

## **Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association**

P.O. Box 548  
Wiarton, Ontario N0H 2T0  
*"Yours in Conservation"*



### **OFAH ZONE "H" report for BPSA**

**Stu Paterson – November 2016**

"opinions expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the opinions of BPSA, its Directors or members"

I have prepared a list of files related to OFAH and the recently ratified AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPAL of the ALGONQUIN LAND CLAIM.

The concerns of our federation are many including the issue of fair sharing of our fish and wildlife resources, unregulated harvest and the lack of consultation with groups like ours and other stakeholders. The following is the official OFAH position as of this writing-

### ***Federal and provincial governments put pen to paper on land claim AIP with Algonquins of Ontario***



On Oct. 17, the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario and the Algonquins of Ontario announced the signing of the Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) for the Algonquin Land Claim.

According to a government news release, the AIP paves the way for continued negotiations toward a final agreement that will define the ongoing rights of the Algonquins of Ontario to lands and natural resources within the settlement area, which represents approximately 117,500 acres of provincial Crown lands in eastern Ontario.

In addition to the transfer of lands, the Algonquins will also receive \$300-million in capital funding from the two governments. Following the signing of the AIP, multiple news outlets in Ontario reported that the \$300-million figure was representative of a minimum amount and that the final figure could potentially be much larger.

The AIP was shaped by consultations with 10 Algonquins of Ontario communities, other indigenous groups, along with limited public and stakeholder consultations.

Negotiations toward reaching a final treaty agreement will continue and if an agreement is reached, a ratification vote from the Algonquins of Ontario will be required before it reaches the Ontario Legislature and Parliament of Canada for final approval.

The OFAH is disappointed the Algonquin Land Claim process has reached this point without the benefit of any meaningful public consultation -- though we will continue to push for that going forward.

"We've said this before, but it bears saying again that this process needs public and stakeholder involvement," says OFAH manager of government affairs and policy Greg Farrant. "This process cannot be driven by the government and Algonquins alone and everyone involved needs to have a very clear understanding of how fish, wildlife and land use will be managed within the claim area in the future."

OFAH and the Algonquin Land Claim - position paper 2016

### **Fair Sharing**

Resource sharing must recognize that hunting and fishing are extremely important activities for the spiritual recreation and sustenance of all participants – both native and non-native. Hunting and fishing truly represent a fundamental form of expression, which is part of the shared cultural heritage of native and non-native society in the area of the claim.

<http://www.algonquinlandclaim.ca/downloads/OFAH-AlgonquinLandClaimInputDocument.pdf>

The Canadian Sportfishing Industry Association has worked closely with OFAH on this file

### **PHIL MORLOCK CHAIRS THE CANADIAN SPORTFISHING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION'S GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.**

Just imagine what the future will hold for conservation once Ontario and Canada take the final steps to entrench this policy—applicable to 10,000 people—in Algonquin treaty law. It will include no closed seasons for harvesting wildlife, no creel or bag limits, and no restrictions on gear, technology and harvest methods. Nor will there be regulations on the trade of wild fish and game meat. This anything-goes regression to the infamous market hunting and fishing practices of the 19th century will apply throughout the year across the entire treaty area, including Algonquin Park.

<http://www.algonquinlandclaim.ca/downloads/OutdoorCanadaArticleMarApr2016.PDF>

<http://theturtleislandnews.com/index.php/2016/10/18/algonquins-ontario-sign-300-million-agreement-long-standing-land-claim/>

<http://aptn.ca/news/2016/10/18/controversial-algonquins-of-ontario-modern-day-treaty-takes-step-toward-final-agreement/>

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/algonquin-ontario-land-claim-whiteduck-1.3810559>

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/quebec-algonquins-legal-action-1.3811602>

<http://news.nationalpost.com/news/canada/canadian-politics/one-of-the-largest-land-claims-in-the-country-algonquins-sign-agreement-with-ontario-federal-government>



In a report to members, OFAH President Kerry Coleman takes the province to task over its move to ban wolf and coyote hunting in 39 townships. None are in our region. Coleman calls the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's lack of genuine and meaningful consultation with stakeholders on this ban, a disturbing trend in fish/wildlife management decision making. He says decisions like this, without proper consultation lead to an erosion of trust, confidence and faith in the

ministry. Coleman says the outdoors community is frustrated over the provinces empty promises to tackle non-harvest related factors in its fish and wildlife management. Example, moose kills by first nations resulting in fewer moose and the loss of nearly 18-thousand moose hunters between 2013 and 2015. This resulted in a loss of 900-thousand dollars for our provincial special purposes account with supports fish and wildlife projects.

The Former Ontario Conservative MNRF critic has helped dig up a big scandal regarding missing money in the MNRF Special Purpose account which is supposed to be used for fish and wildlife projects. The OFAH is closely watching this story involving



**Progressive Conservative MPP Jeff Yurek.**

“London MPP wants to know how Ontario Liberals made \$70M collected from hunters and anglers disappear”

Here are links to the scandal story:

elgin-middlesex-london-mpp-requests-auditor-general-audit-fish-and-wildlife-fund and the National Post version

<http://news.nationalpost.com/news/canada/london-mpp-wants-to-know-how-ontario-liberals-made-70m-collected-from-hunters-and-anglers-disappear>

A good conservation story here.  
OFAH is encouraging duck hunters to submit biological samples from ducks they harvest as part of a study to assess the level of plastics and human debris ingested by ducks.

To take part email graduate student  
Erica Holland at

[erikaholland@acadiau.ca](mailto:erikaholland@acadiau.ca) to find out how you can help in this study.

Shipping fees will be covered by the study research team.



1. OFAH has warned us about these issues in the past ...the possibility bats may be wiped out and moose populations remain at critically low levels.

Here is the link explaining this.

<http://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/ontario%e2%80%99s-moose-population-under-threat-bats-may-be-wiped-out-entirely-environment-report-says/ar-AAjqvLM?li=AAggFp5&ocid=iehp>

2. The next OFAH Zone H meeting, the zone annual meeting, is at 10 am on November 19, 2016 at the Orillia Fish and Game Conservation Club's Education Building.

It is at 2457 Bass Lake Side Road in Oro-Medonte Township. I will attend on your behalf. I will not attend the Zone H OFAH annual awards dinner that night at the Highwayman Inn in Orillia.

3. I have declined the request of the Zone H Chair to offer my name as a Director of the zone which would have meant I would be a member of the board of OFAH. They wanted me to chair the NATIVE AFFAIRS committee of the zone. I will remain as a regular at these zone meetings and the OFAH annual meeting if BPSA members continue to have confidence in me and what I have been doing on the OFAH file for the last eleven years.



Stu Paterson –  
BRUCE PENINSULA SPORTSMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION