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# *Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation*

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March 7, 2023

Algonquin Tribunal  
31 Riverside Dr #101  
Pembroke, ON  
K8A 8R6

Dear Panel Members,

**RE: Tribunal Hearing for Subject Ancestor: THOMAS LEGARDE DIT JEAN**

On behalf of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation (“AOPFN”), I write to convey our intention to participate in the Algonquin Tribunal’s inquiry into the lineage of the Subject Ancestor noted above for the purposes of the Schedule of Algonquin Ancestors.

We appreciate that our submission is past due, however, in the interest of ensuring a fulsome record and that the views of AOPFN are duly considered, we request leave of the Tribunal to accept our submission. In this regard, we attach our submission, prepared by Dr. Darryl Leroux and endorsed by the Chief and Council of the AOPFN.

Please confirm acceptance of our submission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Jocko". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Wendy Jocko, Chief  
On behalf of the Council, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation

c.c.: Dr. Darryl Leroux

Attachment: Lagarde Submission

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# ALGONQUIN TRIBUNAL

Submission by the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation

Written by Darryl Leroux, PhD

Disputed Ancestor: Thomas Lagarde dit St. Jean (RIN #11565)

## POSITION STATEMENT

I have reviewed the initial document available on the Algonquin Tribunal website for Thomas Lagarde dit St. Jean: Document 1 – Enrolment Officer's Report Regarding Ancestor Thomas Lagarde dit St. Jean.

I agree with the Enrolment Officer's (EO) main findings about Thomas Lagarde dit St. Jean:

- Thomas was baptized on 21 March 1801 in St. Eustache, now a suburb west of Montréal.
- His parents were recorded as Paul Lagarde and Marguerite Poirier of St. Eustache parish.
- They are easily traceable through reliable genealogical databases. They and their forebears were French-Canadian.
- Thomas and his wife Sophie Carrière moved to Litchfield Township, Pontiac County, by 1844.
- None of the documents associated with Lagarde's life make any reference to Algonquins or Indigenous peoples.

Besides the overwhelming body of documentary evidence pointing to Lagarde's French-Canadian identity, the EO's report assessed the document that was used at the 2013 Chadwick hearing to keep Lagarde on the Schedule of Ancestors. As you may know, this document was the focus of a CBC investigation in July 2022. The report highlights several aspects of that document that place its provenance and authenticity in question. It's best to cite the EO's own conclusion:

The letter from Brunet to Bishop Bourget is the only document that indicates that Thomas Lagarde dit St. Jean was of Algonquin or Algonquian descent. The document does not have a proper archival source and its provenance has not been verified by an archive. The document is difficult to decipher and some of the content could not be verified by supporting documentation or appeared contradictory.

None of the other documentation regarding Thomas, his ancestors or immediate descendants, name these individuals as having any indigenous or Algonquin heritage. No one in Thomas Lagarde dit St. Jean's immediate family marry into known Algonquin families, reside with known Algonquin families, sign any Algonquin petitions, or witnessed or had events witnessed by known Algonquins. Documents and information from PRDH [Research Program in Historical Demography] indicated that Thomas Lagarde

dit St. Jean was the eighth generation of individuals who immigrated from France to New France (Quebec) predominantly in the mid-1600s.

The EO's report ultimately concludes that Lagarde was a French-Canadian man, who, along with his wife Sophie Carrière, followed the route then adopted by many of his compatriots and settled in Algonquin territory in Pontiac County. I concur with the EO – it's my assessment that Thomas Lagarde dit St. Jean is not an "Algonquin Ancestor" as defined in Article 1 of the Special Resolution of January 22, 2020.