NETMIZAAGGAMIG NISHNAABEG

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October 30, 2026

TO THE MEMBERSHIP FROM CHIEF JACOBS

At a legal update meeting held Oct 21-22, 2026, the Chief and Councillors met with our lawyers Don Colborne and Theresa Bananish in Thunder Bay. The meeting was scheduled so our legal team could provide an update on the ongoing settlement negotiations between Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg and the crown representatives for Canada and Ontario. The following is an overview of what was presented and discussed. **This information is subject to solicitor/client and negotiation privilege and is not to be shared or distributed.**

1. *The compiled draft for "Agreement 1", a document which will settle "phase 1" of the title claim.*

   The negotiations for draft Agreement 1 for phase 1 of the settlement are continuing. Until now the negotiations have included Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg and 4 other Robinson Superior Territory First Nations (the Pic 5) who will be joined to the Robinson Superior Treaty through Agreement 1.

   The draft agreement is made up of many parts that have been reviewed on a part-by-part basis. The several parts of the draft agreement have now been compiled into a single document which marked a good place in time to update Chief & Council on the progress of the negotiations.

   It is important to remember that the current draft is "generic" in that it addresses the concerns that are the same for all Pic 5 First Nations.

2. *The remaining issues for getting an NN-specific Agreement 1 completed for consideration by the Council and potential community vote.*

   The negotiations are finally at a place where only Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg and the Crowns will proceed to address matters specific to Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg. These include self-government rights, and land management & harvesting rights in NN's territory but outside the reserve lands.

   AGREEMENT 1" WILL BE A BINDING CONTRACT THAT WILL BE PERMANENT

   The Crown governments will be able to enforce any part of the agreement, against the First Nation, indefinitely into the future, because it will be a binding contract. And vice versa, **NN CAN ENFORCE IT AGAINST THE CROWN GOVERNMENTS.**

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3. *Planning and preparations for potential ratification vote, including trust agreement needed*.

Ratification Vote

Approval of Agreement 1 will be made through a ratification vote by the Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg Members. The Draft Agreement 1 addresses a ratification vote and requires at a minimum that there be:

- A reasonable notice period
- At least one Community Information Meeting
- All members at least 18 years old can vote
- A reasonable appeal process

NN can adopt the details of its own procedures, but they will include:

- what percentage of total eligible voters must actually vote?
- Will there be a second vote if not enough eligible voters actually vote?

Trust Agreement

If the draft Agreement 1 is ratified, it will be signed and the clock will begin for the payment of past compensation for the annuities and the compensation for loss of use of the land. Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg will need to ensure that the trust is in in place and that an account has been established to receive the funds and make the per capita distribution to the Members.
The Trust Committee is working independently to get feedback from the Members about that process.

4. *Other legal work that is ongoing alongside of the negotiations for Agreement 1. This is being done in case there are more delays or problems with the above*.

The legal team is preparing materials to get direction from the Court to ensure Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg lands are protected and to get the payment for past compensation for the annuities paid. This is done by way of Motion to the court and include:

a. Court motion to freeze the potential new reserve land so it can't be taken off the table.
b. Court motion to pay out NN's share of annuities even if Agreement 1 not signed.

At a case management conference held with a Judge, our legal team and the lawyers for Canada and Ontario, the draft motions were discussed and a schedule was set for how they would proceed. The next Case Management Conference is set for January 2027, at which time the Court will schedule a date for hearing the motions.