



NO MINING ON BARRIERE LAKE ALGONQUIN TERRITORIES BRIEF

A BRIEF HISTORY: The Algonquins of Barriere Lake have persistently opposed all mining exploration and development on our territories. In 2010, our First Nation learned that without consultation, the junior mining company Cartier Resources had began mineral exploration activities on our traditional territories. In January 2011, we asked workers for Cartier's subcontractors to leave our territories, and in May 2011, we asserted our aboriginal rights at the shareholders meeting of Cartier. In 2011, the junior mining company Copper One purchased the mineral exploration rights to the Riviere Dore project. In July 2011, after Barriere Lake spokesperson Norman Matchewan spoke at Copper One's shareholders meeting and asserted our opposition to the project to Quebec, we won a five-year moratorium on mining activities in our territories. In June 2016, while the Council was negotiating a Draft Implementation Agreement with Quebec to implement the 1991 and 1998 Agreements the Quebec government stealthily and without our consent, lifted the moratorium on mining on their ancestral (and current-use) Trilateral Agreement Territory. Despite our First Nation's persistent opposition to this work and insistence that this mine cannot go forward, in August 2016 Copper One raised \$2.4 million dollars for exploration work.

CURRENT SITUATION: Since September 2016, Barriere Lake has sustained a land protection camp near a proposed open pit copper mining site on our territory. The junior mining company Copper One's mining claim at the Riviere Dore covers over 300 square kilometers of Barriere Lake's land base ([please see map on next page](#)), which contains the La Vérendrye wildlife reserve. On January 26, 2017, the Government of Quebec announced that it intended to suspend the mining claims of Copper One; this was confirmed on 8 February 2017. Although this was a step in the right direction, more than 90% of the ancestral territory of the First Nation remains open to mining – an unacceptable situation for our First Nation.

BARRIERE LAKE SAYS NO TO MINING On September 7, 2016 affirmed our opposition to mining activities on our ancestral territories. The resolution states "That our Mitchikanibikok Inik Council hereby confirm our Algonquin Peoples' (Mitchikanibikik Inik) position on mining activities as follows: 1. THAT no mining activity (staking, exploration or development) will be accepted on our ancestral (and current-use) Trilateral Agreement Territory for the same reasons which led to the moratorium of 2011. 2. THAT the absence of due and effective consultation and accommodation before the surreptitious lifting of the moratorium is a breach of the law and is not condoned by our Community. 3. THAT the lands within our ancestral (and current-use) Trilateral Agreement Territory be withdrawn from staking and other mineral activity by the Minister, and the existing claims be cancelled.



THE QUEBEC MINING ACT considers subsurface mineral rights on Indigenous lands to be “situated in the domain of the state”, and allows Quebec’s Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife to issue and arbitrate permits for mineral exploration. By paying a small fee, corporations can retain the mineral rights to Indigenous lands without the free, prior and informed consent of First Nations. While the Act contains a provision obligation Quebec ‘to consult Native communities’ on mining activities, our First Nation and several Algonquin First Nations have critiqued the Mining Act’s lack of any obligation to inform or to consult Indigenous nations before the Government grants mineral claims on their traditional territories. The law also fails to require permits or consultation for the vast majority of mining exploration work, including drilling, mechanical trenching, and other use of heavy equipment. The Mining Act does not allow integrated land use planning in respect of indigenous peoples’ rights and aspirations, including the possibility of saying ‘no’ to mining claims located in culturally or ecologically sensitive areas. The Act also effectively criminalizes opposition to mining, stating “No person prohibit or hinder access to any land containing mineral substances forming part of the domain of the State.” On February 1, 2017, the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador adopted a resolution condemning Quebec’s Mining Act as an unconstitutional violation of aboriginal rights.

COPPER ONE (TSX-V CUO) are a junior mining company based in Toronto, with approximately \$2.5 million in assets. Copper One is controlled by Forbes & Manhattan, a private merchant bank created and directed by billionaire Stan Bharti who is the executive chairman. The bulk of their current activity focuses on The Riviere Dore project, situated largely in Barriere Lake’s current and ancestral use territories. They have an advisory board that includes Pierre Pettigrew, a Quebec-based Liberal who was a former Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

COPPER ONE SUES QUEBEC On February 3, 2017, one week after Quebec announced it would suspend permits for Copper One’s Riviere Dore project, Copper One filed a suit against Quebec “seeking an order requiring the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks (the “Minister) to issue a forestry permit to carry out work related to mining activities’ in Barriere Lake’s territories, or alternately, seeking a decision on these permits from Quebec.

BARRIERE LAKE INTERVENES AGAINST COPPER ONE Barriere Lake, with the support of lawyers from EcoJustice, have intervened against Copper One’s legal action. Barriere Lake are asserting the fundamental incompatibility of mining activities with their vision for their future, and asserting their rights and jurisdiction in the spirit of co-existence embodied in the 1991 Trilateral Agreement, the 1998 Bilateral Agreement. These proposals for resource co-management with the federal and provincial governments that have largely been ignored so that our lands can remain “open for business” to unsustainable development.



LAND PROTECTION CAMP. The Algonquins of Barriere Lake will continue to sustain the Land Protection camp on our traditional territories until all mining activities on our territories are permanently suspended.

MAP OF MINING CLAIMS ON OUR ANCESTRAL TERRITORIES:

