



Wauzhushk Onigum Nation

(Rat Portage NO.38 B)



PO Box 1850, Kenora, Ontario P9N 3X8 Phone (807) 548-5663 Fax (807) 548-4877

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Provincial Land Use Plans Branch
13th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
growthplanning@ontario.ca

August 2, 2023

Re: Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument (ERO 019-6813)

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Wauzhushk Onigum Nation, we are contacting you regarding ERO Posting 019-6813 and the proposed policy changes for planning and the Provincial Policy Statement in Ontario. We do not support the proposed changes at this time. The proposed changes to the Provincial Policy Statement continues the legacy of colonial policy that sees our Inherent and Treaty Rights as well as our Sacred Laws as subordinate to Crown laws, and we will not support any legislative policy changes that do not seek to correct this. We believe that the proposed changes will only serve to further limit our ability to assert jurisdiction over our customary and traditional lands and see our Inherent and Treaty Rights recognized.

As a Treaty #3 Nation, we honour and adhere to the requirements of our Sacred Law, the *Manito Aki Inakonigaawin*, which provides a process for reviewing proposed activity on our traditional and customary lands. This process requires consultation and engagement with our Elders and Knowledge Keepers. It is through this consultation process that our people will understand the cumulative impacts a development may have, identify the required mitigation methods, and ensure that our people will benefit from what is being proposed. Despite ongoing efforts on our behalf to communicate these requirements, what we have seen are vague interpretations of the Planning Act and Provincial Policy Statement that allow development to proceed with the bare minimum of engagement, if any at all.

We are calling on the Province of Ontario to enact significant changes to planning processes in Ontario that are enacted through the Provincial Policy Statement. These include:

1. Improved requirements and clarity around Indigenous engagement and consultation, including requirements that engagement must meet the standards set out by Indigenous communities, in accordance with their laws.
2. Requirements for engagement and consultation protocols at the Municipal and Provincial level that see Indigenous Nations as rights holders and stewards of their traditional and customary lands.
3. Requirements for the analysis of the cumulative impacts of a development.
4. Inclusion of Indigenous interests at all policy levels, and not just relegated to Cultural Heritage and Archaeology.
5. Improved policies for development occurring within "Territory Without Municipal Organization" that clarify the absolute need for consultation with Indigenous Nations.

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In addition to these requirements, we invite the Minister of the MMAH and the staff responsible for the proposed changes to the Provincial Policy Statement to meet with us and discuss these matters with our Elders and Knowledge Keepers, so that they may learn about our Sacred Law, the *Manito Aki Inakonigaawin*, and how we can find a good way forward.

To discuss this matter further and arrange a time to meet please contact Conor Smith by email at conor.smith@narratives.com or by phone at (431)-306-1482.

Chief Chris Skead, Wauzhushk Onigum Nation

Cc: Ed Skeid, Councillor, Wauzhushk Onigum Nation
Ogichidaa Francis Kavanaugh, GCT3

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