

June 6, 2010

Prime Minister Harper,

I am writing as an Algonquin with serious concerns in the manner in which your government along with the Dalton McGuinty government has been dealing with the Algonquin land claim. In the event that you and Mr. McGuinty are unfamiliar with this massive land claim and its problems I will provide an overview of what has been occurring under the watchful eye of your negotiator, Robin Atkins, and Brian Crane, the provincial negotiator.

In April of 2007, the Ottawa Algonquin First Nation (OAFN) left the negotiations table and was quickly replaced by a fraudulent Ottawa community. Despite complaints and several letters outlining the problem, one your staffers, Michel Roy concluded that all was above board and he could find no problem. Even though the minutes of last meeting the Ottawa Algonquin First Nation attended were included in our communications to staffer Roy.

What followed was an assault on my reputation with a litany of lies to both newspaper and radio that Ottawa had not left negotiations that I had in fact resigned. ABSOLUTELY FASLE. If this was the case then why did 27 members of another community (Greater Golden Lake) suddenly become members of the Ottawa community? And why did Gerry Belisle, a member of Greater Golden lake council suddenly become the new Algonquin Nation Representative?

The answer is simple. Without the Ottawa Algonquin First Nation (OAFN), the Algonquin land claim cease and an investigation into its inappropriateness would be forthcoming. In order to avoid this it was decided that a new Ottawa would be created and funding would not be interrupted.

This is same thing that was done with the Ardoch Algonquin First Nation. For years its representative, Randy Malcolm falsely represented Ardoch even though its leadership complained. Once again the federal and provincial negotiators sat on their hands and did nothing until complaints became obvious and something had to be done. The solution was simple again. Change the name from Ardoch to Snimikobi and this will fix the problem. Although this is another clear case of fraud, your government and the McGuinty government seem satisfied with letting this fraudulent land claim take its course.

Here is another one. In Mattawa there are two first nation communities. One is called Mattawa/North Bay Algonquins, while the other is called the Antoine's of Mattawa. What is interesting with the Antoine's is that their leader Davie Joannis took his wife's maiden name (Antoine) and created his own community. What makes this even more interesting is that some of the residents of Mattawa may have a brother with the Mattawa/North Bay group and another brother with the Antoine's. I know this for a fact because I'm from Mattawa and I can prove it. Another interesting point, Davie Joannis was given money to open a trading post in Mattawa. He failed and when his chief asked him to open

the books, Mr. Joanisse removed him as chief. The question is - Does no one question or check these things out? Joan Holmes is the one responsible for this phony community.

It is my understanding that the Canada Lands Corporation is prepared to hand over 10 million dollars in advance treaty settlement. Who will administer these funds? Will that money be going into Mr. Bob Potts bank account as is the negotiation funds? The problem I see here is that the Algonquins will be given money to buy land that is already theirs?

You may not be aware but several communities are not at the negotiations. They are Ottawa Algonquin First Nation, Ardoch, Kichissipirini, Kenouchepirini, and the Bonnechere Alconquin community. When the OAFN was at the table I lobbied and attempted to have these communities participate and was met with resistance by members of the negotiations team, including the principal negotiator Bob Potts.

As a little background, Mr. Potts had connections to the BRE X scandal. He also controls and administers the funds, controls all aspects of the elections, to the point of choosing his own chief electoral officer, scrutinizes all election debates and is the also senior legal counsel. Complaints to this man are ignored and never dealt with. Mr Potts has found a gold mine and will do anything possible to ensure that nothing or anyone interferes with his win fall. They wanted no part of anyone else at these negotiations. This is one of the reasons (not including the fixed elections) OAFN left the negotiation table.

Your government ran a platform of accountability and integrity. Mr. Harper if you are serious about accountability why aren't you doing something to rectify this problem before taxpayers are left on the hook for a very costly court case? Mr. Harper please understand this not about blocking roads or demonstrating (we will not fall into that trap), it is about doing the right thing and negotiating in good faith with those who have the legal right to negotiate.

Is it because we are not registered that our concerns are ignored or it simply because we are native? The fact that we not registered does not make us any less Algonquin native than those who are. Or is this how all land claims across Canada are settled? Mr. Harper, your government's goal, since coming to power has been to become a majority government. In conversation with Pierre Lemieux I informed him years ago that the Algonquin land claim would become the Sponsorship scandal of the conservative government. It appears as though your government is headed in that direction if things don't change.

I would have addressed these concerns to the premier of Ontario Dalton McGuinty, but he has repeatedly said that land claim issues are the federal government's responsibility despite the fact that his government provides funding.

Mr. Harper, I want you to know that this e-mail is going out to every MP, every MPP, every Senator and the media.

Please see our website for any further information – www.ottawaalgonquins.com

Thank you,

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