



August 26, 2004

Open letter to all people in Ontario of Algonquin ancestry:

As the Principal Negotiator for the Algonquin people in Ontario, it gives me great pleasure to notify all persons in Ontario who have Algonquin ancestry of the establishment of an electoral process that will provide the opportunity for Algonquin people to elect Algonquin Negotiation Representatives for each community of Algonquins in Ontario to participate in the pending Treaty negotiations with Canada and Ontario.

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This process was agreed to by means of an Agreement arrived at between the Chief and Council of the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation and the representatives of the Algonquin Nation Negotiation Directorate ("the "Addendum"). The Addendum (which includes the Election Rules), a copy of which can be examined by you on the internet at my firm's website (<http://www.blaney.com/Algonquin.htm>) was arrived at following a number of public meetings and consultation with Algonquin peoples and with the governments of Canada and Ontario.

Robert J. Potts

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The elections that are contemplated by this process will be open to any person of demonstrated Algonquin descent who has reached the age of 18 years by October 1, 2004. Full details about the process will be made available in the very near future once informational materials can be developed for distribution in the form of newsletters, advertisements and on the internet.

The elections will be open to all eligible communities of Algonquins in Ontario, including Sharbot Lake, Mattawa/North Bay, Greater Golden Lake, Ardoch, Antoine, Bonnechere, Bancroft, Whitney, and any other community having a geographical connection with the Algonquin Territory and at least 125 persons of Algonquin ancestry.

The electoral process has the "sole" purpose of electing Algonquin Negotiation Representatives, whose "sole" task will be to take direction from Algonquins in each Community, and to give instructions to me as the Principal Negotiator for the purpose of presenting positions during the negotiation process with Canada and Ontario.

While the electoral process was created by an agreement between the Chief and Council of the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation and the Algonquin Nation Negotiation Directorate, the election process does not endorse or in any way affect the right of Algonquins outside of the negotiation process to develop such institutions of community governance as they deem appropriate.

I commend the leadership of the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation and the Algonquin Nation Negotiation Directorate, all of whom have made concessions to enable this electoral process to be established.

The electoral process that has been created is in my opinion open, transparent and fair. It gives all eligible Algonquins in Ontario access to a democratic process that will enable me as Principal Negotiator to take direction from all eligible communities of Algonquins in Ontario in negotiating a resolution of the long-outstanding claims of the Algonquin people.

To provide further information and to answer questions regarding this process the following information meetings have been organized:

Mattawa: September 12, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. at the Lion's Den

Pikwàkanagàn: September 14, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the Makwa Centre

Sharbot Lake: September 21, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at St. James Catholic School

Pembroke: September 22, 2004 at 8:00 p.m. at the Legion

Further details of additional meetings that are being organized will follow.

It continues to be an honour and privilege to serve the Algonquin people of Ontario on this matter.

Yours very truly,

Blaney McMurtry LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Potts', with a large, stylized initial 'R'.

Robert J. Potts
RJP/B