



NATION OF THE AMIKWA NIPISSING ALLIES (NANA)

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Canada Acknowledges NANA — Then Tells Original Title Holders to File a Claim

NANA says the real issue is not what it must claim, but what lawful claim Canada and Ontario assert against original title

Petawawa / Ottawa, Ontario — June 1st, 2026 — The Nation of the Amikwa Nipissing Allies (NANA) confirms receipt of a letter dated May 28, 2026, from the federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations acknowledging NANA’s November 5, 2025 declaration asserting title and interests in the region, including in relation to the Algonquins of Ontario treaty process.

In the letter, Canada acknowledges NANA’s submission and says broader consultation with Indigenous groups, interested parties, and the public will occur as the contemplated treaty advances. At the same time, Canada directs NANA toward a formal **claims-assessment process requiring a statement of claim, historical report, and supporting section 35 documentation.**

NANA says that response does not answer the central issue. “This is not about coming forward as a new claimant seeking recognition,” said Michael Swinwood, counsel for NANA. “Decisions are already being made. Negotiations are already advancing. Structures are already being relied upon in the territory. We are asking the government to explain the legal basis for what is already being done.”

NANA’s position is that it cannot be pushed into a claims process while the underlying constitutional and jurisdictional issues remain unresolved. In NANA’s view, Canada and Ontario continue to act in the territory on a **de facto basis**, while the **de jure basis** for displacing or overriding original title remains unproven and unaddressed.

“You do not claim what is already yours,” Swinwood said. “The real question is not what NANA must claim. The real question is: what is Canada’s claim against original title, and what is Ontario’s claim against original title? On what lawful basis do they say they can proceed as though those foundational questions are already settled?”

NANA says the Minister’s letter is still significant because it confirms that the federal Crown is now formally on notice of NANA’s asserted continuity, title, and interests in the territory. That acknowledgment matters while treaty negotiations and related public-facing arrangements continue to move forward in territory where NANA says its original title and continuity have long been asserted. “This is not about asking permission to exist,” Swinwood said. “It is about requiring Canada and Ontario to explain the legal basis of the authority they are already asserting in unceded territory.”

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