



For Immediate Release

Land transfer to Missanabie Cree First Nation ignores Robinson Superior Treaty Rights: Madahbee

UOI OFFICES, NIPISSING FN (August 16, 2011) – The Anishinabek Nation and the Robinson Superior Treaty Chiefs oppose the recent land transfer by the Government of Ontario to the Missanabie Cree First Nation. “This is an illegal land transfer because the land is not Ontario’s to transfer,” said Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee. “We met with the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs several times to discuss this illegal land transfer and each time we were told that our concerns would be looked into, but in the end we were turned down in trying to find a reasonable solution to this issue.”

A press release was issued on August 8, 2011 by the Missanabie Cree First Nation announcing the agreement between the Government of Ontario and the Missanabie Cree. The release stated that “the Missanabie Cree First Nation will be celebrating the successful negotiation of a Land Transfer Agreement with the Government of Ontario.” The area where the land transfer is to take place is in the Robinson Superior Treaty region.

“We thought we were developing a good relationship with this government and now this,” said Madahbee. “For the Province to transfer fifteen square miles of Robinson Superior Treaty land without a lawful agreement from the Robinson Superior Treaty Chiefs shows us that the government has no concern for our treaties. It’s an illegal transfer because it contradicts the Constitution Act, which recognizes and affirms our treaty rights,” Madahbee continued. “Many times we’ve heard Treaty 9 Chiefs declare that they own two-thirds of Ontario under their treaty, so it begs the question, why didn’t the Missanabie Cree land transfer happen within the vast region of Treaty 9, especially when the Missanabie Cree belong to Treaty 9?”

The Anishinabek Nation established the Union of Ontario Indians as its secretariat in 1949. The UOI is a political advocate for 40 member communities across Ontario, representing approximately 55,000 people. The Union of Ontario Indians is the oldest political organization in Ontario and can trace its roots back to the Confederacy of Three Fires, which existed long before European contact.



For more information contact:

Jody Kechego
Political Policy Analyst
Union of Ontario Indians
Cell: (416) 735-9296
E-mail: jody.kechego@anishinabek.ca

Lisa Abel
Media Specialist
Union of Ontario Indians
Phone: (705) 497-9127 (ext. 2259)
Cell: (705) 498-9178
E-mail: lisa.abel@anishinabek.ca