

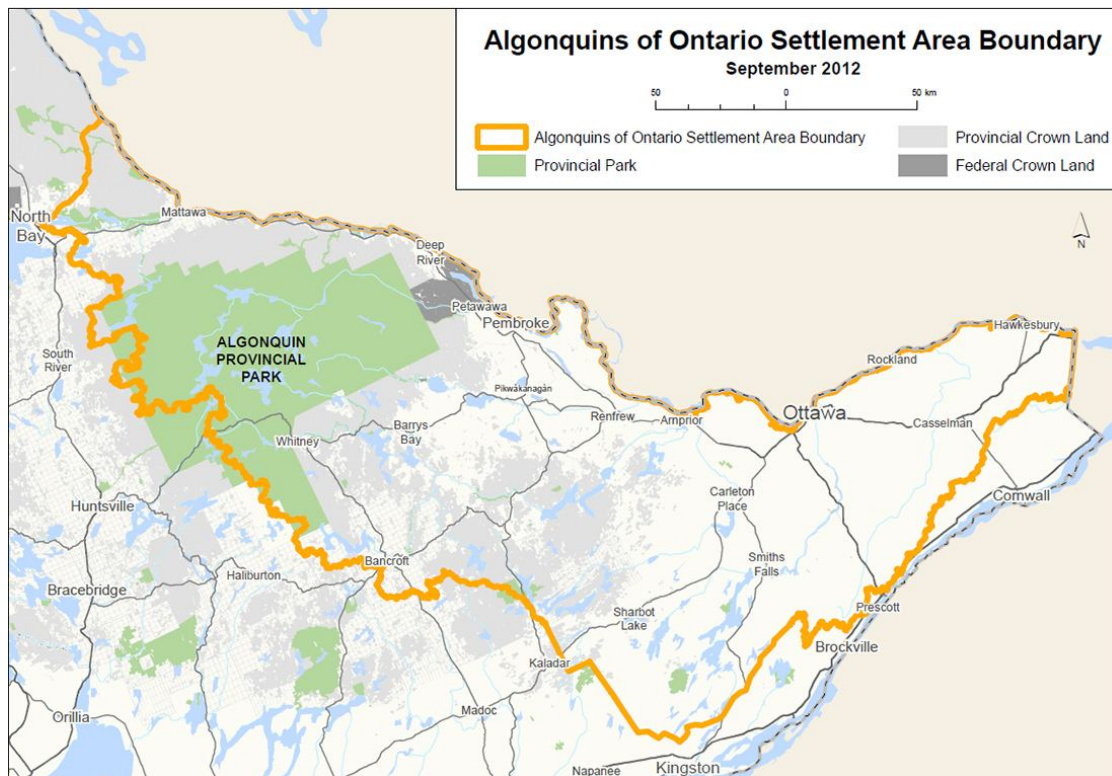
# **Algonquins of Ontario Land Claim Negotiations**

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**Open Source Information Summary**

Last Updated:  
July 10, 2015

The Algonquins of Ontario are comprised of ten Algonquin communities in the Ottawa River watershed: the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and the communities of Antoine, Bancroft, Bonnechere, Greater Golden Lake, Mattawa/North Bay, Ottawa, Shabot Obaadjiwan, Snimikobi and Whitney and Area.<sup>i</sup> Since the 1990's, Canada, Ontario and the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) have been negotiating a land claim for an area covering approximately 36,000 square kilometres in eastern Ontario with a total population of about 1.2 million people.

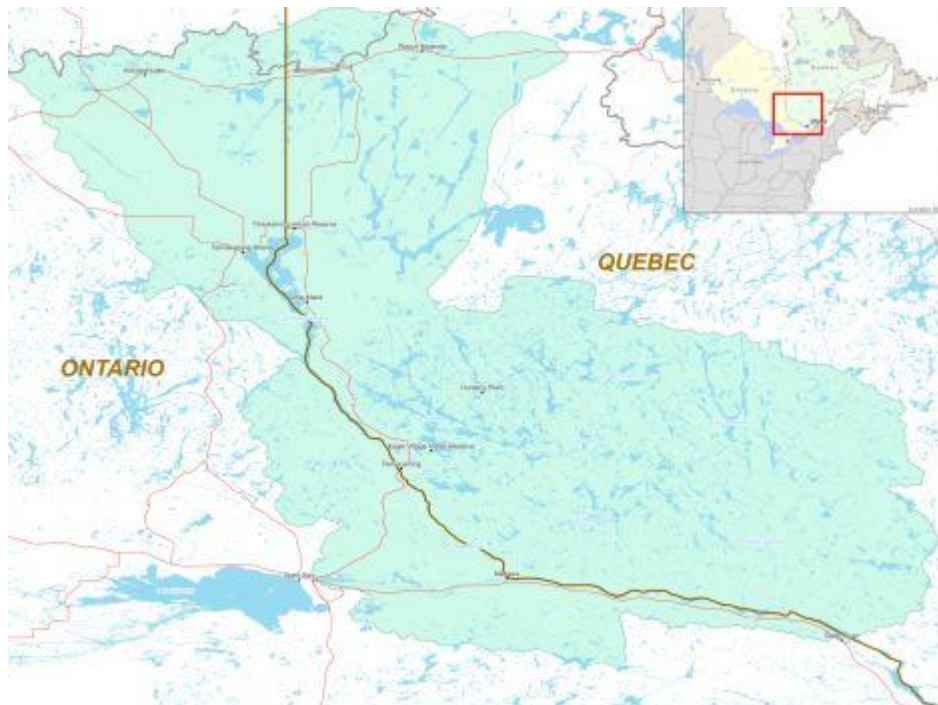


The Algonquin negotiating team consists of the Chief and Council of Pikwakanagan and one representative from each of the nine other Algonquin communities. These Algonquin Negotiation Representatives (ANRs) are elected by the Algonquin people.<sup>ii</sup>

On June 12, 2015, Canada, Ontario and AOO initialled a proposed Agreement-in-Principle (AIP), proposing the transfer of \$300 million in capital funds and approximately 475.5 square kilometres of provincial Crown Land to “Algonquin ownership.” The next step is for AOO to vote on the proposed AIP. Upon a successful ratification vote, the proposed AIP would be submitted to Canada and Ontario for their approval. If approved by all three parties, the AIP would form the framework for negotiations towards a Final Agreement, which would be a modern-day treaty<sup>iii iv</sup>.

A media report<sup>v</sup> indicates three Algonquin First Nations in Quebec - Wolf Lake, Eagle Village and Timiskaming Algonquin First Nations - are considering litigation to stop the

AOO negotiations. The Quebec First Nations say “855,271 acres (~3460 square kilometres) in overlap territory in Ontario” is at stake, with one Chief quoted saying “we have to protect our interests on what we consider is our Aboriginal title territory.”



( source: <http://www.nugget.ca/2013/01/23/algonquins-assert-title-in-region> )

These First Nations have asserted title in the overlap area in Ontario in the past. In early 2013, First Nation leaders on the Quebec side of the area in question said they wanted to be more involved in the process<sup>vi vii</sup>. In February 2015, Eagle Village's Chief issued a statement saying, “there can be no legal development of lands and resources in the Mattawa region (in Ontario) without the consent of Eagle Village First Nation because it is our Aboriginal title territory.”<sup>viii</sup>

Last updated: 10 July 2015

<sup>i</sup> <https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1355436558998/1355436749970>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1355436558998/1355436749970>

<sup>iii</sup> <http://news.ontario.ca/maa/en/2015/06/algonquin-land-claim-consultation-results.html>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1355436558998/1355436749970>

<sup>v</sup> <http://aptn.ca/news/2015/06/18/3-first-nations-mull-court-action-stop-algonquins-ontario-modern-treaty/>

<sup>vi</sup> <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/quebec-algonquins-question-ontario-land-claim-1.1386933>

<sup>vii</sup> <http://www.nugget.ca/2013/01/23/algonquins-assert-title-in-region>

<sup>viii</sup> <http://www.nugget.ca/2015/02/25/chief-asserts-claim-to-territory>