

Summary of Comments Received Regarding The Proposed Transfer of Provincial Crown Lands in East Ferris Township to the Algonquins of Ontario

Comments	Responses
There will be negative environmental impacts from any Algonquin development.	The Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) will be subject to all provincial and municipal environmental protection rules governing proposed development the same as anyone else.
Access to existing private property is threatened by the proposed transfer of Crown land that includes local roads.	The roads on Crown land that people use to access private property will be excluded from the settlement lands. Surveys will determine the final settlement land boundaries.
There will be unaffordable costs to the municipality to manage the impact of any new development.	<p>The AOO will pay property taxes on their land like everyone else, creating new revenues for East Ferris. The municipality will also have the right to charge development fees that would normally apply to private development to help cover any required infrastructure upgrades.</p> <p>Ontario and East Ferris Township continue to discuss opportunities to mitigate impacts to the township.</p>
Local people use this land extensively for recreational purposes such as the existing trail system.	<p>99% of the Crown land in the District of Nipissing, including 90.2% of the Crown land in East Ferris Township, will remain as Crown land and still be available for public recreation, as will 98.6% of the entire Mattawa River Provincial Park.</p> <p>Ontario and East Ferris Township are discussing other local recreation opportunities.</p>
The municipality is being circumvented.	Land claims are negotiated between the Crown (federal and provincial governments) and the Indigenous community. Ontario has worked with municipalities since negotiations began to ensure their interests have been considered. The province will continue to work with municipalities until the lands are transferred.

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Ontario's environmental assessment is flawed.	<p>Ontario's environmental assessment is designed to assess the potential effects of transferring the proposed lands. It is not designed to assess potential impacts of hypothetical future development that may or may not ever occur.</p> <p>After lands are transferred to AOO ownership, any development proposals, if and when they are made, will be subject to normal municipal regulatory process and applicable environmental regulations.</p>
There has been inadequate consultation.	<p>There have been three rounds of consultation dedicated to the proposed transfer of Crown lands (2013, 2017 and 2020).</p> <p>Multiple meetings have been held with residents, the municipality and the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority.</p> <p>Consultations will continue as the negotiation parties work to finalize the proposed lands package, and Ontario will continue to work with the municipality to ensure a smooth implementation of the treaty once negotiations are complete.</p>
Local input has been ignored.	<p>In direct response to local input, Ontario has removed one of the four proposed land selections.</p> <p>Based on input received, the three remaining parcels have been reconfigured, and proposed uses for them are under re-consideration to ensure they are compliant with municipal rules and responsive to local concerns.</p> <p>Ontario will continue to work with the municipality and the AOO to try to address legitimate concerns.</p>

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<p>The proposed land transfers will create animosity in East Ferris like the disputes we see in other places.</p>	<p>The goal of negotiating a modern treaty is to establish a clear understanding of everyone’s rights and responsibilities, and thus help to avoid potential disputes.</p> <p>Algonquins of Ontario members are currently integrated into communities across the claim area and are contributing members of those communities. They see this as an opportunity to build new relationships and win-win situations.</p> <p>Positive relationships are built on goodwill on the part of all parties.</p>
<p>What role has the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority played in this process?</p>	<p>Ontario met with the Conservation Authority as part of the consultation process when the Crown lands proposed for transfer to the AOO were first identified. The Conservation Authority also participated in the Camp Island Working Group.</p> <p>Should the AOO move forward with a development proposal for the lands, they will be required like everyone else to comply with applicable Conservation Authority regulations, apply for any necessary permits and meet the same Conservation Authority requirements any other property owner would need to meet.</p>
<p>What is the next step in the process?</p>	<p>Ontario is reviewing information received through the consultations on the 2017 Draft Environmental Evaluation Report and the 2020 Supplemental Report, and considering where and how accommodations might be made to address legitimate concerns.</p> <p>We have made a commitment to continue to work with the municipality to find the best ways to implement the treaty and contribute to good ongoing relations in East Ferris Township.</p>