

Aboriginal Eco-Spa Resort Development Opportunity in Northwestern Ontario



Ahneen!

In our Ojibway language, we greet new friends with an enthusiastic “Ahneen”!

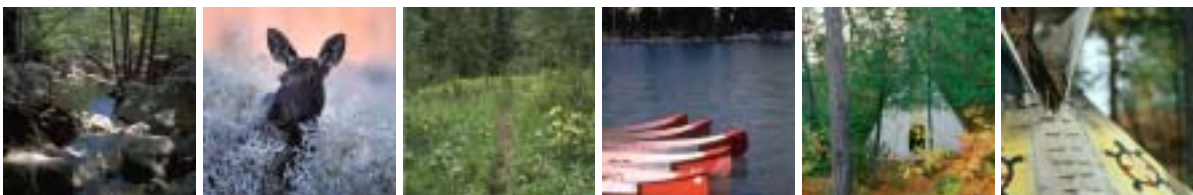
I am pleased to introduce you to a very unique and special opportunity to partner with my First Nation in the development of a high quality destination resort spa in our traditional lands of Northwestern Ontario.

Our Market Research has confirmed that our location is well positioned to capitalize on the strong demand for eco-tourism and spa vacations that continues to grow at a rate of 8 to 10 percent each year. The tragic events of September 11 have only enhanced our need to escape to tranquility in our journey to find harmony and peace in this world.

We have further discovered that there are powerful and profitable synergies that may come from combining the traditional eco-tourism and spa vacation experience with the culture, traditions, and spirituality of our Anishinabek heritage. An Aboriginal-themed destination spa resort would be unique within Canada.

I look forward to welcoming you to our homelands to explore this unique opportunity with you further.

Meegwetch (Thank You),
Chief Yvette Metansinine
Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek



Aboriginal Eco-Spa Resort Development

We are proposing to develop a high quality destination resort that would integrate elements of an eco-adventure tourism operation with spa facilities and service. Our visitors will explore the wildlife and wilderness of our location, and participate in a number of unique activities, then in the evening return to a pampered spa treatment to complete the day's adventures.

The architecture and programming of the facility will be interwoven with our Aboriginal culture, traditions and spirituality, and would blend into the pristine Lake Nipigon shoreline. We will share our teachings of life, and our relationship with the land and the Creator, as handed down to us by our Elders.

Visitors will travel to the remote facility by air directly from Thunder Bay, or by boat from one of the few small communities on Lake Nipigon.

A Special Site Within a Vast Protected Wilderness Playground

The proposed development site for the Aboriginal Eco-Spa Resort lies within the Lake Nipigon Basin, a vast expanse of protected, pristine Canadian wilderness. Located above Lake Superior's Heritage Coast in Northwestern Ontario, the Lake Nipigon Basin is a region of breathtaking landscapes and spectacular vistas that covers a total area of 10,000 square kilometres (3,860 square miles).

The Lake Nipigon Basin has been designated as a "Signature Site" under the Ontario Government's Living Legacy Strategy for Public Lands. (www.ontarioslivinglegacy.com) Recognized by the World Wildlife Fund, the Living Legacy, is an "unprecedented contribution to protected areas on a global scale." Signature Sites are regions that have been granted special protection because of their significance in exemplifying Ontario's unique natural heritage.

The development site is located on the sparsely developed shores of Lake Nipigon, Ontario's largest inland lake at 4,480 square kilometres (1729 square miles) in size. Known for its unusual green-black sandy beaches and the tall shoreline cliffs that tower above the crystal clear water, the basin features a wide variety of wildlife including woodland caribou, white pelicans and bald eagles. The area's intriguing post-glacial landforms and numerous cultural sites provide a wide range of recreation opportunities from back country canoeing and wildlife viewing to rest, relaxation and rejuvenation.

There is very little commercial development on Lake Nipigon and the Ontario Government has decided that only one or two new developments will be allowed to proceed within the entire Signature Site area. The Government has acknowledged that as the traditional inhabitants of these lands, the First Nations must be partners in the commercial development of these lands.



Strategically Positioned to Service Key Geographic Markets

According to information gathered from SpaQuest International, the majority of spa consumers are willing to travel as much as six hours from their homes for a quality destination spa experience. Thunder Bay, which is located fifty kilometres from the Ontario-Minnesota border at Pigeon River will be the access point for the proposed development. Thunder Bay International Airport, the third busiest airport in Ontario, receives many scheduled daily flights from the main target market areas of both Canada and the United States, thus the facility will be well within the travel tolerances of our target markets. The Aboriginal Eco-Spa Resort is positioned close to our markets, but still comfortably isolated from the pace and harshness of urban living.

First Nations...A Powerful and Profitable Partner

Aboriginal People and their governments have significantly increased their participation in north America's business sector over the past several decades. In Canada, First Nations are involved in a wide variety of businesses, ranging from manufacturing, and airlines to golf courses. Many of those enterprises have been formed through partnerships with non-Aboriginal investors and corporations. The Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Economic Development Trust is currently involved in several ventures including forestry and commercial real estate development.

There are many financial incentives available from various levels of government to provide assistance for the development of First Nation business ventures. The Ontario Government's website (www.aboriginalbusiness.on.ca) provides useful information on business partnerships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organizations, as well as the many financial incentives that are available to support these initiatives.

For further information and complete opportunity document...

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