

First Nations of Timiskaming, Wolf Lake & Eagle Village announce Statement of Assertion of Aboriginal Rights and Title

January 23, 2013

(Algonquin Territory, Ontario & Quebec) - The Algonquin communities of Timiskaming, Wolf Lake, and Eagle Village today announced their assertion of Aboriginal rights and title to their traditional territories. The purpose of the announcement is to put other governments on notice, and to establish a firm basis for an effective consultation and accommodation process regarding developments that impact on their rights.

The territory covered under this Assertion of Rights and Title, measuring over 34,000 square kilometres, straddles the Quebec-Ontario border along the Upper Ottawa River (see attached map), with a large portion of it located in Ontario. The evidence, which has been in preparation for almost 20 years, shows that these communities are descended from the Algonquin bands that traditionally used and occupied the territory, and that they meet the legal tests for establishing rights and title.

“We have been here from time immemorial, and the research conducted for us by the Algonquin Nation Secretariat provides strong evidence of our rights,” said Chief Terence McBride. He also explained that at no point did Timiskaming, Wolf Lake or Eagle Village surrender any of their rights over the territory: “We have never surrendered our Aboriginal title and rights by treaty or any other means, and because of that we hold unextinguished Aboriginal title.”

The rights being asserted include lands on both sides of the provincial boundary, and so they will require the attention and commitment of the Governments of Canada, Quebec and Ontario.

“We hope all concerned governments can sit down with us to accommodate our interests in order to ensure that we can work and prosper together,” said Chief St. Denis, “and this includes our neighbours at the municipal and regional level”. The Chiefs are planning a ‘meet and greet’ session in the near future with local MPP’s, MNA’s, mayors and community leaders, to explain the Assertion of rights, and answer any questions they might have.

“We look forward to the stability this process will ultimately bring, for our community, our neighbours and other third parties,”, said Chief Paul. “Our First Nations are committed to the future of this region, and we see the recognition of our rights as a means to ensure we can contribute in a proactive and meaningful way, for mutual benefit.”

For more information please contact: www.algonquinnation.ca

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