

Motion: *Kanata South Marchlands*
January 12, 2011

WHEREAS the great spiritual Elder of the Algonquin, Grandfather William Commanda, has spoken unequivocally and declared that the South March Highlands, an ecologically unique area is potentially a national heritage site and is a living temple, a place of Manitou;

WHEREAS no fewer than 5 Chiefs representing the Papapkeljiwaning Council of Chiefs, the Ottawa Algonquin First Nation, the Kapishkawandemin Algonquin First Nation, the Ardoch Algonquin First Nation, Kinouchepirini Algonquin First Nation and the Kichesipirini First Nation have expressed a desire to see the South March Highlands protected;

WHEREAS the South March Highlands are located in the unceded, unconquered, and unsurrendered Ottawa River Watershed in the traditional land of the Algonquin;

WHEREAS it is a violation of Algonquin Law to destroy the sacred relationship to the land when other alternatives are available;

WHEREAS the Chiefs have requested that meaningful consultation on alternatives occur;

WHEREAS the Canadian *Constitution Act* affirms the existing rights of all Aboriginal peoples, including status, non-status, Métis and Inuit;

WHEREAS this constitutional affirmation is generally interpreted by the courts as placing a duty upon the Crown to consult meaningfully with First Nations and that this duty may not be delegated to third parties;

WHEREAS there is evidence of significant cultural resources pertaining to the Anishinabe found in the South March Highlands that has not adequately been studied;

WHEREAS Grandfather William Commanda and these Chiefs have also requested that a full archaeological survey be done;

WHEREAS the City of Ottawa does not have a licensed archaeologist on staff;

WHEREAS the City of Ottawa is the national capital of Canada and should be seen as an example role-model to other municipalities in Canada in respecting Aboriginal affairs;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The City undertakes a comprehensive and meaningful consultation with all Aboriginal peoples who wish to participate regardless of status;

2. The current and planned site preparation and alteration activities, including tree-clearing, in the South March Highlands for the Richardson Ridge, Uniform, and KNL subdivisions be immediately halted pending consultation with the Indigenous people of the Ottawa River Watershed;
3. That the City request the assistance of the National Capital Commission who have a licensed archaeologist on staff;
4. That the City takes a leadership role in assuring that a full and credible archaeological survey is performed independent of the third party interest of developers.
5. That such an archaeological survey encompass the entirety of the South March Highlands.
6. That this be set in place as soon as possible.

Moved by: Bruce Ricketts
Seconded by: Loretto Beninger
Carried by: Unanimously
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