



# Algonquins of Ontario

Media Release

July 13, 2012

## Algonquins of Ontario Nation Gathers in Pembroke

The Algonquins of Ontario are coming together in celebration on Saturday, July 14, 2012 for their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Nation Gathering. The Nation Gathering, to be held at Riverside Park in Pembroke, begins with a sunrise ceremony at 5:30 a.m. followed by traditional drumming at 8:45 a.m. Drummers, from across the Nation, will be drumming and singing traditional Algonquin songs. The Grand Entry begins at 11:00 a.m. with the host communities, Bonnechere Algonquin First Nation and Algonquins of Greater Golden Lake First Nation, leading the formal procession. Mayor Ed Jacyno of Pembroke is also expected to bring greetings from the City. Principal Negotiator and Senior Legal Counsel Robert Potts will also be providing an update to the Algonquins on the progress of the treaty negotiations with the governments of Canada and Ontario.

The first ever Algonquins of Ontario Nation Gathering was hosted by the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn, formerly known as Algonquins of Golden Lake First Nation, in 2009. In 2010, the Nation Gathering was held in Mattawa, hosted by the Mattawa-North Bay Algonquin First Nation and the Madadjivan Economic Development Corporation. The gathering moved to the shores of Sharbot Lake in 2011 and was hosted by the Shabot Obaadjiwan First Nation. The annual gathering continues to grow in interest and popularity as it provides an opportunity to celebrate Algonquin art, culture and heritage while building on the Algonquin belief of “ginawaydaganuc” or “we are all connected.”

The Algonquins of Ontario and the governments of Canada and Ontario are working together to resolve a land claim through a negotiated settlement that will take the form of a modern-day treaty. This treaty will include certainty about the ownership, use and management of land and natural resources for all parties. This will contribute to a more stable social, political and economic environment and create greater potential for economic development, jobs and growth.

The land claim includes an area of 9 million acres (14,000 square miles), within the watersheds of the Kitchissippi (Ottawa) and the Mattawa Rivers in Ontario. The unsurrendered territory of the Algonquins covers most of eastern Ontario, including Parliament Hill, the Supreme Court of Canada, numerous international Embassies, Algonquin Park, as well as CFB Petawawa. More than 1.2 million people live and work within the claim area.

As the sunrise, pipe and drumming ceremonies are sacred, photographs will not be permitted. However, photographs may be taken during the Grand Entry, with the permission of the individuals involved. We ask photographers to be respectful of our customs and privacy.

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