

WORLD-CHANGING KIDS

# Grassy Narrows: No Logging or Mining On Anishinaabe Territory

Template for Letter to Premier Doug Ford



## Step One: Date, Contact Info, Greeting

December 4, 2024

Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Doug Ford,

Step Two: First Paragraph – State your purpose for writing the letter. You can choose these sentences or come up with your own.

I am writing today to ask the government to listen to the Peoples of Grassy Narrows and end all logging and mining activity on their land.

You have stated that we need to “listen to Indigenous voices and ensure they are heard loudly and clearly.” Your government’s refusal to respect Grassy Narrows’ Indigenous Protected Area goes against these words. This is not in the spirit of reconciliation, which your government says they care about.

Step Three: Second Paragraph – Add info explaining why this issue is important to you. You can choose these options or come up with your own.

We have recently learned about Grassy Narrows First Nation in school.

Did you know that in the late 1960s, a paper mill dumped over 10 tonnes of mercury into the river - poisoning the water, fish and people? Once ingested, the mercury never goes away - it is passed from one generation to the next, from mother to child.

There are about 1,000 residents living in Grassy Narrows and 90% of the population experiences symptoms of mercury poisoning. Three generations have been affected. The kids of Grassy Narrows have a lot of health issues that they shouldn't have to deal with at their age.

This is not fair. This shouldn't be happening in our province, or country. You need to ensure a healthy future for Grassy Narrows youth.

Step Four: Third Paragraph – Include clear requests. You can choose one or both of these options or come up with your own.

Grassy Narrows is fighting to protect their Territory so that their people will never again be poisoned. Their land, which is key to their way of life, has already been hurt by mercury, clearcut logging, and hydro dams.

As Grassy Narrows Chief Randy Fobister says, you “need to stop logging and mining so the land can heal.” When the land heals, it will help the people heal.

The Peoples of Grassy Narrows have already suffered so much violence from our governments - don't make it worse.

Step Five: Final Paragraph - Ask questions and request a response. You can choose these questions or come up with your own.

Grassy Narrows is fighting to defend their lives, lands and way of life. I stand with Grassy Narrows in this fight.

Will you do the right thing and cancel these permits for logging and mining activity?

Will you commit to respecting Grassy Narrows' Indigenous Protected Area?

Please respond with answers to these questions.

Step Six: Closing - Include your name, age and address at the end of the letter.

Sincerely,

Signature

Name

Age

Street Address

City, Province Postal Code