OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF AND COUNCIL

ᐅᑭᒪᑲᐣ ᒥᓇ ᐅᓇᓱᐁ·ᐃ·ᓂᓂᐊ·ᐠ
ᐅᒪᓱᓇᐤᐃᑯᐃ·ᑲᒥᑯᐊ·

ᑭᒥᓇᐧᑎᑯᓱᐤᐃᓂᓂᐊ·ᐠ
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug

PRESS RELEASE

November 7, 2019

Protecting KI watershed gets funding support from Canada

BIG TROUT LAKE, ON – Chief Donny Morris is pleased to announce that Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug has recently signed an Agreement with the Government of Canada in support of its project to establish an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) in the Fawn River Watershed (Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug homeland). Located approximately 600 km northwest of Thunder Bay, the watershed is 13,025 km^2.

“We are happy with Canada coming on board with our project,” says Chief Donny Morris. “We see this as an important step along the reconciliation path. This funding will help us move to the next phase of our project working alongside Wapekeka First Nation. We are jointly connected by this watershed and I look forward to working together,” Morris described.

This is an important milestone for the community and they wanted to let their supporters know from all across Canada that progress is continuing on protecting the watershed. KI was successful in securing a $387,500 grant from the Canada Nature Fund with additional matching funding commitments from Metcalf Foundation and International Boreal Conservation Campaign. Wildlands League and Wildlife Conservation Society Canada are providing in kind support and scientific advice to the community to support implementing this project. Dr. David Peerla is also advising KI on this project.

The Chief acknowledged that this is an important moment not only for the community itself, its staff and leadership but for everyone, “This area is important for the planet and our community is playing a role in helping to fight climate change by safeguarding a watershed that provides clean drinking water for all life, habitat for the fish, water life and animals, food and travel ways for our people, moisture for the air and rich carbon peatlands our people refer to as *the breathing lands*.”

“I want to thank all the individuals and groups that have worked with us over the years. There are too many to list here but they have all been important allies. I want them to know this work is continuing and we are also looking forward to working with both levels of government on protecting the watershed. Hopefully they’ll see that there is another level of government up here,” Chief Morris said.

This project was undertaken with the support of the Government of Canada through the federal department of Environment and Climate Change.

Ce projet a été realisé avec l’appui financier du gouvernement du Canada agissant par l’entremise du ministère fédéral de l’Environnement et du Changement climatique.

For more information: Please contact Chief Donny Morris: mobile 807-738-5257

P.O. Box 329
BIG TROUT LAKE, ON
P0V 1G0
Tel. no.: (807) 537-2263
Fax no.: (807) 537-2574