ONTARIO'S STRATEGIC AREAS RELATED TO ACCESSING THE NORTH



MATAWA CHIEFS COUNCIL Version Date—August 24, 2020

Ontario's Bill 197 legislative revisions to the *Environmental Assessment Act*, 1990 accomplishes the following significant items:

Introduces a new term - 'project'.

"project" means one or more enterprises or activities or a proposal, plan or program in respect of an enterprise or activity; ("projet")

Redefines a 'proponent' of a project and removes the term 'undertaking'.

"proponent" means a person who,

- (a) carries out or proposes to carry out an undertaking or a project, or
- (b) is the owner or person having charge, management or control of an undertaking or a project; ("promoteur")

Repeals the definition of 'undertaking'.

"undertaking" means,

- (a) an enterprise or activity or a proposal, plan or program in respect of an enterprise or activity by or on behalf of Her Majesty in right of Ontario, by a public body or public bodies or by a municipality or municipalities,
- (b) a major commercial or business enterprise or activity or a proposal, plan or program in respect of a major commercial or business enterprise or activity of a person or persons other than a person or persons referred to in clause (a) that is designated by the regulations, or
- (c) an enterprise or activity or a proposal, plan or program in respect of an enterprise or activity of a person or persons, other than a person or persons referred to in clause (a), if an agreement is entered into under section 3.0.1 in respect of the enterprise, activity, proposal, plan or program; ("entreprise")

Adds a new non-derogation clause.

Existing aboriginal and treaty rights

2.1 For greater certainty, nothing in this Act shall be construed so as to abrogate or derogate from the protection provided for the existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada as recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982.* 2020, c. 18, Sched. 6, s. 2.

Ontario's Strategy To Absolve Itself of Crown Obligations to James Bay Treaty # 9 and First Nations across Ontario

[These are now enacted into legislation.]

- ✓ Introduce into legislation new emphasis of 'projects' and 'proponents'.
- ✓ Keep focus on 'project' and *delete* the 'undertaking' aspect or 'taking up of land' activity of Ontario.
- ✓ Use Section 35 as a shield to protect itself and against First Nations Inherent Aboriginal and Treaty Rights.
- ✓ Hide the Crown duty to consult and accommodate behind now eliminated or reduced requirements of Ontario Environmental Assessments <u>or</u> hide behind the new yet undetermined federal Impact Assessment process.

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CROWN	 Royal Assent – Bill 100 Protecting What Matters Most Act Schedule 17 - Crown Liability and Proceedings Act, 2019 – Protection of Crown on decision making. Role of the Lieutenant-Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell for Orders-In-Council and approvals of OICs in the economic interests of Ontario. [Mines – roads – permits being ordered.] Chiefs Of Ontario/Ontario Political Accord, 2015 Nishnawbe Aski Nation/Ontario Treaty Relationship Agreement, 2018 Resource Revenue Sharing Agreements May 2018 – Template process for share of mining and forestry proceeds of the Crown [GCT # 3, Mushkegowuk Council, Wabun Tribal Council]
LAND	 Original proposal to repeal the Far North Act, 2010. Now currently a 'revision' process underway directly with limited discussions between MNRF and Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN). Royal Assent - Bill 132 Red Tape Reduction Schedule 15 Changes to the Aggregate Resources Act, 1990 and regulations that includes pits and quarries across James Bay Treaty # 9 and Ontario portion of Treaty # 5. Ontario Big Game Management Advisory Committee – Hunting recommendations and discussions related to constitutionally protected rights. Reports do indicate non-Indigenous pressure on government. Bait Management Strategy developed by Ontario with Bait Management Units including the north. There is an economic interest for First Nations on this item. Royal Assent – Bill 197 COVID-19 Economic Recovery Schedule 10 – Legislated establishment of Provincial Land and Development Facilitator (functions related to growth, land use and other matters, including Provincial interests.) Note – Tourism monitoring required related to land use, permitting etc.
FORESTRY	 Completed - Ontario Draft Forestry Sector Strategy Completed - Proposed changes to the <i>Crown Forest Sustainability Act</i>, 1994 (CFSA) Completed - Revising the Forest Manuals regulated under the CFSA. Completed - Revising Independent Forest Audit Requirements under Regulation 106/04 of the CFSA. Royal Assent – Bill 197 COVID-19 Economic Recovery Schedule 6 - Exempting forest management activities from the <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, 1990 (EAA). Developing strategic direction for managing forest pests in Ontario
MINING	 Express and streamline (remove red tape) related to plans, permits, consultation, access to mining lands; providing input on Protected areas and Land Use Issues across the province (ENDM Ontario Mining Working Group is advising MNRF on land issues as well based on publicly available report). Royal Assent - Bill 132 Red Tape Reduction Schedule 7 - Speed up closure plan approval for the opening of new mines, and merging of mining claims. Mining Act Revision Note - Monitor for changes to mining related provisions of the <i>Far North Act</i> 2010. Royal Assent - Bill 197 COVID-19 Economic Recovery Schedule 6 - implemented changes to the Mining Class EA requirements under the <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, 1990 that increases ENDM land tenure decision making and reduces environmental oversight and monitoring of the ENDM mining cycle and process. Ontario Mining Working Group – ENDM Minister and staff directly engaged with mining industry representatives to determine and focus on their priorities and requirements including approvals, investors, consultation. Indigenous participants are appointed by Minister.
ENVIRONMENT	 23. Refer to Above as outlined on Land # 10, Forestry # 15 and Mining # 20. 24. Royal Assent – Bill 197 COVID-19 Economic Recovery Schedule 7 adds the new section 2.1 is a non-derogation provision to preserve existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada as recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act, 1982.</i> 25. Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) – use by Ministries for notices related to Ontario government activities.
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS	 26. Duty to Consult - Application and advice of IAO to government ministries re: Ontario Draft guidelines for ministries on consultation with Aboriginal peoples related to Aboriginal rights and treaty rights, 2006. Minister has stated no intention to revise or update. (Nov 2018 Chiefs of Ontario) 27. Role of IAO in Resource Revenue Sharing Agreements extension to other First Nations, Indigenous groups i.e. Metis and northern municipalities.
INDUSTRY	 Industry approach to the duty to consult and accommodate. Impact Benefit Agreements (IBAs) are project based and only for the life of production by the company. Government position related to First Nations as proponents must also be considered related to First Nation rights, consultation and consent.

Ontario Far North Map - August 25 2020

