



May 19, 2017

Sent via email: bmauro.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Honorable Bill Mauro
Minister
Ministry of Northern Development and Mines
Room 5630, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto ON M7A 1W3

Dear Hon. Bill Mauro,

Re: Removal of Lake Nipigon from Staking

At our recent Bi-Lateral Leadership Forum in Toronto on May 16 2017, we discussed the important matter of the removal of Lake Nipigon from staking. As per our discussion, we see many benefits of such a removal for both the Anishinabek Nation and the government of Ontario. Such a removal would have environmental benefits in terms of safeguarding of the waters and lake bed of the lake and demonstrating respect for Anishinabek values and stewardship of Lake Nipigon. Removal of the Lake from staking would also protect the economic activity that is dependent on the lake such as the commercial fishery and adjacent forestry and hydroelectric production. Removal of Lake Nipigon from staking would also support the cultural and spiritual connection that the Anishinabek people have with the lake.

As per your expressed desire for a formal request, I am writing to you on behalf of the Anishinabek Nation in my capacity as Grand Council Chief, to request that you issue an order withdrawing mining rights from prospecting, staking, sale or lease or a combination of the above for Lake Nipigon as soon as possible. We value the relationship that we are building together and look forward to taking this positive step to protect our physical and cultural resources.

I look forward to your prompt response to this request. The next Northern Superior AN - MNM Regional Round Table is scheduled for June 13th in Thunder Bay and it would be nice to report that such an order has been issued. Please feel free to contact myself at gcc@anishinabek.ca or my Executive Liaison Lynn Bowerman at lynn.bowerman@anishinabek.ca

Respectfully,

Patrick Wedaseh Madahbee
Grand Council Chief
Anishinabek Nation

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Algonquin

Ojibwa

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Odawa

Potawatomi

- c. Deputy Grand Chief Glen Hare
Anishinabek Nation Leadership
Northern Superior Regional Grand Chief Pierre Pelletier
Lake Huron Regional Grand Chief Paul Eshkakogan
Southeast Regional Grand Chief James Marsden
Southwest Regional Grand Chief Joe Miskokomon
Jason Laronde, Lands and Resources Director, Anishinabek Nation
Cameron Welch, Lands and Resources Policy Analyst, Anishinabek Nation
Hon. David Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Bernie Hughes, Director, Aboriginal Relations Branch, MNM
Clayton Ralph, Senior Aboriginal Liaison Officer, MNM