TREATIES RECOGNITION WEEK 2026

E'SHKINIIGIJIG BI-BZIGWIIWAG | *The Youth Are Rising*

This November, Robinson Huron Waawiindamaagewin, in partnership with Laurentian University, will host Treaties Recognition Week 2026 in N'Swakamok (Sudbury). This year's theme, *E'shkiniigijig Bi-bzigwiiwag, The Youth Are Rising*, calls on us to come together in unity, honour our ancestors, and uplift the next generation as they carry the Treaty forward.



SAVE *the* DATE

NOVEMBER 2-6, 2026

Laurentian University
Indigenous Sharing and Learning Centre
935 Ramsey Lake Rd, Sudbury ON

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Geteh shkode (fire teachings)
- Pipe teachings
- Wampum teachings
- Education booths
- Panel discussions

Treaty of 1850
ROBINSON HURON WAAWIINDAMAAGEWIN

Indigenous Student Affairs
Affaires étudiantes autochtones
Enji-Naadmaagaazwad Eknoomaagzidjig

LaurentianUniversity
UniversitéLaurentienne

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
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Message from the
ROBINSON HURON WAAWIINDAMAAGEWIN



Each year, Treaties Recognition Week provides an opportunity to pause and reflect on the treaties that shape the lands and communities we share across Ontario. This year is particularly significant as we mark 10 years since the Province of Ontario formally established Treaties Recognition Week through legislation in 2016.

While this 10-year milestone is important to recognize, it is not the legislation itself that we celebrate. Rather, it provides an opportunity to reflect on the continued work that has taken place over the past decade to build greater understanding of treaties, treaty relationships, and the responsibilities that come with them.

For the Robinson Huron Treaty territory, this work is deeply important. The Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850 is not simply a historical agreement. It represents an ongoing relationship and continues to shape the responsibilities, rights, and relationships of the Anishinaabeg within our territory. Treaties Recognition Week creates an opportunity for people to learn more about these relationships and to better understand the history and teachings that continue to guide our communities today. It is also an opportunity to recognize that treaty education is not something that can be completed in a single week, or even in a single year. Learning about treaties is an ongoing journey.

Over the past ten years, we have seen many individuals, communities, schools, organizations, and institutions across Ontario take steps toward greater treaty understanding. Within the Robinson Huron Treaty territory, our First Nations, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, youth, educators, and community partners continue to contribute to this work through conversations, teachings, gatherings, education, and opportunities to learn from one another.

Our youth are an important part of this continued learning. This year's Robinson Huron Treaty Gathering, hosted by Wasauksing First Nation and Shawanaga First Nation, carried the theme E'Shkiniigijig Bi-Bzigwiiwag – The Youth Are Rising. The participation and leadership of youth throughout the Gathering reminded us that understanding and carrying forward the treaty relationship is a responsibility shared across generations.

As we mark ten years of Treaties Recognition Week, I encourage everyone to look beyond the week itself. Take the opportunity to learn about the treaty territory where you live, listen to the voices and teachings of First Nations, ask questions, and consider what it means to live within a treaty relationship. The work of treaty recognition does not begin or end with Treaties Recognition Week. It is reflected in our continued willingness to learn, to understand, and to build respectful relationships and form bonds of Treaty allies with our Settler citizens.

The past ten years have provided many opportunities to advance this understanding. The years ahead provide an opportunity to continue that work and to ensure that treaty relationships remain meaningful, understood, and carried forward for generations to come.

On behalf of the Robinson Huron Waawiindamaagewin, I wish everyone a meaningful Treaties Recognition Week 2026, and encourage all of us to continue learning about, honouring, and carrying forward our treaty relationships.

In Unity and Strength!

Earl Commanda
Executive Director, Robinson Huron Waawiindamaagewin

Treaty of 1850
ROBINSON HURON
WAAWIINDAMAAGEWIN

waawiindamaagewin.com

Message from
LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY



As we mark Treaties Recognition Week 2026, we gather on the traditional lands of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek and recognize that the City of Greater Sudbury, also includes the traditional lands of the Wahnapitae First Nation, and that we are within the territory covered by the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850. Land acknowledgements are vital, but they are only a starting point. Real recognition requires us to understand that treaties are not a thing of the past; they are living, sacred covenants between sovereign nations. They define our enduring responsibilities to one another and to the lands and waters that sustain us. For Laurentian University, embracing these obligations is central to our bilingual and tricultural mandate, and moreover, our collective path toward meaningful reconciliation.

Through personal experience, I have had the privilege to learn from Indigenous voices, which can truly transform how we view our shared world.

A meaningful part of this commitment for me has been taking part in the weaving of Laurentian University's Wampum Belt. A living expression of relationship, responsibility, reconciliation, and commitment. Participating alongside Indigenous and non-Indigenous members of our university community reminded me that reconciliation is not simply something we speak about; it is something we actively build together. Each shape carries symbolic meaning, reflecting relationships among Nations and the responsibilities we share. For me, the weaving represents reconciliation being built strand by strand, through relationship, participation, and a shared commitment to moving forward together.

REAL RECOGNITION REQUIRES US TO UNDERSTAND THAT TREATIES ARE NOT A THING OF THE PAST; THEY ARE LIVING, SACRED COVENANTS BETWEEN SOVEREIGN NATIONS.

First Nations, Inuit, and Métis cultures, governance systems, and ways of knowing offer profound insights into stewardship, justice, and community resilience. Recognizing treaties means honouring that wisdom and confronting the ongoing impacts when treaty promises are overlooked. As an academic community, we have a responsibility to elevate First Nations, Inuit, and Métis scholarship and ensure that students, staff, and faculty see their cultures reflected and celebrated across our campus.

I encourage each of you to approach Treaties Recognition Week not merely as an annual event, but as an invitation to continuous learning. Take the time to participate in discussions, learn from Elders and Knowledge Keepers, and deepen your understanding of the treaties that encompass the places where we live and study. Let us move beyond passive awareness and commit to becoming active, champions of treaty rights and respectful relationship-building in our daily lives.

Dr. Lynn Wells
President & Vice-Chancellor
Laurentian University



E'SHKINIIGIJIG BI-BZIGWIIWAG

The Youth Are Rising



The theme for the 2026 Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850 Gathering, E'shkiniigijig Bi-Bzigwiiwag – The Youth Are Rising, was provided by Leroy Bennett, Anishinaabe endaaw (I am Anishinaabe), RHT Cultural Advisor/Knowledge Keeper.

As we recognize Treaties Recognition Week, we carry this theme forward as a reminder that learning about our treaties is not something that happens only during one week, one Gathering, or one conversation. Understanding our treaties is an ongoing responsibility that is strengthened through listening, learning, sharing knowledge, and creating opportunities for generations to come together.

Leroy explains that the theme focuses on creating an understanding and balance between our Robinson Huron Treaty (RHT) Anishinaabek youth and Elders/seniors. From a physical sense, many of us adults and Elders are getting older. The time is here to "pass the torch" on to our young Anishinaabek so they can continue the important work, caring and planning for, and with, our people of our territory.

One of the ways we do this is by being physically together, to speak and listen to each other — discuss, with acceptance and equality, what is important as youth and as Elders.

When we do this, we are tearing down barriers that exist. The most prominent barriers are thoughts of someone being "too young to understand or do something AND being too old to understand or do something." These thoughts hinder our progress forward.

As RHT Anishinaabek, we all walk on the same ground as a people — walking together in this life's journey, doing all that we can to keep our culture, language and people together.

As adults and Elders, we must provide opportunities for our youth to participate in this journey as active RHT members, to carry, live and protect our inherent rights along the way — a role and responsibility we rely on them to fulfill moving forward for generations to come. When we guide our youth toward this, and they carry it forward, they will be empowered and have pride to not only fulfill their roles and responsibilities, but to also help strengthen our paths which will further empower others to walk alongside them as well.

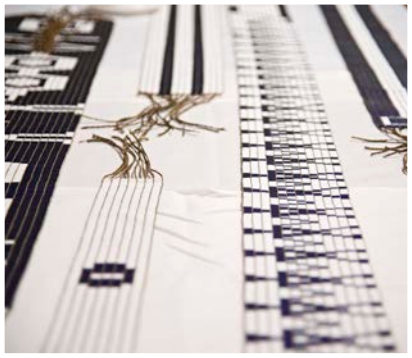
Our Elders guide our youth, teaching them why this journey must be taken, how it must be fuelled and where they must go to help sustain our RHT Anishinaabek.

Our youth must listen to the Elders and at the same time, share their own visions, aspirations and gifts they were given from Creator.

This unity will create understanding, balance, a bond, connectedness, and more clarity in the journey forward — seeing eye to eye, hand in hand, mind in mind, and heart to heart, for all RHT Anishinaabek.






10 Years of Treaties Recognition Week: 2016-2026

In 2016, Ontario established Treaties Recognition Week, designating the first full week of November each year as an opportunity to build greater awareness and understanding of treaties, Treaty relationships, and the rights and responsibilities they carry. Ten years later, Treaties Recognition Week has become an important annual opportunity for communities, schools, organizations and the public to learn about the treaties that continue to shape Ontario today.

For the Robinson Huron Treaty territory, this recognition holds particular significance. The Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850 is a living agreement and relationship between the Anishinaabek and the Crown. Understanding the Treaty means recognizing not only its history, but also the continuing rights, responsibilities, relationships and commitments that exist today.

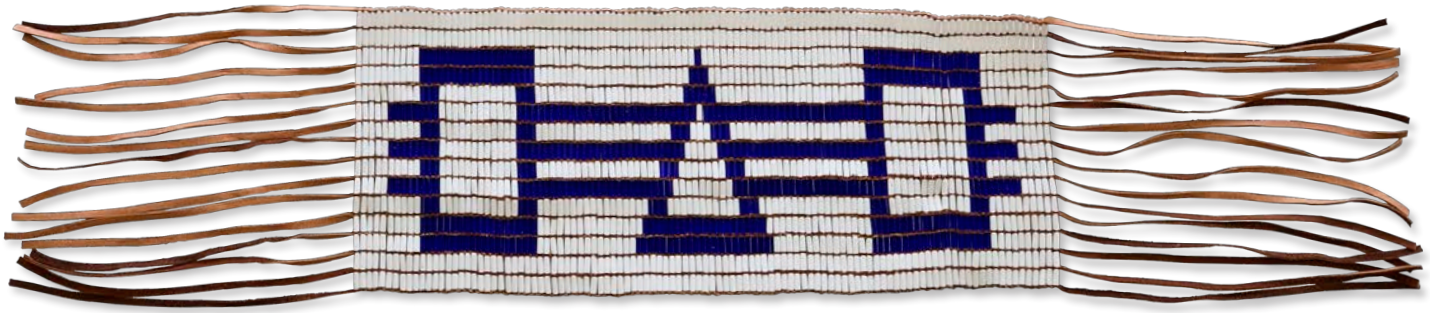
Since 2020, Robinson Huron Waawiindamaagewin (RHW) has played a leading role in bringing Treaties Recognition Week programming and education to the Robinson Huron Treaty territory. Through educational presentations, community engagement, youth initiatives, communications and learning opportunities, RHW has worked to create greater understanding of the Robinson Huron Treaty and its continued relevance.

RHW's work has helped bring Treaty education into classrooms, communities and public conversations, while centering the voices, histories and perspectives of the Robinson Huron Anishinaabek. This work is an important part of ensuring that Treaty knowledge is carried forward and that future generations understand the relationships and responsibilities that come with living within Treaty territory.

As we mark 10 years of Treaties Recognition Week from 2016 to 2026, we recognize the progress made in creating space for Treaty education across Ontario while acknowledging that recognition is only the beginning. Continuing to learn, build relationships and understand our shared responsibilities is ongoing work.

RHW is proud to continue supporting Treaty education throughout the Robinson Huron Treaty territory and to help carry the Treaty forward for generations to come.

Ten years of recognition. A continued commitment to understanding. A living Treaty relationship that continues today.



Laurentian University Anishinaabe Wampum Belt

At Laurentian University, the Anishinaabe wampum belt is a living expression of relationship, responsibility, reconciliation, and commitment. Its creation reflects these values: Brian Charles of the Chippewas of Georgina Island taught the primary weaving methods and began the belt, which was completed collectively during Laurentian's 2025 Treaty Week by community members, students, faculty, staff, and others. On December 2, 2025, community members, students, faculty, and staff came together for a ceremonial feast of the wampum belt. Its shared creation and ceremonial gathering reflect that reconciliation and relationship-building are collective responsibilities.

The belt's design carries intentional meaning:

Centre triangle:
Represents Laurentian University and its tricultural identity, reflecting its responsibility to First Nations, Inuit, Métis, Francophone, and Anglophone communities and to building relationships grounded in respect, inclusion, and mutual understanding.

Two rectangles:
Represent Atikameksheng Anishnawbek First Nation and Wahnapitae First Nation, the two host First Nations connected to Laurentian's traditional territory. They honour the original caretakers of the land and recognize their inherent rights, governance, leadership, languages, cultures, and knowledge systems.

Three inner lines:
Three inner lines: Represent First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples, recognizing their distinct identities, histories, cultures, and experiences while expressing unity, resilience, collaboration, and cultural resurgence.

Outer lines:
Represent Laurentian's ongoing responsibility and commitment to honour First Peoples, uplift FNIM voices and leadership, support language revitalization, embed FNIM knowledge within institutional practices, and build relationships based on reciprocity rather than symbolism alone.

The belt has been used to witness and honour significant relationships and milestones at Laurentian, including the December 2025 Memorandum of Understanding with Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig and the Spring 2026 installation of Chancellor Kristian Straub, Laurentian's first First Nations Chancellor.

For Laurentian, the belt represents a commitment to incorporating traditional FNIM ways of recognizing, witnessing, and formalizing relationships. It reminds the University that reconciliation must extend beyond words and written commitments into how the institution builds relationships, conducts its work, recognizes leadership, and honours its responsibilities.

The wampum belt is therefore a living teaching document—carrying teachings from the past, reflecting responsibilities in the present, and guiding Laurentian toward a future grounded in equity, respect, reciprocity, relationship, and action.

Nimkii Benishii / Natalie Lacasse
Manager of Indigenous Strategic Community Engagement
Office of Academic and Indigenous Programs

TREATIES RECOGNITION WEEK 2026

AGENDA *for* MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2026

Location: Round Room, Indigenous Sharing and Learning Centre (ISLC), Laurentian University, N'Swakamok (Sudbury)
935 Ramsey Lake Rd, Greater Sudbury, ON P3E 2C6

Hosts: Kigen Pelletier, ISLC Social Media & Event Coordinator
Natalie Lacasse, Manager, Indigenous Strategic Community Engagement
Robinson Huron Treaty Youth Advisory

TIME	EVENT	PRESENTER(S)
7:00 a.m.	**Sunrise Ceremony**	*Nokomis Martina Osawamick and Leroy Bennett*
8:00 a.m.	**Breakfast and Coming Together (served in ISLC Round Room)**	
9:00 a.m.	**Welcome and Housekeeping**	*Treaty Week Hosts*
	Opening Miigwechwewin	*Nokomis Martina Osawamick and Levi Southwind*
	Opening Comments/Address	*Chief Roque, Wahnapitae First Nation* *Gimaa Nootchtai, Atikameksheng Anishnawbek* *Dean Sayers, RHW Political Working Group* *Dr. Lynn Wells, President, Laurentian University*
10:30 a.m.	**Break**	
10:45 a.m.	**Wampum Teachings**	*Brian Charles*
11:45 a.m.	**Question and Answer Session**	
12:00 p.m.	**Lunch (served in ISLC Round Room)**	
1:00 p.m.	**Enaadmaget Wii-Bimadziiyins — Life Promotion as a Treaty Responsibility**	*Connor Lafortune*
2:00 p.m.	**Question and Answer Session**	
2:30 p.m.	**Closing Comments**	

Join us at the shkode (fire) outside the Round Room with firekeepers Jason Nakogee and Paskwa Lightning.

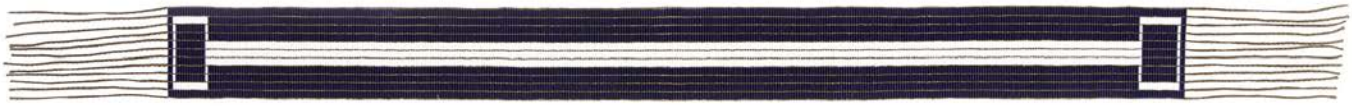
TREATIES RECOGNITION WEEK 2026

AGENDA *for* TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026

Location: Round Room, Indigenous Sharing and Learning Centre (ISLC), Laurentian University, N'Swakamok (Sudbury)
935 Ramsey Lake Rd, Greater Sudbury, ON P3E 2C6

Hosts: Kigen Pelletier, ISLC Social Media & Event Coordinator
Natalie Lacasse, Manager, Indigenous Strategic Community Engagement
Robinson Huron Treaty Youth Advisory

TIME	EVENT	PRESENTER(S)
8:00 a.m.	Breakfast and Coming Together (served in ISLC Round Room)	
9:00 a.m.	**Day 1 Recap and Overview, Opening Protocol and Miigwechwewin**	*Treaty Week Hosts*
9:15 a.m.	**Puppets and Anishinaabemowin** *Elementary Session*	*John-Paul Chalykoff*
10:30 a.m.	Break	
10:45 a.m.	**Laurentian University Wampum Belt Discussion**	*Dr. Lynn Wells* *Mary Laur* *Natalie Lacasse* *Hailey Sutherland*
12:00 p.m.	Lunch (served in ISLC Round Room)	
1:00 p.m.	**Presentation by the RHT Youth Advisory**	*RHT Youth Advisory*
2:00 p.m.	**Question and Answer Session**	
2:30 p.m.	**Closing Comments**	



Ojibwe Friendship Wampum Belt

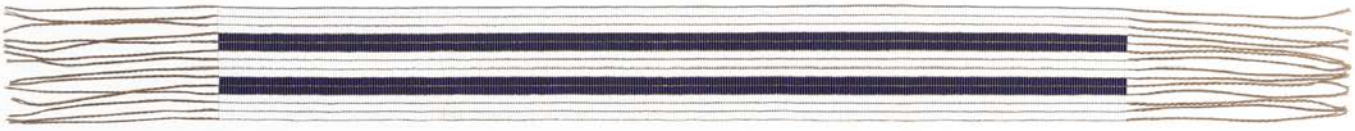
TREATIES RECOGNITION WEEK 2026

AGENDA *for* WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2026

Location: Round Room, Indigenous Sharing and Learning Centre (ISLC), Laurentian University, N'Swakamok (Sudbury)
935 Ramsey Lake Rd, Greater Sudbury, ON P3E 2C6

Hosts: Kigen Pelletier, ISLC Social Media & Event Coordinator
Natalie Lacasse, Manager, Indigenous Strategic Community Engagement
Robinson Huron Treaty Youth Advisory

TIME	EVENT	PRESENTER(S)
8:00 a.m.	Breakfast and Coming Together (served in ISLC Round Room)	
9:00 a.m.	**Day 2 Recap and Overview, Opening Protocol and Miigwechwewin**	*Treaty Week Hosts*
9:30 a.m.	**Canoe Journey of Treaties**	*Dean Sayers*
10:30 a.m.	**Question and Answer Session**	
10:45 a.m.	**RHT Youth Community Wampum Belt**	*RHT Youth Advisory* *Kelly Back, Fire Loom Creations*
12:00 p.m.	Lunch (served in ISLC Round Room)	
1:00 p.m.	**Maamwi Nsastamookiing Wiidookaaziwin: A Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850 Research Project**	*Dr. Elizabeth Carlson-Manathara* *Taryn Michel* *Nicole Wemigwans* *Neil Jones*
2:00 p.m.	**Question and Answer Session**	
2:30 p.m.	**Closing Comments**	*Treaty Week Hosts*



Two Row Wampum Belt

TREATIES RECOGNITION WEEK 2026

AGENDA *for* THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2026

Location: Round Room, Indigenous Sharing and Learning Centre (ISLC), Laurentian University, N'Swakamok (Sudbury)
935 Ramsey Lake Rd, Greater Sudbury, ON P3E 2C6

Hosts: Kigen Pelletier, ISLC Social Media & Event Coordinator
Natalie Lacasse, Manager, Indigenous Strategic Community Engagement
Robinson Huron Treaty Youth Advisory

TIME	EVENT	PRESENTER(S)
8:00 a.m.	Breakfast and Coming Together (served in ISLC Round Room)	
9:00 a.m.	Day 3 Recap and Overview, Opening Protocol and Miigwechwewin	*Treaty Week Hosts*
9:30 a.m.	Presentation by Quinn Meawasige	*Quinn Meawasige*
11:30 a.m.	Question and Answer Session	
12:00 p.m.	Lunch (served in ISLC Round Room)	
1:00 p.m.	Carrying Knowledge Forward: Cultural Performance with Notorious Cree	*James Jones/Notorious Cree*
2:00 p.m.	Question and Answer Session	
2:30 p.m.	Closing Comments	*Treaty Week Hosts*



TREATIES RECOGNITION WEEK 2026

AGENDA *for* FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2026

Location: Round Room, Indigenous Sharing and Learning Centre (ISLC), Laurentian University, N'Swakamok (Sudbury)
935 Ramsey Lake Rd, Greater Sudbury, ON P3E 2C6

Hosts: Kigen Pelletier, ISLC Social Media & Event Coordinator
Natalie Lacasse, Manager, Indigenous Strategic Community Engagement
Robinson Huron Treaty Youth Advisory

TIME	EVENT	PRESENTER(S)
8:00 a.m.	Breakfast and Coming Together (served in ISLC Round Room)	
9:00 a.m.	**Day 4 Recap and Overview, Opening Protocol and Miigwechwewin**	*Treaty Week Hosts*
9:30 a.m.	**Indigenous Veterans Panel** *Moderator: Dominic Beaudry, Laurentian University*	*Jason Nakogee* *Wayne Pitawanakwat* *Les Herbert* *Will Morin* *Greg Brown*
10:30 a.m.	Break	
10:45 a.m.	**Indigenous Veterans Panel** *Moderator: Dominic Beaudry, Laurentian University*	*Jason Nakogee* *Wayne Pitawanakwat* *Les Herbert* *Will Morin* *Greg Brown*
11:30 a.m.	**Question and Answer Session**	
12:00 p.m.	Lunch (served in ISLC Round Room)	
1:00 p.m.	**Cultural Workshop**	*Resilient Inuk*
2:30 p.m.	**Closing Miigwechwewin**	*Dr. Lynn Wells, President, Laurentian University* *Dominic Beaudry, Laurentian University* *Earl Commanda, Executive Director, RHW* *Cultural Advisors: Nokomis Martina Osawamick and Levi Southwind*

TREATIES RECOGNITION WEEK 2026

E'SHKINIIGIJIG BI-BZIGWIIWAG | *The Youth Are Rising*



The essence *of* Treaties Recognition Week

In 2016, Ontario passed legislation recognizing the first full week of November as Treaties Recognition Week to honour the importance of treaties and for Ontarians to learn about Treaty rights and relationships. It is important that we all understand that we are all Treaty people; both Anishinaabek and settlers.

Since 2020, Robinson Huron Waawiindamaagewin has used this opportunity to educate students and community members, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, about the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850 and the work being done in the territory to establish a Treaty-level governance body to address treaty-specific issues as well as efforts to return to traditional governance systems.

Treaty of 1850
ROBINSON HURON WAAWIINDAMAAGEWIN

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