

SCRIPTS & CONTACTS Phone Zap for the Attawapiskat River - Phone & Email Zap

March 2, 2022, 12pm

This document was put together by [Friends of the Attawapiskat River](#), [MISN](#), and [OPIRG York](#).

If you have any questions related to this zap, please reach out to volunteer.OPIRGyork@gmail.com.

To stay in touch with this campaign effort, sign-up for the Friends of the Attawapiskat [newsletter here](#).

Context for this Zap:

One of the first things Steven Guilbeault said in his new role as Minister is this: “The fight against climate change is not possible without [Indigenous peoples’] knowledge and leadership. Any agreement on a path forward must protect the rights of Indigenous peoples. Full stop.”

Just a few months later, he released an agreement that, if approved, would reduce Indigenous leadership in the first ever Regional Assessment for the Ring of Fire, a massive proposed mining development in Treaty 9 territory, to a mere advisory role. Now, we must stop Minister Guilbeault from finalizing the terms of the Regional Assessment which leave out Treaty 9 communities as equals in the process.

We believe that Minister Guilbeault has been misinformed about the complexity of this issue. Now, he has a problem on his hands. We also believe that he’s unaware of just how many allies in the South are willing to stand up for this issue. Perhaps he thinks that the Ring of Fire is just a “niche” concern that only a minority of people care about.

Will you take an hour out of your day to prove him wrong? Join us for a phone zap to remind Minister Guilbeault that his actions must match up with his words. Help us inform him that people in the South are listening, that we care deeply about the protection of the Attawapiskat River and the surrounding peatlands, and that we will take action to make sure that he fulfills his promises to prioritize the sovereign rights of Indigenous people.

Zap Tracking Form: <https://forms.gle/Sau8zVoMnJfguXf27>

When you’ve finished making your calls & emails, please take a moment to fill out this form to let us know how many calls or emails you made!

Bonus Actions

Watch the Treaty People's Briefing and share with friends:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfHfdx5_4vcOspt1YuF5FTA/videos

Sign up for the FAR newsletter: <https://attawapiskatrivertprotectors.com/contact-us/>

EXTRA email action:

<https://miningwatch.ca/blog/2022/2/28/support-first-nations-free-prior-and-informed-consent-restart-ring-fire-regional>

CONTACT LIST

1. Name: Steven Guilbeault
Title/Position: Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Phone: 819-938-3813 (for English: 2) FULLL!!!!
Email: ministre-minister@ec.gc.ca
2. Name: Marc Miller
Title/Position: Minister of Crown–Indigenous Relations Canada
Phone: 514-496-4885
OR 613-995-6403
Email: Marc.Miller@parl.gc.ca
3. Name: Impact Assessment Agency (Federal)
Phone: 613-957-0700
OR 1-866-582-1884
Email: iaac.compliance-conformite.aeic@canada.ca
This on not reaching: iaac.information.aeic@canada.ca
4. Name: Impact Assessment Agency (Province of Ontario)
Phone: 416-952-1576
Email: ontarioregion-regiondontario@iaac-aeic.gc.ca
5. **EXTRA!**
Name: Greg Rickford
Email: greg.rickford@pc.ola.org
1-888-415-9845

PHONE SCRIPT

Note: Keep it simple! Use the phone script below for voicemail or as a guide for talking to a real person. Remember, you don't need to have all the answers. You also don't need to engage in an extended dialogue or debate; our goal is to register our concerns and apply pressure.

Hello [MINISTER], my name is [XXXX] and I am a concerned resident in [RIDING].
[Optional:] I want you to know that I vote in elections.

I am calling because I'm concerned about the draft Agreement for the Regional Assessment of the Ring of Fire.

{{Steven Guilbeault: I was so happy to hear your recent statements at COP 26, where you spoke so clearly about fighting climate change and protecting the rights of Indigenous people. This Regional Assessment violates everything you say you believe in. }}

This ought to have been Canada's first Indigenous-led Regional Assessment and instead, the draft Agreement sets out Indigenous roles which are purely 'advisory' or 'supportive' in function.

These Terms cut the region's Indigenous peoples out of decision-making roles on their own lands. The process needs to be co-designed and co-led by these First Nations, rather than designed by the Province and Federal governments.

Furthermore, there can be no meaningful consultation while COVID-19 continues to impair communities' ability to engage. Choosing to continue consultation during this time threatens access to justice, as those who stand to be directly affected from the development, cannot fully participate.

We are all treaty peoples, and that comes with both rights and responsibilities. Your Ministry must TAKE BACK the draft Agreement for the Regional Assessment and RESTART the process in a way that meets Canada's obligations and commitments towards Indigenous peoples: co-designed and co-implemented with First Nations as full partners.

I will not stop calling until these demands are met. The people of Ontario are putting you on notice!

EMAIL SCRIPT

Email Subject Lines: Make it your own! It's helpful for all of our subject lines to vary a bit to help avoid the emails being filtered into spam.

Dear [Name],

My name is [XXX], I live in [RIDING]. I am writing because I am deeply concerned about the Terms of Reference for the Regional Assessment of the Ring of Fire.

In your haste to extract minerals and profit off of the Ring of Fire region, the provincial government imposed impossible deadlines, disregarded Indigenous laws and protocols for community decision-making, and failed to accommodate the multiple crises the First Nations in the region are facing.

In order to reconcile these errors, your government must immediately commit:

- **To suspend the Regional Assessment process**, and RESTART with a process that puts First Nations of the region in the driver's seat.
- To create an Assessment that **expressly includes all communities and all of their members**. Tribal councils are not sufficient as community members hold Treaty rights.
- To **suspend** any development in the region **until access to clean water, housing, and health services** have been secured for all upstream and downstream communities from the proposed Ring of Fire.
- To create **new Assessment timelines** and methods of engagement in collaboration with Indigenous community members, their customs, knowledge systems and inherent laws.
- To uphold Treaty 9 promises to the Ojibway, Oji-Cree, and Omushkegowuk peoples; this includes the promise to maintain honourable relationships with the Crown
- For any Regional Assessment process to give equal weight to Indigenous Knowledge as to Western science.
- **To commit to a watershed approach** for the new Assessment, which must take seriously the potential impacts on the Attawapiskat watershed, and especially all down-stream communities.

[Name]

[Postal Code]