

Algonquin Nation Secretariat

24 Algonquin Avenue
Timiskaming Reserve
Notre Dame du Nord, QC J0Z 3B0



Tel: 819-723-2019
Fax: 819-723-2345
Email: info@algonquinnation.ca



Anishinabe Algonquin Nation Oppose Metis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement

Anishinabe Algonquin Traditional Territory (June 19, 2023) – The Anishinabe Algonquin Nation, as represented by our Tribal Councils (Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation Tribal Council [AANTC] and the Algonquin Nation Secretariat [ANS]) are joining other First Nations communities and organizations in voicing their opposition to the *Metis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement*.

We are not opposed to the recognition of legitimate Metis rights, or reconciliation between the Metis and the Canadian state. But in this case we find that Canada's approach is based on extremely loose membership criteria and even looser treatment of the historical facts. There are legitimate questions about who exactly are "Metis Nation of Ontario", and the factual basis of their claims to territory. Until these questions are resolved in transparent manner, we must oppose this initiative.

On top of that we are very concerned that this proposed agreement will negatively affect pre-existing First Nations rights and claims (including of the Algonquin Nation) which have not yet been addressed or resolved. There has been no effective consultation with our communities on this initiative even though we have territories in Ontario that will be affected by this agreement.

This is what Canada and Ontario have already done with the "Algonquins of Ontario (AOO)" land claim negotiations. We now see them taking the same approach with the "Metis Nation of Ontario" – ignore the legitimate rights of our communities, while entering into agreements which will have the effect of prejudicing our rights and impacting our ability to eventually negotiate a just resolution of our own rights and claims. Canada seems intent on handing our rights to others before we have even had a chance to get to the table. This is despite all of the talk from the government about reconciliation and rights.

For these reasons we strongly oppose this initiative, and we support the Chiefs of Ontario and the position that they have taken on this matter.

As always, we remain ready to address these issues with other governments and with our neighbours. But true reconciliation must be fact-based and founded on transparency and good faith.

For further information, contact:

Grand Chief Savanna McGregor
Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation Tribal Council
819-449-1225

Grand Chief Lisa Robinson
& Chief of Wolf Lake First Nation
819-627-3628

Chief Lance Haymond
Kebaowek First Nation
819-627-6884

Background:

The Anishinabe Algonquin Nation as represented by our Tribal Councils (Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation Tribal Council AANTC and Algonquin Nation Secretariat ANS). The Algonquin Nation is made up of 11 communities (Abitibiwinini, Algonquins of Barriere Lake, Apitipi Anicinapek, Kebaowek, Kitcisakik, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, Lac Simon, Long Point, Pikwàkanagàn, Timiskaming, and Wolf Lake).