

2 October, 2013

Dear Negotiators,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Wolfe Lake (Westport) Association, and its members. There are several concerns that I want to express to you.

First, when I attended a public meeting in Ottawa in March, it seemed from discussions and materials that public consultation would continue through the finalization of the terms of the Agreement in Principle (AIP). Now, it is my understanding that such consultation will be minimal or non-existent. Topics such as private property impacts, land use planning implications, fish and wildlife management plans, fair sharing, designated species, conflicting land claims, access and other issues are important to our members who pay substantial property taxes. As stewards of the resources on and around our private properties, we will be affected by changes to tenure on area lakes and rivers and are due an adequate opportunity to learn about the proposed settlement terms, and to provide input in advance of any settlement.

We respectfully ask that you ensure adequate opportunity for discussion and that you clarify the availability of these opportunities, including times and locations.

The second topic is unique to the property on our lake. In the negotiations process it is known as parcel #237 and borders Wolfe Lake in South Frontenac Township. It was once owned privately but due to the ongoing / annual presence of a bald eagle's nest on the property, it was expropriated in the spirit of conservation, and held since that time as crown land. While we respect that the Algonquin people, and first nations communities in general have a deep connection with nature, the prospect that this transfer of lands and rights could result in development that is inconsistent with the spirit of the original expropriation is alarming. The eagles remain on our lake, nesting sometimes on this property and sometimes on nearby islands.

Ours is a lake where the decades have not changed the character substantially, and **we respectfully ask that this parcel be removed from the negotiated package of lands, unless we can be assured that permitted land use will remain consistent with the environmentally motivated expropriation that brought this land into crown ownership several decades ago.**

Finally, safety is of paramount importance, and with many year-round cottagers in the immediate vicinity, **we respectfully ask that hunting rules and regulations that apply to other residents of Ontario continue to be applied to this property.** If in fact parcel #237 does remain in the AIP and is eventually transferred, we invite the new ownership group to work with this association towards the betterment of the Wolfe Lake community, the lands, and our wildlife, not the least of which is our family of bald eagles. Our recently completed Lake Vision captures the attitudes and desires of our lake community, and we certainly hope, whatever happens with the AIP, that we are able to maintain our course.

Wolfe Lake is a special place.

Yours sincerely,
Roy Sunstrum,
President Wolfe Lake (Westport) Association

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