

Work is proceeding on the Algonquins of Ontario Comprehensive Land Claim in three areas:

1. Main Table negotiations with the objective of reaching an Agreement in Principle for an Algonquin Treaty;
2. Receipt, review & analysis and response to Government of Canada and Government of Ontario requests for consultation related to land dispositions, environmental assessments and capital works projects within the Treaty Area; and
3. Preparation of an Economic Development Plan (“EDP”).

The input of community members is an important part of this process. We encourage you to share with us any ideas, suggestions, or concerns by contacting your ANR at your earliest convenience and/or by attending one of our public meetings and make sure your voice is heard.

In addition, we have prepared a short survey (see below) which we would encourage you to fill out and return to your ANR before the end of August 2007.

Economic Development Plan

The EDP is being designed to facilitate the negotiation process by providing an economic basis for the claim. It will identify the resources (both financial and land-based) which are required to enable the cultural and economic survival and prosperity of the Algonquins of Ontario.

The EDP will address both economic and cultural objectives of the Algonquins of Ontario, possibly including:

- Workforce development (e.g., education and training initiatives, Algonquin-sensitive health care)
- Business development initiatives designed to facilitate entrepreneurial endeavours of Algonquins and the creation of job opportunities in the territory;
- Market development initiatives designed to stimulate the market for Algonquin goods and services and to coordinate efforts in the development of the various components of a vibrant economy;
- Cultural development initiatives to preserve and enhance Algonquin culture and language; and
- Resource management programs to ensure Algonquin traditional rights are respected in the exploitation of all natural resources within the territory.

The Algonquin Negotiation Representatives (ANRs), along with the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Legal Counsel are collaborating in the development of this EDP.

ANR Working Groups

The ANRs along with their Technical Advisory Group and the Principal Negotiator have established a set of ANR working groups to explore some of the major issues which are being, or will be, addressed as a part of the negotiation process.

Each of these working groups are made up of selected ANRs, each of whom have certain expertise and/or particular interests in the issues being addressed by that group. The expected benefit of these working groups is to allow for more in-depth consideration of these issues than would be possible at the ANR Main Table.

These working groups are expected to gather information, examine the issues, and share findings and make recommendations to the ANR Main Table for programs and initiatives which should be included in the EDP.

The following is a brief description of those working groups (current as at July 2007):

Archaeological Research Support

The Archaeological Research Support working group will consider approaches for the ongoing identification and protection of sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance, identifying and ensuring respectful treatment of Aboriginal burial sites and artefacts, and for the repatriation of Algonquin remains.

Media Campaign

The Media Campaign Group will facilitate the selection of, and then coordinate with, a selected Algonquin Media Officer(s) to support the advancement of a positive image for the Algonquins of Ontario Land Claim.

A major objective of this working group, and for the Media Officer, will be to develop and implement a “key messages” strategy to proactively address common misconceptions amongst the general public and highlight the goal of achieving “win/win” results for Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal communities.

Consultation Interim Measures Mapping

This working group will, with assistance from the TAG, examine the map of the Algonquin traditional territory, within which the Consultation Interim Measures Agreement is intended to apply. The group will make recommendations to the ANR Main Table regarding the boundary areas of the territory for the purposes of the consultation process.

Any recommendations of this working group at this stage in the process are NOT intended to recognize, deny, create, extinguish, abrogate, derogate, limit or define any aboriginal right that the Algonquins may have.

Funding and Revenue Streams

The Funding and Revenue Streams working group will assist the TAG in identifying potential sources of funding and revenue for the Algonquin Nation and/or the Communities to support the various initiatives and programs which are to be included in the EDP and which will be designed to stimulate the development of the economy within the Traditional Territory and the cultural development of the Algonquin Nation.

Examples which the working group will explore might include power/hydro generation revenues, wind turbine fees, royalties or easement payments from natural gas and hydro transmission lines, mineral extraction fees, eco tourism, stumpage fees and revenues from other undertakings within the Algonquin Treaty area.

Nation Building

The Nation Building working group will identify and examine possible visions of, and mechanisms for developing, a unified Algonquin Nation. This might include, among other things, examining jurisdictional issues, and identification of institutions and programs which could be designed to ensure the development and prosperity of a strong and unified Algonquin Nation, and providing assistance to the TAG in exploring potential opportunities (such as those presented by the consultation process) for major projects or developments which could have national consequences.

Algonquin Government/Jurisdiction

The Algonquin Government/Jurisdiction working group will explore issues related to aboriginal self-government and Algonquin Governance. In particular, this working group will

- make recommendations regarding the nature of the ongoing relationship between the jurisdictions of the Algonquin Nation and the jurisdiction of Canada, Ontario and the Municipalities,
- identify aspects of both self-government and Algonquin governance and make recommendations regarding the level of jurisdiction and areas of responsibility the Algonquin Nation should adopt, and
- make recommendations regarding the potential role and operations of an Algonquin judiciary.

Algonquin Park

The Algonquin Park working group will monitor, investigate and report on, and make recommendations regarding all aspects of existing and proposed activity in Algonquin Park which may have an impact on Algonquin interests (both cultural and economic). This working group will develop recommendations for ongoing Algonquin participation in the management of Algonquin Park.

Energy Sources

The Energy Sources working group will identify and examine potential opportunities for Algonquin participation in the various forms of power generation present or proposed within the Traditional Territory. In particular, the working group will identify possibilities for the development of long-term revenue streams, the creation of Algonquin jobs and/or the capturing of other beneficial entitlements with respect to power generation, and will identify issues and make recommendations regarding the protection of Algonquin cultural and ecological interests.

The working group will address both traditional (e.g., hydro) and alternative methods of power generation (e.g., wind power, biomass).

Forest Management

The Forest Management working groups will identify issues and make recommendations regarding the impact of forestry within the Traditional Territory on the Algonquin people. In particular, this working group will examine potential economic opportunities for the Algonquins (including job creation, royalties, stumpage fees, licences, etc.), and will explore and make recommendations regarding the protection of Algonquin economic, cultural and ecological interests with respect to forestry activities in the Traditional Territory.

The ANR Forest Management Working Group will also participate in current Forest Management Plan (FMP) process with a view to enhancing and advancing the Algonquin interests and opportunities on a coordinated and strategic basis through the entire Traditional Territory.

Water Resources Management

The Water Resources Management working group will develop recommendations for the inclusion of rights and initiatives regarding the ongoing management of water resources within the Traditional Territory.

Water is a major natural resource within the territory with which the Algonquins have an intimate historical and current relationship and is therefore an item for negotiations. This working group will conduct research and develop recommendations regarding the water-related issues which may be addressed in the design of the EDP.

Harvesting (Hunting, Gathering and Fishing)

The Harvesting working group will address issues related to hunting, gathering and fishing within the Traditional Territory and will develop recommendations for protecting Algonquin economic, cultural and ecological interests with respect to flora and fauna.

Other Provincial Parks and Protected Lands

This working group will address economic and cultural issues relating to both operational and non-operational Provincial Parks, Crown Management Areas, and other protected areas throughout the Traditional Territory (exclusive of Algonquin Park). Issues which this group might address include management of those lands, and the identification of lands for which a Treaty might provide for greater Algonquin interest (e.g., ownership, co-management, specific use rights, etc.).

Survey

Archaeological Research Support

1. Are you aware of any sites of great historical, cultural or archaeological significance that need protection? Please provide a list.
2. In your view, how best can these sites be protected?
3. Where should repatriated Algonquin remains and other artefacts be kept?

Funding and Revenue Streams

1. Are you aware of any potential projects or other economic activity within the Territory that may/should be a source of revenues for the nation?

Nation Building

1. What kinds of projects, programs, or other initiatives do you believe would be useful for building the Algonquin nation?

Algonquin Government/Jurisdiction

1. What issues or programs should be under the jurisdiction of an Algonquin government?

2. What is your view of the structure an Algonquin government should take (e.g., federal system with national and local level governments; what division of powers between each level, etc.)

Algonquin Park

1. In your view, what are the most important issues regarding Algonquin Park?

Please rank in order of importance:

- ___ Co-management
- ___ Revenue Sharing
- ___ Access
- ___ Harvesting
- ___ Gathering
- ___ Trapping
- ___ Logging
- ___ Other (please explain)

2. What role should the Algonquins of Ontario play in the management of Algonquin Park resources?

- a. No participation
- b. Very little participation (e.g., receive updates from the province; act only when significant issues arise)
- c. Moderate participation (e.g., take an active role, but not participate in actual management of the park)
- d. Significant participation (e.g., active management or co-management of the park, and significant role in all decision-making regarding park resources)

3. Do you believe that the current process for assessing the state and management of resources in Algonquin Park is adequate?

4. What kinds of training in resource management do the Algonquins require?

5. What is your view regarding access and road breaching and the level of consultation with Algonquins that should be required?

Energy Sources

1. What is your view of the role Algonquins should play in any power generation projects in the Territory?
2. What is your view re the adoption of wind power or biomass energy projects in the territory?

Forest Management

1. What do you believe are the most significant issues with respect to forest management?
2. What role do you believe the Algonquins should play in this industry?

Water Resources Management

3. What do you believe are the most significant issues with respect to water management?
4. What role do you believe the Algonquins should play with respect to water management?

Harvesting (Hunting, Gathering and Fishing)

1. What do you believe are the most significant issues with respect to hunting and harvesting?
2. What role do you believe the Algonquins should play with respect to hunting and harvesting?

Other Provincial Parks and Protected Lands

1. What role do you believe the Algonquins should play with respect to management of provincial parks (specifically other than Algonquin Park) and other protected lands?