



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

Press Release

For immediate release:
March 24, 2022

Robinson Huron Treaty Leadership Calls Ontario's Promises of First Nations Resource Revenue Sharing Hollow In Light of Lack of Progress in Talks to Resolve the Robinson Huron Treaty Annuity Case

Robinson Huron Treaty Territory — The Robinson Huron Treaty leadership is frustrated with the failure of the Ontario government to engage in mandated negotiations with Canada and First Nation Treaty partners to resolve their treaty based annuity claim to resource revenue sharing, despite a Judgment by the Ontario Superior Court in 2018 (*Restoule* case), which upheld the annuity claim and was confirmed by the Ontario Court of Appeal in 2021.s.

Representatives of the RHTLF have heard promises from the province to enter into settlement negotiation from the offices of Premier Doug Ford and Minister Greg Rickford since the fall of 2021 with no substantive negotiations thus far.

On March 17th, the Ontario government released the new *Critical Minerals Strategy, in which the Message from Minister Rickford says: Ontario "always respects Indigenous rights"*. The document has a component labelled "Building Economic Development Opportunities with Indigenous Partners" to advance reconciliation and provide socio-economic benefits to Indigenous communities.

"Such words and promises sound hollow, at least to the Robinson-Huron Treaty First Nations whose ancestors insisted on the principles of partnership and resource-revenue sharing in 1850 only to have Canada and Ontario ignore their legal responsibilities which are again promised in the form of the new strategy," said Ogimaa Duke Peltier in a letter to Premier Ford.

Chief Dean Sayers added, "Why should Indigenous communities in Ontario believe such rhetoric, especially in a campaign period, in the face of a failure by the Government of Ontario to negotiate a settlement which would include reconciliation and socio-economic benefits?"



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Both Ontario and Canada have been dragging their feet in implementing the Judgments of the Superior Court and the Ontario Court of Appeal and recently filed for leave to appeal with the Supreme Court of Canada. This, despite a comment from the Court of Appeal that reconciliation will not be achieved in the courtroom.

Letter correspondence was also sent to the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General regarding Ontario's failure to pay \$1.3 M in costs in relation to the appeals at the Ontario Court of Appeal, which were agreed upon in December 2021.

For questions or more information, contact media@mediastyle.ca