



TEMAGAMI FIRST NATION/ TEME-AUGAMA ANISHNABAI

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 18, 2023

Teme-Augama Anishnabai and Temagami First Nation Evict Metis Nation of Ontario from N'dakimenan (Our Land); Peaceful Encampment Established at Pond Lake Site of Unauthorized Cabin

North Bay, ON. September 18, 2023:

On September 14, 2023, the Teme-Augama Anishnabai and Temagami First Nation issued eviction notices to the Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and set up a peaceful protection camp at the site of the unauthorized hunt cabin built by MNO members on N'dakimenan (Our Land).

The eviction notices were sent to the MNO members who built the cabin, Peter Descoteaux and Marc Descoteaux, and copies were sent to MNO Regional Captain of the Hunt Denis Lefebvre, and to the Chief Captain of the Hunt, MNO President Margaret Froh. The eviction notice states that the MNO members have no Indigenous rights within N'dakimenan and no right to occupy the cabin constructed at Pond Lake.

"N'dakimenan is the recognized homeland of the Teme-Augama Anishnabai. We are the only Indigenous People of N'dakimenan and the only bearer of inherent rights. Our established inherent rights come from continuous occupation over thousands of years. These are recognized facts. By contrast, the MNO was created in 1993 as an Ontario corporation and looks to the Governments of Canada and Ontario for recognition", said Chief Shelly Moore-Frappier of Temagami First Nation.

"This is our land and the MNO has no business building a cabin and hunting on our land. There are no metis and there never was a metis settlement here in N'dakimenan, said Teme-Augama Anishnabai Ogimaa (Chief) Michael Paul. "We are Teme-Augama Anishnabai. N'dakimenan is our homeland. I know I am right and those so-called metis are squatters here."

Teme-Augama Anishnabai Aanike-Ogimaa (Second Chief) John Turner said, "In the case of the Teme-Augama Anishnabai and later the Temagami First Nation, we have thoroughly documented our history through oral tradition and early trade and church records. Further, anyone who could be described as "metis" was naturalized and adopted by the Teme-Augama Anishnabai exercising inherent jurisdiction. The MNO is riding on the coattails of colonial law to assert false claims to land rights and manufactured Indigenous identity, with the backing of Ontario and Canada."



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Second Chief of Temagami First Nation, Jesse Paul, is concerned about the threat to future generations of Teme-Augama Anishnabai. “The future of our Youth is at stake. This is a threat to our People, our animals, fish, lands, water and everything we have depended on since the Creator put us on N’dakimenan.”

The Teme-Augama Anishnabai and Temagami First Nation have applied to join the Wabun Tribal Council’s court challenge to stop Canada’s Bill C-53, ***An Act respecting the recognition of certain Métis governments in Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan, to give effect to treaties with those governments and to make consequential amendments to other Acts.*** International Treaties between the Crown and Indigenous Nations, concerning the above-named territories, have existed long before Confederation. These are long-established and constitutionally protected Aboriginal and Treaty rights. Bill C-53 is an assault on the established inherent rights of bona fide Indigenous Nations.

Furthermore, there has been no consultation. The Crown has not honoured its legal obligation: the Duty to Consult with First Nations and Inuit.

The Teme-Augama Anishnabai and Temagami First Nation are taking legal and on-the-ground actions to preserve our established rights in N’dakimenan against MNO claims and encroachments. These actions are taken after years of diplomatic effort on our part. The MNO did not have the courtesy to respond to our letters. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is aiding and abetting MNO’s activities in N’dakimenan without our consent.

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