



Update on the Court Action Filed Against the Moose Cree First Nation by the MoCreebec Council of the Cree Nation

As Chief of the Moose Cree First Nation, I am writing to all Moose Cree First Nation members and all the other people who make Moose Factory their home. A very serious issue has arisen that threatens the good relationships we have on this island.

The Lawsuit:

The MoCreebec Council of the Cree Nation on behalf of all MoCreebec members has started a lawsuit that seeks to shut down the Lower Mattagami Project.

The leadership of MoCreebec have done so without regard for the interests of the Moose Cree First Nation, our members and all the other people whose livelihoods and businesses now rely on the Project moving forward (including some members of MoCreebec and MoCreebec businesses).

The Lower Mattagami Project is fundamental to the economic well being of the Moose Cree First Nation and the region now and in the years to come. We must stand up and defend it. We will vigorously defend the Amisk-oo-skow Agreement.

When I spoke to Randy Kapashesit about the lawsuit he told me that the lawsuit was not against the Moose Cree First Nation. This is not true, the Moose Cree First Nation is named in the lawsuit and any harm to the Lower Mattagami Project will directly affect the interests of the Moose Cree.

The MoCreebec leadership have also argued in their lawsuit that MoCreebec has the same rights as the Moose Cree to the Moose Cree Homeland. This assertion is very disrespectful to the Moose Cree First Nation, our Treaty Rights, and the hand of friendship that we have extended to MoCreebec people over the years since they started arriving in Moose Factory in the 1950s.

A Better Way:

Many of our families have members that are also MoCreebec members. For this reason, and in the interests of all people in the Homeland, we have sought to encourage MoCreebec's leadership to engage with us on the Project. That offer has never been taken up.

We sought to engage MoCreebec in the design of the Mattagami Extensions Coordinating Committee (MECC) and to date the leadership of MoCreebec refuses to have any real conversation about what the MECC needs to be and how we can make it work for everyone. No group can stand in the way and say “it’s my way or no way.”

A seat remains open for MoCreebec to fully participate in the MECC.

MoCreebec people can get benefits from the Project without the lawsuit. The leadership of MoCreebec has been approached by OPG to negotiate a Community Impact Agreement (flowing from the requirements of the Provincial Environmental Approval). In that Community Impact Agreement, MoCreebec people have a chance to secure economic and social benefits.

Despite repeated invitations from OPG over the last year, the leadership of MoCreebec have failed to start negotiating a Community Impact Agreement.

In that same time period, Taykwa Tagamou Nation (TTN) has entered into a Community Impact Agreement and is supporting the Moose Cree and the Lower Mattagami Project. As a result, TTN members are getting employment, training and business opportunities. TTN is also actively participating in the MECC and the Environmental Working Group to ensure that they are doing their part to protect the environment.

The Path Forward:

The MoCreebec leadership cannot gain benefits from the Lower Mattagami Project by attempting to take things away from the Moose Cree First Nation. We have worked too hard and been through too much to have our Treaty Rights recognized to let our historic reconciliation with OPG be undone.

The division this lawsuit will create in our community risks undermining the good relationship we have shared.

The lawsuit is not the way to build a better environmental monitoring body that meets the interests of all involved. The lawsuit is not the way for MoCreebec to get benefits from the Project. The lawsuit is not the way to build a strong and unified community in Moose Factory and Moosonee.

The lawsuit should be dropped.

The time has come for MoCreebec to show its support for the Moose Cree First Nation, the Project, and the Community. MoCreebec leadership should get on with negotiating a Community Impact Agreement and start participating in the MECC. This is the better way.

Yours truly,



Chief Norm Hardisty Jr.



For more information regarding this matter, please contact **Chief Norm Hardisty Jr.** at:

Office: (705) 658-4619 ext. 250

Moose Cree First Nation,
P.O. Box 190, Moose Factory, ON P0L 1W0