

Email to: Craig Brown, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy Division, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

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Copy to: John Swick, Park Superintendent, Algonquin Park, Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks

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FYI to: Doug Carr

Subject: Algonquin Park Harvest Area Modifications for 2019-2020

Good afternoon Craig,

Once again, thank you for attending the meeting with our Algonquin Negotiation Representatives on September 18, 2019 for a without prejudice discussion regarding our concerns with respect to Métis hunting within the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) Settlement Area. Within this email, I will frequently use the term Métis. However, as you are well aware, the AOO are challenging the validity of any Métis assertions within the AOO Settlement Area.

Regrettably, it is manifestly clear to our team that the government of Ontario made a decision not only to recognize certain alleged Métis historic communities but, in effect, to enhance that recognition to the status of present-day Métis communities that possess Aboriginal harvesting rights. The concerns of the AOO in that regard are a matter of record. Furthermore, based on your letter of August 18, 2019, the Ministry appears now to have supported the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) in the development of their 2019 Métis Harvest Management Plan to harvest moose within the AOO Settlement Area, more specifically in WMU 48, as well as the majority of WMU 55B without making any effort whatsoever to assess the very detrimental consequences of those actions to the sustainability of the moose herd and the fish and wildlife populations within the AOO Settlement Area.

The AOO have repeatedly raised fundamental issues and questions about the sustainability of these hunting activities which have yet to be addressed. These questions and issues include:

- The clear delineation of the areas where Métis hunting will occur
- The number of hunters with Métis Harvesting Cards who will access the WMUs in the AOO Settlement Area
- How many adult moose and calves will the Métis be permitted to take in each WMU?
- What tag allocation systems and harvesting targets have been developed by MNRF and the Metis for those WMUs within the AOO Settlement Area?
- Who will be monitoring Métis hunting activities to ensure that the harvest protects sustainable moose population levels?

These questions and more should have been addressed before Ontario made the arrangements in the April 30, 2018 Framework Agreement which extended the Interim Enforcement Policy to the MNO, removed the limit on their Harvester Cards and unilaterally increased the hunting area of the Métis into the heart of the AOO Settlement Area.

We further understand that MNO, again with the support of the Ministry, are planning to hunt in Algonquin Provincial Park (WMU 51) in the 2020 season.

Ontario's irresponsible actions in this regard has prompted my principals to re-evaluate their Harvesting Management Plan this year. In response to the decisions made by Ontario and the increased pressures of Métis hunting within the AOO Settlement Area, the AOO have decided to expand the AOO harvesting area of WMU 51 – Algonquin Park. The expanded area will include that portion of Algonquin Park both east and west of Shirley Road, north of the Hwy 60 Corridor Development Zone and within the AOO Settlement Area. Our notice to those Algonquins harvesting within WMU 51 and those appointed to monitor that harvest within this area is attached.

Following this year's harvest, and once we have had an opportunity to consider the nature and extent of the expanded Métis hunt, the AOO will further evaluate whether other areas within the AOO Settlement Area currently not being accessed by the AOO might be appropriately opened to the proper exercise of the existing Algonquin harvesting rights.

In that regard we expect to have the full co-operation of your Ministry in assessing the impacts of the moose harvest this season including the additional impact of the Métis hunt.

Bob