proceedings in federal court pertaining to the Williams Treaty.

Minister, both of the aforementioned files have the potential to significantly impact the landscape in Ontario. In the case of the Algonquin claim alone, 1.4 million nonaboriginals will be impacted upon in some way by the outcome of the claim. Given the overlap between the lands under discussion in the Algonquin claim, and the areas in question in the Williams Treaty court case, there is a potential for further dislocation of the residents and businesses in eastern Ontario. There will also be a significant impact on our valuable natural resources, conservation of those resources for future generations, and access to the resources by Ontario residents and visitors, alike.

With so much at stake, the OFAH would appreciate having the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss these files.

Once again, congratulations on your appointment as minister. We look forward to working with you and your staff in the months ahead.

Yours in Conservation,

Angelo Lombardo
Executive Director

Greg Farrant
Manager, Government Affairs & Policy

AL/GF/gh

cc. Dean Del Mastro, MP
Steven Hobbs, Minister's Office
OFAH Board of Directors
Dr. Terry Quinney, Provincial Manager of Fish & Wildlife Services