



June 22, 2026
Val d'Or

Madam Kateri Champagne-Jourdain
Minister of Natural Resources and Forests
cc. Ian Lafrenière, Minister Responsible for Relations with the First Nations and the Inuit

[BY EMAIL]

Subject: Respect for the Rights of First Nations and Essential Conditions for Any Development on their Ancestral Territory

Madam Minister,

We, Anishnabek Chiefs, wish to directly address you regarding the issues arising from the granting of mining claims and the development of projects on our unceded ancestral territories.

Through this letter, we wish to clearly state that any form of development that does not respect the minimum conditions applicable to development on our Territories—conditions established by our governments in the exercise of our right to self-determination and self-government—and that consequently does not involve adequate and meaningful consultation nor the obtaining of the free, prior and informed consent of the First Nations concerned, will face firm opposition from our Nations.

Recent situations, particularly with respect to the Novador project, demonstrate that these conditions are not being consistently respected. This approach raises serious concerns regarding the respect of our Aboriginal rights and title, as well as the constitutional obligations of the Government of Québec with respect to consultation and accommodation. Any approach that excludes or marginalizes our governments cannot lead to sustainable projects nor to the predictability sought by investors.

We reiterate that our territories are neither vacant nor available without our participation. They are at the core of our identities, our cultures, our ways of life, and our responsibilities toward the next seven generations.

We therefore reiterate that First Nations must hold a determining role in decision-making processes related to the granting of mining claims and the development of projects on their territories. The current regime, which allows for the granting of rights without our full and meaningful participation upstream, is not acceptable and must be revised.

We therefore call on the Government of Québec to adopt an approach grounded in respect, dialogue and the full recognition of First Nations rights. This requires the implementation of

rigorous consultation processes prior to any decision, the meaningful consideration of the positions expressed by the affected Nations, and the recognition of their decision-making role in any project affecting their Territory.

In this regard, the continued issuance of authorizations for impact-causing exploration work (ATI) without the free, prior and informed consent of First Nations—consent that necessarily includes respect for the essential minimum conditions established by the Nation—is unacceptable and constitutes a direct infringement of our rights. This practice must cease.

We call on the Government of Québec to adopt an approach based on respect and reconciliation. We believe that responsible and sustainable development is possible; however, it cannot occur without the active participation and consent of First Nations.

We remain available to continue discussions and to work toward establishing a respectful, predictable and mutually beneficial framework.

Please accept, Madam Minister, the expression of our distinguished regards.

Lucien Wabanonik, Chief, Anishnabe First Nation of Lac Simon

Verna Polson, Grand Chief of the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation

DocuSigned by:
Casey Ratt
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Casey Ratt, Chief, Mitchikanibikok Inik (Algonquins of Barriere Lake)

Chantal Kistabish, Chief of Abitibiwini First Nation

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Steeve Mathias, Chief of Long-Point First Nation