



# MUSHKEGOWUK COUNCIL

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## Mushkegowuk Council 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Mamowihitowin

**Resolution No. 2021-11-14**

Attawapiskat  
First Nation

Kashechewan  
First Nation

Fort Albany  
First Nation

Moose Cree  
First Nation

Taykwa  
Tagamou First  
Nation

Chapleau Cree  
First Nation

Missanabic Cree  
First Nation

**Moved by:**  
**Chief Robert Nakogee**  
**Fort Albany First Nation**

**Seconded by:**  
**Chief Keith Corston**  
**Chapleau Cree First Nation**

Carried

Certified copy of a resolution passed  
on November 24, 2021

  
Rebecca Friday, Deputy Grand Chief

November 24, 2021  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON

### Water Protection in Mushkegowuk Territory

**WHEREAS** the Omushkego Inherent rights to the waters, lands, air and resources have existed since time immemorial and belong to us and our children into the future without end; and

**WHEREAS** the Omushkego have existing Treaty Rights protected under section 35 of the constitution of Canada; and

**WHEREAS** the Grand Chief, Deputy Grand Chief, and Council of Chiefs understand the importance of the Omushkego wetlands, watershed, rivers and lakes and habitats supported by the region and traditional lifestyle of the Omushkego; and

**WHEREAS** the Federal government has set mandates and goals for protection of Canada's land and oceans of 25% by 2025 and 30% by 2030; and

**WHEREAS** the importance of protecting the waters within our traditional territories has been expressed at the duly convened meeting of the 35<sup>th</sup> Mushkegowuk Annual General Assembly November 24, 2021; and

**WHEREAS** the waters of our territory have sustained us since time immemorial, maintaining our habitats, and providing food and clean source of drinking water; and

**WHEREAS** potential development from upstream of our rivers and muskeg, notably the Ring of Fire, could have serious detrimental effects on our waters;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mushkegowuk Assembly fully support the Grand Chief Political Office in initiating Nation to Nation talks between Mushkegowuk First Nations, Canada and the province with the goal of protection of the waters within the Omushkego traditional territories; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Grand Chief's Political Office make it clear in writing to the federal and provincial governments that there is a clear present risk of serious future damage to water in Mushkegowuk Territory from the potential Ring of Fire development, with resulting harm to the fish, animals and plant growth on which we rely, and that we hold those governments responsible for such future damage and harm; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a robust monitoring program, to be managed by First Nations of Mushkegowuk, be pursued fully funded by governments for the communities to build capacity for monitoring rivers, lakes and watersheds; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Mushkegowuk will act to support and coordinate regionally between the conservation and planning activities of Mushkegowuk First Nations that are ongoing or proposed, including supporting effective communications and information sharing; and further, Mushkegowuk will proceed to collaborate with Mushkegowuk community planning departments and personnel to ensure that Mushkegowuk regional water protection activities compliment and do not interfere with existing or proposed Mushkegowuk community water conservation protection initiatives; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Grand Chief's Political Office provide regular updates to the Council of Chiefs and Communities on the progress of advancing the goal of protection for the waters within the Omushkego Territory.