



April 19, 2024

AUNDECK OMNI KANING FIRST NATION MEMBERSHIP

To achieve a large claim within the history of Canada of 10 billion dollars, the 21 First Nations have plenty to be grateful for. ***“We should be celebrating”***.

The concerning level of negativity on social media is disheartening. The legal counsel and LMC have worked tirelessly to the challenges presented by the RHT case. The Chiefs continue to meet to determine strategies to expedite the distribution to First Nations and to ensure “our” best interests are protected. ***“So, why are we not celebrating”***.

While it is natural to have concerns and questions during times of uncertainty, it is vital that we approach these discussions with respect and understanding. Negativity and divisiveness within the AOKFN will only serve to create further challenges and hinders our ability to work together effectively. Negativity never generates positive results.

We must never forget our approach with the RHT case of utilizing the ancestors, traditional knowledge keepers, and most importantly the Elders that testified at the trials. They spoke highly of their role and the seven grandfather teachings that guided them throughout their lives. We must never forget their contribution and honour them by doing the same.

In acknowledging the spirit and intent of the treaty, not managing these monies goes ***against*** the intention of our ancestors. Leadership’s approach is not only to honour our ancestors but support current and future generations. That includes a distribution to all registered members with investments for “minor” trusts. By prudently investing after the \$100,000.00 distribution, we will generate more money on our investments and in turn, the possibility of other disbursements to our members.

As the new history begins to unfold, it is important to remember the principles of the “collective” that Judge Hennessy ruled that the Crown has a legal and constitutional obligation to increase the annuity.

The “augmentation clause” in the 1850 RHT is clearly laid out that the monies would come to the First Nations as a “collective” use for the betterment of its members. The current, Chief and Council have no intent of spending the money without band member consultation but simply to invest.

Where in a time of uncertainty with the high costs of living; increased food costs, fuel, gas, rent, etc., we need to take our time to plan and coordinate meetings that are productive that includes on and off-reserve members. Further, the Manitoulin Project is not finalized as the five UCCMM First Nations are still looking at distribution models.

The issue of inaccurate financial information being posted on social media is concerning as the population figures are not finalized and the Chiefs are still meeting next week regarding the Contribution Disbursement Agreement (CDA). The rumour that the "Chiefs" are receiving "three million" each out of the settlement is **false**. Financial advisors verified the rumour is false at our community/zoom meeting on January 10th, 2024.

The population figures are being verified with AOKFN Membership department in conjunction Indigenous Services Canada and the legal team. Actual numbers cannot be calculated until this process is complete. Once finalized, the information will be released and at that time we will be provided the information regarding AOKFN's portion of the settlement.

Don't forget its not all about the money. With money, we are anticipating other increases in drug activity, mental health, social problems, and the possibility of Elders abuse.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we move forward for the betterment of the AOKFN and its membership.

In respect,



Chief Patsy Corbiere

On behalf of the Chief and Council of Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation