

# TREATY 1 ANNUITIES Lawsuit Update

**For over a century, the annuities payable under Treaty 1 have remained unchanged at only \$5 per year, an unjust and outdated amount. The continued payment of \$5 fails to reflect the modern value of the Treaty's terms.**

Since 2019, Zongidaya Nelson, a member of the Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation, has been in court fighting tirelessly to increase the annuity payments. Zongidaya has brought this action to ensure that increased annuity payments are made directly and in full to individual Treaty 1 annuitants, without funds being diverted or delayed by political processes.

After six years of hard work advancing the case, including completing pleadings, discoveries, and securing favorable expert opinions, two key dates are approaching:

- **April 8, 2025:** A case management conference has been scheduled to arrange for Judicially Assisted Disputed Resolution. This process will be aimed at exploring settlement before trial.
- **February 2026:** If settlement cannot be reached, the action will proceed to trial starting February 9, 2026.

While the legal system can move slowly, Zongidaya has made great progress over the past six years. Zongidaya remains steadfast in his commitment and is optimistic about the upcoming months, when this matter comes to a head. If necessary, the trial, scheduled to start in less than a year, represents the individual members of Treaty 1's first, and best, chance to establish a right to higher annuities.

**"This action is about more than a lawsuit. It is about holding Canada to its treaty promises, respecting First Nations peoples, and ensuring a brighter future for our youth" -- Zongidaya Nelson**

Zongidaya encourages everyone to stay informed and engaged – this fight is for all individual members of the Treaty 1 First Nations who are entitled to be directly paid annuities by Canada.

For questions or more information, please see legal counsel's website at [www.mccarthy.ca/en/treaty-1-annuity-claim](http://www.mccarthy.ca/en/treaty-1-annuity-claim)  
We also ask you to please reach out to **Stephanie Willsey** at **416-601-8962 / [swillsey@mccarthy.ca](mailto:swillsey@mccarthy.ca)**