

Kwey kwey.

I hope that you are well and have an open mind.

I want you to know directly who I am. Nindijinikaz Kaamidjiyuk Sib Ininni . Nindonjebo Petawawa. Kiki nidodem. My spirit name is Running River Man. I live in Petawawa. The hawk is my Clan. I am sending you a copy of a photograph of me.

I was born on the banks of the Sibi Nesswabic (Petawawa River) in unceded Algonquin territory where Xeneca has proposed developments. I still live by the river. I am an Elder of the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation. I am proud of my identity. I have been taught to live my name so you can count on me to work hard to keep the river running freely. I wish to preserve the Petawawa River to be enjoyed by my family and friends now and for the future generations. I ask you to drop all of your plans for developments on the Petawawa River.

I will be talking to lots of people about this matter and writing many letters. I will not compromise on the health of this free flowing river. I ask you to drop all of your plans for developments on the Petawawa River.

It is unfortunate that you have chosen the Petawawa River for proposals to build dams to generate electricity. It seems that you and the people who supported or approved of your proposals have not done your homework well. The Petawawa River has no generating stations. I think Ontario needs some rivers that have absolutely no hydroelectric dams. I think that the Petawawa River should be one of those rivers. This river has Big Meaning for people. I ask you to drop all your plans for developments on the Petawawa River.

I am very concerned about the environmental impact that dams and turbines have on fish, especially where there is more than one dam on the same river. The fish suffer from the cumulative effects of two or more dams on the same river. That is wrong. I am especially concerned about American Eel and Lake Sturgeon and their need for safe passage up and down the river the way they always did because now they are endangered species of fish. I have an understanding of the negative impact that dams have on wildlife and on the habitat that animals need. We people are connected to all of the animals and the places where they live. Dams harm that ancient connection. I ask you to drop all your plans for developments on the Petawawa River.

I also am concerned about the safety of people who use the river and river banks. Safety risk increases whenever the natural flow of the river is changed due to the operation of hydroelectric generating stations. That is wrong. Please don't do that to people. I ask you to drop all of your plans for developments on the Petawawa River.

My beliefs about preserving the Petawawa River are being noticed by lots of people. I share my writing with others so my ideas get sent on to many, many people. Some scientists wrote a long paper about eels and mentioned my personal experiences as a young man witnessing American Eel in Ontario. You can read what they said at page 14 of their research. It is published at <http://www.glfcc.org/fishmgmt/AmericanEelinOntario.pdf> I ask you to drop all of your plans for developments on the Petawawa River.

I am pleased that in 1992 The Government of Canada signed the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. That commitment is important globally. You can read about that at <http://www.biodivcanada.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=560ED58E-1>. You could be good Canadians by honouring biodiversity too. Your dam proposals do not help biodiversity. I ask you

to drop all your plans for developments on the Petawawa River.

Miigwetch for reading my letter. Please write back and tell me what you are going to do as a result of reading my letter.

Kaamdjiyuk Sibi Ininni

Harold(Skip) Ross.

Elder of The Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation.