

August 14, 2015

RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL #2015-03

**RE: PROTECTION OF ALGONQUIN SACRED WATERFALLS AREA:
AKIKODJIWAN KICHIZIBI (Chaudiere Falls, Ottawa River)**

WHEREAS since time immemorial the Ottawa River Watershed has been the territory of the Indigenous Peoples who form the Algonquin Nation today; and

WHEREAS the Kichizibi (Ottawa River) is an ancient trade and travel route through the Territory of the Algonquin Nation, as are the shores, islands and portages along the route; and

WHEREAS the Akikodjiwan (Chaudiere) waterfalls and the adjacent waterfront and islands are a sacred area for all Algonquin Peoples, in 1613, Samuel du Champlain witnessed our Algonquin Peoples making a tobacco offering to our sacred waterfalls for good travel and good health in accordance with traditional Algonquin custom; and

WHEREAS in 1801 when Philemon Wright arrived in what is now known as Hull (Gatineau), Quebec he witnessed Algonquin Peoples' hunting and operating sugar bush camps on the North shore of our sacred area; and

WHEREAS what is now known as the Gatineau Waterfront and the islands of Chaudiere, Albert and Victoria held by the federal government and the Cities of Gatineau and Ottawa are part of a sacred area for all of the Algonquin Peoples and remains within the unceded, unsurrendered territory of the Algonquin Nation; and

WHEREAS our Algonquin sacred area Akikodjiwan is now surrounded by the municipality of Gatineau on the North side and the municipality of Ottawa on the South side; and

WHEREAS our sacred area Akikodjiwan symbolizes the historic environmental destruction, starvation and impoverishment of Algonquin Peoples' caused by:

- 1) Massive flooding of our Algonquin Nation territory (Ottawa River Watershed) by unauthorized, non-consensual construction of dams for log driving and hydro purposes now operated by Hydro Ontario & Hydro Quebec; and
- 2) Massive deforestation and destruction of wildlife habitats by unauthorized, non-consensual logging for sawmills and then pulpmills by logging companies like E.B Eddy and J. R. Booth; and
- 3) Relocation and displacement of Algonquin Peoples' from what is now called the "National Capital Region" due to colonization, settlement and urbanization including the unilateral establishment of Canada's National Capital Region within the unceded, unsurrendered Territory of the Algonquin Nation.

WHEREAS our First Nation is a member of the Algonquin Nation and we have never entered into a land cession treaty surrendering our Aboriginal rights and title; nor have we authorized any other nation or entity to negotiate on our behalf for such title and rights, including the

Algonquins of Pikwakanagan (Golden Lake), as such, our Aboriginal rights and title have never been extinguished and exist to this present day; and

WHEREAS the "Algonquins of Ontario" is not a band, First Nation, Nation or entity possessed of Aboriginal title or rights, under Algonquin law, Canadian law or international law and it is a formulation of the Ontario and federal governments and as such, it does not represent our community, and has never been mandated to negotiate on our behalf, or with respect to our Aboriginal title and rights interests in the province of Ontario; and

WHEREAS our Algonquin First Nation is recognized as a "Band" within the meaning of the *Indian Act*, and come within the meaning of "Indian peoples" in section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982; and

WHEREAS the governments of Canada, Quebec, Ontario and the municipal governments of Gatineau & Ottawa, without consulting or accommodating our First Nation, or seeking our Free, Prior, Informed Consent, are now attempting to amend the National Capital Commission's and City of Ottawa's master-plans to rezone the lands beside our sacred waterfalls area Akikodjiwan Kichizibi from "parks and open area" to "mixed use" for the proposed Windmill Development Project, which will place high intensity use buildings next to our sacred waterfalls; and

WHEREAS the governments of Canada, Quebec, Ontario and municipal governments (Gatineau & Ottawa) are violating Canadian constitutional law by proceeding to change the status of the lands within our sacred area without meaningful consultation or accommodation; and

WHEREAS the governments of Canada, Quebec, Ontario and municipal governments (Gatineau & Ottawa) are violating our International human rights as Indigenous Peoples, by proceeding to change the status of the lands within our sacred area without meaningful consultation or accommodation, particularly by ignoring the following Articles of the **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**:

Article 11

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to practise and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.

2. States shall provide redress through effective mechanisms, which may include restitution, developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples, with respect to their cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property taken without their free, prior and informed consent or in violation of their laws, traditions and customs.

Article 12

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practise, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to the use and

control of their ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of their human remains.

2. States shall seek to enable the access and/or repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains in their possession through fair, transparent and effective mechanisms developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned.

Article 25

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.

Article 32

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.

2. States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.

3. States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.

THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that our First Nation confirms we were not consulted by the governments of Canada, Quebec or Ontario, or the National Capital Commission or the municipalities of Gatineau or Ottawa regarding changes to the status of lands and islands within our Algonquin sacred area Akikodjiwan; and


IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that our Algonquin First Nation oppose the re-zoning of our sacred area Akikodjiwan (Gatineau Waterfront in Quebec and Chaudiere, Albert and Victoria islands in Ontario) from parks and open space to mixed use; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that our Algonquin First Nation confirms we are opposed to the Windmill Development Project proceeding within our sacred area Akikodjiwan; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that our Algonquin First Nation calls for our 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; and

IT IS FINALLY RESOLVED that our Algonquin First Nation calls on the governments of Canada, Quebec, Ontario, the National Capital Commission and the municipalities of Gatineau and Ottawa to contact our duly elected Algonquin Chief and Council to discuss the establishment of our proposed Algonquin Nation Cultural Park and Historic Commemoration Site under an Algonquin controlled institution to be established by the legitimate Algonquin First Nations.

Duly adopted by Chief and Council in Algonquin Territory this 14th day of August 2015.



Chief Harry St. Denis



Councilor Gerald Robinson



Councilor Sonia Young