

ROBINSON HURON TREATY LITIGATION FUND

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Robinson-Huron Treaty First Nations voice support for Mi’kmaq, urge Canada to uphold its Treaty obligations to all First Nations

OTTAWA — To mark the beginning of Treaties Recognition Week in Ontario, the twenty-one First Nations of the Robinson-Huron Treaty are urging Canada to uphold its Treaty obligations to the Mi’kmaq and the Lake Huron Anishinabe and to all of their First Nations Treaty partners.

Last week, they sent a [letter](#) to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau highlighting the ongoing failure of Canada to honour and uphold the Robinson-Huron Treaty. Specifically, Canada has failed to honour [the treaty right to increased annuities](#) based on a fair share of resource development in Robinson-Huron Treaty territory, and uphold the judgment of Justice Hennessey regarding the [Robinson-Huron Treaty Annuities case](#).

The letter voices support for Mi’kmaq people currently fighting to exercise their Treaty rights to a moderate livelihood including fishing, which were confirmed by the Supreme Court in 1999.

“Across the country, we’re seeing what happens when Canada fails to live up to their Treaty obligations, and the effect this has on peaceful and respectful co-existence with First Nations,” said Ogimaa Duke Peltier of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory. “We are asking the government to do what is legally required of them, as proven by two court decisions, and to give us our fair share as required by the Treaty.”

“We’ve never given up jurisdiction over our lands and waters,” said Chief Dean Sayers of Batchewana First Nation. “The Treaty outlines a framework for peaceful co-existence that respects our inherent rights as Anishinabe people. We have respected the Treaty relationship; now Canada must uphold its side of the agreement.”

A growing number of people are also calling on the Crown to honour the Treaties, including Dr. Elizabeth Carlson, a professor of social work at Laurentian University and students Jamie-Leigh LeTourneau and Amanda Deforge who launched a [petition](#) calling on Ontario to honour and uphold the Robinson-Huron Treaty, and abandon its appeals of Justice Hennessey’s decisions in Phase 1 and 2 of the annuities case.

Phase 3 of the Robinson-Huron annuity case is set to begin in September 2021, and it will examine issues of compensation and how to restore the ongoing treaty relationship

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