



Sagkeeng First Nation

MEDIA ADVISORY

March 13, 2008 - for immediate release

Sagkeeng withdraws from WNO and declares Moratorium on talks

Winnipeg, MB - The Sagkeeng First Nation has recently announced its withdrawal from the Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin (WNO), the east side of Lake Winnipeg broad area planning process.

Chief Donovan Fontaine indicates that *"we have concluded that the WNO's objectives are contrary to our best interests. The Province having final decision making authority over our lands is contrary to our First Nation's special relationship to the land. We are the stewards of the land - no one should be in a position to dictate to us what is best for the territory and resources that we have managed for generations."*

The First Nation has also declared a Moratorium on all consultations and/or discussions with the Province, Federal Government and industry with regard to ongoing and proposed activities in their Traditional Territory and Land Claim Area. This Moratorium will allow the Sagkeeng First Nation to develop and ratify a Consultation Protocol that will serve as an important tool for future discussions regarding the Traditional Territory.

According to Chief Fontaine, *"we are the rightful owners of the land. Our Treaty only purported to deal with our land interests South of the Winnipeg River. We are still waiting for our Treaty North of the River. In the interim, we cannot be part of a process which completely disregards our inherent rights."*

Sagkeeng is advancing a claim of unextinguished aboriginal title (akin to ownership of the land) which was filed in the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench in June 2007.

EVENT: Press Conference
WHEN: Friday, March 14, 2008
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
WHERE: Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Secretariat Inc.
200 - 260 St. Mary Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba

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For further information, please contact:
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