



CHIEFS COUNCIL

Mamow- Wecheekapawetahteewiin

LL° ·ΔΓβ<·ΔΓΓ·Δ~ UNITY DECLARATION

We, the undersigned nine (9) First Nations; Aroland, Constance Lake, Eabametoong, Ginoogaming, Marten Falls, Long Lake #58, Neskantaga, Nibinamik and Webequie, live and rely upon the lands, water and resources entrusted to us by the Creator. We are connected through our language, culture, social and economic interests. The First Nations have the inherent right of self-determination as determined by our First Nations and applies to our homelands. This fundamental right has always rested with our people. The inherent right of self-determination is an Aboriginal and Treaty right recognized and affirmed under **Section 35** of the **Constitution Act, 1982**. The nine (9) First Nations take the position that our traditional territories are under our control, and approval to operate in our respective territories cannot be given by the Government or any other entities. We are united in sharing a common vision of being self-sufficient, self-governing peoples within a healthy, thriving culture, living in our homelands that shall sustain us for all times.

We will do whatever is necessary in order to protect our land, our water and our resources for the future generations. We agree that we must stand together in order to ensure our nation is protected. Therefore, we assert our Aboriginal and Treaty rights to the land, water and resources by requiring our written consent before any development activity may proceed. Failure to consult, accommodate and receive the consent of the First Nation(s) to proceed with any work or activity is an unjustified infringement upon our Aboriginal, Treaty and Custodial rights as First Nations.

Dated in Webequie First Nation at the Matawa Chiefs Meeting on the 13th day of July 2011.

X

Chief Elia Echum
Ginoogaming First Nation

X

Chief Sonny Gagnon
Aroland First Nation

X

Chief Eljah Moonias
Marten Falls First Nation

X

Chief Peter Moonias
Neskantaga First Nation

X

Chief Roger Oskineegish
Nibinamik First Nation

X

Chief Harry Papah
Eabametoong First Nation

X

Chief Cornelius Wabasse
Webequie First Nation

X

Chief Roger Wesley
Constance Lake First Nation

X

Chief Veronica Waboose
Long Lake #58 First Nation

