

11 Ski View Road
London, ON N6K3H1
November 2020

Ontario Information Centre
Algonquin Land Claim
31 Riverside Drive
Pembroke, Ontario K8A 8R6

Dear G. Bruce Mighton:

Re: Parcel 302-B, Municipality of East Ferris

I am a property owner in **Parcel 302B** in the **Municipality of East Ferris** which is a parcel on the **Trout Lake watershed**. I have just received the mailing from the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry Land Claims and Treaties Section that states a very short time period (December 10, 2020) to respond to the **Algonquins of Ontario Treaty Negotiations Lands Proposal 2020**. I understand that this mailing is arriving to me at such a late date since these packages were trucked to The Municipality of East Ferris for the attachment of address labels before mailing. It seems that Property owners must be very low on your list of stakeholders in this land claim negotiation as we have been ignored in this process. Perhaps that is why property owners have received so little information over all these years.

In response to this mailing, I am shocked that there is still no acknowledgement of the significant issues previously raised by myself and the other property owners of properties in **Parcel 302B** on the **Trout Lake watershed** in the **Municipality of East Ferris**. We have been requesting consideration and consultation about our concerns and waiting for answers to our questions for at least 8 years. When will you provide a meaningful response which addresses each issue that we have previously brought forward?

As abutting **property owners** we have a primary, vested interest in these negotiations and a legal right to be listened to. We do believe in the democratic process and strongly point out that this land claim negotiation process has not been conducted to equally include the rights of the **property owners** who reside in **Parcel 302B** or the **public** at large. The history of Crown Lands designates these lands be for public use. **Today in Commonwealth realms such as Canada and Australia, crown land is considered public land and is apart from the monarch's private estate (Wikipedia)**. This is why there are prescribed hiking trails throughout **Parcel 302B** to keep the footprint confined to protect the fragile flora and fauna throughout this entire parcel. Who on this negotiating team represents the abutting property owners and the public?

You have so far been dismissive of our main issues which have been expressed and are as follows for **Parcel 302B**:

1. Maple Lane and offsets Deer Run Lane, Forest Lane and Road To The Isles

These roadways should be taken over by **The Municipality of East Ferris** since the residents are trying to bring these roads up to municipal standards for our year round living which requires ease of access by municipal services such as fire, police and emergency vehicles. We require this municipal standard to be met for the safety, health and well being of all residents, their families, visitors and service providers. These roadways are fluid and will need future modifications. The **Municipality of East Ferris Council members are apprised of this request and it is being studied.**

2. 300 Linear Meters (984.3ft.) Set Back

The North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority has mandated a **300 linear meter (984.3 ft.) set back from the Trout Lake shoreline. We want this set back observed and adhered to.** This mandated set back **for any designation of property** is a result of 2 landmark studies: **The Trout Lake Watershed Management Study (1989)** and **The Trout Lake Pollution Control Plan (1990).** Trout Lake is **oligotrophic**, which means that it is a fragile resource which is highly sensitive to disturbances in the watershed due to human activity. Trout Lake is also **the sole source of drinking water for the city of North Bay as well as the waterfront residents of Trout Lake who draw their water directly from the lake.** The **Municipality of East Ferris** asserts these facts in **The Official Plan (April 2016, 5.3.3 Lake Protection Policy-Trout Lake).** In addition this is a **mandated set back** and **The Municipality of East Ferris** affirms this set back in the **Official Plan (April 2016, P.3, 2A Water Quality Objectives).**

3. Endangered and Threatened Species

The watercourse that crosses **Maple Lane** is home to many species at risk identified on **The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Official Species at Risk List (PPS 2005).** Such species as **blanding turtles, snapping turtles, the Northern Map Turtle, Dusky Salamander,** varieties of frogs including **tree frogs** and other endangered species have been sighted. This is a precious **wet land area** needing protection due to its biodiversity. The **North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority Wetlands Policy Statement (1992)** mandates adherence to protect these vulnerable areas and the species at risk in these habitats. In addition, the **North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority Watershed Management Strategy (July 8, 2015)** points out that: **“Assessment of new risk factors may necessitate re-evaluation of management strategies to maintain subwater health.”**The **Municipality of East Ferris** strongly supports the protection of endangered and threatened species as outlined in **THE Official Plan (6.2.3., p.56).**

Parcel 302B is a sensitive parcel of land. Therefore, It should be removed from the proposed Algonquin land claim area as this parcel is a critical habitat that requires protection. Consider also that The Algonquin Land Claim has been expanded in size to include large tracts of land on Trout Lake in The **Municipality of East Ferris**. These additional lands are to the East of Parcel 302B. I notice also that the new map showing these additional lands that are being proposed to be transferred has been altered. The name **Trout Lake** as it appears on all historical documents and studies (example: **Figure 16** of the **NBMCA Integrated Watershed Management Strategy, July 8, 2015**) in the area west of Turtle Lake **has been changed** and appears to be now named the **Mattawa River**. Thus, you must think that historical maps are of no importance and can be changed at will.

In considering the importance of the **Trout Lake watershed** please include the **North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority** at the negotiating table. It would be logical to make science based decisions since the future health of the watershed is at stake. **Their authority to mandate best practices for land use and designation based on years of study, research and monitoring should be considered in any decision made going forward.** I and all other property owners residing in **Parcel 302B** expect a **timely resolution** of these issues and **equal, fair consideration in this negotiation process.** In conclusion, **It is undemocratic to ignore the abutting property owners and the public at large. A key factor in resolution is clear and transparent communication.** Thank you in advance for your attention.

Sincerely,

Linda C. Thomas
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