

RESOLUTION

Nishnawbe Aski Nation

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25/21

NISHNAWBE ASKI NATION POSITION ON BILL 5 *PROTECTING ONTARIO BY UNLEASHING OUR ECONOMY ACT, 2025*

WHEREAS Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) First Nations have a mandate from The Creator to be stewards of the ancestral lands and waters of the entire NAN territorial boundaries, and the People of Nishnawbe Aski are the Indigenous Rights Holders who retain and assert our rights and interests from our own Sacred and Traditional Laws and Customs, in addition to the rights of *Constitution Act*, 1982, Section 35, and the oral and written promises of the James Bay Treaty No. 9 (1905-06 and 1929-30) and the Ontario portion of Treaty No. 5;

WHEREAS James Bay Treaty No. 9 (1905-06 and 1929-30) is unique from all historic numbered treaties in Canada, in that the Crowns of both the federal and provincial governments are signatories to the Treaty, and the specific responsibility for the payment of the Treaty annuity of \$4.00 per member is paid by the Province of Ontario, as a token of our Treaty relationship;

WHEREAS the will of the People of Nishnawbe Aski to defend our Right to Self-Determination, compensation for resources, compensation for Treaty violations, renegotiation of our Treaties and the recognition of our Rights were the primary reasons for the founding of NAN and the delivery of the 1977 Declaration of Nishnawbe Aski (The People and the Land) to Ontario Premier William Davis on July 6, 1977 in Toronto and to Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau on July 11, 1977 in Ottawa;

WHEREAS when Treaty No. 5 and Treaty No. 9 were signed, the People of Nishnawbe Aski understood to share the wealth of our lands and resources with Canada, while protecting the lands and water, resources, and never ceded or surrendered the land or our Inherent Rights jurisdiction within our Treaty boundaries, communities, territories and homelands;

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has introduced Bill 5: *Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act*, 2025, including Schedule 9 *Special Economic Zones Act*, 2025, without any engagement, discussion, or negotiation with NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly as the legitimate Indigenous Rights Holders, and Crown Treaty partners;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly **reject** the Province of Ontario's unilateral imposition of Bill 5: *Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act*, 2025, including Schedule 9 *Special Economic Zones Act*, 2025, as fundamentally excluding NAN First Nations from meaningful engagement on Treaty implementation and planning to address First Nation-directed priorities;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Chiefs-in-Assembly mandate the NAN Executive Council to urgently resist Ontario's Bill 5 and make every effort to have it withdrawn or substantially amended, and to



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consider using every Canadian and First Nations legal tool available to eliminate or limit the damage of this proposed legislation;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Chiefs-in-Assembly direct NAN Executive Council to immediately develop and implement an action plan to organize the resistance to Bill 5;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Chiefs-in-Assembly demand an immediate meeting be held in good faith between the Treaty Rights Holders and the Premier of Ontario with regard to the impact of Bill 5;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Chiefs-in-Assembly mandate the Executive Council to address Bill 5 as a colonial product of the racist and discredited Doctrines of Discovery and Terra Nullius;

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that Executive Council is directed to continue to provide updates to the Chiefs-in-Assembly as a priority issue.

DATED IN TORONTO, ONTARIO, THIS 22ND DAY OF MAY 2025.

MOVED BY: Chief Sheri Taylor, Ginoogaming First Nation
SECONDED BY: Chief Gary Quisess, Neskantaga First Nation
DECISION: **CARRIED**
ABSTENTION: Proxy Victor Linklater, Taykwa Tagamou First Nation



Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler



Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse

