

April 16, 2013

Mr. Brian Crane, QC
Ontario Chief Negotiator
Algonquin Land Claim
Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs
160 Bloor St. East, 4th floor
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M7A 2E6

RE: Ontario Trails Council and the Algonquin Land Claim

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Ontario Trails Council (OTC) we wish to offer commentary regarding the future use of lands relating to future settlement of the Algonquin Land Claim.

At OTC we work to develop, preserve, manage, and use trails in Ontario. In our work we deal with many different land managers, landholders, crown land managers, park managers, municipalities, aboriginal territories and private landowners.

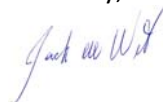
Seemingly, the Algonquin Land Claim is a transfer process of some lands that have trails and some lands that don't, to a new land management authority. What we would ask is that the land claim process clearly define that current use and current access to lands by trail users and trails not be unduly, unpredictably or unfairly restricted.

We would ask that any negotiated agreement ensure a "due notice in the event of change of use" process, for existing use and access by trail groups and trail use. Additionally, we would request that any renewal of current condition take place in a zero fee for access (unless legislated otherwise i.e. Ontario Snowmobile Act), so that use groups can still partake in physical activities that promote health and well-being of all Canadians.

We request that the government ensure that the new land agreement(s) universally provide access and use to arbitration process, such that, in an event where there is a failure to negotiate access, provide access, dispute, or a failure to allow approved access as per the Algonquin Land Claim Settlement Agreement; arbitration can strike binding agreements on trail access and use decisions.

As trail users, working cooperatively with all communities, now and into the future, is vital to us.

Sincerely,



Jack de Wit
President



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