



Via email

May 16, 2025

**Re: Proposed Amendments to the Mining Act, ERO #025-0396**

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As Chief of the Kashechewan First Nation ("**Kashechewan**"), I am writing to express our serious concerns about the Province of Ontario's proposed amendments.

The relationship between the Crown and Indigenous Peoples is governed by the principle of the honour of the Crown, which requires the Crown to act with integrity, fairness, and in good faith when engaging with Indigenous Peoples. This includes meaningful, timely, and good-faith consultation before decisions are made that may adversely affect Nation's rights and interests.

Like Indigenous peoples across Ontario, for generations, our people have relied on and continue to rely on the lands and waters within our territory for fishing, harvesting, hunting, trapping, camping, and spiritual and cultural practices. These activities are fundamental to Kashechewan's identity, survival, and governance. We continue to exercise our rights throughout the territory in physical, cultural, and spiritual ways that stem from the land and inform our decision-making.

Ontario must ensure that proposed amendments, and Ontario's conduct flowing from the amendments affecting resources, lands, waters and cultural history respect *Constitution Act* 35 rights.

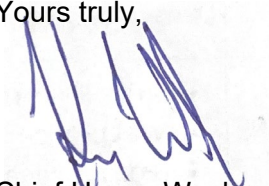
**Proposed Amendments to the *Mining Act* ERO #025-0396**

The proposed removal of the agreement that subjects the Ring of Fire Eagle's Nest project to environmental assessment would strip essential oversight from a region critical to our watershed and territory. Regardless of any provincial changes, no mining can proceed in the Ring of Fire without robust consultation and meaningful accommodation aimed at consensus with First Nations. Indigenous leadership and knowledge must be central to environmental assessment if regulatory certainty is to be achieved.

The proposed amendments to the *Mining Act* to establish a mine authorization and "permitting delivery team" for expedited project approvals. While we acknowledge the aim of improving efficiency, a rushed process will only entrench conflict and legal uncertainty. The proposed amendments appear not to apply to consultations already underway, but it remains unclear what practical effect this would have. What is clear is that the current approach to consultation is failing both First Nations and industry.

The most honourable and effective path forward is to incentivize early partnerships between proponents and First Nations, grounded in recognition of our rights and legal orders.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hosea Wesley', is written over a light blue rectangular stamp.

Chief Hosea Wesley  
Kashechewan First Nation

cc: ERO <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/025-0416>