

**Assemblée des Premières Nations
Québec-Labrador**

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RESOLUTION NO. 27/2015

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

WHEREAS Article 11 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples provides:

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to practice 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, artifacts, 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.

WHEREAS Article 12 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples provides, in part:

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practice, 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.

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 Nations, 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; 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 and unsurrendered title lands of the Algonquin Nation; and

WHEREAS the Algonquin 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 purposed 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 such as E.B Eddy, J. R. Booth and Domtar; 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 Region within the unceded and unsurrendered title lands of the Algonquin Nation.

WHEREAS the governments of Canada, Quebec, Ontario and the municipal governments of Gatineau & Ottawa have not consulted or accommodated the Algonquin communities who form the Algonquin Nation, nor have they sought the free, prior, informed consent of the Algonquin plans to rezone the lands beside the Algonquin sacred waterfalls area Akikodjiwan Kichizibi from "parks and open area" to "mixed use" for the proposed Zibi Project (Windmill Development Project), which will place high intensity use building next to our sacred waterfalls; and

WHEREAS the governments of Canada, Quebec, Ontario and municipal governments (Gatineau & Ottawa) are violating Canadian law by proceeding to change the status of the lands within the Algonquin sacred area without meaningful consultation or accommodation with all of the Algonquin communities which form the Algonquin Nations; and

WHEREAS the governments of Canada, Quebec, Ontario and municipal governments (Gatineau & Ottawa) are violating the international human rights of the Algonquin Peoples as Indigenous Peoples, by proceeding to change the status of the lands within their sacred area without free, prior and informed consent, particularly by ignoring the above noted Articles of the **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AFNQL Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Call upon the governments of Canada, Quebec, Ontario, the National Capital Commission and the municipalities of Gatineau and Ottawa to immediately consult the Algonquin communities who form the Algonquin Nation regarding changes to the status of lands and islands within the Algonquin sacred area Akikodjiwan; and
2. Oppose the re-zoning of the sacred area Akikodjiwan (Gatineau Waterfront in Quebec and Chaudiere, Albert and Victoria islands in Ontario) from parks and open space to mixed use due to the failure to consult and accommodate the Algonquin communities who form the Algonquin Nation; and

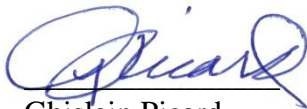
3. Support the Algonquin Nation in their opposition to the Windmill Development Groups's Zibi Project proceeding within the Algonquin sacred area Akikokjiwan unless and until the **free, prior and informed consent** of the Algonquin Nation is given; and
4. Support the Algonquin Nation in their demand for the Algonquin sacred area Akikodjiwan to be returned to the Algonquin Nation and controlled by an Algonquin controlled institution to be established by the legitimate Algonquin communities who form Algonquin Nation; and
5. Support the Algonquin Nation in their demand for the governments of Canada, Ontario, Quebec, Ottawa and Gatineau to purchase any lands privately held within the Algonquin sacred area Akikodjiwan and return those lands to an Algonquin controlled institution to be established by the legitimate Algonquin First nations comprising the Algonquin Nation; and
6. Call on the governments of Canada, Quebec, Ontario, the National Capital Commission and the municipalities of Gatineau and Ottawa to immediately contact the duly elected Algonquin Chiefs and Councils forming the Algonquin Nation to discuss the establishment of the proposed Algonquin Nation Cultural Park and Historic Commemoration Site to be established on part of the Akikodjiwan under an Algonquin controlled institution to be established by the legitimate Algonquin Communities who form the Algonquin Nations; and
7. Direct the AFNQL Regional Chief to communicate this decision of the AFNQL Chiefs-in-Assembly by letter to the governments of Canada, Ontario, Quebec, Ottawa, Gatineau, the National Capitol Commission and the Windmill Development Group.

PROPOSED BY: Chief Harry St-Denis, Wolf Lake

SECONDED BY: Chief Jean-Guy Whiteduck, Kitigan Zibi

ABSTENTION: 1

ADOPTED ON NOVEMBER 19, 2015 IN THE COMMUNITY OF ODANAK, QUEBEC



Ghislain Picard
Chief of the AFNQL