



PO Box 10
Aroland, Ontario
P0T 1B0
Phone: (807) 329-
5970

May 6, 2022

SENT BY EMAIL

Chief Bruce Achneepineskum and Council
Marten Falls First Nation
c/o Marten Falls First Nation Band Office
General Delivery
Ogoki Post, ON P0T 2L0
Emails: <Email addresses removed>

Dear Chief and Council:

Re: RING OF FIRE AND MFFN ROAD SEGMENT

It is with deep sadness but also deep strength in our convictions, that we write to inform you that Aroland First Nation opposes your road segment project as it is currently proposed and is currently being pushed ahead.

Your road project is one of three segments of road that are being promoted by Ontario in order to open up mining in the Ring of Fire. While we did not and do not in principle oppose Marten Falls or any other First Nation being connected to a road system so that you are no longer remote, one aspect of your road segment, and the other two road segments, are not for that purpose and are instead to open up the region to massive scale mining.

We object to your proposed road project being approved without our consent, and we do not give our consent. The southern one-quarter to one-third of your proposed road project is on territory that overlaps with Aroland traditional territory. Aroland never ceded or surrendered any rights to make decisions about developments on our territory especially those that by themselves or cumulatively with other existing and proposed developments threaten the lands, the environment, the climate, our culture and our rights. Ring of Fire mining threatens all of this. Your road segment if it proceeds with the other two segments, will grease a downhill slope toward this massive scale development. Your road segment project alone would take up even more of our territory, which has already been severely harmed and taken up by forestry and other mining.

Marten Falls has rejected our many attempts to work on the environmental / impact assessments jointly so both our First Nations, on whose lands the road project would be located, are in decision making roles. Marten Falls has continued to refuse our calls and the calls of many other First Nations in the James Bay Lowlands to stop pushing ahead the road projects or anything else in the region until a comprehensive regional impact assessment co-led by a body of all First Nations who stand to be permanently and seriously affected by such development, is completed. While a lot of the mining claims are in Marten Falls and Webequie territories, some of the road and other infrastructure would be in ours, and impacts will be felt, perhaps catastrophically, across the entire Lowlands region (and in terms of climate, around the world). Such development requires Marten Falls consent but not only Marten Falls (or Webequie's) consent. It also requires that of Aroland and other First Nations.

Unless and until there is a regional assessment that covers all potential development of the entire James Bay Lowlands area, co-developed, co-implemented and co-enforced by a body of affected First Nations in the region, from which comes joint decisions about what can be developed, where and how, Aroland opposes such development. Further, Aroland objects to your road project proceeding and will continue to object until the RA as described above is completed and it reveals that the mining road segments can and should be developed, and until MFFN agrees that Aroland must consent to your road project given that it is in part in Aroland territory.

Aroland is aware of the severe duress that Ontario tried to put all Matawa communities under when the regional framework approach was dismantled. We are aware that Ontario essentially made pre-consent to mining (regardless of its consequences) a condition to getting any funding support from Ontario. To us financially poor First Nations, this is a very unfair and even abusive condition. Aroland does not blame Marten Falls for this, but neither will Aroland allow Marten Falls, being propelled by this duress, to build anything on our territory without our consent, including your proposed road.

We welcome you to come and sit around the council fire with us on this, but we will not change our position. Our elders and our warriors have spoken. We are happy to work with you to get out from under Ontario and to proceed as indicated above, if Marten Falls will consider this. But if this brotherhood approach is not reciprocated, we will do what we need to block the road project including if required going to court.

If you reach out to us to work together in true Anishinaabe peace and friendship, we will be here.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Chief Dorothy Towedo and Council

cc: David Paul Achneepineskum
Matawa Tribal Council

(davidpaul@matawa.on.ca)