



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

Sheguiandah
First Nation

Sheshegwaning
First Nation

Thessalon
First Nation

Wahnapiatae
First Nation

Wasauksing
First Nation

Whitefish River
First Nation

Wiikwemkoong
Unceded Territory

Zhiibaahaasing
First Nation

For immediate release:

September 10, 2024

Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund (RHTLF) Hosts Ceremony Honouring 174th Anniversary of 1850 Treaty Signing

Robinson Huron Treaty Territory (Sudbury) — Yesterday, the Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund (RHTLF) held a ceremony and media availability on the final day of 2024 Robinson Huron Treaty (RHT) Gathering at the Anderson Farm Museum to commemorate the signing of the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850. The event also celebrated the signing of the Settlement Agreement for Past Compensation, in the RHT annuities case and the distribution of the funds to the 21 RHT First Nations.

Hundreds of community members joined RHTLF leadership as we acknowledged and showed our appreciation for our neighbors and supporters that stepped-up to support the need for the Crown governments to honour their obligations and responsibilities set out in the Treaty, particularly the Augmentation Promise. The ceremony also featured acknowledgement for the role of the Elders and Keynotes from Assembly of First Nations National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak, and Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige.

In 2012, the RHTLF – a Trust established by the 21 RHT First Nations to pursue the Annuity Claim -- initiated litigation against the Crown in right of Canada and Ontario for violating the Augmentation Promise in the Treaty, which obligates the Crown to augment the annuity if resource wealth generated in the Treaty territory enables the government to do so without incurring a loss. The annuity was last augmented in 1874 to its current level of \$4.00 per person per year.

The RHTLF and its Legal Team has been successful in its litigation strategy at every level of court, including the recent *Restoule* decision of the Supreme Court of Canada, issued on July 26, 2024.



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After Anishinaabe wins in the Ontario Superior Court and the Ontario Court of Appeal, Canada and Ontario and have been working with the RHTLF at the negotiation table to find common ground for resolving the annuities case outside of the courts. On June 17, 2023, the RHTLF announced a \$10 billion settlement to resolve claims related to past annuities.

The RHTLF Chiefs and Trustees met on January 3, 2024, and signed the Settlement Agreement. The agreement was shortly thereafter signed by Ontario Minister of Indigenous Affairs, Greg Rickford and the federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, Gary Anandasangaree.

On February 26, the Chief Justice of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, Honourable Geoffrey B. Morawetz, issued a Judgment giving effect to the Settlement Agreement for Past Compensation, signifying that all the steps required to finalize the Settlement Agreement had been completed. The RHTLF received \$10.0 B in compensation proceeds from the Crown, \$5.0 B from Canada and \$5.0 B from Ontario, which has been or is being distributed according to the Compensation Disbursement Agreement signed by the 21 RHT First Nations.

In the *Restoule* case, the Supreme Court of Canada was highly critical of the Crown for breaching the Treaty Augmentation Promise but commended the parties for achieving the Settlement Agreement for Past Compensation. It also urged the Crown to return to the “Council Fire and rekindle the treaty relationship” with the Anishinaabe.

Now, the RHTLF is calling upon the governments of Canada and Ontario to return to the Council Fire, as directed by the Supreme Court, and address the go-forward implementation of the Augmentation Promise.

- 30 -

Quotes:

“Yesterday’s celebration of the Robinson Huron Treaty settlement marks a significant chapter in our history, ensuring that the Treaty obligations agreed upon with the Crown are upheld. We are grateful to our supporters and neighbouring communities who stood with us throughout this journey. The distribution of these funds will provide opportunities for our Nations to strengthen our economies, cultures, and future generations.” — Mike Restoule, Chair of the Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund.



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"As we celebrate the signing and distribution of the annuities settlement, we honour the commitment of our Elders, leaders, Legal Team and community members who stood firm for justice, but we acknowledge that much work lies ahead to renew and strengthen our treaty relationship. We are optimistic that, through continued negotiation, we can work with the Governments of Canada and Ontario in the spirit of reconciliation, respect, and true partnership." — Duke Peltier, Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund.

Contact:

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