



NESKANTAGA FIRST NATION

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Thursday, April 24, 2025

[BY EMAIL - EAModernization.MECP@ontario.ca](mailto:EAModernization.MECP@ontario.ca)

Dear Premier Doug Ford, Minister George Pirie, and Anna Maria Cross, MECP

RE: RESPONSE TO APRIL 17TH LETTER

We acknowledge receipt of your letter of April 17, 2025 providing notification of the introduction of proposed Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025 last week.

We remind you that our First Nation has rights and significant ties to the proposed developmental area. The proposed Eagle's Nest mine will impact the river system (Attawapiskat River) as well as our custodial, traditional, customary and ancestral rights and interests. The interests being unilaterally pushed by the Ontario Government have the potential to profoundly change this sensitive and sacred landscape. We strongly object to this approach and the steps taken by Ontario to undermine our rights and our way of life.

We will need more details on the specific "environmental oversight" you have planned for the Eagle's Nest project, in the absence of environmental assessment, including which specific 'permissions' you envision being required. We are especially concerned as to how the Crown proposes to fulfill the duty to consult and accommodate in order to obtain our free, prior and informed consent as per our own protocol, without the structure of an environmental assessment to allow us to learn about exactly what Wyloo has planned.

We also have several other concerns about the Bill and the seriousness of how our rights and interests will be adversely impacted. We've heard the Premier saying that "Canada is not for sale", and we want to make it clear that **our lands and resources are not for sale either**. Neskantaga will stand strong and defend our homelands.

In closing, we are proposing and available to meet with **you in-person in Thunder Bay** on Tuesday April 29 in the morning in order to provide our initial comments, concerns and issues on the proposal.

We are in very difficult circumstances on the ground in Neskantaga at the moment; as Ontario is MIA, our community is in a state of crisis with the evacuation due to the flooding of the health centre. As such, our urgency should be taken as a sign of how seriously we take the risks to our rights and interests presented by this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

**Chief Gary Quisess
Neskantaga First Nation**