



# 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

Shesheganing  
First Nation

Thessalon  
First Nation

Wahnapiatae  
First Nation

Wasauksing  
First Nation

Whitefish River  
First Nation

Wiikwemkoong  
Unceded Territory

Zhiibaahaasing  
First Nation

BY EMAIL

June 12, 2025

**Honourable Doug Ford**

Premier of Ontario

Queens Park,  
Toronto, ON

Dear Premier Ford:

***Re: Implementation of the Robinson Huron Treaty Promise to Augment the Annuities***

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I am writing on behalf of the Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund (RHTLF), to follow-up on a letter we sent you and then Prime Minister Trudeau, on August 26, 2024, regarding the go-forward implementation of the Augmentation Promise in our Treaty. The letter was sent shortly after the Supreme Court of Canada issued its landmark decision in *Ontario v. Restoule*, which among other things, was highly critical of the Crown for failing to fulfill the Augmentation Promise in Robinson Treaties for 150 years but commended the Crown for reaching a settlement with us for past compensation.

However, as we noted in our August 26<sup>th</sup> letter, the settlement only dealt with past compensation: there is important unfinished business, namely the go-forward implementation of the Augmentation Promise. The Supreme Court made 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. .... **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.



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We have still not received a response to our August 26, 2024, letter, which I assume is due at least in part to the fact that Ontario has recently undergone an election. In this regard, please accept our belated congratulations on your re-election as Premier. Your re-election allows us to move rapidly to towards rebuilding the relationship between your Crown government and the Robinson Huron Treaty Anishinaabek, based on the progress we made in our settlement for past compensation.

On June 1, 2025, your Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation - Minister Responsible for Ring of Fire Economic and Community Partnerships, the Honourable Minister Greg Rickford, issued a statement recognizing National Indigenous History month. In that release, Minister Rickford stated this month is “...an opportunity to reflect and honour the legacies of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Ontario and across Turtle Island.”

He further states, “As part of our government’s commitment to protect Ontario, we continue working with communities to ensure reconciliation is a reality for Indigenous peoples – now and for future generations.”

We believe these statements have the potential to resonate with our people, but the words must be turned into action. First Nations in Ontario, including from the Robinson Huron Treaty area, have expressed discontent with your government’s enactment of Bill 5. That is because there is a great deal of distrust in the Crown after years of dishonourable conduct regarding our Treaties as underlined by the Supreme Court of Canada in the Restoule Decision. The only way to fix that distrust is to start honouring treaty obligations.

The Settlement Agreement for Past Compensation included an Appendix called Commitment to Co-Develop a Robinson Huron Treaty Annuity Augmentation Implementation Agreement. The Settlement Agreement was finalized on February 26, 2024.

With the guidance of the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision, the parties must now turn Settlement Agreement Commitment into action - renew the treaty relationship by re-establishing the “Council Fire”, in a manner consistent with the original Treaty purposes, and implement the Crown’s augmentation promise going forward.

The Supreme Court of Canada has confirmed that the Treaty requires the Crown, on an ongoing basis, to share the wealth and benefits of the Treaty territory with the Anishinaabe, in a manner consistent with the honour of the Crown, giving



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effect to the Anishinaabe principles of respect, responsibility, reciprocity and renewal, and to the Crown promise to be liberal and just.

We want to emphasize again the importance of building upon the success of the signing of the Settlement Agreement for Past Compensation. It is in this spirit that we need to engage in the next steps in our path towards reconciliation and rebuilding our treaty relationship.

We hope that your government will immediately provide mandates for your Minister and negotiators to join us at the Council Fire to engage in negotiations with the Robinson Huron Treaty leadership with the goal of fulfilling the Crown annuity Augmentation Promise.

In closing, this year is the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Robinson Huron Treaty. We will be commemorating this as part of our annual Robinson Huron Treaty Gathering. The Batchewana and Garden River First Nations will be hosting this event in Sault Ste. Marie. We are inviting you and your Minister to join us at this event. We have also invited the Governor General and Prime Minister Mark Carney to this event. Your attendance would be a step on the path towards reconciliation and rebuilding our relationship.

Miigwech for your time and attention to this important priority of the Robinson Huron Treaty First Nations.

We look forward to your earliest response.

**Robinson Huron Treaty  
Litigation Management Committee**

X

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

Mike Restoule  
Chairperson

X

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Peter Recollet'.

Peter Recollet  
Vice-Chair



## Robinson Huron Treaty LITIGATION FUND

X

Chief Patsy Corbiere

X

Duke Peltier

X

Chief Angus Toulouse

X

Chief Wilma-Lee Johnston

C.C: Honourable Greg Rickford,  
RHTLF Trustees and RHT Chiefs  
RHTLF Legal Team