

Saugeen First Nation Victory in Sauble Beach Case

Chief and Council are delighted to share the news that Saugeen First Nation has been successful in its lawsuit regarding ownership of Sauble Beach! After many years of litigation, the Court's decision is a complete victory for Saugeen First Nation.

Justice Susan Vella of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice ruled that all of Sauble Beach, extending up to a point between 5th and 6th Streets North, is and always has been part of Saugeen First Nation's reserve. Simply put, the Court has confirmed the entire beach belongs to Saugeen First Nation and always has. The court also ruled that the federal government violated our rights under Treaty 72 by failing to protect and preserve the entirety of our reserve after we signed the Treaty in 1854.

While there may be further legal proceedings to come depending on the responses of the other parties, including appeals, we have so far been totally successful in our lawsuit against Canada, Ontario, and the Town of South Bruce Peninsula. Issues that remain for the court to address include compensation to our First Nation for the government's breach of treaty.

We look forward to sharing more information about the case with our members and, together, to resuming our traditional stewardship over the north part of our beach. This win truly belongs to all of us – without our people's unwavering commitment to this fight over nearly 170 years, and without our people's fundamental belief that this was always their land, this victory would not have been possible. This has been a long fight, over many decades, but the hard work by leadership and our people has paid off and we have achieved a huge victory that we should all celebrate together.