

## **Public statement**

1 September 2009

### **No logging at Grassy Narrows without community consent**

As organizations promoting social justice, environmental protection and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, we are calling on the Government of Ontario to make an immediate, public commitment that there will be no logging in the traditional territory of the Grassy Narrows First Nation without the consent of the community.

Grassy Narrows is trying to rebuild an economy and way of life that have been devastated by decades of severe environmental contamination and destruction. The people of Grassy Narrows have already made it clear that large-scale, clear-cut logging is incompatible with their vision for the preservation and use of their territory.

Ongoing forest management talks between the province and community are expected to take years to conclude. The provincial government however has never made any commitment to suspend logging while these talks proceed. Now the Ministry of Natural Resources has brought forward a new logging plan that includes provisions for potential resumption of large-scale clear cutting in the traditional territory.

Our organizations strongly believe that Ontario should be making every effort to address the wrongs of the past and ensure that the rights of the people of Grassy Narrows are at long last respected and upheld. We are deeply troubled by the possibility that an outdated, business as usual approach to forest management may be taking priority over the inherent and constitutional entrenched rights of Indigenous peoples.

Over the past year, a number of industry leaders have recognized that the rights of the people of Grassy Narrows cannot be ignored. In March 2008, Boise Inc, announced that it would not buy pulp from wood logged without the consent of the Grassy Narrows people. This June, the ethical investment firm Calvert divested from the Weyerhaeuser forestry company over that company's refusal to adopt a similar sourcing requirement. Ontario should follow this example and publicly commit not to license any logging in the traditional territory of the Grassy Narrows First Nation without the consent of the community. Protection of the community's rights must be a priority in future forest management decisions. Our organizations are calling on Weyerhaeuser and other companies to also publicly commit not to log or use wood from Grassy Narrows Territory without the consent of the community.

Signed,

Amnesty International Canada  
AW@L  
Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)  
Chiefs of Ontario  
Christian Peacemaker Teams Canada  
The Council of Canadians  
CUPE 3903 First Nations Solidarity Working Group  
Dogwood Initiative  
Earth Justice Initiative  
Earthroots  
ForestEthics  
Greenpeace Canada  
Green Press Initiative  
Greenspiration  
Indigenous Environmental Network  
KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives  
MiningWatch  
Canada Rainforest Action Network  
Rising Tide North America  
Sierra Youth Coalition  
Wildlands League