



**ALGONQUIN NEGOTIATION REPRESENTATIVES AIP/TREATY NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE
GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA AND ONTARIO
JULY 2013**

Dear Voters,

On December 13, 2012, the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO), Canada and Ontario released the Preliminary Draft Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) for public review. The Preliminary Draft AIP is the culmination of many years of negotiations between these three Parties. Our negotiations, beginning in 1991, continue to build on the determined efforts of the Algonquin people to be heard.

We are now approaching the next critical phase in this historic endeavour in which the Algonquin Voters will be asked to make a decision on the Draft AIP. As we move towards an Algonquin ratification vote, we felt it timely to provide you with an overview of our ongoing consultation efforts on the Preliminary Draft AIP, an update on the Voter Enrolment process and the next steps in our negotiations.

Consultation Efforts

Releasing a Preliminary Draft AIP for public review is unprecedented. In the interest of achieving a just and equitable settlement of this claim, the three Parties felt it necessary to engage in a wide range of consultation activities to garner feedback from Algonquin Voters, stakeholder groups, elected officials and the general public.

In the years leading up to the Preliminary Draft AIP, many community meetings were held by the Algonquin Negotiation Representatives (ANRs) in order to consult with the Algonquin people on the direction and scope of the ongoing negotiations and the development of the Chapters in the evolving AIP. Before the Preliminary Draft AIP was made publicly available, our consultation on the text of the document continued in the fall of 2012 with a series of 22 meetings for Algonquin Voters held in various Algonquin communities and other locations which were hosted by the ANRs and the AOO's Technical Advisory Group. Following the release of the Preliminary Draft AIP, the ANRs then led a number of information meetings in their respective communities throughout the past winter and spring.

In March and April 2013, the AOO, Canada and Ontario held a series of nine Public Information Sessions across the Settlement Area. To complement these sessions, the Algonquins of Ontario then hosted three Forums for municipal councils, Members of Provincial Parliament and Members of Parliament whose jurisdictions or ridings fall within the Settlement Area. The Forums provided an opportunity for the AOO and elected officials from all levels of government to build and strengthen their relationships with one another. Over the course of the past six months, Ontario also held over 125 meetings with those who hold legal interests on Crown lands proposed for transfer or require access across those lands. Similarly, the AOO have participated in over 20 meetings with a wide range of stakeholders including cottage and property owner associations, interest groups, ratepayers and adjacent landowners.

To support these various meetings and to ensure that each Algonquin Voter is equipped with the information necessary to make an informed decision, we published the AOO Newsletter – Issues

1 and 2. These newsletters aim to provide an overview of the negotiation process, highlights of the key elements of the Preliminary Draft AIP as well as a summary of the AOO's ongoing initiatives to increase the Algonquin presence throughout the Algonquin Territory. If you did not receive either of these newsletters, copies are available by contacting your ANR or using the contact information at the conclusion of this letter.

Additionally, the AOO are currently engaged in publishing a series of columns in over a dozen local newspapers across the Settlement Area to build awareness amongst our neighbours. These columns provide insights into Algonquin history, the foundation for the land claim, elements of the Preliminary Draft AIP and next steps in the journey.

We have appreciated the level of interest as well as the input and feedback that we have received to date on the Preliminary Draft AIP. In the spirit of reconciliation, the AOO are committed to finding "win-win" solutions for Algonquins and our neighbours alike. Consequently, each comment has been carefully considered and where necessary, revisions to the document are being negotiated. These changes will be reflected in the Draft AIP.

Voter Enrolment

An independent Ratification Committee was established by the AOO, Canada and Ontario to produce a Voters List and oversee the ratification process of the Draft AIP. The Ratification Committee is comprised of five individuals – two selected by the AOO, one selected by the Government of Ontario, one by the Government of Canada and the Chairperson, who has been approved by all of the Parties.

An initial Voter Enrolment process resulted in the posting of a Preliminary List of Voters in March 2011 and a supplementary Voters List in April 2011. The Voter Enrolment process was then reinstated in early 2012 and the 2012 Preliminary List of Voters (Updated) numbering over 8700 eligible Algonquin Voters was posted in May 2012.

There were a number of protests filed challenging Voters who had been enrolled as well as protests by applicants who were denied enrolment. These protests, along with other protests filed in the initial 2011 phase of enrolment, were processed by the Review Committee, or where appropriate, by former Superior Court Justice James Chadwick, all in accordance with the ratification process contained in Chapter 15 of the Preliminary Draft AIP.

Highlighted below are a number of the key decisions made by the Review Committee and Justice Chadwick:

Algonquin Ancestor Protests

The following **protests were rejected by Justice Chadwick**. As a result, the names of the ancestors listed below will remain on the Preliminary List of Algonquin Ancestors and the **Algonquin Voters who rely solely on these ancestors will remain on the Voters List**:

- Marie Olivier Silvestre Manithabehick and Roch Silvestre Manithabehick
- Michel McDonald
- Thomas St. Jean dit Laguarde

The following **protests were accepted by Justice Chadwick**. As a result, the names of the ancestors listed below will be removed from the Preliminary List of Algonquin Ancestors and the **Algonquin Voters who rely solely on these ancestors will be removed from the Voters List**:

- John James Legree
- Joseph Fleuri, Julie Fleuri and Julia Dube
- Simon Jude Bedard and Simon Gene Bedard

The following **protest was accepted by the Review Committee**. As a result, the name of the ancestor listed below will be removed from the Preliminary List of Algonquin Ancestors and the **Algonquin Voters who rely solely on this ancestor will be removed from the Voters List**:

- Francois de Laronde Wakichkipinesi

The following **protests were dismissed by the Review Committee**. As a result, the names of the ancestors listed below will remain on the Preliminary List of Algonquin Ancestors and the **Algonquin Voters who rely solely on these ancestors will remain on the Voters List**:

- Delia Parent
- Paule Ouripehenemick

Applications to Add Ancestors

The following **applications to add ancestors** to the Preliminary List of Algonquin Ancestors **were accepted by Justice Chadwick**. The Governments of Ontario and Canada have also agreed that the names listed below are to be added to the Preliminary List of Algonquin Ancestors:

- Emilie Carriere
- Hannah Mannell
- Louise Manitouakikoue/Mani8akik8ch

The following **applications to add ancestors** to the Preliminary List of Algonquin Ancestors **were dismissed by Justice Chadwick**. As a result, these names will not be added to the list of Algonquin Ancestors:

- Marguerite dite Brien
- Françoise Grenier

Individual Protests

The Review Committee heard and determined approximately 131 protests that sought to add or remove individuals from the Voters List. These individual protests can be grouped into one of three categories: incomplete information, refusal to identify social/cultural connection and the "Beauchamps Protests". **Of the 131 protests, approximately 85 were accepted and 46 were rejected**. The respective protesters and the Ratification Committee have been informed of the Review Committee's decisions.

A number of decisions were also made under the *Protocol for Consideration of Potential Additions to Schedule of Algonquin Ancestors* which are noted below:

The following **applications to add ancestors** to the Preliminary List of Algonquin Ancestors were considered by the ANRs pursuant to the *Protocol*. **The ANRs determined that these names be added to the list of Algonquin Ancestors**:

- Josephe Petabanokwa
- Susan Lemure
- Anne McDonnell

The following **applications to add ancestors** to the Preliminary List of Algonquin Ancestors **were dismissed by the ANRs under the Protocol due to insufficient evidence**. As a result, these names will not be added to the list of Algonquin Ancestors:

- François Boisvert and Madeleine Piché-Dupré
- Josette Kwekkikijikokwe

The Algonquin Ratification Vote

It is the intention of the AOO, Canada and Ontario to release a Draft AIP for the consideration of Algonquin Voters as soon as possible. The Algonquin ratification vote would then follow on a date yet to be determined.

The Ratification Committee is now taking preliminary steps towards processing the Algonquin ratification vote. In July 2013, the Ratification Committee engaged Vaughn Johnston to act as the Ratification Vote Manager. Mr. Johnston will be responsible for the implementation and conduct of the ratification process and will report directly to, and take direction from, the Ratification Committee. In keeping with the provisions of Chapter 15 of the Preliminary Draft AIP, all three Parties have approved Mr. Johnston's appointment.

Watch for upcoming correspondence from the Vote Manager and the Ratification Committee including a Notice of Vote, a schedule of information sessions, mail-in ballots and other informational materials.

Upon a successful Algonquin ratification vote, the Draft AIP would be submitted to the Governments of Ontario and Canada for approval. Following such approval and signature by the Principal Negotiators, the Agreement-in-Principle, while still not legally binding, will form the framework for continued negotiations towards a Final Agreement.

Negotiations leading to a Final Agreement could then begin. These normally take 4 to 5 years to complete. A Final Agreement would also need to be approved by the Algonquins of Ontario through a ratification vote and by legislation passed by the Legislature of Ontario and the Parliament of Canada. All of these steps are dependent upon a successful ratification vote on the Agreement-in-Principle.

Stay Informed – Stay Connected

Ultimately the choice to move forward will be up to you, the Algonquin Voters. In the coming weeks and months, watch for the release of the Draft AIP for your consideration as well as additional materials relating to the ratification vote. If you have moved, please provide your up-to-date mailing address to the Algonquins of Ontario Consultation Office, at the contact information noted below, in order to receive all of these important materials.

We also encourage you to attend one of the community meetings being held across the Territory in August 2013. Additional details are enclosed with this letter.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact your local Algonquin Negotiation Representative or the Algonquins of Ontario Consultation Office toll free at 1-855-735-3759 or 613-735-3759 or by email at algonquins@nrtco.net.

Thank you once again for your ongoing interest and support for this historic process.

Yours very truly,



Robert J. Potts
Principal Negotiator and Senior Legal Counsel
Algonquin Treaty Negotiations