



ANISHINABEK NATION

August 31, 2022

The Honourable Minister George Pirie
Minister of Mines
Whitney Block
99 Wellesley St. W. Toronto,
ON M7A 1W3
Ph. 416-325-7122

via Email Minister.mines@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Pirie,

Re: Moratorium on Mining Claims

I would like to start off by extending congratulations to you on your recent appointment to the Minister of Mines. We understand you have a specific mandate to develop the Ring of Fire, which will involve engagement with First Nation rights holders impacted by this development. We look forward to building a positive relationship with you and working towards implementing your mandate.

The Anishinabek Nation would like to bring attention to the issue of Electric Mine Staking. We have not had an adequate opportunity to analyze the potential impacts this process will have on Anishinabek territory. We require sufficient time to implement a mitigation strategy therefore we are requesting a 365 day moratorium.

The Mining Lands Administration System (MLAS) transitioned physical staking to electronic in 2015. Since then, impacted Anishinabek First Nations have struggled to build and maintain the capacity to allow proper review of mining claims, exploration permits, explorations plans, and closure plans. The moratorium would allow us to focus on coordinating a detailed technical review that will include a legal analysis of the MLAS system, followed by a final report which would also outline impacts identified by First Nations. Paralleling this work, we have a mandate to develop an Anishinabek Nation Mining Strategy to address all mining activities occurring on and impacting the land, territories and First Nation rights.

First Nations are alarmed at the exponentially high volumes of online mining claim stakes. This is highly problematic and has been resulting in a significant decrease of Treaty and Crown land. The current political emphasis for exploration and development of critical minerals, this trend cannot continue as the demand increases. Competing interests in mining completely diminish the duty to consult and accommodate and First Nation's jurisdiction over lands, waters, and resources is often outright ignored. First Nation citizens have a right to exercise their inherent

Aboriginal and Treaty rights and this is disregarded through the use of the MLAS and the advantage it has through its electronic system that allows virtual access to land.

First Nations Rights must be upheld by the Province, not only as a Duty to the Crown but as a Treaty partner. Given ongoing strategies and initiatives led by your government, such as Ontario's Critical Minerals Strategy and its significance to achieving net-zero, our community's leadership and participation is crucial for the future of the next generations. A comprehensive review of the amendments to the Ontario Mining Act for critical mineral legislation, needs to be completed with the end result being a fully modernized Act that recognizes and upholds First Nation rights.

The Anishinabek Nation recognizes that mineral exploration and development activities have the potential to support economic prosperity and social growth in our First Nation communities, but there is a need to have a wholesome discussion to look at the mining sector in a balanced approach that respects Shkaagmik Kwe (Mother Earth). We remain committed, as are you, to finding solutions to provide the Anishinabek Nation the opportunities to fully participate and be meaningfully engaged in the mining sector, from the time that the first stake is placed to the last piece of ore that is removed from our territory.

I would like to meet with you to further build on our relationship, discuss the moratorium on online staking, as well as other mining concerns, issues and opportunities that are occurring in Anishinabek Nation territory. Please contact Nikki van Oirschot, Director of Policy, Political Office Nikki.van.Oirschot@anishinabek.ca with any questions or Arianna Fitchett, Executive Assistant, Political Office Arianna.Fitchett@anishinabek.ca to schedule a meeting at your earliest convenience.

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Reg Niganobe

Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief

cc

Deputy Grand Council Chief Travis Boissoneau, Lake Huron Region, Anishinabek Nation
Deputy Grand Council Chief Melvin Hardy, Northern Superior Region, Anishinabek Nation
Deputy Grand Council Chief Joe Miskokomon, Southwest Region, Anishinabek Nation,
Deputy Grand Council Chief James Marsden, Southeast Region, Anishinabek Nation
Gimaa Duke Peltier, Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, Anishinabek Nation
Nikki van Oirschot, Director of Policy, Political Office, Anishinabek Nation
Marcia Trudeau-Bomberry, Chief Executive Officer, Anishinabek Nation
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Jason Laronde, Director, Lands & Resources
Rhonda Gagnon, Manager, Lands & Resources
Jenny-Lou Campbell, Policy Analyst, Lands & Resources
Teri McDonald, Director, Indigenous Consultation and Partnerships Branch (Mines)
Mary Perry, Director, Strategic Services Branch (Mines)
Bob Jeffery, Senior Advisor (Sudbury), Indigenous Relations Unit (Mines)

