



IMPORTANT NOTICE

In June, we shared with you the announcement that a proposed settlement of \$10 billion with the Governments of Ontario and Canada had been reached. This settlement is not final and is not yet been signed, therefore, compensation has not been received at this time.

We know that you and your families are eager for more information on the distribution of the settlement and to see the impact on your community. But we also want you to have the right information. Only updates that come from the Robinson Huron leadership – the Litigation Management Committee, Chiefs, and Trustees – and the communications teams are going to provide the latest accurate information about the settlement and the annuities case.

While many people may be sharing their thoughts about the settlement and how it will be distributed among the Robinson Huron First Nations, you will only find accurate information that has been validated by the Robinson Huron leadership who participate in the settlement process from us.

We want you to have the right information – and while the negotiations to reach the proposed settlement were confidential, we are now in a place where we can share more with you. We invite everyone to come to the consultations and information sessions happening in your community. We are seeking addresses and contact information for our off-reserve members like other First Nations to host an online session in addition to following us on Facebook, visiting the Robinson Huron Treaty website, or staying connected with your First Nations on social media.

We are hopeful the settlement will be signed and finalized soon – but this work is still underway. During this time, we are engaged in community information sessions and consultations through the Office of the Mizhinawe. The process will take place over the next few months. Once the consultations are over, we will share more information about how and when the funds will be distributed amongst community members. Once the settlement is signed, it will be at least 60 days before money flows to communities.

Our aim has always been to center Anishinaabek law – not *Indian Act* law – to ensure there is a fair and equitable sharing of the compensation among our communities and that we take a nation-based inclusive approach.

In the Stage 1 trial, Justice Hennessy found the annuity was a collective amount owed to the Robinson Huron Treaty Anishinaabek – and the Ontario Court of Appeal upheld this. That means that the settlement is for the collective benefit of all the Robinson Huron Treaty Anishinaabek.

However, there is a portion that can be distributed to individuals for their own individual benefit. The current negotiations only address the period of 1850 to the present. The Crown will continue to distribute \$4.00 to beneficiaries until an agreement is reached on the increase of future annuities. After the settlement for past compensation has been finalized, we will begin negotiations that relate to future revenue sharing and annuities.

The issue of who is an annuitant and who is not is complex. At this time, this has not been determined. The consultation process led by the **Mizhinawe** will help inform this process, as will a fact-gathering process to find out who the beneficiaries might be who are not registered under the *Indian Act*. These decisions will be taken at the community level with your input.

Respectfully,



Chief Patsy Corbiere
Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation