

For Immediate Release: 12 November 2015

Press Conference: Anishnabe Nation opposes Windmill/Dream Development Group and Energy Ottawa on Anishnabe Sacred Site

OTTAWA, unceded Anishnabe territory, Turtle Island. The **Anishnabe people of the Ottawa River Watershed** will hold a press conference on Friday November 13 to speak for the Anishnabe (Algonquin) Nation. The Anishnabe Sacred Site, also known as Chaudière, Albert and Victoria Islands, and Chaudière Falls, are at risk from development by condominiums and the retail industry. There has been no proper consultation with the people and leadership of the Anishnabe Nation.

Our people should not be ignored or excluded from the decision table when it comes to development on our children's sacred site and its future. We have come to mistrust the leadership and representation at Indian Affairs, whose actions over time are self interested if not fraudulent. Generations of genocide and conflict has resulted in splintering our peoples and dividing our efforts. It is because of this that the proponents of this development have been able to claim that they "consulted" with us. But no group or person has yet been entrusted with making decisions for us as a nation. Today, we are proclaiming our intent as a nation.

The Chaudière Falls and the surrounding islands are sacred to all Nations of Original People of Turtle island. This has been documented in our histories and cultivated by Elders in many of the events we host on the islands, throughout the Watershed and beyond. To begin development without properly consulting the Anishnabe People of the land is to take and change what is not theirs. The Anishnabe People are the collective children who inherited this part of the land. **Any development or decisions that affect the Nation's land, its ceremonies, culture, traditions, and way of life with land and animals must involve the Nation.**

For this event, our Elders will each share an object of significance and consequence that needs to be considered as to why it is not worthy to build on Sacred Sites and; why it is important to defer to and include our Nation in this decision. As we do not share the values of the developers, companies and government managers, the Elders will share an understanding of our culture and values to help us understand each other.

WHAT: Press conference

WHEN: Friday, November 13, 11 am to noon

WHERE: Victoria Island, Ottawa: near "Aboriginal Experience" at the end of the parking lot

Entrance at Booth street bridge/Chaudiere crossing

Media Contact: Shannon Chief, shannonchief@gmail.com (514)730-4985 and (613)410-5051

Note Weather Expectancy: Chances of light rain/showers, rain coats/umbrellas may be needed

APPENDIX

In our language, Anishnabe means *One Being of People* or the *Original People*. We prefer this term over either Algonquin or Aboriginal - neither adequately describes who we are. **We are the Anishnabe People of the Ottawa River Watershed.** Since time immemorial, the Anishnabe people were given the duty of caretakers of this unceded land, which has been governed by its own constitutional values and laws guided by tradition and culture that is rooted to the land. Neither written nor forgotten, this Constitution was upheld by our Elders.

In respecting these constitutional laws, it is the responsibility and roles of our nation's Elders to declare, correct, address, bring to order, and to shed light on all actions taken by any of our people that may cause serious matters of divisiveness or problems that may arise from measures, engagements or assemblies that threaten or endanger the Nation's representation or setting of culture and traditions.

True reconciliation with the Anishnabe Nation is not about building relationships, or changing the vision for our people in how we live with the land. It's a matter of respecting who we are, how we live, and respecting the vision the Creator has set for us as a Nation of people. To change what the Creator has made for each race is to change the natural law that delivers the needed balance for Mother Earth that sustains us and the future generation of children.

We look forward to this day in delivering a goal, an objective, and a reason for our people to unite after experiencing dividedness and the aftermath of cultural genocide that goes far back in our history. Our goal is build a bridge for understanding and respect and begin a long-lasting process of including our nation in nation to nation relationships.

Today we are the Anishnabe Nation and fully intend to govern ourselves on our land.