

Protecting Indigenous & Treaty Rights

Standing up to Canada to protect our inherent and Treaty rights promised to us for as long as the sun shines, as long as the waters flow, as long as the grass grows, and as long as the winds blow.

Background - The Issue

The "Ring of Fire" is the name given to a sizable mineral deposit located in Treaty 9 in the far north of Ontario. Governments are pushing to develop the area, promising roads and jobs in exchange for the destruction of Indigenous lands and an ancient muskeg, which is one of largest in the world. With a proposed lifespan of over 100 years, this mining project will have direct impacts on the health and environment of future generations.



Image credit: Canadian Geographic

The Problem

1. Thousands of claims for mineral exploration have been approved for the Ring of Fire. These claims, together with the proposed mine development, the roads and power generation needed for operations, present a high likelihood of cumulative and negative impacts to the environment and health of the muskeg, boreal, and Indigenous communities.
2. The Ring of Fire is located in the second largest peatland (muskeg) in the world. This ancient muskeg is a significant carbon sink, meaning it has been storing carbon (a greenhouse gas), and helping to stabilize the climate, by keeping the carbon emissions out of the atmosphere. Developing this peatland means losing the climate protection it provides to us all.
3. Canada and Ontario are moving forward with impact and regional assessments for the Ring of Fire project. These processes are not Indigenous-led, but directed by the government. This means the responsibility is on the people of Treaty 9 to protect the lands, water and those not yet born from the proposed mining project.

Your Rights

Inherent rights are those that exist independent of any Crown authority and include the right to self-determination and right to practice your culture and customs.

Treaty rights, like a right to hunt or fish, are protected under the Constitution and based on treaties signed between First Nations and the Crown.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People imposes a duty on Canada to seek your free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) before any development or use of resources on your land occurs. FPIC is an inherent right.

Connect with Us

The Friends of the Attawapiskat River is a grassroots group based in Treaty 9. We formed in 2019 to raise awareness about the Ring of Fire in communities and amplify the voice of Treaty 9 people.

Find us on [Facebook](#) or [email us](#) to join the Friends and stay informed.