



Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg

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October 3, 2014

The Right Honorable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
K1A 0A6

The Honorable Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

The Honorable Philippe Couillard
Premier of Quebec
Conseil Executive
Édifice Honoré-Mercier
835, boulevard René-Levesque Est
3^e étage
Québec, Québec G1A 1B4

The Honorable Bernard Valcourt
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and
Northern Development
House of Commons K1A 0A6

Mr. David Zimmer
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs
Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Suite 400
160 Bloor St. East
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2E6

The Honorable Geoff Kelly
Minister responsible for Native Affairs
900, place D'Youville
5e étage
Québec, Québec G1R 3P7

Dear Prime Minister Harper, Premier Wynn, Premier Couillard, Minister Valcourt, Minister Zimmer, Minister Kelly:

We, the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg (KZA), Chief and Band Council, write to you on behalf of the KZA, an Algonquin people that is part of the Algonquin Nation, in regards to the *Tsilhqot'in v. British Columbia (Tsilhqot'in)* decision handed down by the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) on June 26, 2014. In *Tsilhqot'in*, the SCC held that Aboriginal title is not just a legal theory but a reality in Canada and that Aboriginal title extends well beyond village sites and includes lands that Aboriginal groups traditionally used and exclusively controlled. The *Tsilhqot'in* case confirmed that Aboriginal title confers, on the group that holds the title land, the exclusive right to decide how the land is used and the right to benefit from those uses. *Tsilhqot'in* further confirms the principle set out in *Haida Nation v. British Columbia* that consultation and accommodation with First Nations is required prior to establishing title, and must be proportionate to the strength of their claim.

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We want to strongly emphasize that the KZA and the Algonquin Nation as a whole has never entered into a treaty with Canada, Quebec or Ontario for its ancestral territory. We, the KZA, have a rich historical record that shows our exclusive use and continued occupation of our lands. Our traditional territory has always been, and continues to be, UNCEDED. We hereby put Canada, Quebec and Ontario on notice that the status quo, in which our Aboriginal title lands are taken up by government and industry, is not acceptable. We have watched billions of dollars of resources extracted from our territory with little to no benefit to our people. **THIS MUST END.** We intend to take the necessary steps to resolve our outstanding title claim over our traditional territory. In the meantime, until our Aboriginal title is fully recognized, we expect the Governments of Canada, Quebec and Ontario to engage with us in a manner that reflects the strength of our title.

Sincerely,

**CHIEF GILBERT WHITEDUCK & BAND COUNCIL,
KITIGAN ZIBI ANISHINABEG**