

June 17, 2023

## Robinson Huron Treaty Leadership, Ontario and Canada announce proposed settlement and next steps in Treaty annuities court case

Today, the Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund leadership and representatives of the governments of Canada and Ontario attended a ceremony and announced a proposed out-of-court settlement in the outstanding litigation around the 1850 Robinson Huron Treaty. Since 2012, the Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund, representing the 21 Robinson Huron First Nations, has been in litigation with the governments of Ontario and Canada for failing to increase annuities payments as the resource revenue in the Treaty territory grew.

Negotiators for the parties have reached a proposed settlement that includes amounts from both Canada and Ontario, for a total settlement of \$10 billion for past losses. This is a major milestone in ongoing collaborative work to renew the Treaty relationship and honour a treaty promise that dates back to 1850. We look forward to continuing to work with Canada and Ontario to address the past and strengthen our treaty relationship going forward.

As the next step, the First Nations are moving forward with a community engagement process, including consultations with First Nation members and beneficiaries to provide accurate information about the proposed settlement. These sessions will be led by the Honourable Harry S. LaForme in the Office of Mizhinawe for the Robinson Huron Treaty First Nations. The Governments of Canada and Ontario will also need to complete their own internal approval processes to seek approval to sign the proposed settlement.

Anishinaabe leadership included the annuity clause in the 1850 Robinson Huron Treaty to provide for future generations. When the case is finally resolved, each of the 21 First Nations will get a share of the proceeds from the past compensation amount — compensation that should have been paid over the last 170 years. The collective nature of the annuity requires funding and investment for community development and to ensure a bright future for the generations to come. There is also an individual component to the annuity and the First Nations will distribute this money to individuals. This amount has not yet been determined.

Once the settlement has been finalized, information about what the proposed settlement means for you and your community will be shared online, through the media and in-person in your area. Please check the RHTLF social media or website for accurate, up-to-date information on the settlement.

Atikameksheng Anishnawbek

Aundeck Omni Kaning

Batchewana First Nation

**Dokis First Nation** 

Henvey Inlet First Nation

M'Chigeeng First Nation

Magnetawan First Nation

Mississauga First Nation

Nipissing First Nation

Ojibways of Garden River

Sagamok Anishnawbek

Serpent River First Nation

Shawanaga First Nation

Sheguiandah First Nation

Sheshegwaning First Nation

Thessalon First Nation

Wahnapitae First Nation

Wasauksing First Nation

Whitefish River First Nation

Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory

Zhiibaahaasing First Nation