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Ontario Information Centre  
Algonquin Land Claim  
[eerfeedback@ontario.ca](mailto:eerfeedback@ontario.ca)

Attn:  
G. Bruce Mighton  
Manager  
Land Claims and Treaties Section  
Strategic and Indigenous Policy Branch  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
[bruce.mighton@ontario.ca](mailto:bruce.mighton@ontario.ca)

**LCPOA Response to Algonquin Land Claim – Proposed Settlement Lands in eastern Ontario - Supplemental Report to the Draft Environmental Evaluation Report, Oct 2020**

Dear Mr. Mighton,

On behalf of the Lake Clear Property Association (LCPOA), I am pleased to submit our feedback on the Supplemental Report to the Draft Environmental Evaluation Report (EER) of the Proposed Settlement Lands. This feedback should be considered as an adjunct to the initial response to the Draft EER provided by the LCPOA dated 12 October, 2017. (Attached to covering email).

We wish to convey our appreciation of the complexity of the task that the three negotiating entities (Canada, Ontario and the Algonquins of Ontario) have before them. We acknowledge that a successfully negotiated Final Agreement with the AOO will contribute to resolving assertions by the AOO that aboriginal rights and title have never been extinguished. The LCPOA is committed to working with the negotiating parties through open and honest dialogue. It is in this spirit that we offer our perspectives.

One of the primary concerns of the LCPOA is the long-term ecological and environmental health of Lake Clear. The prospect of development on unoccupied and undeveloped Crown Lands abutting on Lake Clear is of grave concern as it will undoubtedly place additional stress on an already vulnerable lake ecosystem. Lake Clear has been designated by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) as being “at capacity” for total phosphate (TP) loading, which has a direct and negative impact on lake trout habitat and on the lake as a whole. Indeed, Victor Castro (MECP, Kingston office), has on two occasions before BVT Council described Lake Clear as being at overcapacity and over developed. In this regard, the LCPOA underscores the importance of strict adherence to, and compliance with, relevant legislation, regulations and by-laws (e.g. Township of Bonnechere Valley Comprehensive Zoning By-law No. 2006-28; MNRF/Public Lands Act, and March 2020 Renfrew County Official Plan). It will

be incumbent upon the appropriate authorities (e.g. MNR and Township of Bonnechere Valley) to ensure that any development undertaken by owners of properties on Lake Clear, including the Algonquins of Ontario, is undertaken in a way to minimize further stress on the Lake. This includes active monitoring and if necessary, enforcement by these authorities.

The second item we wish to identify is related to a lack of clarity regarding how access to the proposed Land Parcels contained in 58B and 58C will be established and utilized. We understand that some property owners may have already provided their input under separate cover. The 2016 Agreement-in-Principle states that land will not be expropriated from private owners, and access to private property and/or navigable waterways will not be lost. That said, many property owners of Lake Clear have raised legitimate questions about the impacts that access to the proposed Land Parcels could have on their properties. For purposes of specific examples we note it is our understanding that Gierman Road is a private road over privately owned property, that Trebbien Road is a private road over privately owned property excepting a short section from the McGrath Road to the existing farmhouse and those sections on Crown Land and that Donahue Trail is a private road over privately owned property excepting an extremely short section on Crown Land. Note that over 30 private roads access waterfront properties compared to only 3 municipality maintained roads. The LCPOA proposes that an information session led by officials of the BV township and the MNR with interested Lake Clear property owners could serve as an excellent opportunity clarify any outstanding issues regarding access.

In closing, the LCPOA did not receive confirmation from officials of the MNR that our input to the 2017 Draft EER had been received. Furthermore, it is unclear at this time whether or not any of the issues raised by the LCPOA (e.g. land selection, impacts on fisheries and tourism) have been considered as part of this comprehensive land claim process. We appreciate that officials of the MNR are likely inundated with input from many stakeholders, but we respectfully request that we be provided with the opportunity to meet with officials to discuss the 2017 feedback, or perhaps at the public meeting proposed above.

Respectfully submitted.

LAKE CLEAR PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Sincerely yours,

Judy Bates  
President LCPOA  
[judybateson@gmail.com](mailto:judybateson@gmail.com)

cc.

Hon. John Yakabuski  
Minister  
Natural Resources and Forestry  
[minister.mnr@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mnr@ontario.ca)

Jennifer Griffin  
Chief Negotiator  
Land Claims and Treaties Section  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
[jennifer.griffin@ontario.ca](mailto:jennifer.griffin@ontario.ca)

Debbie Robinson  
Warden  
County of Renfrew  
[drobinson@lvtownship.ca](mailto:drobinson@lvtownship.ca)

Jennifer Murphy  
Mayor  
Bonnechere Valley Township  
[jenniferm@eganville.com](mailto:jenniferm@eganville.com)

Jack Roesner  
Councillor Ward 3 - Sebastopol  
Bonnechere Valley Township  
[jackr@eganville.com](mailto:jackr@eganville.com)

Annette Gilchrest  
C.A.O.  
Bonnechere Valley Township  
[annetteg@eganville.com](mailto:annetteg@eganville.com)