



KITIGAN ZIBI ANISHINABEG

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg returns to court to settle Aboriginal Title Claim

Algonquin Unceded Territory: December 7th, 2022 - Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg (KZA) filed an historic Aboriginal Title claim in December of 2016 to the core lands in the City of Ottawa. Since filing the claim, the First Nation has worked hard to resolve the outstanding title issue at the table, but it has become apparent to KZA that Canada has no interest or mandate to recognize Aboriginal Title.

As the first peoples of this territory - KZA has made the difficult but important decision to return to court to resolve the injustice that occurred when its Aboriginal Title lands were wrongfully taken. Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg has attempted to resolve its longstanding grievances through negotiation with Canada, but the Crown has not committed to anything substantive, and the negotiation process has been a lot of talk and no action by Canada.

Chief Whiteduck noted KZA's discouragement: "despite Canada's published online material stating that it will work to recognize rights and title in agreements, our experience is that Canada has no mandate to do so, and we strongly believe we are being led astray with the negotiation process."

Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg members controlled the land at sovereignty and have never ceded their territory through treaty or any other means. At this point in time, pursuing Aboriginal Title in the courts is the only realistic choice for the community.

Chief Whiteduck goes on to note that "Canada's approach creates risks for investors and developers that wish to build on unceded Aboriginal Title lands."

Canada needs to change its approach and not just talk the talk. KZA wants to see substantive steps on Canada's part to demonstrate a real step towards reconciliation.

Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg firmly believes that recognized Aboriginal Title is the only way forward for a prosperous Nation.

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