

## Before Cutting Trees, An Algonquin Permit will be necessary

### *Long Point First Nation Requires Proponents Of Development On Their Territory To Have A Permit To Operate*

Rouyn-Noranda, April 27, 2005 -Any proponent of developmental activity on Long Point First Nation's territory will be required to secure a permit from the First Nation

The Long Point First Nation (Winneway) has taken it upon itself to find the innovations required to get past the new Charest governments confrontational and questionable management of their aboriginal way of life. This permit, issued by the Algonquin community, is designed to promote the coexistence of commercial activities and the aboriginal ways of life.

“As a result of the new Charest governments confrontational approach and unwillingness to work collaboratively with us to develop effective alternate mechanisms, we are left no choice but to by-pass Quebec and deal directly with the industries themselves”, explained Steeve Mathias, Long Point First Nation's Chief.

The Chief reiterates that, at this time, his people do not recognize Quebec's authority to unilaterally issue directives for any development on any part of the territory of the Long Point First Nation. The community will not allow any development to take place on its territory without first requiring the proponent of development to ensure the Long Point First Nation that its aboriginal rights and way of life would not be threatened and put at risk by the proposed development respectively.

#### A Development Opportunity

“Our community is not against development, says Chief Mathias. It is only against development conducted in such a way that risks and threats are posed to our cultural distinctiveness and our way of life.”

In fact, Long Point First Nation's new and innovative permitting process is relatively simple and is in no way intended to limit development. It is more a simple declaration between the community and the proponent of development that any developmental activities being conducted are being done so in a responsible and credible way. Long Points initial discussions with some Industry in the area has been received positively and with enthusiasm. “The people we have tested the theory with within the industry

have told us they see this as both innovative and constructively proactive”, states Chief Mathias.

“We are confident that everybody, especially our neighbors of Abitibi-Témiscamingue, will see the wisdom in receiving our innovative and progressive approach as an opportunity. We are eliminating the element at the center of ongoing conflicts, and going to build new partnerships for a stronger region”, concluded Chief Steeve Mathias

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Source :

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