



Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation

September 20, 2022

Dear Citizen of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation;

On the weekend of September 10 and 11, as your elected Chief I was prevented by a few of our Members from escorting our Principal Negotiator, experts and technical staff retained by your Council and other representatives of the Algonquins of Ontario from entering our Makwa Centre. These guests together with the Chief Negotiators for Canada and Ontario had been invited by your Council to brief our Members on the state of the treaty negotiations and, with the benefit of their expertise, to respond to any questions that you may have had in that regard, no matter how technical those questions might have been.

Although the protesters stated they would not stop Community Members from entering the session they refused to let member elders in and were requesting to see proof of membership from others. In this way, a small group took it upon themselves to arbitrarily withhold information from those Members wanting to receive it. This is not democracy. This is bullying. In some cases our members had travelled upwards of four hours to receive this information and left because of the protest.

When the information session was prevented from taking place in our Community it was hastily relocated to another venue in Petawawa and live-streamed to those who had access to a computer. It was also recorded and is available for you to view on the Members Only Section of the AOPFN Website and the Self Government Website (password Kizis1791)

A few days before these unfortunate events took place a circular was “anonymously” distributed to our Members on Reserve. Among the misinformation within that document whose author lacked the courage to be identified was the false assertion highlighted in bold that “under AOO” we would “...lose our Reserve. No More Pikwakanagan” It also loudly proclaimed that we would have to pay taxes and that would result in loss of businesses and jobs on the Reserve. These are distortions and lies. The anonymous author of this circular was promoting a version of what he / she obviously wanted the outcome of the negotiations to be.

**1657A Mishòmis Inamo
Pikwakanagan, Ontario K0J 1X0**

Tel: (613) 625-2800

Fax: (613) 625-2332

Scare tactics aimed at stirring up our Community before the conference took place were quickly discredited when Ron Doering, the Federal Chief Negotiator was permitted to speak in Petawawa where he publicly stated that Pikwakanagan would not lose its Reserve nor would its Members be obliged to pay taxes as part of this treaty that we are negotiating. The other assertions in the circular were also similarly discredited and rejected by Mr. Doering and the other speakers.

It is more than likely that this letter will be misconstrued by some individuals and relayed in a different tone. We cannot stress enough that the purpose of this letter is to state facts and to censure the actions of a few malcontents. In the circular sent out by the anonymous individual we can say all points were grossly misleading, Pikwakanagan will not be giving up anything in the negotiations.

The Treaty negotiations are meant to be for the benefit of all rights - bearing Algonquins in Ontario and not just the status members. Some of us are already in the situation now where our own children and grandchildren are not eligible for Indian Act status. We can not leave these descendants of ours behind. We must ensure that what our ancestors started in 1772 does not end now.

A further conference has been scheduled to take place in Mattawa on September 24 – 25 and you are invited to attend in person should you wish to do that.

We have also arranged to have that program live - streamed to your computer. Finally, we have made the necessary technical arrangements to have the program presented on screen at the **Bingo Hall located at 469 Kokomish Inamo both days and seating and meals** will be available for you to attend there. Again, any questions you may have will be addressed by the presenters at that time.

We encourage you to attend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W.A. Jocko". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Chief Wendy Jocko
On behalf of the Council, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation