

Algonquin Nation Secretariat

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Algonquin Nation Secretariat calls for Tewin Project to be put on Ice.

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Unceded Algonquin Territory, Ottawa

For Immediate Release

A Committee of Ottawa city Council has overruled a staff recommendation and instead voted to approve a rushed and ill-considered proposal to develop lands near Highway 17 and Boundary Road which, sponsored by the "Algonquins of Ontario" (AOO) and Taggart Investments.

The Chiefs of the three Algonquin communities of Wolf Lake, Timiskaming and Barriere Lake, members of the Algonquin Nation Secretariat Tribal Council (ANS), are joining those of the other Algonquin First Nations to raise serious concerns about the proposed Tewin development. The ANS is calling on Ottawa City Council to reject the proposal to include the Tewin development in Ottawa in Ottawa's boundaries, and instead to accept the City staff recommendation to delay approval, subject to further study.

Over the past three centuries, our nation has seen our lands dispossessed and our communities marginalized. Reconciliation is long overdue. But we believe that it must be done in the right way, and with the right parties. This is why we have such concerns about the Tewin project. The Tewin proposal is being sponsored by the "Algonquins of Ontario" (AOO), which is not a legitimate rights holder in Algonquin territory, and to the exclusion of other Algonquin communities who have asserted rights and interests in the territory.

The concerns of the ANS Chiefs were communicated to Mayor Jim Watson and Council members in an open letter (see attached). Our main concern is that the Tewin project is sponsored by a group that is not really representative of Algonquin title holders at all, and that the AOO has been effectively excluding legitimate Algonquin parties from the benefit of lands and economic development opportunities within territories that are subject to overlapping rights, or which are the exclusive territory of other Algonquin communities.

The Chiefs are requesting that that the Ottawa Council accept the staff recommendation to delay approval of the Tewin development. This will provide time to get reconciliation right.

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