



Supplementary Information

Presentation from the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation

In the Matter of the

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL)

Application from the CNL to amend its
Chalk River Laboratories site licence to
authorize the construction of a near surface
disposal facility

Commission Public Hearing Part 2

May and June 2022

Renseignements supplémentaires

Présentation de la Première Nation des Anishinabeg de Kitigan Zibi

À l'égard des

Laboratoires Nucléaires Canadiens (LNC)

Demande des LNC visant à modifier le permis
du site des Laboratoires de Chalk River pour
autoriser la construction d'une installation de
gestion des déchets près de la surface

Audience publique de la Commission Partie 2

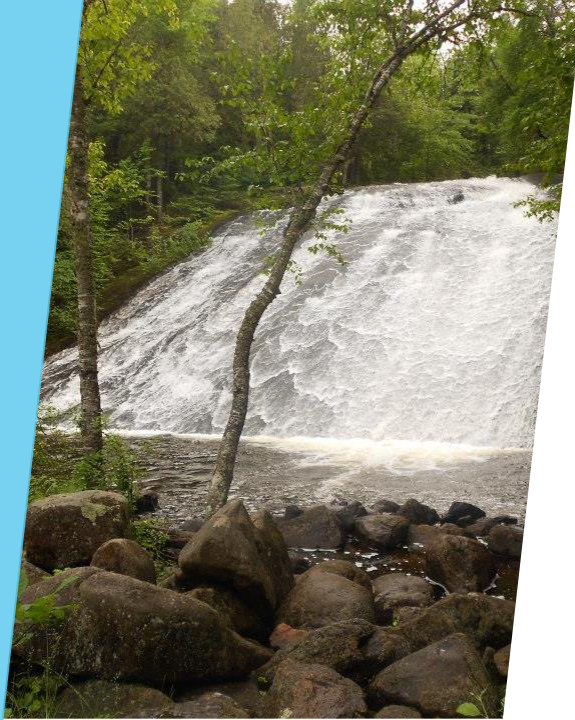
Mai et juin 2022

“Inherent Water and Fire Understandings of the Algonquin Nation”

Verna McGregor



The Algonquin Omami-wininiwag have been in the Ottawa River Watershed since time immemorial



One of the Algonquin First Nation's Inherent understandings is that Women are Keepers of the Waters - Men are Keepers of the Fire

► The risk of burying nuclear waste in the Algonquin unceded traditional lands jeopardizes the safety of access to potable water for over a million people dependent on the access to safe drinking water (Ottawa population 1.4 million - 2021)

► The heat from the burying of nuclear waste also changes the Earth's internal fire.

► Fire . (Men's firekeeping teachings include the Earth's internal fire).



The Water Keepers



The connection of the Great
Lakes and St. Lawrence River

Water - Nibi - Eau

▶ Water = Life

It is First Nation People who are inherent right holders. An Inherent right is prior to contact with Europeans.

▶ Water = Energy

This right was also affirmed through the 1763 Royal Proclamation declaration.

▶ Energy = Power

The Ottawa River Watershed still remains “unceded”

▶ Power = Control

Permission was never sought from the original right holders - The Algonquin First Nations today hold the inherent rights for the construction of the Chalk River Nuclear facility in 1944 .

Water - Nibi - Eau

Cont'd

- The Chalk River Nuclear facility was constructed in 1944 at the height of First Nation oppression legislation under the Federal statute of the Indian Act.
- Legislation in place in 1944 also included the inability of status Indians (First Nations) under the Indian Act to access legal representation in the imposed foreign system.
- There was also the imposition of "The Pass System", whereby, Indians (First Nations) on-reserve were not allowed to leave their reserves to also observe development on their traditional unceded lands.

Ottawa - Canada's Capital



The population of Ottawa-Gatineau today is 1.4 million people.

The Ottawa River (Kitchi Sibi) also connects to Canada's other major cities such as Montreal and Quebec City which also rely on the Ottawa River for their potable water.

Why the traditional understanding of Water Keeper and Firekeeper? - Times have changed since 1944

In addition to the traditional lands of the Algonquin Nation being unceded as per the Royal Proclamation of 1763, there are Supreme Court rulings to date for Canada's obligation or "Duty to Consult". Other recent events include:

- ▶ Canada recently passed bill C-15 to adhere to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)
- ▶ The release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report in 2016 (TRC) for reparation in the apprehension of First Nation, Inuit, and Metis children and the issue of cultural genocide.
- ▶ Canada has made a commitment in addressing the drinking water issue on-reserves, yet, this issue of nuclear waste storage potentially could impact a population's access to safe water.

Why the traditional understanding of Water Keeper and Firekeeper?

► GBA Framework

- The Government of Canada has a commitment to the **Gender Based Analysis Framework**. As a result of the lack of a formal consultation process which would include the recognized traditional Algonquin people, the traditional First Nation Waterkeepers (female) and Firekeepers (male), this goes counter to respecting the GBA and also UNDRIP.
- Under a GBA framework the issue of nuclear and nuclear waste does also impact reproductive rights of both male and female.

**Walking the talk on “Reconciliation”
and the United Nations Declaration on the
Rights of Indigenous Peoples
means the allowance of a proper
consultation process for the Algonquin
Nation whose traditional unceded lands
will be impacted by nuclear waste
disposal.**

**We need to emerge from the 1944 era of
unbridled development and disrespect of
First Nations for the benefit of future
generations and creation.**

Kichi Miigwetch!