



## CHIEFS COUNCIL

National Chief Cindy Woodhouse-Nepinak  
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Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler  
Nishnawbe Aski Nation  
200 S. Syndicate Avenue  
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 1C9

Monday June 9, 2025

### **RE: MATAWA TERRITORIES AND HOMELANDS IMPACTED BY ONTARIO BILL 5**

Dear Chiefs;

Today, the Matawa Chiefs Council have issued a letter to Premier of Ontario Doug Ford in response to Ontario's Bill 5 *Protecting Ontario By Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025*.

Per our letter, the Matawa Chiefs Council demand immediate engagement and a meeting with the Premier's office by Friday, June 13, 2025, to initiate a proper government-to-government process. Matawa Chiefs Council issue this letter on the principle that these discussions must recognize our inherent and constitutionally protected rights, and ensure we are not sidelined from decisions that impact our homelands.

It is imperative that leadership of Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Chiefs of Ontario and the Assembly of First Nations understand that the Matawa People are at an unprecedented and critical juncture as the main focal point of the interest of Ontario, Canada and the world on the strategic raw materials and critical minerals located in our territories and homelands. The Matawa region has been publicly identified on the potential forthcoming shortlist of national interest projects, and in the media the Premier of Ontario's first priority designation is a special economic zone for the Ring of Fire.

The Matawa Chiefs Council direct that Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN), Chiefs of Ontario (COO) and Assembly of First Nations (AFN) respect the positions of Matawa Chiefs Council as the Indigenous Rights Holders in our territories and homelands as we continue to navigate these issues, and ensure that proper protocol and communications are engaged with these high-level matters.

We look forward to your continued support on these issues.

Sincerely,  
**MATAWA CHIEFS COUNCIL**

### **CHIEFS CONSENSUS**

Attachment: Matawa Chiefs Council Letter to Premier Ford – June 9, 2025