

**Ministry of  
Natural Resources and Forestry**

Policy Division

Land Claims and Treaties Section  
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June 29, 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

In December, 2012 negotiators for Canada, Ontario and the Algonquins of Ontario publicly released a Preliminary Draft Agreement-in-Principle for the Algonquin Land Claim. Since then, members of the Ontario Negotiation Team have participated in meetings to both deliver and receive information. We are now able to provide an update on the status of negotiations, consultation results and next steps.

The negotiators have now initialed and publicly released a proposed Agreement-in-Principle. It incorporates their negotiated changes to the Preliminary Draft Agreement-in-Principle. The changes made are based on information received by all three parties through the consultation process.

You will find two backgrounders enclosed with further information about the *Algonquin Land Claim Negotiations Process* and *Algonquin Land Claim Consultation Results*. The full text of the proposed Agreement-in-Principle and map products are available through the following website: [Ontario.ca/algonquinlandclaim](http://Ontario.ca/algonquinlandclaim).

Among the negotiated changes made to the earlier Preliminary Draft are adjustments to the proposed settlement lands package. In February, 2014, Ontario communicated changes that had been agreed to by the parties, providing revised map products to local property owners and those with known or expressed interests in specific Crown land parcels proposed for transfer. Technical changes to improve the accuracy of maps have also been made. The proposed Agreement-in-Principle provides that the parties may agree to further modifications to settlement lands prior to the Final Agreement.

The next anticipated step is expected to be an Algonquin ratification vote. If it is successful, approval will be sought from the governments of Ontario and Canada to proceed with negotiations toward a Final Agreement.

Future consultations will take place to support Final Agreement negotiations. These will include two public consultation opportunities to address potential environmental effects and mitigation measures for settlement land transfers and park additions. These consultations will take place in accordance with Ontario's environmental assessment responsibilities as set out in the Algonquin Land Claim Declaration Order. Evaluation information that is being compiled by Ontario will be publicly available. Proposed municipal Official Plan and zoning designations for the proposed settlement lands will also be provided.

For further information, please contact the Ontario Information Centre for the Algonquin Land Claim by e-mail at [alcinfo@ontario.ca](mailto:alcinfo@ontario.ca) or by phone at 1-855-690-7070 or as a local Pembroke number at 613-732-8081.

Sincerely,



Sydne Conover Taggart  
Coordinator / Negotiator  
Land Claims and Treaties Section

*Comments and personal information have been collected by the Ministries of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and Aboriginal Affairs (MAA) to be considered in the negotiation and drafting of the Algonquin land claim Agreement-in-Principle and Final Agreement, and to allow for follow-up with individuals as required concerning the proposed disposition of Crown land arising from the land claim settlement. These activities occur under MAA's mandate to resolve land claims, and MNRF's obligations to comply with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act, the Public Lands Act, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act or the Aggregate Resources Act. MAA and MNRF may provide to the other ministry copies of comments or personal information collected to facilitate analysis of land claim negotiation matters or to facilitate a response to a specific comment or individual. Comments not constituting personal information as defined by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, may be shared with others as appropriate, and may be included in documentation available for public review. Personal information will only be used/ disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. If you would like to request that your personal information no longer be retained by either ministry, please contact Darwin Rosien, Program and Community Liaison, at [alcinfo@ontario.ca](mailto:alcinfo@ontario.ca) or 613-732-8081 or 1-855-690-7070 (toll free).*

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## Algonquin Land Claim Consultation Results

June 12, 2015

During the course of the Algonquin Land Claim negotiations regarding the agreement-in-principle (AIP), an unprecedented amount of information has been provided to the public. The negotiators' initialed proposed AIP is now publicly available.

Ontario's ongoing consultations with the public and stakeholders have resulted in a number of changes to a preliminary draft AIP that was made public in December 2012 by the negotiators for Canada, Ontario and the Algonquins of Ontario.

The main elements of the proposed settlement remain unchanged:

- \$300 million in capital funding to the Algonquins from Canada and Ontario
- The transfer of approximately 117,500 acres of Ontario Crown land to Algonquin ownership
- An agreed approach to address Algonquin harvesting rights

### Lands

Provincial Crown lands identified for potential transfer to Algonquin ownership generated more public interest than any other element of the preliminary draft AIP. As a result of those consultations, modifications were made to 36 of the 221 proposed land parcels. These range from the relocation or elimination of some proposed parcels to reconfiguration of property limits and access roads to accommodate other interests related to the lands.

### Harvesting

Changes to provisions regarding Algonquin harvesting rights include:

- Clarifying the definition of conservation
- Clarifying Ontario and Canada's ongoing jurisdiction in relation to fish, wildlife, migratory birds and plants, including their respective habitats
- Identifying proactive interim measures to be undertaken by the Algonquins to increase protection of sensitive fisheries in Algonquin Park
- Clarifying language about the intent of the negotiating parties to develop fisheries management plans for the land claim settlement area with Algonquin Park being the first priority.

### Parks

The parks chapter of the AIP includes new wording to make it clear that Ontario maintains jurisdiction for protected areas. Third-party interests in lands recommended for additions to the Ontario Parks system may continue in accordance with provincial laws and provisions that are set out in the proposed agreement-in-principle.

## Consultation Process

Ontario has engaged in extensive consultations to improve public understanding of the negotiation process and the proposed elements of an agreement. Input received has helped enhance the negotiators' understandings of public and stakeholder interests.

Representatives of the Ontario negotiation team have:

- Met with more than 2,000 members of the public who attended public information sessions immediately following the release of the preliminary draft AIP
- Responded to hundreds of inquiries through the Ontario information centre for the Algonquin Land Claim
- Organized more than 150 meetings with land owners, cottage associations and those who hold direct interests in the Crown land parcels identified for potential transfer to Algonquin ownership
- Conducted discussions with local municipal representatives regarding proposed Algonquin land selections in their municipalities
- Met with angler and hunter groups, environmental and park groups, forest industry representatives and other stakeholders

## Next Steps

Discussions regarding the preliminary draft AIP resulted in negotiated changes that responded to new information or concerns that came to light. It is anticipated that the proposed AIP will be put forward to the Algonquins of Ontario for a ratification vote. If it ratified, and then approved by the governments of Canada and Ontario, another stage of negotiations will begin. The end result would be a final agreement that will take the form of a modern-day treaty.

Consultation opportunities will be provided to support the next stage of negotiations toward a final agreement. These will include:

- Municipal consultations regarding the transition of Ontario Crown lands to Algonquin ownership
- Consultation regarding the Crown lands proposed for transfer and additions to the Ontario Parks system
- Meetings to discuss future arrangements for those with legal interests in the Crown lands proposed for transfer
- Fisheries management planning for Algonquin Park, including meetings with angler and hunter groups and others with interests in the Crown lands and natural resources in the land claim territory

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## Algonquin Land Claim Negotiations Process

June 12, 2015

The Algonquins of Ontario land claim negotiations reached a new milestone with the publication of a proposed agreement-in-principle.

Negotiations have been in progress since the early 1990s. Earlier accomplishments have included:

- Annual interim big game harvesting arrangements that have been in place since 1991
- The publication of a statement of shared objectives in 1994, which was reaffirmed in 2006
- Development of a consultation process interim measures agreement in 2009
- Publication of a preliminary draft agreement-in-principle in December 2012.

### Current Status of the Negotiations

The negotiators for Ontario, Canada and the Algonquins of Ontario have initialed a proposed agreement-in-principle. This initialing indicates that negotiators are recommending the proposed agreement-in-principle to the parties they represent.

The proposed agreement-in-principle is the result of extensive consultations on a preliminary draft agreement-in-principle that was made public in 2012. The resulting revisions were agreed to by the three negotiators, based on new information or concerns that came to light during the consultation process.

### Next Steps

The next anticipated step will be an Algonquin ratification vote. Decisions regarding that process will be determined by the Algonquins of Ontario. The result of that vote will provide the parties with an indication of the level of Algonquin support for the proposed agreement-in-principle. Approval of the governments of Ontario and Canada will then be sought before the next stage of the negotiations proceeds.

### Final Agreement Negotiations

The final stage of negotiations is expected to take several years. Various forms of informal and formal consultation will continue throughout these negotiations, including processes related to environmental assessment of the proposed lands package and parks additions, municipal planning and fisheries planning.

If the negotiations conclude successfully, the result will be a final agreement, which will be subject to a final Algonquin ratification vote and the approval of the governments of Ontario and Canada. The land claim settlement will take the form of a modern-day treaty and will be given legal force through implementing provincial and federal legislation.