



TEMAGAMI FIRST NATION/ TEME-AUGAMA ANISHNABAI



BEAR ISLAND LAKE TEMAGAMI, ONTARIO P0H 1C0
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COMMUNIQUE

TO: Teme-Augama Anishnabai/Temagami First Nation citizens
CC: TFN Chief & Council, TAA Chief & Council
DATE: Tuesday, July 5, 2022
RE: **Robinson Huron Treaty Misplaced Sign**

Kwe Kwe Teme-Augama Anishnabai/Temagami First Nation citizens.

Since early on Thursday, June 30th, we began to become aware of the placement of a sign on Highway 11 that read “Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850 ANISHINAABE TERRITORY”.

The sign, that was placed without our knowledge or appropriate protocols and certainly without our permission, was soon confirmed to be well within the well-known boundaries of ndakimenan.

Upon close inspection, the long-standing sign frame belonged to Price Signs from North Bay. The sign purchase and the spot rented, was by Waawiindamaagewin, the organization of the Robinson-Huron First Nation communities.

As our neighbours and longtime allies, a communication was sent to the Robinson Huron Treaty organization by our Ogimaag requesting an urgent meeting to discuss the removal of the sign to an area outside of ndakimenan.

Subsequently, this morning, there was contact between our Ogimaag and Earl Commanda, Waawiindamaagewin Executive Director, who stated that there was indeed an error made in their arrangement with Price Signs, that the sign has since been covered, a formal apology has been received and that the sign will be moved to a mutually agreed upon location outside of ndakimenan within two weeks. The timeline to remove the sign is due to the sign company’s ability to complete the work.

We will update citizens on the formal response to the apology.

Sincerely,
Temagami First Nation and Teme-Augama Anishnabai Chiefs and Councils

Attached: Letter of Apology
Photo showing covered sign



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Ogimaa Shelly Moore-Frappier
General Delivery
Bear Island, Lake Temagami, ON, P0H 1C0

July 6, 2022

Dear Ogimaa Moore-Frappier

I'm reaching out today by way of this letter to extend a very sincere apology to you and your community. As you are aware, we recently initiated a process to acknowledge the borders of the Robinson Huron Treaty Anishinaabe territory. Unfortunately, there was a miscommunication between our team here at Robinson Huron Waawiindamaagewin (RHW) and Price Signs who hold the contract to manufacture and install the signs; and the sign was installed in the wrong location.

I want to ensure you that this error was a logistical one and was never meant to cause upset to your community or be ignorant of the territorial boundary we share. Staff clarified to me that the error came about to do the labelling system used by Price signs for that location, it was our understanding that the sign would be visible to traffic travelling south, however, we discovered on the day we went to visit the site to do an unveiling, the sign was on the wrong side of the highway. Price signs were on location that day and immediately assured us they will get it moved as soon as possible; well south of Bidwell Road. We confirmed with Price Signs on July 4th that they will move the sign, however, it will take them two weeks to conduct the move. In the interim, our staff arranged to have the sign covered, which was done on July 5, 2022.

Again, I want to ensure your leadership, your community and yourself that we are fully aware of our shared boundary and that no ill intentions were meant by our actions. In fact, as you know, representatives from our organization and our region have been actively working with you and others from your community to build a positive relationship. We do understand that this error has caused your community undue stress and for that we extend our sincere apologies and hope this incident does not impact our relationship. Our leadership, staff and others have enjoyed a positive working relationship with your community and we will always strive to conduct our activities in a positive way.

If you or anyone from you community would like to discuss further, I'm happy to make myself available.

In friendship,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Earl Commanda".

Earl Commanda
Executive Director

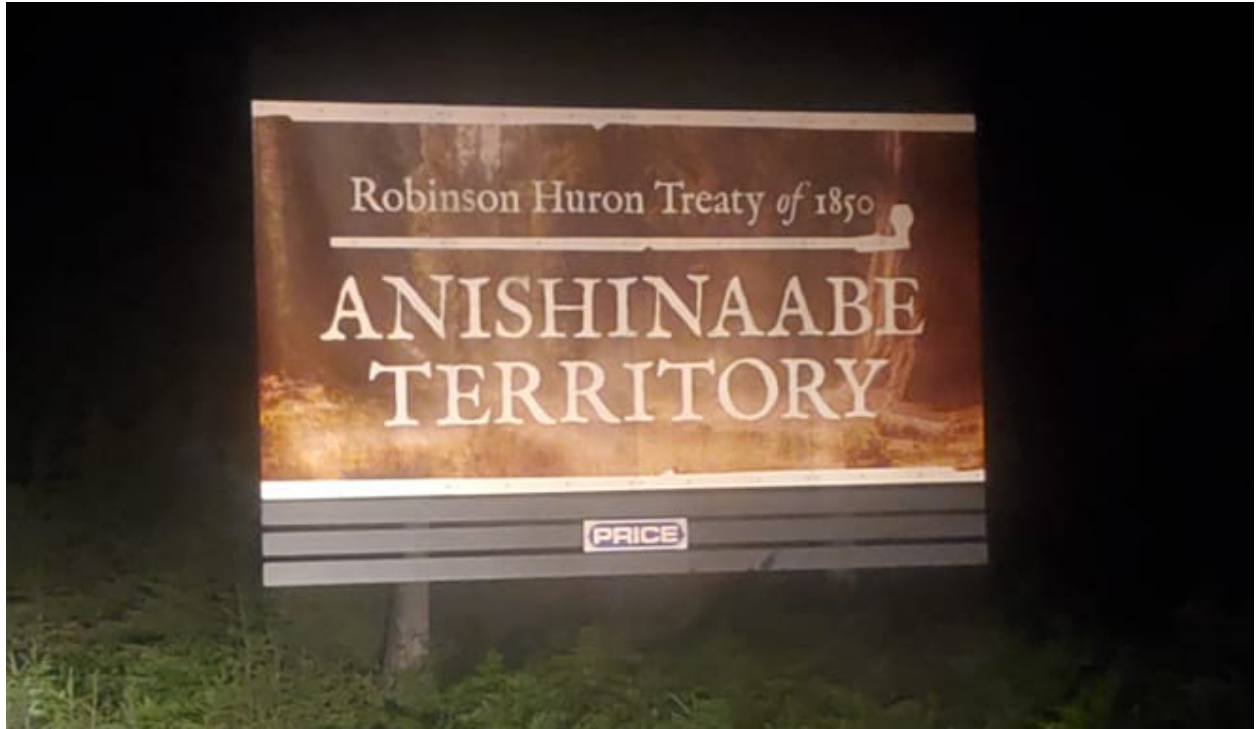
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