

## Algonquins of Ontario Land Claim Fact Sheet

The Algonquin Land Claim is the largest and most complex land claim in Ontario under active negotiation, covering a territory of nine million acres, or 36,000 square kilometres, and populated by more than 1.2 million people.

Ontario accepted the claim for negotiations in 1991, 22 years ago. If successful, settlement of this long-standing land claim would result in Ontario's first modern-day constitutionally protected treaty.

The negotiators for the Algonquins of Ontario, the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario released a Preliminary Draft Agreement-in-Principle in December 2012. It sets out the main elements of a potential settlement, which would include:

- The transfer of 117,500 acres of Crown lands to Algonquin ownership,
- \$300 million as settlement capital provided by Canada and Ontario,
- Defined Algonquin rights related to lands and natural resources.

This draft document was put forward to the public, Algonquin membership and legal interest holders for review and comment. Seeking the public's input at this stage in negotiations is unprecedented. This is just one step in a lengthy process before a final agreement can be reached.

### Quick Facts

#### Lands

- Less than 4 per cent of the Crown land in the claim area is proposed for transfer.
- The vast majority of the Crown land base would remain open to all existing uses.
- Land would not be taken from private owners.
- No one would lose access to cottages or private property.
- No one would lose access to navigable waterways.
- No new First Nation reserves would be created.
- After transfer, Algonquin lands would be subject to the same land use planning and development approvals and authorities as other private lands.
- All identified lands would be in the area of the 10 Algonquin communities represented in the negotiations, close to where their members live. These land selections would:
  - » Restore historically significant sites to the Algonquins,
  - » Contribute to the social and cultural objectives of Algonquin communities,
  - » Provide a foundation for economic development.

#### Harvesting

- Existing hunt camps would continue.
  - » Agreements would be negotiated with the Algonquins of Ontario.
  - » Ontario would facilitate these negotiations.
- Algonquin harvesting rights would be subject to provincial and federal laws necessary for conservation, public health and public safety.
- The Algonquins would continue to develop harvesting plans with Ontario. For example, the Algonquins have voluntarily limited their moose harvest for the last 20 years. This arrangement with Ontario would continue.

#### Parks

- Algonquin Park would be preserved for the enjoyment of all.
- Ontario would continue managing all parks. The Algonquins would have a greater planning role.
- Three non-operating parks and parts of four non-operating parks are proposed for transfer.
- A new 30,000 acre provincial park is being recommended.
- For every acre of park land proposed for transfer, six acres would be added.

## Working Together

The negotiating parties have set a national precedent in keeping the public informed. This is the first time in history that negotiators are seeking public input on a Preliminary Draft Agreement-in-Principle. Other proactive steps include:

- Establishing a Municipal Advisory Committee and a Committee of External Advisors in 1996.
- Engaging in ongoing, detailed discussions regarding specific interests between the Ontario negotiation team and stakeholders.
- Conducting public information sessions in March 2013 across eastern Ontario to discuss the proposed content of the Preliminary Draft Agreement-in-Principle with members of the public.
- Holding more than 200 meetings with representatives of local government, the forest industry, sport, outdoor recreational and environmental groups, local businesses, Aboriginal communities, and others across the claim area whose interests may be affected.

Ontario will continue consulting with the public to make sure all interests are understood and considered fully in these negotiations. Negotiation combined with stakeholder and public consultation is the best way to address the historical, constitutional and practical issues that arise in Aboriginal land claims.

## Moving Forward

Resolving the Algonquin Land Claim will allow the Algonquin people and their neighbours to work together to build a stronger economy in eastern Ontario.

A settlement will also provide certainty regarding the rights of Algonquin and non-Algonquin residents of the region related to land and natural resources.

This Preliminary Draft Agreement-in-Principle is a work in progress. Canada, Ontario and the Algonquins of Ontario are considering all input on this Preliminary Draft Agreement-in-Principle and will continue to work with stakeholders throughout these negotiations.

The goal is to reach a settlement that is sensitive to the interests of all people who live, work and enjoy this part of Ontario. It will be several years before a Final Agreement is in place.

For more information visit [ontario.ca/algonquinlandclaim](http://ontario.ca/algonquinlandclaim) or contact the negotiation teams.

## Contact Information

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