

Ministry of  
Natural Resources

Policy Division

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December 20, 2013

Roy Sunstrum  
President Wolfe Lake Association  
[wolfelake@rogers.com](mailto:wolfelake@rogers.com)

Dear Mr. Roy Sunstrum,

I would first like to thank you for your email on October 1, 2013 and for your attendance at the Tripartite Public Information Session in Ottawa.

Public consultation regarding the Algonquin land claim is being addressed in a number of ways. Once the three negotiating parties reached a preliminary draft of an Agreement-in-Principle (PDAIP) last fall, they collectively agreed to release it publicly to solicit constructive, informed input and comment. Comments received through consultation, such as the session you attended in Ottawa, are being considered by the negotiating parties as they work toward the release of a proposed Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) that will be submitted to the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) for a vote.

After the AIP is ratified, the next phase of the negotiation process will lead to a Final Agreement. Further consultation will be undertaken in this phase, including a formal consultation process under the Algonquin Land Claim Declaration Order. This is an order made under the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

Though the public consultation process will continue to take place over several years, I would like to provide you with some key information now to address the concerns outlined in your email. Firstly, there is no reason to believe that the settlement of the land claim will have a negative impact on property values. Algonquin settlement lands will be privately owned and managed by one or more Algonquin institutions that will have land management capacity and will establish land management policies. The lands transferred will be subject to the same land use planning and development approvals and authorities, servicing and taxation rules as other private lands. Three parcels will have a limited property tax exemption if the AOO reach an agreement with the local municipalities to address costs of services.

With respect to your concerns about the bald eagle's nest on the property, I would like to inform you that our records do not indicate an expropriation affecting Parcel 237. If you have further information please advise. Because there is a provincially significant wetland in the area, any land use would have to comply with land use restrictions under municipal official plan designations and zoning put in place to protect the wetland. Uses that do not require structures, buildings or any site alterations, such as hiking, bird watching or other passive recreational use, would likely be compatible.

It is important to recognize that the PDAIP does not create new Algonquin harvesting rights. However, the PDAIP does provide far more clarity on many important subjects such as the Crown's ability to regulate harvesting for conservation, public health and public safety purposes. Algonquin harvesting rights will be subject to provincial and federal laws that are necessary for conservation, public health and public safety. The parties do not anticipate a significant change in Algonquin harvesting activities once the Final Agreement is in place.

As I mentioned earlier, the negotiating parties are continuing to work toward the release of a proposed AIP. Thank you again for your email and for providing an opportunity for me to respond to some of the concerns you have expressed. As President of the Wolfe Lake Association please forward a copy of my letter to your Association members. For additional information about the land claim or negotiation process please contact the Algonquin Information Office at [alcinfo@ontario.ca](mailto:alcinfo@ontario.ca) or at 1-855-690-7070.

Sincerely,



Brian Crane  
Chief Negotiator, Ontario

- c. Ronald Doering, Chief Federal Negotiator for Canada
- Robert Potts, Principle Negotiator, Algonquins of Ontario
- Jim Hunton, Jp2G Consultants
- Meish Podlog, Senior Negotiator/Project Manager, Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs