Algonquins of Ontario

AIP SIGNING MEDIA REPORT 2016

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CBC News



Historic land deal with Algonquin peoples signed by federal, Ontario governments

Agreement in principle involves more than \$300M, roughly 36,000 square kilometres of land

By John Paul Tasker, CBC News Posted: Oct 18, 2016 11:06 AM ET | Last Updated: Oct 18, 2016 12:05 PM ET



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Acceptables

Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett and her Ontario counterpart have signed an agreement in principle. Final details have yet to be worked out or ratified. A final deal could take another five years. (Justin Tang/Canadian Press)



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Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett and her Ontario counterpart have signed a historic agreement with the Algonquins of Ontario that will eventually see wide swaths of eastern Ontario signed over to the Indigenous people as part of a modern treaty.

The deal encompasses roughly 36,000 square kilometres, stretching from Ottawa to North Bay, including large parts of the Ottawa Valley. (Parliament Hill itself falls into the catchment area.)





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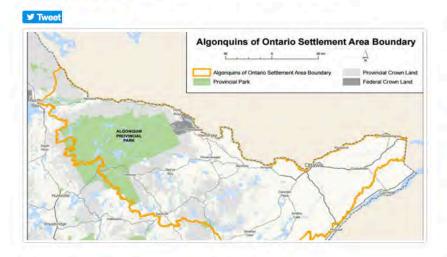
APTN National News



Controversial Algonquins of Ontario modern-day treaty takes step toward final agreement

National News | October 18, 2016 by APTN National News | 0 Comments

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APTN National News

The controversial Algonquins of Ontario modern-day treaty cleared another hurdle Tuesday on the path to a final agreement.

Ottawa, Queen's Park and representatives for the Algonquins of Ontario signed an agreement-in-principle on the modern-day treaty, setting the stage for the three sides to negotiate a \$300 million land claim settlement that also includes about 3.6 million hectares in eastern Ontario.

See related stories here: Algonquins of Ontario

The lead negotiator for the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO), Toronto lawyer Robert Potts, said the signing marked a "critical step forward" in a journey that began 250 years ago with a 1772 petition to the Crown.

"We believe that together we can work towards reconciliation and securing the long delayed justice that the Algonquin people deserve," said Potts, in a statement.



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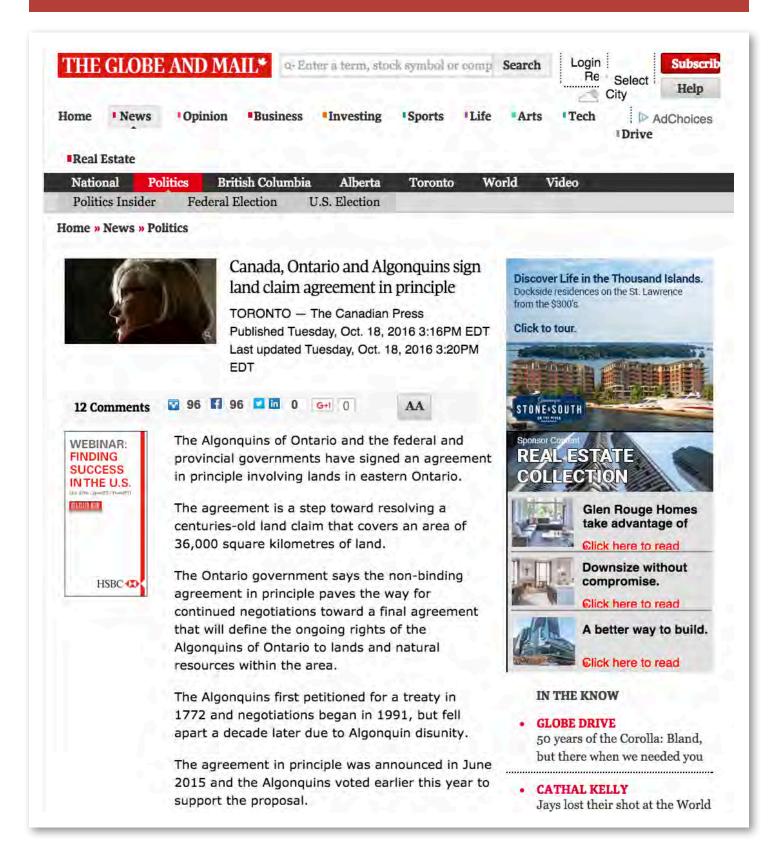
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The Globe and Mail



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Oct 18, 2016 | Vote @ 0 0

Agreement in principle on Ontario land claim

OTTAWA — The Algonquins of Ontario have signed an agreement in principle with Ontario and the federal government which they say marks a major step towards settlement of a long-standing land claim.

The agreement sets out the main elements of a potential settlement that would see the Algonquins receive \$300 million in capital funding from Canada and Ontario and take ownership of more than 47,000 hectares of eastern Ontario land.

The parties say the goal is to clarify the next steps for everyone in the claimed territory, balance the rights and interests of all concerned and create new economic opportunities for the Algonquins and their neighbours.

The governments say no privately owned land will be taken to settle the claim, no one will lose access to their private property and Algonquin Park will remain open to all.

The parties say the agreement was shaped by consultations with the 10 Algonquins of Ontario communities, other indigenous groups and the public.

They say discussions will continue during the negotiations toward a final deal.

In a statement, Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett said the agreement moves all parties closer to finalizing the first modern-day treaty in Ontario.

"We are working together to resolve one of the largest land claims in the country," she said.

David Zimmer, Ontario's minister of indigenous relations and reconciliation, said the deal shows what can be done by working together in a spirit of reconciliation.

"More than a million people share this land with the Algonquins of Ontario, and a modern treaty will clear a path for neighbours to become partners, bringing new economic opportunities to their communities," he said.

Turtle Island News



Ontario, feds, Algonquins of Ontario sign \$300 million land claim agreement in principle

October 18, 2016 \$83 views

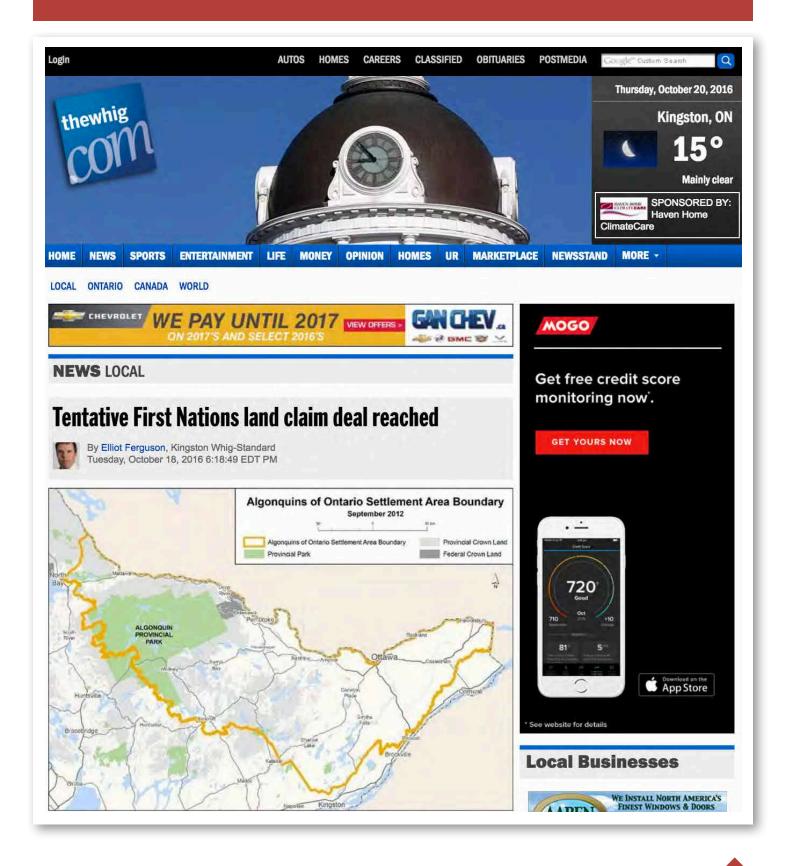


Published Tuesday, October 18, 2016

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The Kingston Whig



The Daily Observer



Almost a quarter-century of negotiations have resulted in an agreement-in-principal in a First Nations land claim in eastern Ontario.

The federal and Ontario provincial governments reached a tentative deal with the Algonquins of Ontario about a land claim across most of the region.

680 News







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Native group, Ontario and feds reach agreement in principle on land claim



by THE CANADIAN PRESS

Posted Oct 18: 2016 2:56 pm FOT Law Updated Oct 18: 2016 in 5:40 pm FOT

OTTAWA – The Algonquins of Ontario have signed an agreement in principle with Ontario and the federal government which they say marks a major step towards settlement of a long-standing land claim.

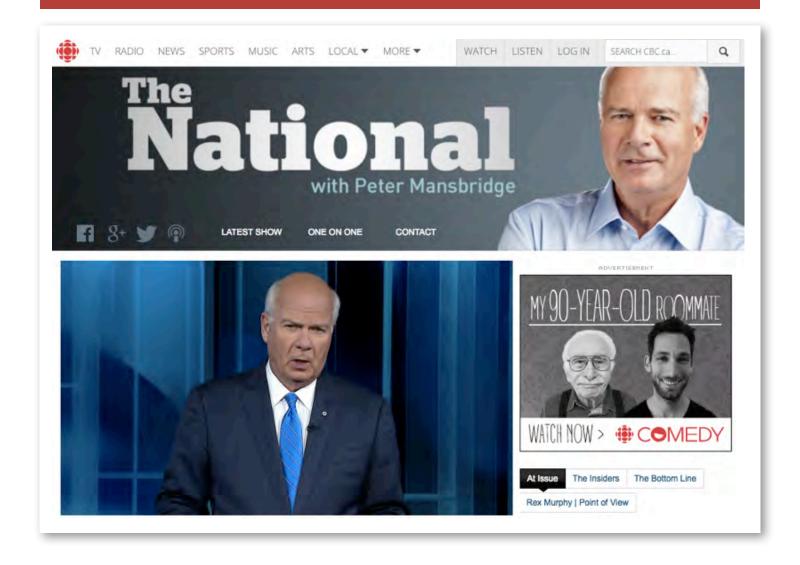
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Native group, Ontario and feds reach agreement in principle on land claim

THE CANADIAN PRESS

October 18, 2016 - 12:00pm

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They say discussions will continue during the negotiations toward a final deal.

In a statement, Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett said the agreement moves all parties closer to finalizing the first modern-day treaty in Ontario.

"We are working together to resolve one of the largest land claims in the country," she said.









CBC Radio Canada (French)



The National Post



OTTAWA — The Algonquins of Ontario have signed an agreement in principle with Ontario and the federal government which they say marks a major step towards settlement of a long-standing land claim.

CTV News



Indigenous group, Ontario and feds reach agreement in principle on land claim



Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Carolyn Bennett speaks during a news conference on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls inquiry in Ottawa on February 15, 2016. (THE CANADIAN PRESS/Adrian Wyld)

Two Row Times



Algonquins of Ontario move toward treaty with Ontario and Canada

The Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario and the Algonquins of Ontario have moved forward in their journey toward reconciliation and renewed relationships today by signing a historic...

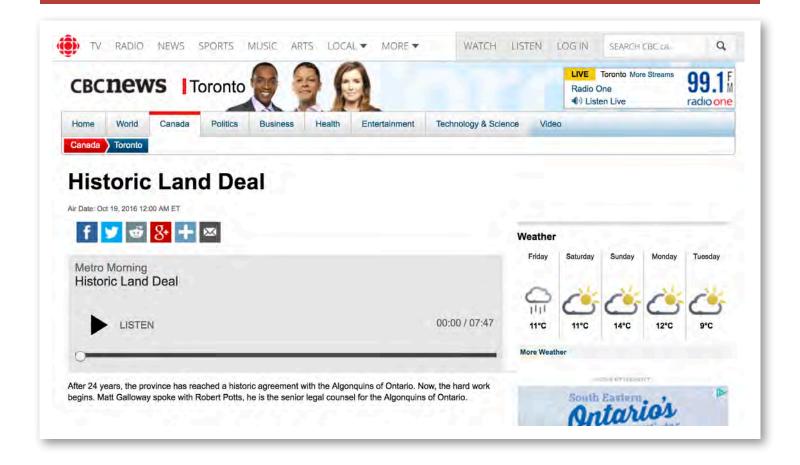


The Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario and the Algonquins of Ontario have moved forward in their journey toward reconciliation and renewed relationships today by signing a historic Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) – a key step toward a modern-day treaty to resolve a longstanding land claim that covers an area of 36,000 square kilometres in eastern Ontario.

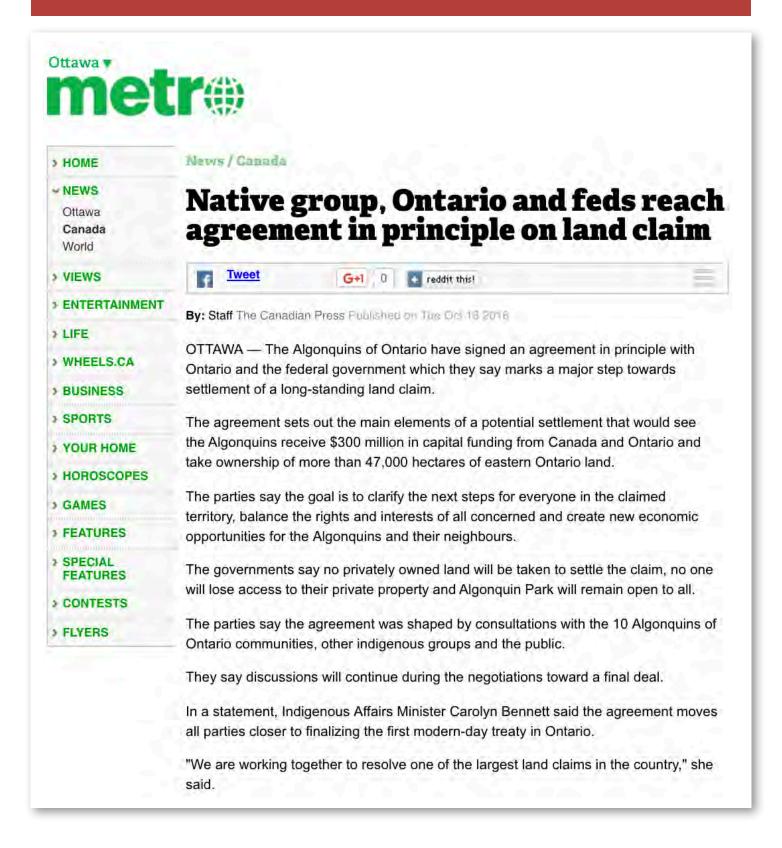
"This major step toward Ontario's first modern treaty shows what's possible when strong partners work together in the spirit of reconciliation," said David Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. "More than a million people share this land with the Algonquins of Ontario, and a modern treaty will clear a path for neighbours to become partners, bringing new economic opportunities to their communities."

The non-binding AIP paves the way for continued negotiations toward a final agreement that will define the ongoing rights of the Algonquins of Ontario to lands and natural resources within the settlement area.

CBC News Radio: Toronto



Ottawa Metro



The Guardian: PEI



Native Council of P.E.I. applauds Ontario land deal, says Mi'kmaq would welcome similar discussions

The Native Council of P.E.I. says future negotiations involving the Mi'kmaq people in Prince Edward Island should look to the land deal signed Wednesday in Ontario as an example.

The agreement in principle, which the council says could be described as a modern-day treaty, was signed by Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett and her provincial counterpart, Ontario Indigenous Affairs Minister David Zimmer. Details of the agreement have yet to be ratified, but it encompasses roughly 36,000 square kilometers of land. As well, no new First Nations will be created out of this agreement.

RELATED: Native group, Ontario and feds reach agreement in principle on



Native Council of P.E.I. Chief Lisa Coopes

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Wednesday, 19 October 2016 22:08

Land Claim AIP ratified at a ceremony in Ottawa

Written by Jeff Green

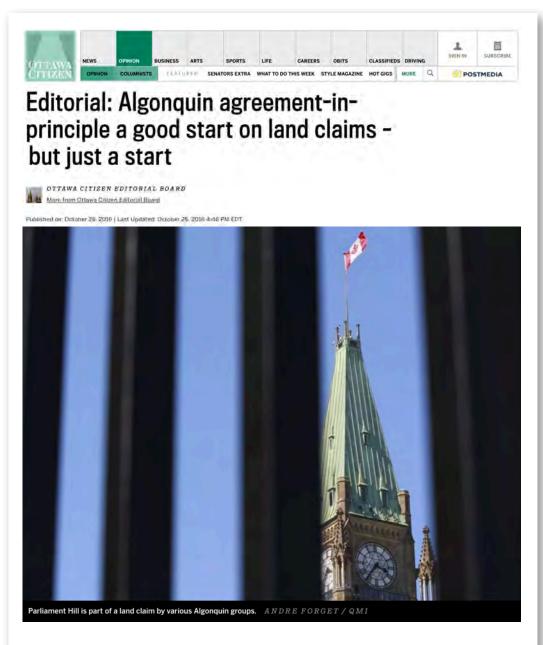
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Algonquin Nation Representatives from some of nine communities and members of the Pikwakanagan Council at the signing ceremony in Ottawa. Kirby Whiteduck is holding the signed agreement in principle. Photo courtesy of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.

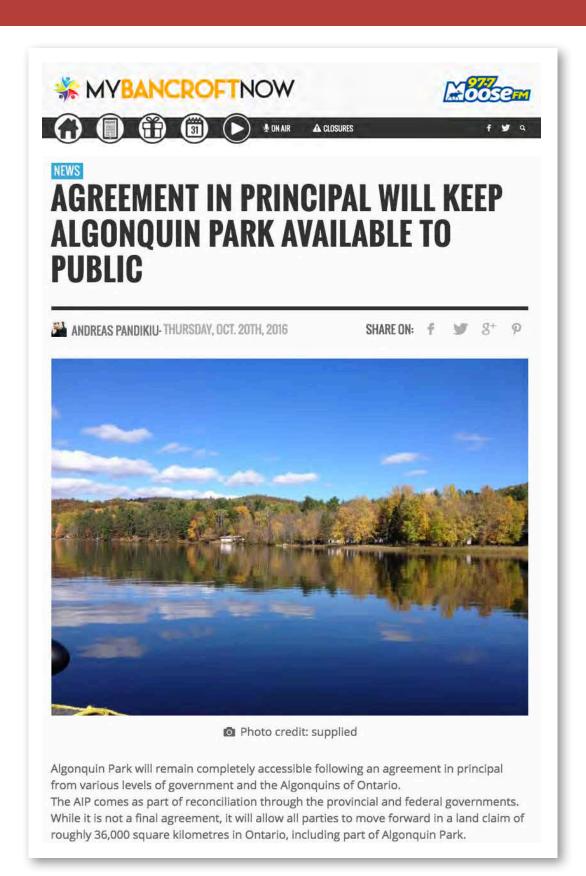
Ottawa Citizen



It will be difficult for Canadian governments to develop a better relationship with aboriginal people until land claims are settled. Of those claims, few have more symbolic importance than the Algonquin claim that covers much of eastern Ontario, including the very lands on which our Parliament buildings stand.

The recent agreement in principle between one Algonquin group and the federal and provincial governments is an important step toward finally settling that claim, though the end is not yet in sight. The Algonquins of Ontario want more money and more land than have so far been offered, and rival groups also claim the same land.

My Bancroft Now



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Wednesday, October 26, 2016

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AIP signing leaves some Pikwakanagan residents with feeling of betrayal

By R. Bruce McIntyre Staff Writer

Pikwakanagan -- Although the federal and provincial leaders, along with the chief and council of Pikwakanagan celebrated the signing of the Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) last week in Ottawa as a historic breakthrough, many residents back at the reserve on Golden Lake view the signing as a betrayal and a refusal by their leaders to respect their opposition to the AIP.

The AIP is a non-binding agreement that paves the way for the negotiation of a final agreement between the two levels of government and the Algonquins of Ontario in terms of land rights, financial compensation and other factors.

The history of the AIP has been controversial with a clear division of support for the process since it was ratified in a province-wide vote earlier this year.

Although 90 percent of voters wanted to proceed with talks, Pikwakanagan band members sent a very different message, with the majority voting against continuing with the talks. A total of 3,575 ballots were

cast out of 7,540 eligible Algonquin voters, with a participation rate of 47 per cent. Of those ballots cast, 3,341, or over 90 percent voted in favour of the AIP and the continuation of negotiations with the federal and provincial governments.

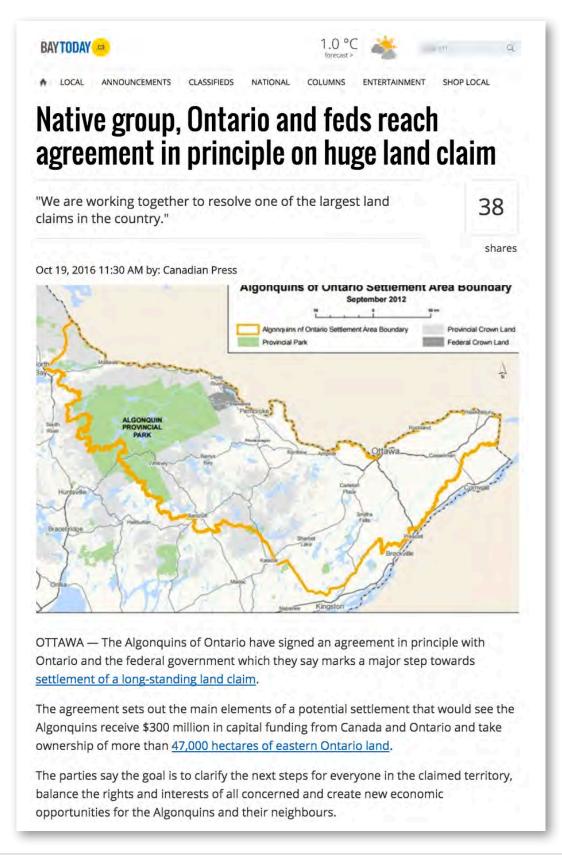
A separate referendum vote was held by the chief and council of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and in that vote, a majority of the members who participated voted against the signing. A total of 330 ballots were cast with 243 voting against the AOPFN Referendum and 87 in favour.

That rejection initially led Chief Whiteduck and council to temporarily step back from negotiations in late March of this year. At the time, Chief Whiteduck stated his rationale.

"There have been a number of serious concerns raised and brought forth by members," a media release said at the time. "We have definitely heard the concerns and matters raised by members. Some members have requested that we take a step back and focus on getting those concerns addressed and dealt with by governments."

See Page A13

Bay Today



My North Bay Now



The Leader Eganville



The Leader, Eganville, Ontario - October 19, 2016

Agreement signed between Algonquins and governments

Ottawa – The Governments of Canada and Ontario and the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) celebrated a major milestone yesterday (Tuesday) with the signing of a historic Agreement-in-Principle.

This is a key step toward a modern-day treaty to resolve a longstanding land claim that covers an area of 36,000 square kilometres in eastern Ontario.

The non-binding Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) paves the way for continued negotiations toward a Final Agreement that will define the ongoing rights of the AOO to lends and natural resources within the settlement area.

The goal is to provide clarity going forward for all who live and work in the claim territory, balance the rights and interests of all concerned and create new economic opportunities for the benefit of the AOO and their neighbours.

In a joint media release issued at the conclusion of the signing ceremony, representatives from all three parties noted the importance of the AIP.

Carolyn Bennett, the federal Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, said the AIP will bring all parties closer together.

"The signing of the Agreement-in-Principle is a momentous milestone and a significant step forward on renewing. Canada's relationship with the Algonquins of Ontario," Dr. Bennett said. "We are working together to resolve one of the largest land claims in the country. Achieved in a spirit of co-operation and parmership, this landmark AIP brings

us closer to the first modern-day treaty in Ontario and our shared goal to find a balanced solution that advances reconciliation for the benefit of all Canadians."

David Zimmer, Ontario's Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, echoed Dr. Bennett's comments.

"This major step toward Ontario's first modern treaty shows what's possible when strong partners work together in the spirit of reconciliation," he said. "More than a million people share this land with the AOO, and a modern treaty will clear a path for neighbours to become partners, bringing new economic opportunities to their communities."

Bob Potts, a Toronto lawyer who has been representing the AOO during the negotiation process, said the AIP will help move the process forward.

"The signing of the AIP today marks a critical step forward in a journey that began almost 250 years ago when the first Algonquin Petition was submitted to the Crown in 1772," Mr. Potts said. "As we move forward into the next phase of our negotiations, the Algonquins of Ontario look forward to working in co-operation with the governments of Canada and Ontario to improve upon what we have achieved to date and build a strong and equitable modern-day treaty."

The AIP sets out the main elements of a potential settlement, including that the AOO would receive \$300 million in capital funding from Canada and Ontario and approximately, but not less than 117,500 acres of pro-

vincial Crown lands would be transferred to Algonquin ownership.

If the negotiators are successful in achieving a Final Agreement, it will need to be approved by the Algonquins of Ontario voters in a ratification vote and then by the Ontario Legislature and Parliament of Canada.

Can-India



Key step for modern treaty to resolve land claims



The Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario and the Algonquins of Ontario celebrated a major milestone in their journey toward reconciliation and renewed relationships today by signing a historic Agreement-in-Principle (AIP). This is a key step toward a modern-day treaty to resolve a longstanding land claim that covers an area of 36,000 square kilometres in eastern Ontario. The non-binding AIP paves the way for continued negotiations toward a final agreement that will define the ongoing rights of the Algonquins of Ontario to lands and natural resources within the settlement area.

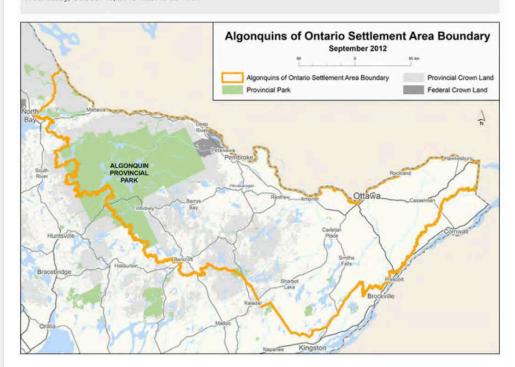
David Zimmer, Ontario Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, said: "This major step toward Ontario's first modern treaty shows what's possible when strong partners work together in the spirit of reconciliation. More than a million people share this land with the Algonquins of Ontario, and a modern treaty will clear a path for neighbours to become partners, bringing new economic opportunities to their communities."

North Bay Nugget



Algonquins of Ontario closer to resolving longstanding claim

STEPHEN UHLER / Postmedia Network Wednesday, October 19, 2016 1:25:42 EDT AM



With the scratch of pens, the foundation for a negotiated Algonquin land claim treaty has been laid.

On Tuesday in Ottawa, representatives from the federal government, the province and the Algonquins of Ontario signed a historic agreement-in-principle (AIP), which is a key step toward forging a modern-day treaty to resolve a longstanding land claim that covers an area of 36,000 square kilometres in eastern Ontario.

The non-binding AIP paves the way for continued negotiations toward a final agreement that will define the ongoing rights of the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) to lands and natural resources within the settlement area.

North Bay Nugget



Non-Native communities could benefit financially from the Algonquin land claim, East Ferris Mayor Bill Vrebosch says.

On Tuesday in Ottawa, representatives from the federal government, the province and the Algonquins of Ontario signed a historic agreement-in-principle (AIP), which is a key step toward forging a modern-day treaty to resolve a longstanding land claim that covers an area of 36,000 square kilometres in eastern Ontario, and extending to North Bay's eastern border.

Vrebosch says economic development that could follow the historic agreement could be a good thing for communities such as East Ferris.

The Globe and Mail



GLOBE EDITORIAL

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The Globe and Mail Published Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016 5:35PM EDT Last updated Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016 8:57PM EDT

Arts

The indigenous peoples of Canada are very likely to be happier and more prosperous if they have lands and other resources of their own, rather than being dependants, ad infinitum.

So it's encouraging that the Algonquins of Eastern Ontario and the federal and Ontario governments have reached an agreement in principle to transfer 36,000 square kilometres of land to the Algonquins.

Non-aboriginal people who have bought land in this territory over the years the Parliament buildings, for example – will not be expropriated. Essentially, this will be an acquisition of Crown land. For example, an obsolete military base in Ottawa will be part of the Algonquin territory, along with a lot of other lands stretching all the way to North Bay, Ont. (Algonquin Park will stay as it is.) We can hope the Algonquins will before very long become economically independent.

Chief Kirby Whiteduck, the chief of the largest reserve in this territory, said, "We were once wealthy, we lived well off the land. Then we were begging for a piece of land." The memory of their former well-being is partly true, partly romantic tradition. The Algonquins of our time are hardly likely to dispense with modern technology or simply live "well off the land," but they should have real economic opportunities.

CBC Radio with host Wei Chen



Bancroft Times

The Bancroft Times

Algonquins Achieve New Milestone Toward Treaty With Ontario And Canada



Agreement-in-Principle Sets Path for Final Stage of Land Claim Negotiations

Government of Ontario and the ern treaty will clear a path for Algonquins of Ontario celebrated a neighbours to become partners, major milestone in their journey toward reconciliation and renewed ties to their communities." - David relationships by signing a historic Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) on Relations and Reconciliation October 18. This is a key step toward a modern-day treaty to in-Principle is a momentous mileresolve a longstanding land claim that covers an area of 36,000 ward on renewing Canada's relasquare kilometres in eastern tionship with the Algonquins of

Algonquins of Ontario to lands and ment area.

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This major step toward Ontario's first modern treaty shows what's possible when strong partners work together in the spirit of reconciliation. More than a million people share this land with the

The Government of Canada, the Algonquins of Ontario, and a modbringing new economic opportuni-

"The signing of the Agreement-

stone and a significant step for-Ontario. We are working together The non-binding AIP paves the to resolve one of the largest land way for continued negotiations claims in the country. Achieved in toward a final agreement that will a spirit of co-operation and partdefine the ongoing rights of the nership, this landmark AIP brings us closer to the first modern-day natural resources within the settle- treaty in Ontario and our shared goal to find a balanced solution that advances reconciliation for the benefit of all Canadians." Carolyn Bennett Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs

"The signing of the Agreementin-Principle today marks a critical step forward in a journey that began almost 250 years ago when the first Algonquin Petition was submitted to the Crown in 1772. As we move forward into the next phase of our negotiations, the Algonquins of Ontario look forward to working in cooperation with the Governments of Canada and Ontario to improve upon what we have achieved to date and build a strong and equitable modern-day treaty. We believe that together we can work towards reconciliation and securing the long delayed justice that the Algonquin people deserve." - Robert 1 Potts, Principal Negotiator and Senior Legal Counsel. Algonquins of Ontario

+ The AIP was shaped by consultations with the 10 Algonquins of Ontario communities, other Indigenous groups and the public. This important dialogue will continue during the negotiations toward a final agreement.

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. No privately-owned land will be taken away from anyone to settle the claim and no one will lose access to their private property.

· Algonquin Park will remain a park for the enjoyment of all.

North Renfrew Times

NORTH RENFREW TIMES.CO



NEWS



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR











NORTH RENFREW TIMES - OCTOBER 26, 2016 - page 19

Algonquins sign draft agreement for land claim treaty

The government of Canada, Ontario and the Algonquins of Ontario celebrated a major milestone last week by signing a historic Agreement-in-Principle (AIP).

The AIP is a key step towards a modern-day treaty to resolve a longstanding land claim that covers an area of 36,000 sq km in eastern Ontario.

The non-binding AIP paves the way for continued negotiations toward a final agreement that will define the ongoing rights of the Algonquins of Ontario to lands and

natural resources within the settlement area.

The goal is to "provide clarity going forward for all who live and work in the claim territory, balance the rights and interests of all concerned and create new economic opportunities for the benefit of the Algonquins of Ontario and their neighbours," according to a statement.

"This major step toward Ontario's first modern treaty shows what's possible when strong partners work together in the spirit of reconciliation," said David Zimmer, Ontario's Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

"More than a million people share this land with the Algonquins of Ontario, and a modern treaty will clear a path for neigh-

bours to become partners, bringing new econ o m i c opportunities to their communities."

"The signing of the Agreement-in-Principle is a momentous milestone and a significant step forward on renewing Canada's relationship with the Algonquins of Ontario," added Carolyn Bennett, federal Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

We are working together to resolve one of the largest land claims in the country.

"Achieved in a spirit of co-operation and partnership, this landmark AIP brings us closer to the first modernday treaty in Ontario and our shared goal to find a balanced solution that advances reconciliation for the benefit of all Canadians."

The Valley Gazette





Dignitaries gather to celebrate this key step toward a modern-day treaty to resolve a longstanding land claim that covers an area of 36,000 square kilometres in eastern Ontario.

Photo submitted by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.

Algonquins of Ontario achieve milestone toward modern treaty

Agreement-in-Principle sets path for final stage of land claim negotiations

OTTAWA-The Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario and the Algonquins of Ontario celebrated a major milestone in their journey toward reconcilitation and renewed relationships today by signing a historic Agreement-in-Principle (AIP). This is a key step toward a modern-day treaty to resolve a longstanding land claim that covers an area of 36,000 square kilometres in eastern Ontario.

"This major step toward Ontario's first modern treaty shows what's possible when strong partners work together in the spirit of reconciliation. More than a million people share this land with the Algonquins of Ontario, and a modern treaty will clear a path for neighbours to become partners, bringing new economic opportunities to their communities," Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation David Zimmer said.

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"The signing of the Agreement-in-Principle is a momentous milestone and a significant step forward on renewing Canada's relationship with the Algonquins of Ontario. We are working together to resolve one of the largest land claims in the country. Achieved in a spirit of cooperation and partnership, this landmark AIP brings us closer to the first modernday treaty in Ontario and our shared goal to find a balanced solution that advances reconciliation for the benefit of all Canadians," Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Carolyn Bennett said,

The goal is to provide clarity going forward for all who live and work in the claim territory, balance the rights and interests of all concerned and create new economic opportunities for the benefit of the Algonquins of Ontario and their neighbours.

Roger J. Potts is the principal negotiator and senior legal counsel for the Algonquins of Ontario.

"The signing of the Agreement-in-Principle today marks a critical step forward in a journey that began almost 250 years ago when the first Algonquin Petition was submitted to the Crown in 1772," he said. "As we move forward into the next phase of our negotiations, the Algonquins of Ontario look forward to working in cooperation with the Governments of Canada and Ontario to improve upon what we have achieved to date and build a strong and equitable modern-day treaty. We believe that together we can work towards reconciliation and securing the long delayed justice that the Algonquin people deserve."

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City News



Native group, Ontario and feds reach agreement in principle on land claim

BY THE CANADIAN PRESS

POSTED OCT 18, 2016 2:56 PM EDT LAST UPDATED OCT 18, 2016 AT 5:40 PM EDT

NATIONAL

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Madahbee congratulates the Algonquins of Ontario

UOI OFFICES (Nipissing First Nation) October19, 2016—Anishinabek Nation Grand Council ChiefPatrick Madahbee congratulates the Algonquins of

Patrick Madahbee congratulates the Algonquins of Ontario for signing a historic Agreement-in-Principle with the Government in Ottawa yesterday.

"I congratulate the Algonquins on this historical signing and accomplishment," expressed Madahbee on the monumental achievement. "These negotiations were exhausting and lengthy for all parties involved."



Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee.

The non-binding Agreement-in-Principle is an avenue for continued negotiations toward a Final Agreement that will identify the ongoing rights of the Algonquins of Ontario to lands and natural resources within the recognized settlement area.

The shared goal of this agreement is to provide clarity for those who live within the claim territory, and for those who work on the land, create new economic partnerships and opportunities for the Algonquins of Ontario, while also balancing the rights and interests of all concerned and involved.

The Agreement-in-Principle also serves as a stepping stone on the path to reconciliation, and another step toward a modern-day treaty to resolve one of the largest and longstanding land claims in Canada. The land claim covers an area of 36,000 square kilometers in eastern Ontario.

Winnipeg Free Press



Canada

Native group, Ontario and feds reach agreement in principle on land claim

By: The Canadian Press

Posted: 10/18/2016 1:57 PM | Comments:

OTTAWA - The Algonquins of Ontario have signed an agreement in principle with Ontario and the federal government which they say marks a major step towards settlement of a long-standing land claim.

The agreement sets out the main elements of a potential settlement that would see the Algonquins receive \$300 million in <u>capital</u> of funding from Canada and Ontario and take ownership of more than 47,000 hectares of eastern Ontario land.

The parties say the goal is to clarify the next steps for everyone in the claimed territory, balance the rights and interests of all concerned and create <u>new</u> of economic opportunities for the Algonquins and their neighbours.

The governments say no privately owned land will be taken to settle the claim, no one will lose access to their private property and Algonquin Park will remain open to all.

The parties say the agreement was shaped by consultations with the 10 Algonquins of Ontario communities, other indigenous groups and the public.

They say discussions will continue during the negotiations toward a final deal.

In a statement, Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett said the agreement moves all parties closer to finalizing the first modern-day treaty in Ontario.

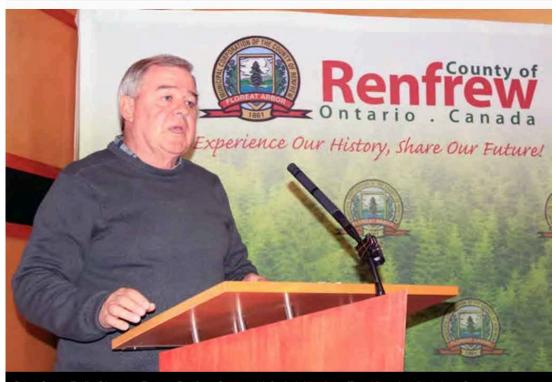
The Daily Observer



Algonquin land claim treaty still years away



By Sean Chase, The Daily Observer Wednesday, October 26, 2016 5:35:23 EDT PM



Sean Chase/Daily Observer Former Renfrew County chief administrative officer Norm Lemke brings County councillors up to date on the historic Algonquin land claim negotiations more than a week after an agreement-in-principle was signed between the federal government, the province and the Algonquins of Ontario.

Although an historic agreement-in-principle has been signed between the federal government, the province and the Algonquins of Ontario, a permanent treaty could still be five years away, Renfrew County council heard Wednesday

The Daily Observer

Proposed land claim moves ahead

Canada, Ontario and Algonquins sign land claim Agreement-in-Principle

The Day Observe 19 0:19016 Marious STEPHEN WILLER

TTAWA - With the scratch of pens, the foundation for a negotiated Algonquin land claim treaty has been laid.

On Tuesday in Ottawa, representatives from the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario and the Algonquins of Ontario signed a historic Agreement-in-Principle (AIP), which is a key step toward forging a modern-day treaty to resolve a longstanding land claim that covers an area of 36,000 square kilometres in eastern Ontario.

The non-binding AIP paves the way for continued negotiations to-ward a final agreement that will define the ongoing rights of the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) to lands and natural resources within the settlement area.

The goal is to provide clarity going forward for all who live and work in the claim territory, balance the rights and interests of all concerned and create new economic opportunities for the benefit of the Algonquins of Ontario and their neighbours.

Pikwakanagan Chief Kirby Whiteduck was present for the signing, along with the other leaders of the 10 Algonquins of Ontario communities involved in the negotiations

Whiteduck said it was a relief to finally get past the AIP stage and get into the real negotiations, a process which he's been involved in for the last two and a half decades.

"It's been a big challenge and a difficult road," he said. "We've been negotiating off and on for 24 years now, and it's been 244 years since the first petition in 1772."

Since the AIP sets the stage for further negotiations, it is hoped outstanding issues and concerns can be worked out at the table as all parties move towards a agreement.

"We're going to give our best effort to negotiate something that's acceptable to most people," final Whiteduck said, noting with the varied interests involved, and not just on the Algonquin side, it will be challenging.

"All we can do is do the best that we can," Whiteduck said.

The 10 Algonquin communities involved in the negotiations are the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation, Antoine, Kijicho Manito Madaouskarini (Bancroft), Bon-



David Zimmer, Ontarios minister of Indigenous relations and reconciliation and Carolyn Bennett, right, federal minister of Indigenous and northern affairs, sign the Algonquin land claim Agreement-in-Principle in Ottawa on Tuesday, Oct. 18.

nechere, Greater Golden Lake, Mattawa/North Bay, Ottawa, Shabot Obaadjiwan (Sharbot Lake), Snimikobi (Ardoch) and Whitney and Area.

These 10 communities have

been working together as the Algonquins of Ontario under a protocol signed in 2004, to reach

Social Media Coverage



Yasir Naqvi BYasir Naqvi - 17m

Yasir Nagvi Wasir Milestone Toward Modern Treaty with #Ontario and #Canada news.ontario.ca/mirr/en/2016/1... #OttCity



Algonquins of Ontario Achieve New Milestone Tow... The Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario and the Algonquins of Ontario celebrated a major milestone in their journey toward reconciliation and r...









