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Algonquins of Ontario

31 Riverside Drive, Suite 101, Pembroke, ON K8A 8R6

To Mayor Shawn Pankow and Council.

Town of Smith Falls is located within the traditional unceded and un-surrendered territory of The Algonquins of Ontario (AOO). The purpose of this letter is to generate support in helping us to build positive relationships throughout the AOO settlement area.

To that end, we are hopeful of working with your community to both promote and build a mutually beneficial relationship that will eventually extend throughout the entire settlement area (via each community's individually elected representatives). This will work to the advantage of each and every resident throughout Eastern Ontario. The AOO is committed to this goal.

The province of Ontario recognizes the importance of consulting with Aboriginal communities on planning matters that may affect their section 35 Aboriginal or treaty rights. Planning authorities are encouraged to build constructive, cooperative relationships through meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities to facilitate knowledge-sharing in land use planning processes and informed decision-making.

The AOO are on a journey of survival, rebuilding and self-sufficiency - a journey of reconciliation. This journey began over 250 years ago when the first Algonquin Petition was submitted to the Crown in 1772 and will ultimately find resolution in a treaty involving all ten of the following Algonquins of Ontario communities:

- Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation
- Antoine
- Bonnechere
- Greater Golden Lake
- Kijicho Manito Madaouskarini
- Mattawa/North Bay
- Ottawa
- Shabot Obaadjiwan
- Snimikobi
- Whitney & Area

The AOO Settlement Area includes an area of 9 million acres within the watersheds of the Kichissippi (Ottawa River) and the Mattawa River in Ontario, an unceded territory that covers most of eastern Ontario. More than 1.2 million people live and work within the Settlement Area. There are 87 municipal jurisdictions fully and partially located within the Settlement Area, including 75 lower and single tier municipalities and 9 upper tier counties.

Given this, it is imperative that any projects in your municipality impacting natural heritage (including land rights, trails, wildlife, waterways, water resources, environment and archaeological history) be given due consideration before commencement or development of

any kind. The crown has the legal duty to consult with the Algonquins where actions may adversely impact the rights of First Nation Communities and property owners.

The Algonquin Treaty will provide finality and certainty on longstanding issues (dating back to 1772) about the use and management of Algonquin lands and natural resources for the Algonquin people and the residents of the AOO Settlement Area.

We greatly value you joining us on this historic mission. If you have questions or would like to meet to discuss any aspect of our journey forward, please feel free to get in touch with me at any time.

Sincerely,



Jim Meness
Executive Director

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