

**Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek – Gull Bay First Nation
Treaty Reserve Claim – Agreement 1
March 14, 2025 - Update and Next Steps Required by KZA Members**

As previously shared, the results of the February 22, 2025 Ratification Vote saw overwhelming acceptance of Agreement 1 by KZA members, with 96% of Eligible Voters who participated casting ballots in favour. Since February 23, 2025, a great deal of work has been undertaken by KZA and its various expert resources to execute documents, and to receive/review/sign banking service agreements in establishing accounts and processes that are necessary to receive monies, administrate distribution and transfer funds to Trustees. KZA was commended by Canada on the accuracy and speed in which it was able to review and execute the multitude of documents required prior to Agreement 1 being tabled for the Minister's signature.

On the evening of Monday, March 10, 2025, Chief King received notice from KZA legal counsel that they were in receipt of an executed copy of Agreement 1 that had been signed by Minister Gary Anandasangaree, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. With Ministerial signature, so starts the 'clock' on the maximum 45-day timeline in which Canada must transfer the financial compensation to KZA. As outlined during KZA community consultation meetings on January 31st, this timeline for transfer represents the furthest timeline according to federal policies and not necessarily the actual timeline.

In order to be prepared for the most efficient and accurate per capita distribution process, KZA, its legal counsel and its expert resources at BMO are working to develop the systems required that will see the payout process to adult members and the transfer-to-trust process for minor children go as smoothly and safely as possible.

Now that a duly-executed Agreement 1 document has been received by KZA, we can move forward in building out the administrative processes. Specifically, it is now time for members to complete the administrative tasks that are their own individual responsibility.

Release and Waiver Form

Members must complete the "Release and Waiver" form which was mailed out today to EVERY known address, that has been provided to KZA, for members residing in and outside of KZA. The **Release and Waiver form can also be requested by email landclaim@gbfn.ca** and hard copies are available at the Government Office in Gull Bay.

A redacted copy has been posted on the KZA website to assist you in advance in gaining the greatest understanding of what is being asked of you to complete. This redacted form CANNOT be used and is only a sample of the actual form

Because the Release and Waiver contains CONFIDENTIAL information (being the dollar amount of the per capita distribution), we are prevented from posting the form online as **the dollar amount of the per capita distribution CANNOT be shared publicly AND members should be reminded again NOT to post or share as well.** A FULLY completed form includes the full name, address, ISC Indian Registration Number and signature of the member and is signed in front of a Witness (18 years and over) to confirm the member's signature.

The information requested at Schedule “A” of the Release and Waiver form MUST also be provided, which includes a standard bank direct deposit form generated by a bank at the branch or by using online banking OR a copy of a void cheque, AND copies of the front and back of two (2) pieces of government-issued identification, one of which must contain your photo (or such other identification or documentation required by KZA to verify your identity if you cannot provide two pieces of government-issued identification).

Standard Bank Direct Deposit Form

Standard Bank Direct Deposit Forms are provided from Canadian banking institutions and can also be accessed by members who conduct their banking online. The Standard Bank Direct Deposit Form MUST contain the name of the member themselves along with the names of any other persons (joint accounts), and numbers of the banking institution, transit and account.

In-Person Administration ‘Clinics’

To further assist members in the timely completion and submission to KZA of the Release and Waiver form, the direct deposit banking authorization/copy of void cheque, and copies of identification, the following dates/times have been set up for in person opportunities at which members can receive forms, submit forms and have their identification copied:

- in KZA at the Government Office on Tuesday, March 18 and Wednesday, March 19 from 10am to 2pm both days, including through lunch hour,
- In Thunder Bay at the Superior Inn & Conference Centre (Victoria Inn) on Saturday, March 22 and Sunday, March 23 from 10am to 7pm on both days

All of this work is being undertaken **IN ADVANCE** of KZA receiving the financial compensation funds transfer from Canada. **NO DEPOSITS WILL BE MADE INTO MEMBERS’ ACCOUNTS** until the financial compensation funds are received by KZA. Advance work completed by members will ensure an accurate, safe and quick per capita distribution process by KZA.

Electronic return of these documents WHEN COMPLETED can start IMMEDIATELY by sending the attachments to landclaim@gbfn.ca on the secure Sencia Network. Fully completed member payout files (containing Release and Waiver form, direct deposit form/copy of void cheque, and ID copies) will be processed as they are submitted.

Points Worth Stating

Will the call of a snap federal election affect the payout? No – the potential for any impacts to a change in Minister or a change in government has been the motivating factor that have seen great efforts put out by KZA and its expert resources to complete all required documents and ‘encourage’ (push forward) in the manner it has. Apologies to members in the ‘lag time’ since the ratification vote. Tasks that have been the focus of energies over the past 3 weeks could NOT have been executed in advance of the vote or in advance of the Minister’s signature.

Will any cheque be produced for members? No – the processes that have been set in place do not accommodate for the writing of any physical cheques. Electronic transfer of funds to members by direct deposit is the most secure method to ensure monies are received. Cheques can be lost or damaged, can be subject to multiple methods of fraud/theft and banks in Thunder Bay could NEVER have enough cash on hand to accommodate processing.