



## **The Algonquins of Ontario on the Treaties Recognition Week 2021**

The government of Ontario (Ontario) designated the first week of November as Treaties Recognition Week in 2016 to honour the importance of treaties, to help Ontarians learn more about treaty rights and treaty relationships and to increase awareness of the importance of strong treaty relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in Ontario. Treaties Recognition Week takes place this year from November 1 to 7, 2021.

The Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) are on a journey of survival, rebuilding, and self-sufficiency – a journey of reconciliation through modern-day treaty making.

The Algonquins petitions to the Crown seeking recognition and protection for Algonquin land and other rights date back to 1772. In 1983, the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation (known at the time as the Algonquins of Golden Lake) commenced the land claim by formally submitting the most recent petition along with supporting research to the Government of Canada (Canada) and Ontario in 1985. Ontario accepted the claim for negotiations in 1991 and Canada joined the negotiations in 1992.

On October 18, 2016, the AOO and Ontario and Canada reached a major milestone in their journey toward reconciliation and renewed relationships with the signing of the Agreement-in-Principle (AIP). While the AIP is non - binding it does represent a key step toward a Final Agreement that will clarify the rights of all concerned and open up new economic development opportunities for the benefit of the AOO and their neighbours in the Settlement Area in eastern Ontario.

The AOO along with Canada and Ontario are working together to resolve this land claim through a negotiated final settlement agreement. If successful, the agreement we reach will take the form of a modern-day treaty with aboriginal and treaty rights protected under Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

*“The Algonquins of Pikwakanangan First Nation are committed to achieving a just and equitable settlement of the long-standing claim of the Algonquins of Ontario and recognize the critical importance to negotiate a final modern-day treaty with the Crowns supporting the re-building of the Algonquin Nation in Ontario.”*

Wendy Jocko Chief Algonquins of Pikwakanangan First Nation

The Algonquin Treaty will provide certainty about the ownership, use and management of land and natural resources for the Algonquins and everyone else in the Settlement Area. This will remove the barriers to economic growth created by existing uncertainties and contribute to a more stable social, political, and economic environment with greater potential for regional economic development, jobs, and growth.

*“The Bonnechere Algonquin Community is fully committed to pursue good faith negotiations toward reaching a final settlement agreement with both the provincial and federal governments and other Algonquin communities in Ontario with the goal to implement a modern-day treaty.”*

Richard Zohr ANR Bonnechere Algonquin Community

To learn more about the importance of treaties either existing or future and to participate in various events celebrating the Treaties Recognition Week please visit:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/treaties-recognition-week>