



Robinson Huron Treaty LITIGATION FUND



A New History for Robinson Huron Anishnaabe

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It's an exciting time to be Anishinaabe in Robinson Huron Treaty territory. Our people will finally receive some long-overdue treaty benefits that were withheld by the federal and provincial governments for generations.

Like many others in our communities, I was thrilled when I learned about the \$10 billion settlement, and I began to imagine a promising future for my loved ones and my community as a result of a big payout. Still, since the settlement was announced last month, I've had to remember not to get too far ahead of myself, and that there's still a lot of work to do.

I recently saw a post circulating on social media that breaks down a speculated individual payout from the \$10 billion. It looks like an oversimplified and inaccurate calculation, and I've noticed that it's fuelling confusion around the potential agreement and its process. As a band member and treaty beneficiary, I am also eager to know how these funds will be distributed to communities and individuals. But I also remind myself to be cautious and considerate in the months ahead. And overall, I want to be kind and supportive of our fellow community members and leaders as a new history for our people unfolds.

The money amount announced in June was a big moment in our treaty finally being honoured by the federal and provincial governments, but it was just one of the first steps. It's still just a tentative agreement with many details to be finalized. There's little that can be shared with

us during this ongoing process, and I understand why a lot of people feel in the dark and want to speculate about dollar amounts. But I have faith and trust in our leaders to do the right thing for us, with our present and future in mind while honouring our past.

Our ancestors signed the Robinson Huron Treaty more than 170 years ago with future generations in mind. They hoped for the prosperity of Anishinaabek in that moment and in the times to come. And now, some of those hopes are being fulfilled thanks to the resolve and unity of our people, and I feel very fortunate that I'm alive today to benefit from all this hard work. I often think about my grandparents, aunts, uncles, and more family who didn't live to see this happen. Many of the people who worked hardest to advocate for our rights as Anishinaabek died before they could experience this historic victory and the money that comes with it.

As our community leaders plan for this settlement, I acknowledge and support the need to set some aside for future generations. I remind myself that it's not feasible for all of the \$10 billion just to be split up individually. We are communities within a bigger nation of people that have survived colonialism because of our collective strength. The spirit of ancestors was forward-thinking, and they'd want us to ensure that the generations to come can benefit from this money as well. That's what they did for us, and it's why we're here now.

