



---

**Press Statement  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

May 27, 2024

**ROBINSON HURON WAAWIINDAMAAGEWIN LEADERSHIP DENOUNCES THE METIS NATION OF ONTARIO AND THE CORPORATION'S FALSE CLAIMS TO ANISHINABEK ANCESTRAL LANDS**

**Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850 Territory (GREATER SUDBURY)**— Robinson Huron Waawiindamaagewin (RHW) Chiefs recently concluded their spring Gathering of Chiefs in Assembly, held in Sudbury Ontario on May 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Over two days, discussions took place on topics such as the environment, territorial land use and occupancy, government relations, and sovereignty.

During the Assembly RHW Chiefs passed a declaration denouncing the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), their claims of false Indigenous identity, and Canada's recognition of the MNO as a self-governing Indigenous group. The Declaration asserts the inherent rights and obligations of the Anishinaabe to RHW lands (referred to as N'daakimnaan). The spirit and intent of the Robinson Huron Treaty is to share the benefits of the land; it does not include delegating jurisdiction to Canada to recognize or to enter into Treaty with any other groups in the territory.

Robinson Huron Waawiindamaagewin Chiefs express that there are still many issues that need to be addressed, such as:

- Canada's failure to seek RHW's consent or consult with RHW Chiefs and their First Nations regarding jurisdiction and delegation of authority.
- Canada's recognition of a concentrated group of mixed-blooded people as a Collective.
- The Collective's acknowledgment of members that self-identify as Métis without reliable research methodology.
- The lack of recognizable societal markers in the territory's "historic Métis communities" that signify nationhood (language, ceremony, culture).
- The MNO, a corporation representing the "Red River" Métis living in Ontario, is falsely recognized as an organization that can negotiate self-government agreements.
- Canada's flawed recognition of the MNO as a Nation capable of entering Treaty.

RHW Chiefs strongly assert that there were no distinct Historic Métis communities within RHW at the time of the signing of the Treaty in 1850. RHW's report on the so-called Historic Métis communities can be found online [here](#). A summary of the report can also be downloaded from our [website](#).

For more information on Robinson Huron Waawiindamaagewin (RHW), please visit [www.waawiiindamaagewin.com](http://www.waawiiindamaagewin.com)

**Media Contacts**

For media inquiries and more information, please contact:

Earl Commanda, Executive Director ([earl@waawiindamagewin.com](mailto:earl@waawiindamagewin.com))



---

# ROBINSON HURON WAAWIINDAMAGEWIN DECLARATION ON THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

May 16, 2024

*Passed by Consensus.*

## WHEREAS:

1. Robinson Huron Waawiindamaagewin (RHW) First Nations have occupied and exercised authority and jurisdiction over our territories identified in the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850 since time immemorial and notably, prior to Confederation.
2. RHW have, and always have had, our own government, which is the only recognized and legitimate authority with jurisdiction over all our lands and resources; and have never delegated any jurisdiction to the Crown and thus the Crown has no authority to enter self-government discussions with The Métis Nation of Ontario ("MNO").
3. The MNO is a corporation that was established in 1993 to represent the Red River Métis living in the Ontario region;
4. The MNO evolved to represent individuals of mixed ancestry following the 2003 Supreme Court of Canada *Powley* decision and misapplied the *Powley test* to expand its membership;
5. The MNO began making unfounded and egregious claims in First Nations' Ancestral and Treaty territories which led to the Chiefs of Ontario to terminate the 2004 Political Protocol with the MNO in 2010 due to MNO asserting alleged rights, which conflicted with established First Nation inherent and Aboriginal rights acknowledged by Treaty;
6. RHW, The Chiefs of Ontario and the Manitoba Métis Federation ("MMF"), the National Government of the Red River Métis, maintain that the "six new historic" communities represented by the MNO did not exist at the time of effective colonial control, and therefore cannot be eligible to be recognized as having section 35 rights. There is ample expert academic [research](#) to support this position;
7. The MNO does not meet or adhere to the national definition of "Métis" established by the Métis National Council ("MNC") in 2002;



8. Bill C-53, *Recognition of Certain Métis Governments in Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan and the Métis Self-Government Act*, self-government legislation that includes the MNO, is the ultimate reward of identity theft at a collective level;
9. During the Standing Committee of Indigenous and Northern Affairs' study of Bill C-53, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) officials admitted they did not verify MNO's claims before introducing Bill C-53 and recognizing them as legitimate rights-holders;
10. Ontario and Canada's continued lack of due diligence and mistaken recognition of the MNO fails to consider that their actions interfere with the honour of the Crown concerning Inherent, Aboriginal and Treaty rights, and erodes the spirit and intent of the Treaties, and ultimately dilute the rights of legitimate Nations; and
11. RHW Leadership supports the legitimate claims of Indigenous peoples and notes that the recognition of unfounded claims undermines legitimate rights-holders.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT RHW LEADERSHIP, ASSEMBLED AT THE GATHERING OF THE OGIMAAK IN ASSEMBLY ON MAY 16, 2024:**

1. Declare that the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is not a Nation or government representing legitimate Métis people and that the communities represented by the MNO did not exist historically in the Ontario region at the time of the signing of the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850.
2. Declare that the MNO is committing Indigenous identity theft of the histories and culture of the Red River Métis and Anishinabek of the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850.
3. Denounce the MNO's actions, including assertions in RHW's Ancestral and Treaty territories; the misapplication of the *Powley* decision to serve its political agenda; and declarations that the legitimate and inherent rights-holders in the territory are committing lateral violence and perpetuating "Métis denialism" by calling out these false claims.
4. Call on the Government of Canada to dismiss Bill C-53 until the MNO is removed from the legislation and retract its unfounded and unlawful recognition of the MNO in Bill C-53 and the preceding *Canada-MNO Self-Government Agreement*
5. Call on the Government of Ontario to retract its 2017 identification of the so-called "six new historic Métis communities" in the Ontario region.
6. Call on the Governments of Canada and Ontario to cease engagement with the MNO as a legitimate Indigenous organization in the Robinson Huron Treaty territory, including the administration of funds allocated to legitimate rights-holders.