



Letter reveals Algonquin in-fighting

By JAMIE LONG, OTTAWA SUN

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Development of Kanata's Beaver Pond Forest has revealed in-fighting between local Algonquin groups and provincial chiefs, according to a letter released Sunday.

The letter, written on behalf of five Ottawa Valley Algonquin First Nations, aimed to eliminate a public perception that all Algonquins are united.

Efforts to stop a KNL development of 29 hectares of environmentally sensitive land are by local, not provincial groups.

"The Algonquins of Ontario have recently been taking credit for the action opposing the development of the South March Highlands. This is absolutely false," Ottawa Algonquin Chief Paul Lamothe wrote.

Lamothe also claimed provincial heads and local groups have completely opposite stances on the forest development.

"They (AOO) are the ones who gave the original green light...They have been meeting with the City of Ottawa in a false attempt to take credit for the actions of the Algonquin people and communities who are not involved in the land claim," he wrote.

Tree removal in Beaver Pond was originally scheduled for Jan. 17, but developers delayed cutting two weeks so the Algonquins of Ontario could complete an archaeological review of stones in the forest.

But local Algonquin groups, along with fellow activists, continue to protest.

They have also threatened to set up a blockade Jan. 31 to further prevent development.

Local communities said they feel left out because the city and developers have worked solely with the Algonquins of Ontario in the approval process.

That divide between Algonquin groups isn't new, though, according to the letter.

The Ardoch Algonquins, a community just north of Kingston, blame provincial Algonquins for undermining efforts to stop uranium mining in 2006 by signing an agreement without the Ardoch chief's consent.

"(The AOO) has not and does not consult with us about their decisions. Therefore their interests are not ours, and do not take the place of free, prior and informed consent for development projects," Lamothe added.

The Ottawa, Ardoch, Pasapkedjiwanong, Kapishkawandemin and Kinouchepirini Algonquin First Nations also asked other Algonquin communities that have cooperated with the city to abandon the process and unite against developers.

Algonquins of Ontario did not return calls Sunday.

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