

POLITICAL OFFICE:
Fort William First Nation
R.R. #4
Suite 101, 90 Anemki Drive
Fort William First Nation Office Complex
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7J 1A5
(807) 626-9339
(807) 626-9404 Fax



ADMINISTRATION OFFICE:
111 Peter Street, Suite 804
Toronto, Ontario
M5V 2H1
(416) 597-1266
Fax (416) 597-8365
1-877-517-6527
Website: www.chiefs-of-ontario.org

CHIEFS OF ONTARIO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 9, 2009

THE FIRST NATIONS IN ONTARIO DO NOT ACCEPT THE IMPOSITION OF TAXATION

TORONTO, ONTARIO: “The passage of this legislation does not mean our fight to have our rights respected is over,” stated Ontario Regional Chief Angus Toulouse in response to the news that the Ontario legislature today passed legislation to implement the Harmonized Sales Tax. He further indicated that the First Nations in Ontario have been clear with both the provincial and federal governments that First Nations citizens have a right to tax immunity.

“The previous taxes that have been forced upon us, such as the Goods and Services Tax (GST), have been applied without consultation with us and without our consent. This new tax is the last straw and we will not take it anymore. Governments subtly but constantly have continued to implement measures that erode our rights and they have gone too far,” said Chief Toulouse.

The Regional Chief indicated that First Nations have worked hard to put their position forward and have thus far been ignored. “The situation is ridiculous. We have the provincial government blaming the federal government, and vice versa. No one will take responsibility yet legislation has been passed provincially and will pass very soon federally,” stated the Regional Chief.

The First Nations in Ontario have indicated that more direct action activities are planned. The 133 First Nations in Ontario have clearly indicated that they will not tolerate the continued assault on their treaty rights.

Regional Chief Toulouse emphasized that this fight is not with the Canadian public, it is with government. “We feel support from Canadian citizens and we want to assure them that any action that First Nations may take is directed to government. We are calling on government to fulfill the treaties and honour their obligations,” said Chief Toulouse.

The Ontario government passed the HST legislation today by a vote of 56-29. It is expected that the federal government will likely pass similar legislation this week in spite of First Nations opposition.

-30-

For more information and/or interviews, please contact:

Pam Hunter, Communications

Chiefs of Ontario

1-877-517-6527

416-522-0706

phunter@coo.org