

May 26, 2021

Foothills Ojibway First.Nation

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Dear Ms. Shelly Boss

In 2008 the government did not consult with Foothills Ojibway at that time. Later, I had wanted to participate but something happened. I didn't participate. This time I want to participate on phase one and more.

First of all I want to say that things were outlawed for so long for us, that we couldn't talk about our own education structure. For 550 years, we've been keeping it. We could not talk about our sacred, cultural, historical and heritage sites, because things were outlawed for a long time. Since the beginning of the mining, I have strong reasons why I wanted to participate. I had an interest in the mining area because that's one of the areas that I have cultural and sacred sites. So we're at this phase two now.

I acknowledge that mining expansion is underway for approval. This time I have concerns about my cultural sacred sites, and Historical sacred sites that are centers for my medicines, and the minerals in that creek. The creek goes into McCloud River. I am worried about what is going to happen with my medicines?. I am worried, "What's going to happen with the water? What about the assessment that's taken place, but didn't have the cultural, environmental assessment. I understand that there is one assessment.

If that's the case, who is sitting to decide and has the knowledge of our own structure of understanding of those cultural issues for our people when decisions are being made? What's going to happen? Like with our cultural sites. If you walk from the existing mine site you will come up to my cultural site, You will see flags tied up on a hill. This indicates people's continued use. You indicated that, in order to make decisions on cultural sacred sites, they have to be

current use. Well, if you look at the flags. You see that there is current use, easily viewed. We are still using that cultural site, and we still continue today.

So, my question is, who's sitting at the application tables that make decisions for cultural and sacred sites to be destroyed?

Will the minister give approval to destroy cultural sacred sites? If that's the case, why do you have a moment of silence to recognize treaty six territory. Again, once again I like to know.

Will the minister give an approval to destroy or bulldoze our cultural sites ?.

However, I in the 2000s I did some work in our own Hinton research institute on traditional land use study with their current technology.

I thank you, and I sure want to sit there, because I want to know what's going to happen with my cultural heritage, sacred sites. I'm not alone on this. First Nations worry about their cultural sacred sites.

Sincerely,
Chief Jim Ochiese
Foothills Ojibway First Nation