



JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 2009

ALGONQUIN NEGOTIATION REPRESENTATIVES

NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA AND ONTARIO

Dear Elector,

I am writing to provide you with further information regarding the progress that is being made with respect to the ongoing Algonquins of Ontario (“AOO”) Treaty Negotiations with the governments of Canada and Ontario (“Governments”). As well, I will raise other matters relevant to those negotiations.

The Algonquin Negotiation Representatives (“ANR’s”), all of whom were elected in the Spring of 2008, have been engaged in a variety of activities that are intended to lay a solid foundation for the Algonquin Nation in Ontario, as well as to enhance its presence throughout the Ottawa Valley and in the Traditional Territory.

As I have previously reported, the Algonquin Negotiation Team is comprised of myself, the ANR’s and our technical and legal advisors. We submitted an Economic Development Plan (“EDP”) to the Governments in February of 2008. This comprehensive document provided the Governments with the AOO’s version of what we believed a settlement and resulting Treaty should look like. It was then left to the Governments to acquire Cabinet mandates to respond effectively to our proposal.

The recent federal election and post election political crisis have delayed matters somewhat. We are, however, hopeful that those mandates will be in place shortly and that the negotiation process will get underway in earnest by Spring. We are still targeting 2010, but now the end of that year, for completing a draft Agreement in Principle (“AIP”) by the Negotiation Teams. This document will then be submitted to the AOO for their approval in a formal vote.

If the AOO approve that AIP, steps will then be taken as quickly as possible thereafter to get a Treaty document finalised for a further formal vote.

Over the past number of months as we have waited for the Governments to acquire their mandates, the ANR’s have participated in many meetings as a team, on committees and at main table sessions with the Governments. Some of the work underway includes:

- beginning the process of drafting portions of the AIP including beneficiary criteria;
- developing an Algonquin Nation Constitution for consideration by the Algonquin people including among others, sections that will deal with citizenship, nation and community governments, Algonquin law and enforcement. It is hoped that a draft of this document will be available for further review and consideration by you later in the Spring;
- coordinating meetings with Government representatives to further develop and consider land selections within the Territory to be included within the Treaty;
- engaging in negotiations with the Ministry of Natural Resources (“MNR”) with respect to ongoing harvesting issues. This has resulted in improving relationships with that Ministry;
- engaging in dialogue with the Ministry of Natural Resources regarding the “Lightening of the Ecological Footprint of Logging” initiative which could have serious potential ramifications for Algonquin Park;

- meeting with City of Ottawa officials regarding a number of issues relevant to the Algonquin interests in that City as part of the settlement. These include: the City's Official Plan Amendment, interprovincial bridges, CFB Rockcliffe, Chaudiere and Victoria Islands, and the disposition of various public buildings;
- engaging in many Consultations about a variety of proposed land dispositions by the Crown throughout the Territory in which AOO claims an interest;
- developing plans for a Consultation/ Nation Office staffed by Algonquins which will serve as a base for future operations;
- responding to Wind Energy and Water Power initiatives throughout the Territory;
- addressing the Frontenac Uranium Exploration initiative by participating directly in the negotiation of an Accommodation Agreement with Ontario and Frontenac;
- commencing discussions with Ontario's Ministry of Northern Development and Mines regarding a Consultation Protocol and amendments to the *Mining Act*.
- addressing the Métis issue by engaging in discussions with the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA) with respect to the terms of a research study into whether or not ancestral Métis communities/ Métis harvesting rights exist within the Traditional Territory.
- engaging in discussions with the Federal Public Works Department regarding initiating economic benefits/ training initiatives for the AOO;

Should you wish to acquire further information with respect to any of the aforementioned initiatives or with respect to the ongoing development of the AIP, please contact your Community ANR. We are extremely interested in any suggestions or concerns that you may have and your views, I can assure you, will be taken into consideration as the AIP and other initiatives take shape.

Contact information for your Community can be found at:

<http://www.blaney.com/algonquin/algonquin.htm>.

You may also get more information on the claim at the AOO website at www.tanakiwin.com.

Once again thank you for your continuing interest and support with respect to this extremely important project which we are undertaking on behalf of the Algonquins of Ontario.

Yours very truly,



Robert J. Potts
Senior Negotiator and Senior Legal Counsel
Algonquin Treaty Negotiations