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February 5, 2026

Dear Frances Heydeman,

It has recently come to our Council's attention that an organization in southern Ontario has begun the process of creating a Georgian Bay Geopark. We understand that the proposed boundaries include the traditional territory and reserve of Wasauksing First Nation.

Wasauksing First Nation does not wish to be included in the proposed Georgian Bay Geopark. We maintain a strong meaningful partnership with the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve and support its UNESCO designation; there has been no meaningful consultation regarding this new geopark initiative with the municipalities or First Nations in our region. To our knowledge, the proponents have not received support from any local municipality or other First Nations in Georgian Bay.

Our concerns are numerous. Beyond the lack of consultation, we are concerned that funding resources may be diverted away from Wasauksing First Nation and our partner organizations to support an initiative led by southern Ontario interests for the benefit of tourism in a specific township. Furthermore, Wasauksing First Nation is culturally, geographically, and historically unique; we should not be grouped under a Midland-based project. The inaccuracies in the proponents' descriptions—such as mischaracterizing Georgian Bay as a Great Lake and failing to reflect our true place within Lake Huron and North-Central Ontario—further demonstrate a lack of understanding of our territory.

Wasauksing First Nation will make its own decisions regarding any future geopark designations. For these reasons, I respectfully request that Wasauksing and our traditional territory be removed from the Georgian Bay Geopark application.

Best regards

Shane Tabobondung, MSW RSW
Ogimaa Wasauksing First Nation