

Ministre des Affaires autochtones
et du développement du Nord



Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and
Northern Development

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

cc: Randy S.

FEB 25 2015

RECEIVED
MAR - 2 2015

Mr. Brian Milne
Warden
Grey County
595 9th Avenue East
OWEN SOUND ON N4K 3E3

warden@grey.ca

Dear Mr. Milne:

Thank you for your letter of August 19, 2014, concerning First Nations land claims and consultation in Grey County.

The Government of Canada is aware of the existence of Aboriginal land claims in the Province of Ontario, including those specifically in Grey County, as well as the impacts and challenges these pose on development and local economies. Indeed, the complex issues surrounding land claims and consultation and accommodation are among the important issues that Canada and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada continue to address with Aboriginal groups. Canada consults and will continue to consult with First Nations whenever contemplated federal action may affect legitimate First Nation interests.

In regard to the claims affecting Grey County, in particular those concerning Six Nations of the Grand River, the Chippewas of the Saugeen First Nation and the Chippewas of Nawash First Nation, these First Nations are currently engaged in litigation with Canada therefore I cannot comment on the claims specifically. I can assure you, however, that Canada supports negotiated solutions wherever practicable. If Grey County is contemplating an activity that would require consultation with First Nations, that activity would necessarily fall within provincial jurisdiction. For that reason, I refer you to Ontario's Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs for any advice on consultation procedures. Should there be activity requiring federal involvement, please be assured that the appropriate department or agency will work closely with you to ensure that the duty to consult is carried out.

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I commend you for your efforts to develop good relations with Aboriginal communities and to reconcile their interests with those of the municipalities of Grey County. It is my firm belief that communication and negotiations between governments and First Nations will lead to outcomes that will benefit all parties concerned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bernard Valcourt".

Bernard Valcourt, PC, QC, MP

c.c.: The Honourable David Zimmer, MPP