
THESSALON FIRST NATION

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Robinson Huron Annuity Settlement Update

November 3rd, 2023

Attention: All Thessalon First Nation Membership.

The Robinson Huron Treaty was on hold due to a variety of circumstances influencing the outcome. As stipulated by Canada and Ontario, all 21 First Nations must approve the ten-billion-dollar settlement by way of a council resolution. The settlement has now been approved by all 21 First Nations by a council resolution, with Thessalon First Nation providing approval on August 31, 2023, and Garden River First Nation accepting it on October 31, 2023.

This approval process signifies the approved amount of 10 billion dollars will be accepted, pending Canada's and Ontario's signing which is anticipated by the end of November or early December 2023. It does not indicate that payment has been delivered to the First Nation, nor that a decision has been taken on how to allocate the funds among Thessalon First Nation's citizens. Thessalon First Nation's membership will be notified once we know what the finalized allocation amount is for Thessalon First Nation.

Finally, Ontario continues its efforts to overturn Justice Hennessy's stages 1 and 2 rulings in the Robinson Huron Litigation. On November 7, 2023, the Supreme Court of Canada will hear Ontario's appeal, which claims that the treaty should be interpreted to provide annuity increases at the discretion of the Crown and that it is not appropriate for the courts to intervene.

You will be informed, as we receive further information regarding the outcome of Ontario's appeal and any updates relating to RHT as they become available.

We are in the process of seeking to hire a communications/special project coordinator to take the lead role on the RHT and any future initiatives.

We will be preparing dates for community engagement sessions pertaining to the distribution of the RHT Annuity. As soon as the dates are finalized, you will be notified. As we go forward in this process, we look forward to working with the community to develop ways of achieving a brighter future for all our members.

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