

Vic Fedeli
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November 11, 2020

Re: Algonquins of Ontario Treaty Negotiations – “Parcels” 83F1 & 83F2

Dear Vic:

As a long term supporter of both you and your government I wanted to write you and share my profound dismay and disappointment about the Algonquins of Ontario treaty negotiations. Not only as a taxpayer has the process left me marginalized, I feel betrayed by a government that I have always supported and more fundamentally believed in. There is no way that the Mattawa River Provincial Park, specifically sections artificially designated by a process overcome with bureaucracy and intransigence as 83F1 and 83F2, be given to any one party for their exclusive benefit at the expense of and to the detriment of the broader public.

You should know that the entire treaty negotiation process and the inclusion of Trout Lake, Long Lake, Pan Lake and the Provincial Park lands can be best described as one that was predetermined. The outcomes were predetermined before the process began, the participants were predetermined to support this artificial outcome and the predetermined process leaves no possibility for input by local taxpayers. I cannot believe that in this day and age, with all the resources that are available including social media virtual meetings, surveys and information exchange enabled by the internet that we cannot come up with a better and more open process. In my experience governments can be quite adept at hiding behind processes and using them as an excuse to rationalize outcomes. The process becomes the excuse to justify the outcome. Lawyers, consultants and bureaucrats empower themselves to make decisions that are not theirs to make. Neither government bureaucracy or the proponent steps to the plate and assumes responsibilities for the long term implications in this case of giving away land designated as parkland. If giving away parkland is the only solution to this settlement process why not give the Algonquins Queens Park in Toronto or the Experimental Farm properties around Ottawa? Surely these properties are easier to develop, are much more valuable and go further to compensating for any historical wrongs.

Trout Lake, Pan Lake, Long Lake, Turtle Lake and the Mattawa River Provincial Park, designated through process jargon as 83F1 and 83F2 should remain in their current status. Land already designated as parkland and utilized by the broader public should not be arbitrarily given away for development. Our fundamental trust in government is undermined when land declared to be part of a park is suddenly

given away for development. How can government be trusted if they suddenly open public parks for development?

The Algonquins of Ontario treaty negotiation process must be re-started or changed so there can be open and meaningful discussion with local taxpayers and local government supporters. Your government is capable of utilizing a better process than the one used to-date. No one party deserves to be marginalized especially in a province and a country with our resources. Designated parkland should remain in public hands.

Yours truly,

Todd Wilcox

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Cc

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