

SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION

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To the Members of SRFN:

The Council of the Serpent River First Nation reaffirms support of the Robinson Huron Treaty (RHT) position with regard to the opposition of Bill C-53. This is the proposed legislation which extends “recognition of certain Metis governments in Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan, to give effect to treaties with those governments and to make consequential amendments to other Acts”*, and which was developed without consultation with First Nations of our treaty territory.

We have worked collaboratively with other First Nations in our treaty territory to actively voice our opposition. For example, SRFN partnered with Mississauga First Nation to send a delegation of community members to a rally in Ottawa on September 20th to demonstrate our collective opposition. This is our stance and we will continue to uphold it as the governing body of our community.

We also recognize that individual community members can support their own beliefs and we respect each community member’s right to hold their own truth. None the less, it is very clear that elected councilors can only speak on behalf of SRFN Council, or represent our interests, when authority is granted with quorum at a duly convened meeting. This was not the case for the recent presentation about Bill C-53 made at the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs, by a member of our community.

As the original people belonging to this land, we welcome discussion and opportunities to work with the Metis on how best to co-exist here. However our responsibilities as Anishinabek people with inherent responsibilities to care for this land, cannot be circumvented. Therefore we want to be clear that this Council stands with our relatives of the Robinson Huron Treaty in opposing Bill C-53.

Chi-miigwech,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kerri Commanda'.

Kerri Commanda, Acting Chief
Serpent River First Nation Council

**Quoted from: Bill C-53 – House of Commons of Canada, First Reading June 21, 2023*