

ONE Temagami

The TLA has a long history of celebrating the unique characteristics of Lake Temagami, and for good reason. All those who have ever experienced the Lake know very well how special it is. Its many arms and bays, with trees and varying elevations of rocks, make views of the rugged shoreline breathtaking from any vantage point. The water is drinkable, and the fish are healthy.

The human population in and around the Lake goes back thousands of years. Up to about 1900, these inhabitants had very little impact on natural ecosystems. Today is a different matter. With a growing population and changes to lifestyles and needs, the impact by humans has added significant stress to the Lake and its surroundings. This fact is not unique to Temagami and is indeed a global challenge. However, community leaders can make a difference with the decisions they make.

“ONE Temagami” is a vision that the TLA will be using as our directional guide. It is a recognition of the need for collaboration among **O**ur Temagami people (those who reside in First Nation communities, in Town, and on the Lake) to promote and practice stewardship of the unparalleled **N**ature of the Lake and surrounding lands, while ensuring that appropriate **E**conomic drivers exist for a more sustainable future.

The first step is to re-engage community leaders to gain support for the ONE Temagami concept. Initial discussions led by the TLA Board have already started, and feedback has been positive; but this will take time. The next step will be to determine achievable, common goals. For ONE Temagami to be successful, it cannot be owned or controlled by any one group, including the TLA. ONE Temagami, by its very nature, is a cross-community effort.