

Eabametoong First Nation

Fort Hope Indian Reserve #64
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June 6, 2025

Right Honourable Mark Carney
Prime Minister of Canada

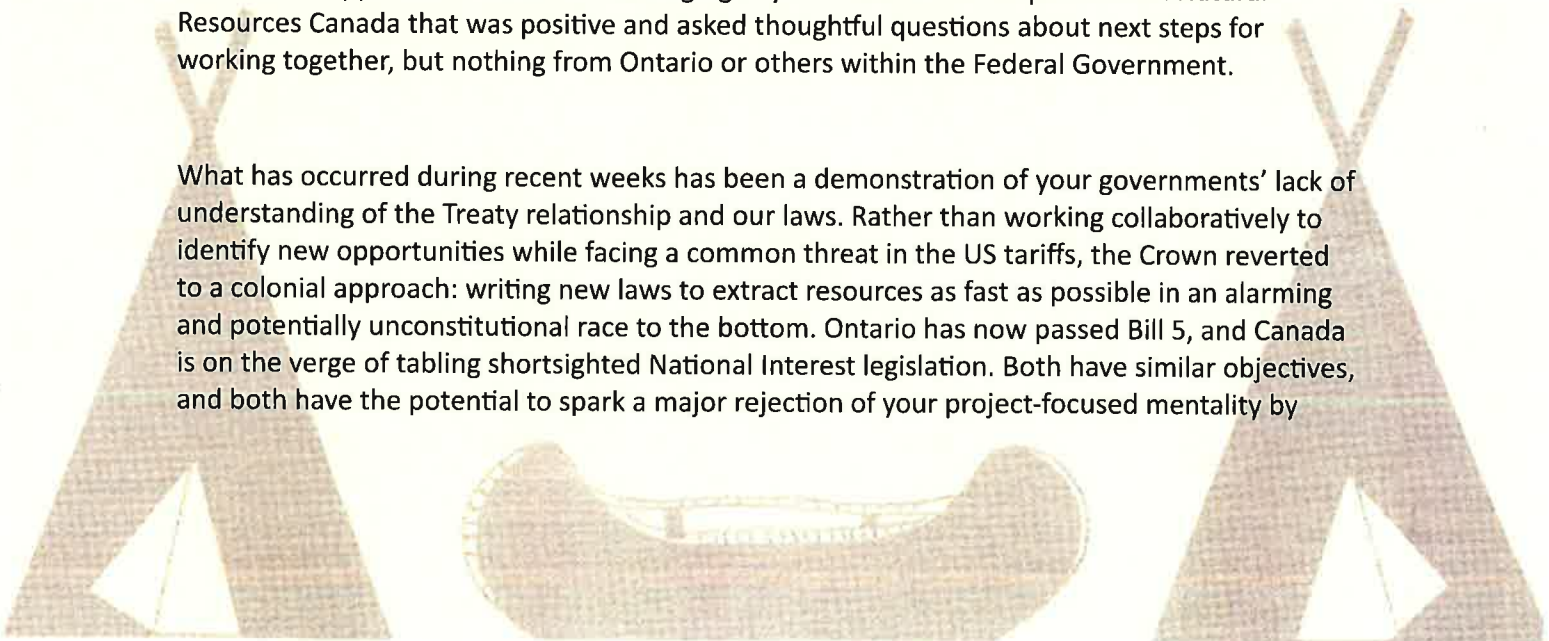
Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

RE: Respectful Partnerships or Missed Opportunity for Nation Building Collaboration?

Dear Prime Minister Carney and Premier Ford:

In early March, Eabametoong First Nation wrote to your governments and respected Ministers outlining a pathway for partnership. Recognizing the potential for tariff-induced challenges from the USA, we called for an urgent 'War Council' to discuss our shared interests and consider collaborative steps forward. The concept was to bring together our Treaty partners, including neighbouring First Nations and potentially major proponents to discuss and plan urgent actions for a united approach to thrive in challenging days. We received a response from Natural Resources Canada that was positive and asked thoughtful questions about next steps for working together, but nothing from Ontario or others within the Federal Government.

What has occurred during recent weeks has been a demonstration of your governments' lack of understanding of the Treaty relationship and our laws. Rather than working collaboratively to identify new opportunities while facing a common threat in the US tariffs, the Crown reverted to a colonial approach: writing new laws to extract resources as fast as possible in an alarming and potentially unconstitutional race to the bottom. Ontario has now passed Bill 5, and Canada is on the verge of tabling shortsighted National Interest legislation. Both have similar objectives, and both have the potential to spark a major rejection of your project-focused mentality by



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Aboriginal and Treaty rights holders throughout the land. EFN and our neighbours have made it clear before: forcing your way north will not work.

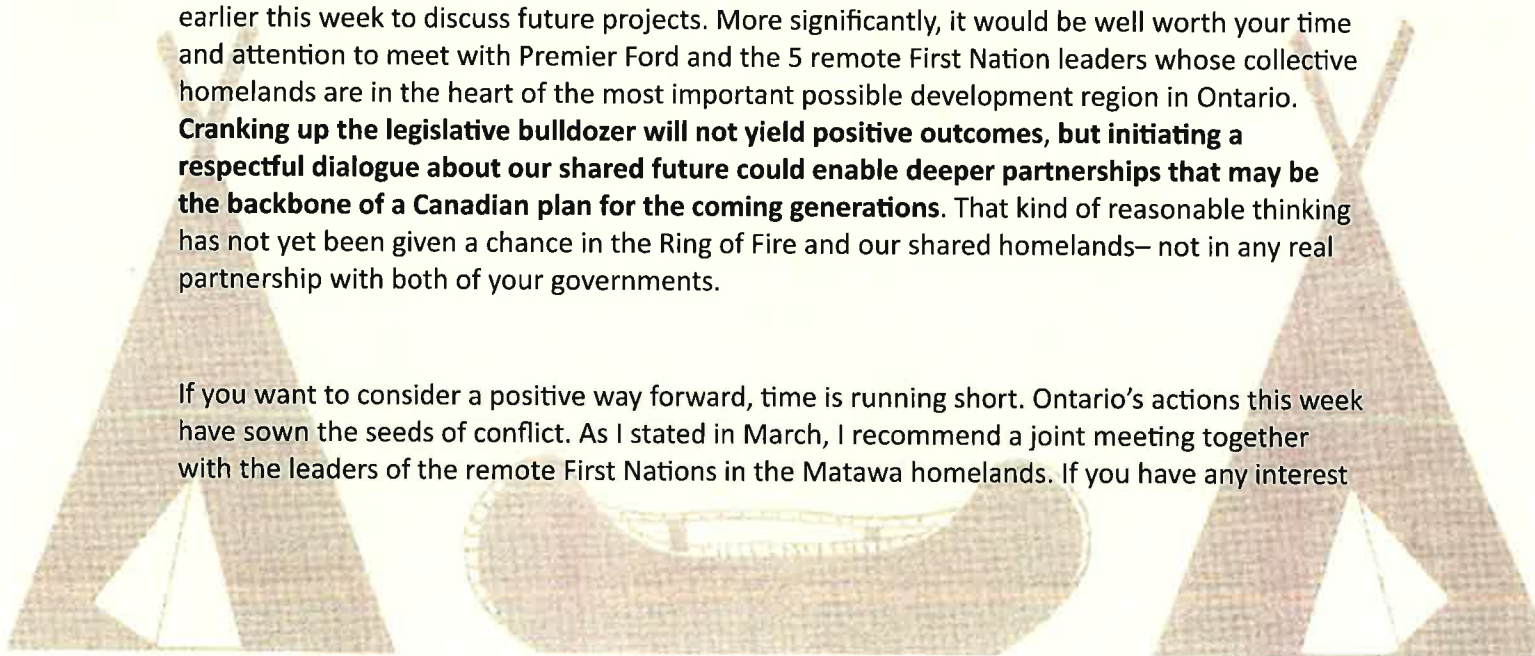
This will be a tragic and frustrating missed opportunity if you prioritize an immediate US-focused response over and against the rights and interests of Treaty nations and your Constitutional obligations. The law sets out a bare minimum for consultation, but long term nation building is contingent on positive relationships and the potential for infrastructure and resource projects in the north. The Special Economic Zones, among other issues, in Bill 5 and Canada's Proposed National Interest concepts of moving from 'whether' to build projects to 'how' to advance them will likely tie up your governments and industry in court or worse, lead to frustrating and dangerous confrontations on the land. EFN will be responding to these issues in greater detail in the coming weeks as some of our legal questions are clarified.

There is another way. Premier Ford, Ontario's implementation of Bill 5 should be halted. This legislation is fraught with serious issues. There may still be an opportunity for co-development of Regulations for various sections of Bill 5 (including on the criteria and designations for economic zones, etc.) and the concurrent establishment of re-focused National Interest legislation based on First Nation partnerships and honouring the Treaty promise of shared decision making and shared management of our great homelands. With appropriate time given to invest in mutual understanding, there is potential for very positive relationships and the prosperity both of you speak of.

Prime Minister Carney, I understand that you met with 38 energy and resource executives earlier this week to discuss future projects. More significantly, it would be well worth your time and attention to meet with Premier Ford and the 5 remote First Nation leaders whose collective homelands are in the heart of the most important possible development region in Ontario.

Cranking up the legislative bulldozer will not yield positive outcomes, but initiating a respectful dialogue about our shared future could enable deeper partnerships that may be the backbone of a Canadian plan for the coming generations. That kind of reasonable thinking has not yet been given a chance in the Ring of Fire and our shared homelands— not in any real partnership with both of your governments.

If you want to consider a positive way forward, time is running short. Ontario's actions this week have sown the seeds of conflict. As I stated in March, I recommend a joint meeting together with the leaders of the remote First Nations in the Matawa homelands. If you have any interest



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in working collaboratively we must have a meaningful seat at the table. Please contact me at Solomon.Atlookan@eabametoongfn.ca and the other Chiefs listed below with your response as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Chief Solomon Atlookan and Eabametoong First Nation Council

cc.

Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Marten Falls First Nation
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Chief Gary Quisess, Neskantaga First Nation gquisess@gmail.com

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Minister Greg Rickford, Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation of Ontario

Minister Stephen Lecce, Energy and Mines of Ontario

Minister Tim Hodgson, Natural Resources Canada

Minister Mandy Gull-Masty, Indigenous Services Canada

Minister Julie Dabrusin, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Minister Patty Hajdu, FEDNOR

Christiane Fox, Privy Council Office

Mollie Johnson, Privy Council Office

