



**RESOLUTION N° 06/2024**

**NORTHVOLT: CANADA AND QUEBEC'S FAILURE TO FULFILL THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO CONSULT AND ACCOMMODATE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN REGARDS TO THE NORTHVOLT PROJECT**

- WHEREAS** the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) requires governments to obtain free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) from Indigenous Peoples regarding matters that affect their rights; and
- WHEREAS** the Chiefs of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL) adopted eleven (11) principles on energy development in relation to the lands, resources, rights and titles of the First Nations; and
- WHEREAS** Canada has recognized that UNDRIP sets minimum standards for the survival, dignity, and well-being of Indigenous Peoples and has committed to taking a whole-of-government approach to implementing meaningful Indigenous participation in decision-making; and
- WHEREAS** the Viens Commission has called upon the government of Quebec to recognize, implement and align its legislation with UNDRIP; and
- WHEREAS** Quebec has not responded to this call, but by declaring its adherence to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework has undertaken to respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples in working towards conservation and protection of biodiversity; and
- WHEREAS** The constitutional duty to consult requires both governments to engage in meaningful consultation and accommodation with Indigenous Peoples when contemplating decisions that may adversely affect Indigenous rights; and
- WHEREAS** the principles of FPIC can only be respected when there is space for Indigenous decision-making around whether projects should proceed and how; and
- WHEREAS** meaningful consultation therefore requires that governments consult on strategic-level decisions such as funding and site selection and not merely on authorizations executing the project; and
- WHEREAS** meaningful consultation also requires sharing of information that allows Indigenous Peoples to consider each project as a whole so that Indigenous Peoples can fully consider the impacts of the project on their rights; and

**WHEREAS** this information must be sufficient to allow Indigenous Peoples to meaningfully evaluate how the project may compound cumulative impacts on the land, the sustainability of their life ways and those of the faces yet to come; and

**WHEREAS** both governments routinely fail to meet these minimum standards by engaging in late and fragmented consultation; and

**WHEREAS** this information must be sufficient to allow Indigenous Peoples to meaningfully evaluate how the project may compound cumulative impacts on the land, the sustainability of their life ways and those of the faces yet to come; and

**WHEREAS** the provincial wetlands compensation scheme is a particularly egregious example of legislation which impedes meaningful consultation and accommodation; and

**WHEREAS** the government of Quebec has refused and failed to meaningfully consult Indigenous Peoples regarding the so-called Battery Initiative and its Critical Minerals Strategy as a whole; and

**WHEREAS** both Quebec and Canada have refused and failed to engage in meaningful consultation on the Northvolt project.

**THEREFORE:**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CHIEFS OF THE AFNQL:**

- denounce Canada and Quebec's failure to fulfill their obligations to consult and accommodate Indigenous Peoples in regards to the Northvolt Project; and
- demand that the governments of Canada and Quebec fully respect their obligations to Indigenous Peoples regarding the Northvolt Project and all related activities along the battery production chain, from mining to recycling.

**MOVED BY: Chief Rick O'Bomsawin, Odanak**

**SECONDED BY: Grand Chief Victor Bonspille, Kanesatake**

**ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS ON: MAY 15, 2024 AT QUEBEC CITY**



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Ghislain Picard,  
Chief of the AFNQL