



Algonquins of Ontario

31 Riverside Drive, Suite 101, Pembroke, ON K8A 8R6

May 18, 2023

To All Community Members:

The Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) is proud to welcome James (Jim) Meness who will, effective immediately, assume the position of Executive Director for the organization. Jim comes to AOO with over two decades of experience.

In his previous role, as an elected member of Council for the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation (AOPFN) since 1999, Jim was involved with issues affecting the First Nation's community at both a local and national level. Jim has also served as an Algonquin Negotiation Representative (ANR) since 2002, which has provided him with considerable knowledge and experience in dealing with all of the parties involved in the ongoing historic treaty negotiations.

Throughout his time as an elected member of the Council of AOPFN, Jim has played a significant role in fish and wildlife management, playing an important part in the conservation of moose and protection of the Algonquin Park wolves. He was an active member of the AOPFN Fire/Rescue Department with numerous certificates from the Ontario Fire College for fire protection, chemical, nuclear and bio-hazardous terrorism awareness. Jim is also certified by the Ministry of Natural Resources in Law Enforcement and by the O.P.P. as a Search and Rescue instructor. In 2020, Jim was a recipient of the Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Award in the Political Leadership category.

Jim was the ANR liaison with the Consultation Office (C.O.) staff for several years, thus providing him with a unique perspective of the roles and responsibilities of the C.O. staff. Jim very much looks forward to overseeing the process of land claim negotiations as the Executive Director of AOO. He intends to diligently work, serving the interests of all the parties involved in the ongoing historic treaty negotiation process. Jim is fully committed and confident in his ability to ensure that consultation is incorporated into all the decision-making processes.

Richard Zohr

Executive Committee, Chair