



GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION

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Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Doug Ford
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

HAND DELIVERED

Tuesday June 18, 2024

RE: IMPROVING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO AND GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION

Dear Premier Ford;

It is with sincere regret that on behalf of the Ginoogaming First Nation Chief and Council we must hand deliver this letter to you. Today, the Ginoogaming First Nation continues to have significant and lengthy concerns involving the Province of Ontario and your various ministries. Ginoogaming First Nation has not received any positive action on behalf of your government representatives to resolve our concerns to date, and our People have been waiting upon your ministries to act in the spirit of Treaty and meaningful reconciliation. Reconciliation is a complex issue, and Ginoogaming First Nation's position is that reconciliation is required to address our relationship and communication issues – in addition to economic reconciliation.

Unresolved Issues Outstanding from Province of Ontario and Its Ministries

- **ONTARIO MINISTRY OF MINES** - from the Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Table, the Ontario Ministry of Mines has failed in implementing a mining withdrawal to protect or preserve candidate lands identified by Ginoogaming First Nation and now the candidate lands are filled with mining claims.
- **ONTARIO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES** – there has been no consultation and a failure to support/backing/lobbying for Ginoogaming First Nation to acquire industry owned land tenured waterlot, bridge, and industrial road that leads to and through our community. Ginoogaming First Nation has now been forced to pursue litigation that takes away valuable capital dollars that we could best utilize within our community on infrastructure, or other projects and investments.
- **CROWN OF ONTARIO REVENUE SHARING** – Negotiation of appropriate Revenue Sharing Agreement that Ginoogaming First Nation has been pursuing over the years with countless correspondences to Ontario without any responses/supports or tables identified by government. Forestry, mining, hydro including water diversion and land sale activities have been carried out in our traditional territories and homelands for 70 plus years without compensation, or economic inclusion.
- **ONTARIO MINISTRY OF MINES** -Wiisini Zaagigin Healing Lands'; Mining proponents have been taken to court/litigations where Ministry of Mines has failed to withdraw/recognize Ginoogaming First Nation's Inherent Aboriginal and Treaty Rights in protecting lands where our First Nation Knowledge Keepers highly identified predominant Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Values are located.

- **ONTARIO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES** - Ogwiidachiwaning Inc. Sustainable Forest License (SFL) holder forced to sit idle while Adita Birla's abandons the Terrace Bay pulp mill leaving the Kenogami Forest harvesting opportunities held hostage without a Wood Allocations/Directive that sits with AVTB mill. The MNR's Forest Industry Division continues to fail to allow Ogwiidachiwaning to conduct business or operate, despite a Chiefs backed correspondence to acquire a Purchase Agreement or Roads Funding.
- **ONTARIO MINISTRY OF MINES** – Ginoogaming First Nation will be forced once again to pursue litigation due to the Ontario Ministry of Mines proceeding to allow free entry mining claims without recognizing Ginoogaming First Nations' Inherent Aboriginal and Treaty Rights. Ginoogaming First Nation does not accept the Ontario Ministry of Mine's weak consultation regime policy, and the exclusion of Ginoogaming First Nation from planning and development.

This list is not exhaustive, but is intended to provide you with an overview of the immense pressure and lack of movement to date that Ginoogaming First Nation has experienced. The issues without leadership direction and resolution continue as a cost and drain on Ginoogaming First Nation.

The Chief and Council of Ginoogaming First Nation request a response from the Premier's Office directly to set forward a process to address and resolve these issues. First Nation partnership and economic reconciliation will require addressing long-standing concerns such as those we have outlined above. First Nations, we hope you agree – should not be viewed as a hinderance to economic development, but as partners and it is important for the Province of Ontario to demonstrate innovative steps towards working together as our Treaty intended.

On a final and important note, Ginoogaming First Nation is one of a number of First Nation plaintiffs in a legal case against Ontario and Canada for a return of our jurisdiction over our territorial lands. Any reconciliation, economic or otherwise, cannot succeed unless and until the Crown governments return decision-making authority to First Nations from whom it was stolen many years ago. This country is injured by that ongoing wrong and cannot heal until that wrong is corrected.

Ginoogaming First Nation looks forward to your official response.

Sincerely,

GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION



Chief Sheri Taylor

cc: *Ginoogaming First Nation Council*
Matawa Chiefs Council
David Paul Achneepineskum, CEO Matawa First Nations Management
Chief Yvette Metansinine, Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek
Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, Nishnawbe Aski Nation
Ontario Regional Chief Abram Benedict, Chiefs of Ontario
National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak, Assembly of First Nations