



# NETMIZAAGGAMIG NISHNAABEG

UNSURRENDERED

April 17, 2025  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg (NN) Reaffirms Authority of its Unceded Territory.**

**In response to the media release dated April 15th from Batchewana First Nation. Its bald, baseless assertions to Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg's territory shall not go unanswered.**

**Netmizaaggamig Aki** - Netmizaaggamig reaffirms its sole proprietorship and inherent sovereignty over its unceded territory. Recently, Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg's territory has been claimed by not only Ontario, but by First Nations including Batchewana, located in the Robinson Huron Treaty Area. These claims to our territory are baseless, lack evidence and Netmizaaggamig will always respond with strength and truth.

Netmizaaggamig knows its own history; including its history with the Crowns and treaty making in Lake Superior. We know our Anishinaabe laws, governance and land tenure system. Our lands, waters, and the plant and animal relatives that we share our territory with are our responsibility to protect and manage.

Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg has done extensive historical research, there is no evidence to support BFN's assertions in our ancestral lands. We have hundreds of years of evidence in support of our Aboriginal Title claim, including historical research, genealogy, oral histories, use and occupancy and travel route mapping. One direct and unquestionable way to tie a First Nation to their homeland is by Anishinaabemowin place names. We have reclaimed our traditional name, 'Netmizaaggamig', which means the "first lake from the big lake" (Lake Superior), now known as 'White Lake'.

NN is disheartened that the Crowns in right of Ontario and Canada are failing to respond honourably and with discernment to Batchewana's baseless assertions to Netmizaaggamig's territory. The Crowns claim jurisdiction over our territory, yet fail to enforce their own fish, game and forestry laws, which is adversely impacting unceded resources that sustain our food security, forest and aquatic ecosystems. At a time when Ontario is aspiring to be our Treaty partners.

While we support Batchewana's rights within its own territory, that territory does not legitimately extend into Netmizaaggamig Aki in any way, shape, or form whatsoever. The truth is important, not just empty assertions based on nothing.

Chief Louis Kwissiwaa, Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg Unsurrendered