



Saugeen First Nation #29

Administration

August 6, 2019

For Immediate Release

Saugeen First Nation Seeks Summary Judgement in Sauble Beach Claim

First Nation Asks Court to Confirm that Sauble Beach Has Always Been Part of Their Reserve

Saugeen First Nation, Ontario: Saugeen First Nation today filed a summary judgement motion with Justice Belobaba of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice as part of a longstanding lawsuit to confirm Saugeen ownership of Sauble Beach. Both Saugeen First Nation and its treaty partner, the Government of Canada, recognize that Sauble Beach is part of Saugeen Indian Reserve #29, consistent with the terms of a treaty signed in 1854.

“This is a significant step towards righting a wrong that is older than Canada,” said Saugeen Chief Lester Anoquot. “It is a bittersweet moment for us. We are disappointed that it has come to this, but after almost 30 years of litigation, we are looking forward to finally having our day in court.”

Chief Anoquot explained, “out of all of our territory, this was the area our ancestors chose to reserve for their families – us – when the Crown wanted our land for settlers. The 1854 treaty makes clear that this is, and always has been, Saugeen land. But we have so-called ‘landowners’ who were not around in 1854 and are not interested in our treaty, who continue to make baseless claims about owning part of our beach. And, we have a mayor in South Bruce Peninsula who is not interested in being neighbourly and is clearly more concerned with politics than evidence. So, we welcome the opportunity to confront the Town and ‘landowners’ with the evidence and put the true facts before a judge, which is what we have done today.”

The federal government first began litigation on Saugeen First Nation’s behalf in 1990 to address false claims of ownership to parts of the reserve by settlers at the northern end of the Saugeen reserve. Saugeen First Nation filed its own claim in 1995. Both lawsuits state that Sauble Beach is and always has been part of the Saugeen Reserve.

“It is unfortunate in this day and age that some people still refuse to respect our treaty,” said Chief Anoquot. “It is even more disappointing when they refuse to work with us as neighbours. We have been sharing our land for centuries and we should all be interested in making our communities better, more prosperous, and more inviting. Unfortunately, the Town has not been

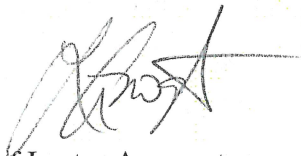
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willing to work with us outside of court, so we are bringing this motion to end the false claims to our beach. We never surrendered this land, the Crown could not have sold it to anybody else, nobody could ever legally have purchased it – and our treaty partner agrees. We are simply seeking recognition of what belongs to use and has, in fact, always been ours.”

Traditional Saugeen territory spans over two million acres and includes the entire Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula. The lands subject to litigation include a strip of beach west of Lakeview Blvd that extends between 1st St S, and 6th St N.

For any and all media inquiries please contact Chief Lester Anoquot at 519.797.2781, or by email – lester.anoquot@saugeen.org.

Sincerely,



Chief Lester Anoquot,
Saugeen First Nation, ON