



# Algonquins of Ontario



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### WINDMILL SIGNS LANDMARK AGREEMENT WITH ALGONQUINS OF ONTARIO

[August 20, 2015] **OTTAWA, ON** — Today, Windmill Development Group Ltd. (“Windmill”) signed a historic Letter of Intent (LOI) with the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO), creating a landmark partnership that will see the preservation and promotion of Algonquin culture in the development of Zibi, a world class sustainable community by Windmill and Dream Unlimited Corp.

The Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) are comprised of ten Algonquin communities, including the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation, Antoine, Kijicho Manito Madaouskarini (Bancroft), Bonnechere, Greater Golden Lake, Mattawa/North Bay, Ottawa, Shabot Obaadjiwan (Sharbot Lake), Snimikobi (Ardoch) and Whitney and Area.

Based on a Protocol signed in 2004, these communities are working together to provide a unified approach to reach a settlement of the Algonquin land claim in eastern Ontario. On June 12, 2015, the AOO, Canada and Ontario announced that their Negotiators had initialed a proposed Agreement-in-Principle (AIP), a culmination of many years of negotiations between the AOO, Canada and Ontario toward a modern-day treaty.

“Windmill is honoured to be working in partnership with the Algonquin people to ensure their longstanding presence and history in the area of Zibi is both duly honoured and preserved,” said Jeff Westeinde, founding partner, Windmill Development Group Ltd.

Zibi, which means ‘river’ in Algonquin, is being built on the former Domtar Lands, consisting of both the Chaudière and Albert Islands and surrounded by the Ottawa River. Since time immemorial, the majesty of the Chaudière Falls has been regarded as a sacred place for the Algonquin people. As part of the LOI, Windmill acknowledges that the land along the Ottawa River (known in the Algonquin language as Kichissippi) has never been ceded.

Windmill is committed to working in partnership with the AOO to establish several initiatives to pay respect to the Algonquin history and create opportunities for the Algonquin people. Economic development strategies include hiring Aboriginal tradespeople to work on the development and generating business opportunities. Youth employment and mentorship programs, as well as public artwork, signage and design elements to reflect the Algonquin history within Zibi, will also be reviewed through the partnership.

“For thousands of years, this region has been integral to the Algonquin people and their culture,” said Robert Potts, Principal Negotiator and Senior Legal Counsel for the Algonquin Treaty Negotiations. “We look forward to working with Windmill to ensure the Algonquin history is preserved and celebrated in this development, and that the innovation associated with Zibi is also a reflection of new opportunities for the Algonquin people.”

This LOI complements one previously signed between Windmill and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation in June 2015.



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For media inquiries, please contact:

**Annie Boucher**

Email: [aboucher@fusecommunications.ca](mailto:aboucher@fusecommunications.ca)

Website: [www.windmilldevelopments.com](http://www.windmilldevelopments.com)

**Janet Stavinga**

Executive Director

Algonquins of Ontario Consultation Office

E: [jstavinga@tanakiwin.com](mailto:jstavinga@tanakiwin.com)

C: 613.296.1848

Website: [www.tanakiwin.com](http://www.tanakiwin.com)

**About Windmill**

Windmill is a visionary company dedicated to transforming conventional development practices by ensuring that exemplary ecological, social, and financial returns are achieved in all their projects. Every Windmill development is conceived, designed, and constructed to protect and enhance the local community and our ecosystem. Windmill is the only developer in North America to have achieved LEED Platinum on all its mixed-use projects. Completed projects include The Currents, a performing arts centre and modern condominium tower in Ottawa's Wellington West neighbourhood, and Dockside Green, a model sustainable community in Victoria that was named one of 16 Clinton Climate Initiative Climate Positive developments.

**About Algonquins of Ontario**

Today, the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) are comprised of ten Algonquin communities. These include the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation, Antoine, Kijicho Manito Madaouskarini (Bancroft), Bonnechere, Greater Golden Lake, Mattawa/North Bay, Ottawa, Shabot Obaadjiwan (Sharbot Lake), Snimikobi (Ardoch) and Whitney and Area. The AOO communities are represented by sixteen Algonquin Negotiation Representatives who are elected by their respective constituents. The AOO are on a journey of survival, rebuilding and self-sufficiency – a journey of reconciliation. This journey began nearly 250 years ago when the first Algonquin Petition was submitted to the Crown in 1772.