

# **NGTA & GTA-West Corridor Planning EA Studies Orientation Meeting with the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nations Friday, April 20, 2007**

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## **Attended by:**

From Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nations (MNCFN):

- Chief Bryan LaForme
- Councillor Cecil Sault
- Councillor Marvin LaForme
- Councillor Georgina Sault
- Councillor R. Stacy LaForme
- Margaret Sault, Director, Research, Lands and Membership
- Spring Carter, Director, Social & Economic Development

From MTO:

- John Slobodzian, Project Coordinator, NGTA
  - Jin Wang, Project Coordinator, GTA-West
  - Penny Young, Regional Archaeologist
  - Charlton Carscallen, Regional Archaeologist
  - Will Mackenzie, Media Relations
  - Carolyn Southey, Environmental Planner
  - Darlene Proudfoot, Environmental Planner
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## **Meeting Notes:**

Chief LaForme distributed two documents to the MTO project team:

- 'The history of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation' (beige booklet)
- 'Toronto Purchase Specific Claim – Arriving at an Agreement' (blue booklet)

Meeting commenced with an overview of the projects & EA process. MNCFN asked a number of questions and comments during the meeting, to which various MTO team members responded. Below are the questions and/or comments raised by MNCFN.

- Timing of the EA process?
  - When does archaeological investigation occur?
  - There is a need to identify land claims early in the planning process. It was also noted that traditional territory issues might lead to a land claim later.
  - There should be an awareness of land claims, especially potential land claims within traditional territories. Traditional territories are outlined in the beige booklet (centre page)
  - INAC sends correspondence to 1<sup>st</sup> Nations groups regarding all EA studies. However, Indian Affairs can often give incorrect data. Always check with the individual First Nations communities to verify information.
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- When & where does consultation/accommodation come into play?
- Lines of communication with 1<sup>st</sup> Nations groups should be open throughout the process
- A general comment was made that 1<sup>st</sup> Nations perspective was not incorporated into the Provincial Growth Plan, but it was recognized that the Growth Plan was not the topic of today's discussion
- MNCFN may request resource money to be able to participate fully in MTO's EA process
- MNCFN are currently in the process of developing a preliminary checklist of issues that matter to their band to assist in prioritizing development projects. This checklist could be useful for MTO's projects.
- Open to opportunities for partnerships
- Inquired about registered burial grounds. Have they been investigated and what if non-registered sites are impacted?
- Agreed that if more historical information is provided, the better the decision-making process
- Recommended that MTO come to 1<sup>st</sup> Nations for information and they will provide it
- Have participated in Land Use Studies in conjunction with the federal government and MNR to document some of the traditional information available. The outcome was the beige booklet. MNCFN will work with MTO on data gathering but will want some data to remain confidential. For example, some details related to medicinal plant locations will not be given to protect the plants.
- Margaret Sault will be the staff member working with MTO. All correspondence should be through Margaret.
- Agreed that developing a map could assist in displaying traditional information. MNCFN is willing to work with MTO on this.
- As we go through the process, MNCFN may concentrate on certain issues, such as business and economic development, depending on the area impacted.
- MNCFN were familiar with the Factors and Evaluation Criteria and was generally pleased with them. Fred Leech (Highway 24 project) presented the same list at previous meetings.
- Inquired as to what was included in the 'Sacred Grounds' criteria. It was noted that burial ground locations are not written down anywhere and are usually found if uncovered naturally or if development occurs. Burial grounds are typically found on high ground, near former villages/encampments.
- For consultation requirements with MNCFN, the Council is the governing body and they will determine the appropriate consultation process, dependent upon the issue. They will decide when it is necessary to hold a community meeting on these projects. It is not necessary at this time but the Council will request one when they feel the project details are important to the community
- MNCFN is a much smaller group than Six Nations and have different communication requirements
- If MTO wants MNCFN to comment on the projects, it is desirable to meet with Margaret Sault or Council rather than phoning for comments. Meetings should be held on a regular basis, such as at project milestones.

- Would like MTO to consider making resource people, such as staff at the consulting engineering firms, available to assist 1<sup>st</sup> Nations groups. MTO should consider using 1<sup>st</sup> Nation ancestry/liason people throughout the process, which would assist the team in a greater understanding of 1<sup>st</sup> Nations issues.
- MNCFN publishes a monthly newsletter. The newsletter could document project details to the community when necessary. In addition, 'Turtle Island' and 'Teeka' newspapers can be used for project OGN's.
  
- **Post meeting note:** MNCFN are opening up a satellite office in Toronto in August, which may be convenient for future MTO meetings