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November 19, 2020
Ontario Information Centre
Algonquin Land Claim
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ATTN: Bruce Mighton, Manager
Land Claims and Treaties Section

Dear Mr. Mighton:

Re: Parcel 302-B, East FerrisBackground

At a meeting in August 2013, concerned owners of lakefront property adjacent to 302B were told by Jim Hunton that the land selections would not be changed unless the future subdivision is not developable or there was an overriding scientific reason for reselection. We were amazed and amused to be presented with various rudimentary development plans.

The map of the "future settlement" area of 302B which I received is the most recent notification from your office and is the same as the one which was mailed to us before the meeting in North Bay in August 2013. The only change was the reclassification of the land surrounding Forest Lane (an access road from Maple Lane) from waterfront to agricultural. It is rumoured that it has now been changed to rural.

Forest Lane Access Road

This former "waterfront" section is a small section of land which straddles Forest Lane and is between a rock face and a run-off creek located on my property. The side section is filled in by snow during the winter by the snowplow. As stated in your report "no-one will lose existing access to their private property". However, this section which is blocked off as part of the land claim is comprised almost entirely of my access road.

Financial Considerations

Jim Hunton claimed in 2013 that three years had already been spent on the land selection process. It appears to me that the land selection process was completed in a haphazard manner. Parcel 302B is not developable and I don't think you need to go ahead with an expensive survey to realize that. A local

real estate appraiser (assessor) recently told me that there are far too many hurdles to cross in making parcel 302B developable. The only property, of course, that is of any financial value is the lakefront property.

Ownership of Access Roads

There is no public access to Trout Lake from Forest Lane. Six lakefront properties use Forest Lane as their access road. The delay in presenting property owners with clear progress reports indicates the following: that little has been done with regard to this file; that our concerns about the non-viability of the land in supporting a development have not been addressed; the poor likelihood of financial gain by the Algonquins in obtaining parcel 302b is not a consideration in this draft final settlement; and, finally, considering the value of the privately owned lakefront property, the Algonquins are selecting parcel 302B in view of owning the access roads to this lakefront property.

Blockades

I do not acknowledge that my lakefront property is on unceded Algonquin/Anishinbec territory. Rather, my property is on ceded Iroquois land (financially reimbursed in 1923). I should not be hindered from accessing my property by any future blockades by Algonquins claiming I am on unceded land by some rewrite of history. Only ten per cent of Canada's land mass is hospitable to habitation, and parcel 302B is not one of them.

Enlarged Trout Lake Land Claim Area

Rather than concentrate on revising plans and making these plans clear to waterfront property owners on parcel 302B, the Algonquins have concentrated on expanding to add further parcels to the land claim in a mad rush before the December 20th deadline. Meanwhile, the Madajiwan Office of Clifford Bastien, East Ferris negotiator, is closed due to ongoing developments resulting from the Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19). It is unfair to lakefront property owners to delay taking 302B off the table after waiting for so many stressful years for the slightest tangible progress in our file while Algonquins are still selecting parcels to be included in their land claim. However, there is considerable financial gain for the lawyers and negotiators of the Algonquin Land Claim to stall the progress of the land claim.

Trout Lake Watershed

In 2013, Jim Hunton said that "we are not changing our land selections". In fact, since 2013, further parcels of land have been added to the Algonquin Land Claim while ignoring the overwhelming scientific concern over the effect on the Trout Lake Watershed. The purveyors of the Algonquin Land Claim have even gone so far as to rename a section of Trout Lake so that it is not a part of the Trout Lake Watershed at all (ref. Figure 16 - Trout Lake Watershed, North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority Integrated Water Management Strategy, July 8, 2015, page 73, section 3.4).

Reconciliation

The Algonquin Land Claim is not being carried out in the spirit of reconciliation, but rather, in a lack of transparency with vested property owners, local municipal authorities, and with the local indigenous tribes

(among whom are the Mohawks, who long ago prevented settlement on 302B to stop the fighting among the indigenous and, also, the colonials). This does not engender reconciliation but, rather, it invites suspicion of colonialism, distrust with the selection process, and shows a strong tendency to disregard the history of the area, the Algonquin-Iroquois battle, and the strong taboos associated with it.

Recommendation

It is clear that the lack of information provided indicates a decline in interest in parcel 302B by the Algonquins. I strongly request that parcel 302B be removed from the Algonquin Land Claim before the Final Submission for valid scientific reasons. It is also obvious that parcel 302B is non-developable. Further, the fact that the Algonquins will incur significant financial loss in trying to render the property developable and that indigenous historical cultural norms have been overlooked, has been ignored.

Sincerely,

JILL LABRECHE