



**THE ALGONQUIN ANISHINABEG NATION  
LA NATION ALGONQUINE ANISHINABEG**  
*Abitibiwinni – Kebaowek– Kitcisakik  
Kitigan Zibi – Lac Simon – Long Point - Wahgoshig*

**Pseudo-Algonquin Ceremony at Canadian Nuclear Laboratories**

**"There is no “clear path” on the nuclear road” -Savanna McGregor**

**Nitakinan - December 9, 2021-** Reacting to the news published by Canadian Nuclear Laboratories celebrating the designation of an Algonquin name given by the “Algonquins of Ontario” group of one of their buildings, the Grand Chief of the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation Tribal Council, Ms. Savanna McGregor, called the move insulting from CNL given that the group in question is not even a recognized Indigenous group.

"The group that calls itself the Algonquins of Ontario is not made up of the Algonquin communities or recognized members, with the exception of the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn who are only a minority of this group," said Ms. McGregor recalling that the members of Pikwàkanagàn were moreover opposed in majority during a referendum on the draft agreement in principle with this group.

The Grand Chief called the AOO group's gesture an attempt to appropriate Algonquin identity for benefits to which they were not entitled. The majority of this group claim to have ties to an Algonquin ancestor whose existence dates back several hundred years. In some cases, the connection to an Aboriginal ancestor is highly contested. She also believes that CNL is using this group to escape its genuine obligations to consult and accommodate the true Algonquins.

CNL's facilities are located in Chalk River, Ontario on the shores of the Ottawa River, in the heart of the ancestral territory of the true Algonquins. “I fully support Kebaowek’s position and denounce this group’s interference in Algonquin territory. The fact that the AOO is doing this on the territory of the Nation without respecting the protocol shows that these people are not real members of the First Nations,” she said.

The Tribal Council and the Algonquin communities believe that CNL's activities are a danger to everyone, people, animals, fish and plants. “The true Algonquins would never have honored such a dangerous and disrespectful enterprise by giving it an Anishinabemowin name. The word in question, Minwamon, means "clear path." "There is no clear path on the nuclear road," she added.

The Grand Chief asks CNL to respect its obligations to consult and accommodate the Algonquin Nation and the real Algonquin communities, which are the sole holders of the rights to this territory.

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Source: Georges Lafontaine  
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