



HARVESTING UPDATE

The Framework Agreement between the Williams Treaties First Nations (WTFNs), Ontario and Canada signed earlier this year recognized the treaty rights in the pre-Confederation Treaty areas of 5, 16, 18, 20 and 27 and 27 ¼. However, discussions continue regarding the boundaries of Treaty 18 and the “Triangle” in Treaty 20. Regardless of the outcome of the negotiations between the WTFNs and the Crowns, the harvesting rights agreed to in the negotiation Framework Agreement will be protected pursuant to Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

The Williams Treaties Harvesting Committee will have the responsibility of implementing Pre-Confederation Treaty rights and creating communication tools and materials that will outline the harvesting areas for the benefit of all members. As well additional cultural awareness training will be provided to Conservation Officers and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) staff. MNRF has unofficially indicated that they will exercise discretion in any of the disputed areas. We encourage WTFN members to carry their status card to confirm their membership in one of the Williams Treaties First Nations communities if they are approached while harvesting.

In the interest of conservation, we ask that you take only what you need for ceremonial, social or subsistence purposes and as a reminder fishing is not to take place in any of the identified pre-Confederation Treaties fish sanctuaries. If you require further clarification regarding treaty areas please consult the maps on the website www.williamstreatiesfirstnations.ca or by emailing inquiries@williamstreatiesfirstnations.ca

It is anticipated that the negotiation team will have resolved any outstanding issues within the Final Settlement Agreement.