



## **OTTAWA ALGONQUIN FIRST NATION**

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### ***NEWSLETTER – December 2005***

Greetings Algonquins of Ottawa,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our newsletter. We don't yet have a name for the newsletter, but welcome your suggestions.

As the Algonquin Negotiation Representative for the Ottawa area I want to take a moment to bring you up-to-date on what has transpired since the negotiating table has gotten together. For those who are unfamiliar with the make-up of the negotiating table, it is comprised of nine off reserve communities (Ottawa, Bonnechere, Greater Golden Lake, Bancroft, Sharbot Lake, Mattawa/Nipissing, Antoine's, Ardoch and Whitney), in addition to Chief and Council of Pikwakanagan. We have been meeting monthly since being elected and have made some inroads. Our first objective, and that of those who are providing funding (Governments of Ontario and Canada), was to see if we could work together as a unified group. I believe we have achieved this objective!

As you are aware, I have not yet held a community meeting, nor have many of my counterparts. The reasons are the lack of funding (I have been working out of pocket) and that the information regarding what progress has been made is rather scarce. However, we did meet with the governments (Ontario and Canada) in July of this year in an attempt to secure funding. We were marginally successful and we have recently received some funding.

We had another meeting with Canada and Ontario on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The outcome of this meeting was somewhat positive and the officials in attendance listened to our concerns. I came away from the meeting with a sense that we had accomplished something and that the governments had listened and were ready to sit down with us and renew negotiations.

On another note, as you know, Ottawa is now a recognized community by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). As Algonquins living in Ottawa and the surrounding area we can now harvest and fish without fear of prosecution, within the hunting agreement negotiated late this summer. There are those who will argue that this was not a popular

choice and that under Canada's Constitution, and as Aborigines, we have the right to hunt and fish. This has yet to be challenged. I took it upon myself to negotiate an agreement with Ontario (MNR) in an effort to keep our people out of the courts. I take full responsibility for that decision. I would like to add that I yet to receive any complaints and those I spoke to while making this decision were in full accordance.

In a nutshell, that is what has transpired in the last few months. I hope that this will be the first of many newsletters to come. As things progress and the negotiations get underway there will more to report. I will be holding community meetings in the future and will endeavor to answer any questions you may have. In the interim, please feel free to call, e-mail or write with your questions and concerns. I would also invite you to visit our website at [www.ottawaalgonquins.com](http://www.ottawaalgonquins.com), and again, to provide any feedback on the site.

On behalf of my family I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and All the Best for the New Year!

Let's work together!

Sincerely yours,

Paul Lamothe  
Algonquin Negotiation Representative

