



# Sagkeeng Anicinabe

June 28, 2018

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

**Re: Sagkeeng Consultation and Accommodation Protocol**

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Before Manitoba was a province or Canada was a country, the Sagkeeng Anicinabek were a self-determined people, governing ourselves and our territory.

Our laws, like the Crown laws, set out our obligations to each other, to our community, to other nations and to the environment. We made treaties with other nations before the Crown came and asked to make a treaty with us, and together, we jointly managed the resources which our laws charge us to protect.

In recent years, Sagkeeng has reasserted its traditional governance structures. We have amended and ratified the *Sagkeeng Onakonigawin* (Sagkeeng Process Law), which sets out our lawmaking process. Through that process we have also ratified the *O'na-katch-to'o-na-wa Onakonigawin* (Conservation Law), among other laws.

Pursuant to section 11 of the *O'na-katch-to'o-na-wa Onakonigawin*, the Sagkeeng Executive Council (also known as the Chief and Council), and the Delegates' Council (made up of one elder, one youth, one man and one woman) adopted the Sagkeeng Consultation and Accommodation Protocol ("Protocol"), a copy of which is enclosed with this letter.

The *O'na-katch-to'o-na-wa Onakonigawin* and the Protocol are based on three overarching purposes, which Sagkeeng intends to guide all aspects of our relationship with the Crown:

1. Honouring the Creator through the conservation and protection of the natural environment;
2. Honouring our ancestors by protecting and enhancing the exercise of our inherent Aboriginal and Treaty rights; and



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3. Honouring future generations by fostering sustainable economic development and opportunities within and around the Territory.<sup>1</sup>

The Crown's Duty to Consult and Accommodate Sagkeeng, which is based in the Honour of the Crown and guaranteed by Canada's Constitution, is the Crown's **duty**, and Sagkeeng's **right**. In discharging its Duty, the Crown must conduct itself in good faith, with the intention of substantially accommodating our concerns.

In this Protocol, we have set out what a good faith consultation process looks like. We acknowledge that every situation, application and consultation will be unique, which is why the Protocol is flexible and adaptable. Nevertheless, the minimum standards set out in this protocol must, in every case, be met.

By this letter, Sagkeeng gives the Crown notice that any consultation process and outcome that does not meet the requirements of this protocol, will not be considered complete and the Crown will not have discharged its Duty.

Our intention is always to work with Crown governments and proponents of projects to reach mutually beneficial agreements. While we may not be able to provide our consent to every project in every circumstance, whether due to insufficient accommodation measures, or incompatibility with our rights and interests, consultation and accommodation which takes place pursuant to this Protocol will have the best chance of success.

A relationship built on the treaties must be one of mutual respect for mutual authority and self-determination. For far too long, Sagkeeng has been disrespected and suppressed under the burden of a unilaterally-imposed Crown system. It is time to turn away from this colonial approach. We urge you and your ministers to respect our process, and in doing so, advance the cause of reconciliation.

Meegwetch,

**SAGKEENG ANICINABE GOVERNMENT**

Chief Derrick Henderson

Enc. Sagkeeng Consultation and Accommodation Protocol

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The Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development  
The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs

<sup>1</sup>Section 4, *O'na-katch-to'o-na-waOnakonigawin*, 2018.

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The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development  
The Honourable Scott Brison, President of the Treasury Board  
The Honourable Jim Carr, Minister of Natural Resources  
The Honourable Bardish Chagger, Minister of Small Business and Tourism  
The Honourable Francois-Philippe Champagne, Minister of International Trade  
The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development  
The Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science and Minister of Sport  
The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
The Honourable Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport  
The Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness  
The Honourable Karina Gould, Minister of Democratic Institutions  
The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour  
The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship  
The Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage  
The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans  
The Honourable Diane Lebouthillier, Minister of National Revenue  
The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food  
The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
The Honourable Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance  
The Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister of Status of Women  
The Honourable Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Veterans Affairs  
The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health  
The Honourable Jane Philpott, Minister of Indigenous Services  
The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Public Services and Procurement  
The Honourable Harjit Sajjan, Minister of National Defence  
The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities  
The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General