
Fact Sheet: Algonquin Land Claim Consultation

Quick Facts

The Algonquin Land Claim is the largest and most complex land claim in Ontario under active negotiation, covering a territory of 9 million acres, or 36,000 square kilometres, and populated by more than 1.2 million people.

Ontario accepted the claim for negotiations in 1991, 21 years ago. If successful, settlement of this long-standing land claim would result in Ontario's first modern-day constitutionally protected treaty.

The negotiators for the Algonquins of Ontario, the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario have agreed that:

- No privately-owned property will be expropriated and private property owners will continue to enjoy unencumbered access to their property.
- Algonquin Park will remain a public park for the enjoyment of all.
- No new reserves will be created on transferred lands.

The final settlement is expected to include a financial component, the transfer of some Crown lands to Algonquin ownership, and agreement regarding the nature of Algonquin harvesting rights (such as hunting and fishing).

Working Together

Ontario has been and will continue to work with stakeholders throughout these negotiations. As part of the consultation process, the province has:

- Established a Municipal Advisory Committee and a Committee of External Advisors in 1996.
- Engaged in ongoing, detailed discussions regarding specific interests between the Ontario negotiation team and stakeholders including municipal governments and organizations with interests in hunting and fishing, parks, forestry and other matters related to the negotiations.
- Indicated that anyone with legal interests that might be affected by the settlement options will be notified and given an opportunity to meet with members of the Ontario negotiation team.
- Committed to regional public information forums will be held to discuss the proposed content of a draft agreement-in-principle with members of the public.
- Ensured that public information will continue to be available through negotiators' updates, material on the Ontario website, through the Ontario Information Centre on the Algonquin Land Claim in Pembroke, and through other means.

Moving Forward

Resolving the Algonquin Land Claim will allow the Algonquin people and their neighbours to work together to build a stronger economy in eastern Ontario.

A settlement will also provide certainty regarding the rights of Algonquin and non-Algonquin residents of the region related to land and natural resources.

The settlement is a work in progress between the Algonquins of Ontario, the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario. Proposed land selections will be identified as part of a draft agreement-in-principle between the three parties, which is expected to be released publicly in late 2012. Further consultations regarding those land selections will continue with all stakeholders.

Following the initialling of a draft agreement-in-principle by all three negotiators, members of the Algonquins of Ontario will have an opportunity to vote on the proposed agreement. If that vote is successful, the governments of Ontario and Canada will need to approve the agreement-in-principle before further negotiations on a final agreement can proceed.

When a final settlement is reached, it is expected that the bulk of the land transferred would be drawn from the existing Ontario Crown land base. Some federal land contributions could also complement the proposed land package. The costs of the final settlement will be shared between the provincial and federal governments.

Ontario's consultations with stakeholders and the public will expand and continue as the negotiations proceed.

For more information about the Algonquin land claim negotiations, visit www.ontario.ca/landclaims or phone the Ontario Information Centre on the Algonquin Land Claim at 613-732-8081.