



# RED SKY MÉTIS Independent Nation™

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**Subject:** Upholding the Duty to Consult in the Implementation of Bill 5 – *Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act*, 2025

**ERO number :** 025-0416

Dear Ministers,

Red Sky Métis Independent Nation (RSMIN) would like to express its position regarding Bill 5, currently before the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. RSMIN acknowledges Premier Ford's recent public remarks emphasizing economic reconciliation, infrastructure investment, and partnership with Indigenous communities. However, we must raise concerns that the legal text of Bill 5 does not uphold these commitments in practice.

## **1. RSMIN Is a Rights-Holding Nation**

Red Sky Métis Independent Nation™ (RSMIN) consists of descendants of the 84 “half-breeds” who were recognized by the Crown as beneficiaries and annuitants under the Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850, in concurrence with the First Nation peoples. However, RSMIN is distinct from the First Nation peoples, by ways of our traditional lands, traditions, customs, and practices.

The RSMIN People are Aboriginal people as defined by the Constitution Act of 1982, and descendant of the beneficiaries to the Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850.

RSMIN holds inherent rights grounded in law, history, and cultural continuity. These rights exist independently of administrative recognition and are protected under Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. The duty to consult, as affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada, applies to asserted as well as established rights.

RSMIN expects to be meaningfully consulted on all decisions, legislation, or policies that may impact our lands and communities.

## **2. Bill 5 Omits Consultation Safeguards**

While public statements from Ontario leadership stress sustainability and Indigenous partnerships, Bill 5 lacks specific provisions to:

- Affirm the Crown's duty to consult;
- Mandate Indigenous engagement during streamlined approval processes;
- Acknowledge Indigenous rights or reconciliation.

Without these safeguards, asserting communities like RSMIN risk being excluded from critical discussions and decisions.

## **3. RSMIN Was Not Consulted**

Unlike previous legislative processes (e.g. Bill 17), RSMIN was not notified or invited to participate in the formation of Bill 5. This inconsistency not only undermines trust, but also violates the spirit of the duty to consult.

## **4. Building Together, Not Competing**

RSMIN would like to clearly state that it is not here to compete with our First Nation cousins, but to build alongside them. Sustainable development and regional prosperity require the inclusion of all Indigenous Nations, regardless of size or recognition status.

RSMIN is positioning itself as a leader in economic development, innovation, and Indigenous-led technology solutions. We believe that efficiency and collaboration are not mutually exclusive. In fact, Indigenous communities across Ontario have demonstrated that they can help streamline project timelines when involved meaningfully from the start.

It is time to work together. Ontario must move beyond transactional agreements and establish inclusive governance frameworks that reflect the full diversity of Indigenous leadership—and work together to reduce timelines and build a rapid, responsive economy. We are at an inflection point: our communities are becoming ready, and the opportunities together are unlimited.

As paraphrased from *Indigenomics* and the words of Chief Maquinna of the Mowachaht people, Indigenous wealth is not stored in banks, but in our communities—shared freely, returned with interest, and felt in full hearts.

*“Our way of giving is our bank.”*

RSMIN would add: *We are not inherently hoarders. We are inherently sharers and carers.*

This principle guides how we view economic development: not as a zero-sum gain, but as an opportunity for collective growth and intergenerational wellbeing.

## **5. Our Requests**

To reflect both legal obligations and the Premier's stated vision, RSMIN respectfully requests:

1. That Bill 5 be amended to affirm the Crown's duty to consult all impacted Indigenous Nations, including asserting Nations such as RSMIN.
2. That Ontario include language in the bill and/or its regulations that supports ongoing Indigenous engagement, oversight, and shared economic benefit.
3. That a formal mechanism be established to ensure early and continuous engagement with RSMIN and other Communities on relevant developments.
4. That Ontario prioritize and finalize RSMIN's recognition, ensuring our rightful inclusion in consultative processes and governance.

## **Conclusion**

Bill 5 will shape the direction of Ontario's economy for years to come. It must also serve as a milestone in the real-time implementation of reconciliation.

RSMIN remains committed to collaboration, innovation, and shared prosperity. We welcome the opportunity to meet with your office to discuss these concerns and to co-create a better way forward.

*Submitted on behalf of Red Sky Métis Independent Nation (RSMIN)  
Indigenous Métis First Families of Upper Canada*