



Robinson Huron Treaty LITIGATION FUND

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

Sheguandah
First Nation

Shesheganing
First Nation

Thessalon
First Nation

Wahnapiatae
First Nation

Wasauksing
First Nation

Whitefish River
First Nation

Wiikwemkoong
Unceded Territory

Zhiibaahaasing
First Nation

June 12, 2025

Her Excellency the Right Honourable
Mary Simon, CC, CMM, COM, CD
Governor General of Canada
Rideau Hall
c/o Program Planning
1 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A1

Via email: invitation@gg.ca

Excellency:

**RE: Invitation to Attend 175th Anniversary of the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850
Commemoration Gathering at Bawaating (Sault Ste. Marie), ON**

On behalf of the Robinson Huron Treaty Chiefs, we are pleased to invite you to the 175th Commemorative Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850 Gathering, September 9th, 2025, Sault Ste. Marie (Baawaating), Ontario. It is our hope that you can provide remarks at event on September 9th, 2025. We will also issue invitations to the Prime Minister, the Premier Ontario and the federal and provincial Ministers responsible for Indigenous Relations and Affairs.

Lord Elgin, as Governor General at the time, attended the Treaty Council in September 1850. His attendance enabled Treaty Commissioner William Benjamin Robinson to consult with and get instructions from Lord Elgin regarding the Robinson Treaty negotiations. It would be appropriate for you as Governor General to attend the Treaty Gathering as a demonstration of the Crown's return to the site of the Treaty signing to rekindle the relationship.

Prior to the Treaty, it was customary for the Crown and the Lake Huron Anishinaabek to meet annually and exchange gifts as an opportunity and means to renew and



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maintain relationships. For some reason the Crown discontinued these practices after the Treaty was signed.

In July 2024, the Supreme Court of Canada issued a judgement regarding the Robinson Huron Treaty and the Crown's failure to augment or increase annuities in exchange for sharing the land and resources pursuant to the Treaty, reported at *Ontario (Attorney General) v. Restoule*, 2024 SCC 27. The court made some scathing remarks about the Crown as an unreliable Treaty partner, however, the Court also stated that the Crown can rectify its behaviour: "...it should be clear that Ontario and Canada must act now to respect their treaty promises to the Anishinaabe, and to help restore the honour of the Crown and the nation-to-nation alliance that the treaties represent."

The court also stated:

The Robinson Treaties are not merely transactional instruments about the exchange of money for a tract of land. They are living agreements embodying a relationship nurtured over many years before 1850 and requiring ongoing renewal into the future. It is time for the parties to return to the council fire and rekindle the perpetual relationship that the Robinson Treaties envision. Nothing less will demonstrate the Crown's commitment to reconciliation.

The recent Speech from the Throne emphasized the importance of Indigenous Peoples in Canada with wording that has special application to the Robinson Huron Treaty Anishinaabek:

The Government will be a reliable partner to Indigenous Peoples, upholding its fundamental commitment to advancing reconciliation. Central to this commitment is the creation of long-term wealth and prosperity with Indigenous Peoples.



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The 175th Commemoration Gathering provides an immediate opportunity for the Crown to rekindle its relationship with the Lake Huron Anishinaabe and start a new journey on the path of reconciliation and the Crown demonstrating it can be a reliable partner.

The annual Gatherings provide an opportunity for our people to gather as Treaty Nations to improve awareness of the Treaty across our First Nation communities and settler communities in the territory. We focus on ceremonies, cultural programming, learning activities and engagement aimed at restoring the importance of our Treaty. By engaging in our ceremonies, we can learn about and honour the foresight of our ancestors to provide for the continuity of our distinct existence as Anishinaabe peoples through the establishment of nation to nation Treaty relations with the Crown.

Every year, our annual Gathering gains more interest and attendance. We anticipate upwards of 1500 attendees to this year's commemorative 175th Gathering.

I await your response to our invitation. You can contact the Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund by reaching out to our Communications Manager, Kerry Assiniwe, by email at kassiniwe@rhtlf.org or by phone at (705) 677-9069.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mike Restoule'.

Mike Restoule
Chair, Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund,

Cc: Robinson Huron Treaty Chiefs