



## ZHIIBAAHAASING FIRST NATION NOTICE OF VOTE



February 1, 2024

**TAKE NOTICE** that a Ratification Vote on the **Manitoulin Project Settlement Agreement** will be held **February 18, 2024, to March 2, 2024**. Voters will determine whether they agree to accept the compensation from Canada for the First Nation Claims (summarized and attached to this Notice). The following Ballot Question will be asked by secret ballot:

As a Voting member of the participating UCCMM First Nations, do you:

**Agree to the terms and conditions of the Manitoulin Project Settlement Agreement?**

The Ratification Vote will take place online during the Voting Period from February 18, 2024, to March 2, 2024, to vote online visit <http://members.onefeather.ca/login>

To vote in-person, there will be one in-person voting station in each First Nation. There will also be a second in-person Advanced voting station on M'Chigeeng and AOK to accommodate the larger voting populations:

**IN-PERSON FINAL VOTING DAY**

Date: March 2, 2024

Time: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Location: 72 Sagon Road, Zhiibaahaasing, ON

A summary of the Settlement Agreement will also be delivered to all Members for whom an address is available, and copies of the Settlement Agreement will be available for Members at each Band Office and at the UCCMM Office.

Note that a Voters' List has been determined prior to posting this Notice of Ratification Vote. In accordance with the Articles 6.2 of the Voting Guidelines:

A Member of the First Nations may, up to and including the Final Voting Day, apply to the Ratification Officer or Ratification Assistant to have their name added to the Voters' List if that Member provides:

- a. proof of eligibility to vote by completing the Declaration of Membership and Eligibility to Vote Form. This proof shall include documentation that verifies that the Eligible Voter's name is recorded on the Band List, and that the Eligible Voter is at least eighteen years old on the date of the Final Day of the Ratification Vote and not disqualified from voting at band elections. Please contact the Ratification Officer, Ratification Assistant or your Band Office if you need a Declaration and Eligibility Form.

- b. Upon receipt and confirmation of the information in the Declaration of Membership and Eligibility to Vote form, the Ratification Officer will revise the Voters' List.

The application to have your name added to the Voters' List or to request a copy of the Voting Guidelines or forms should can be made to your First Nation as set out below:

**Bobbi-Sue Kells Riberdy, Band Manager**  
**Zhiibaahaasing First Nation**  
**36 Sagon Road, Zhiibaahaasing, ON P0P 1Y0**  
**Email: bobbisue@zhiibaahaasing.org**  
**Office: 705-283-3963**

For more information or assistance to vote online please contact:

**OneFeather, Ratification Officer / Ratification Assistant**  
**Email: voterhelp@onefeather.ca**  
**Office: 250-384-8200 Toll Free: 1-855-923-3006**  
**209-852 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C., V8W 1H8**  
<https://www.onefeather.ca/nations/zhiibaahaasing>



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Ben Turner Ratification Officer

**\*Note that the Ratification Officer may need to revise this Notice in special circumstances**

\*Ratification Assistant: Lynne Kovacs

A Virtual Information Meeting will be held on: **February 8, 2024, starting at 6 p.m.**

Zoom Coordinates are as follows:

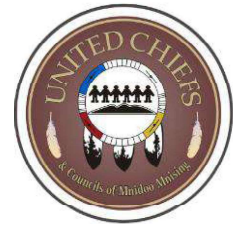
**Meeting ID: 812 1114 8686**

**Passcode: 437302**

Or copy link below:

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81211148686?pwd=boHAVcSdaZ9PnLdccNKpJDxsOoxMFu.1>**

For more information about the Manitoulin Project or additional in-person Information Meetings please visit **[www.manitoulinproject.ca](http://www.manitoulinproject.ca)**



## **SUMMARY OF THE CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

### **Settlement Amount**

Canada will provide the UCCMM First Nation parties who filed the claims, a full and final settlement of the Claims related to Roads, ILMF, and Lots.

### **Release**

The First Nations have agreed to provide a full Release of the Claims they made. By providing a full Release of the Claims, the First Nations will have agreed not to seek and pursue any future legal action against Canada for the Roads, ILMF, and Lots Claims.

### **Indemnity**

The First Nations were required to agree that Canada may in future ask to be indemnified (all Canada's cost paid) if a third party should bring a future claim for the same Roads, ILMF and Lots Claims.

This is a standard clause in settlements agreements with Canada. It is in extraordinary circumstances that the indemnity clause would be triggered.

### **Solicitor's Certificate**

Canada also requires First Peoples Law to sign a Solicitors Certificate of Independent Legal Advice.

Cynthia Westaway and First Peoples Law has been legal counsel for the UCCMM and the First Nation parties throughout negotiation of this settlement. First Peoples Law would be honored to provide the necessary Solicitor's Certificate for the Settlement.

### **Direction to Canada to Pay**

The First Nations must also provide Canada with the Direction to Pay the settlement amount into an account or Trust designated by the First Nations.

The UCCMM has supported the First Nations to have a trust prepared to move the settlement funds from Canada's account to the First Nations common trust immediately, the Manitoulin Project Trust. It will be administered by a corporate Trustee and accrue any interest for the benefit of the First Nations. From the Manitoulin Project Trust, the funds will be allocated to the First Nations' account or trusts in accordance with the future directions and Tribal Council Resolution of the Chiefs.

### **Ratification**

The Parties have agreed to a Ratification Vote on the terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement by each First Nation. Each First Nation needs at least 25% plus 1 of its eligible voters to vote "Yes", and those who vote "Yes" must represent a majority of those who voted, in order for it to be ratified.