



Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation

6247 Indian Lane

Kettle & Stony Point FN. Ontario. Canada N0N 1J1

Date: May 12, 2025

To:

The Honourable Minister
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)

Re: CKSPFN Response to MECP's Proposal to Remove Environmental Assessment Requirements from the Proposed York1 Waste Disposal Site Project

Dear Honorable Todd McCarthy,

On behalf of the **Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation (CKSPFN)**, we are writing to express our **deep concern and firm opposition** to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' (MECP) proposal to remove environmental assessment (EA) requirements from the proposed York1 Waste Disposal Site project.

This action signals a clear erosion of environmental oversight and **undermines the Crown's constitutional obligations to Indigenous Peoples**. It is particularly alarming in light of the letter we submitted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) last year, in which CKSPFN **advocated for the project to be designated under Part II.3 of the Environmental Assessment Act**. In that submission, we clearly outlined the need for a **comprehensive environmental assessment** process, given the project's significant and long-term implications for the land, water, and rights of Indigenous Nations.

CKSPFN remains committed to protecting the health of our lands and waters and **upholding the ways of life of all Indigenous Nations in the region**. We draw specific attention to the **cumulative impacts experienced by our treaty partners, Bkejwanong and Aamjiwnaang**, who continue to face disproportionate environmental and health burdens from decades of industrial development and government neglect. These harms are not theoretical—they are lived realities that demand attention, accountability, and action.

The MECP's proposal to exempt the York1 project from EA requirements perpetuates a cycle of harm and exclusion. It dismisses the **well-documented environmental degradation associated with the original landfill** and fails to provide any meaningful mechanism to assess or mitigate future impacts. More importantly, it reflects a continued **failure to meet the Crown's duty to consult and accommodate**, as guaranteed under **Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982**.

We are also dismayed by the province's broader use of **Bill 5** as a legislative tool to **weaken environmental and Indigenous rights protections**, particularly through the dismantling of core components of the **Environmental Assessment Act**. These actions not only diminish the role of Indigenous Nations in decision-making but also undermine any stated commitments to reconciliation and the honour of the Crown.



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Accordingly, the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation calls on the MECP to:

- **Immediately withdraw the proposal** to exempt the York1 Waste Disposal Site project from environmental assessment;
- **Uphold the requirement for a full and comprehensive environmental assessment** under Part II.3 of the Environmental Assessment Act;
- **Engage in transparent, good-faith consultation and accommodation** with all affected Indigenous Nations;
- **Acknowledge and address the cumulative impacts** experienced by Bkejwanong, Aamjiwnaang, and other Indigenous communities across the region.

CKSPFN remains steadfast in our responsibility to future generations. We expect the Province of Ontario to act in accordance with the law, in respect of our rights, and with a genuine commitment to environmental stewardship and reconciliation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "KB", followed by a long horizontal line.

Kimberly Bressette

Chief

Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation

cc:

- Verna George, First Nation Manager
- Mike George, CEO, Southwind Corporate Development/Three Fires Group
- Jessica Wakefield, Executive Director, Major Projects and IBAs, Three Fires Group and Consultation Lead, Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation