



CHIEFS COUNCIL

RESOLUTION of the Matawa Chiefs passed at the 27th Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly in Aroland First Nation to be effective from and after 1:00pm Eastern Standard time on July 30, 2015

RESOLUTION #19-30/07/15

MATAWA SUPPORT POSITION ON THE OGOKI FOREST MANAGEMENT LICENSE & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS the Ogoki Forest has long been home to Aroland First Nation, Eabametoong First Nation and Marten Falls First Nation and is within their traditional territories; and

WHEREAS the three First Nations have completed pre-engagement with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and have agreed to move forward together with forest tenure and forestry related economic development within their traditional homelands with the signing of a co-operation agreement; and

WHEREAS the three First Nations intend to play a leading role in forest governance by obtaining a long-term forest management license for the Ogoki Forest Management Unit to undertake full forest management responsibilities including forest management planning, harvesting, road construction, forest renewal, monitoring, reporting and also establish forest-based First Nations business ventures that support community interests and values; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has identified the Ogoki Forest as one of eight forest management units that are provincial priority for modernizing forest tenure. In the past the Ontario government has faced social problems in the forest, having failed to live up to its obligations to obtain the free, prior and informed consent of First Nations; and

WHEREAS there is no municipalities in the license, and therefore not necessary to include them in the licence; and

WHEREAS the three First Nations intend to secure a forest resource license for the open market wood and backlog to negotiate agreements with consuming mills that will create business and employment opportunities for the benefit of our First Nations and regional economies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Economic Development Department to secure funding to develop a business plan for the Agoke Development Corporation which will develop forestry related business opportunities for the First Nations; and





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FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly direct the Matawa Economic Development Department to secure funding from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Forestry Futures Trust to develop a plan for the Agoke Forest Management Corporation that will hold the forest management license; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly do not support the amalgamation of the Ogoki Forest Management Unit with any other forest unit and direct the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resource to leave it as a stand-alone unit to support our First Nations' position.

MOVED BY: Interim Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation

SECONDED BY: Chief Elizabeth Atlookan, Eabametoong First Nation

ABSTENTIONS:

CARRIED: (9)



Chief Executive Officer

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APPROVED BY: x _____

