

FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Sept 21, 2015

Chief Harry St. Denis
Wolf Lake First Nation
PO Box 998
Témiscaming (Quebec) J0Z 3R0
Facsimile: 819 627 1109

Chief Terrance McBride
Timiskaming First Nation
24 Algonquin Avenue
Notre-Dame-du-Nord, (Quebec) J0Z 3B0
Facsimile: 819 723 2799
Email: tfncouncil@parolink.net

Chief Lance Haymond
Eagle Village First Nation
PO Box 756
Temiscaming (Quebec) J0Z 3R0
Facsimile: 819 627 9428

Chief Casey Ratt
Algonquins of Barriere Lake
PO Box 74 General Delivery
Parc De La Vérendrye, Rapid Lake (Quebec)
J0W 2C0
Facsimile: 613 837 7482

Dear Chiefs,

RE: Support for Protection of Algonquin Sacred Waterfalls Area: Akikodjiwan Kichizibi (Chaudiere Falls, Ottawa River)

The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) of BC is expressing its support for the four Algonquin First Nations (Wolf Lake, Timiskaming, Eagle Village, Barriere Lake) in their adoption of Council Resolutions calling for the protection of an important Algonquin sacred area on the Ottawa River between the cities of Hull and Ottawa. The FNLC also supports their opposition to the amendment of the National Capital Commission and City of Ottawa's Master-Plans to re-zone the Chaudiere and Albert islands from "parks and open space" to "mixed-use" for the massive proposed Windmill urban development.

Since time immemorial, the area in question remains unceded territory of the Algonquin Nation. The area was extensively used as an ancient trade and travel route, and is sacred for all Algonquin Peoples.



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ASSEMBLY OF
FIRST NATIONS

507-100 Park Royal South
West Vancouver, BC
V7T 1A2

Ph: 604-922-7733
Fx: 604-922-7433



FIRST
NATIONS
SUMMIT

1200-100 Park Royal South
West Vancouver, BC
V7T 1A2

Ph: 604-926-9903
Fx: 604-926-9923
Toll Free: 866-990-9939



UNION OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA
INDIAN CHIEFS

500-342 Water Street
Vancouver, BC
V6B 1B6

Ph: 604-684-0231
Fx: 604-684-5726

The development of this territory without the free, prior and informed consent of the Algonquin First Nations is in direct contravention of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP), of which Canada is a signatory, and specifically Articles 11, 12, 25, and 32 which provide Indigenous peoples the rights to and protections of their cultural traditions, customs and lands. It is also inconsistent with the Supreme Court of Canada *Tsilhqot'in*, which confirms that First Nations' consent is required where there are impacts on Aboriginal title.

The infringement of Indigenous rights, and the continued development of the territories without the consent of the impacted First Nations, perpetuates the ongoing disenfranchisement, marginalization, and impoverishment of the Algonquin Peoples.

The FNLC supports the Algonquin Nations in their opposition to the re-zoning of their sacred area Akikodjiwan from protection as a parks and open space to "mixed use", and the Windmill Development Project proceeding within their sacred area without their consent.

Additionally, the FNLC fully supports the Algonquin First Nations in calling for their sacred area Akikodjiwan to be protected in perpetuity and recognized within the National Capital Region as an **Algonquin Nation Cultural Park and Historic Commemoration Site**, under an Algonquin-controlled institution to be established by the legitimate Algonquin First Nations.

The FNLC supports the call for the immediate establishment of a working group between the duly elected Algonquin Chiefs and Councils from Wolf Lake, Timiskaming, Eagle Village and Barriere Lake, and the governments of Canada, Quebec, Ontario, the National Capital Commission and the municipalities of Gatineau and Ottawa to discuss the establishment or the proposed **Algonquin Nation Cultural Park and Historic Commemoration Site**.

Yours truly,

FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

On behalf of the FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT:



Grand Chief Edward John



Robert Phillips



Cheryl Casimer

On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS:



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip



Chief Bob Chamberlin



Kukpi7 Judy Wilson

On behalf of the BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS:



Regional Chief Shane Gottfriedson

CC'ed: Minister Valcourt, Minister Aglukkaq

