



Robinson Huron Treaty Confederation



Robinson Huron Treaty Confederation

Community Champion

Toolkit 2019 -2020

## Your Role

Community Champions are people in the community who take on an issue or project and are fearless in raising awareness and support for it. In this case, the project involves sharing information, gathering data and promoting enthusiasm for the Robinson Huron Treaty Confederation initiative.

You do not have to be an expert or a highly skilled presenter to be a community champion. But you should feel comfortable leading a group conversation about the RHTC initiative, and be willing to use the messages in this toolkit to guide the conversation.

Community champions come from a variety of backgrounds. They represent a range of ages and have some knowledge of the culture. The unique qualities you bring to your role will enrich the initiative.







This is a volunteer position, so you have control over your level of commitment. Ideally, you will be available to participate in conversations and lead presentations on RHTC when you are needed in your community. But you are not obligated to make a presentation if you are unavailable. The RHTC may be able to arrange another presenter if you are unavailable.

We hope this toolkit will inspire you to promote respect, love, humility, courage, wisdom, honesty and truth when communicating the initiative. Talk about the initiative whenever you have the chance. You can make a difference by challenging the assumptions people make and the stereotypes we accept.

**What are the rewards?**

Practical	Personal
<p>Helping to make your community more knowledgeable regarding the RHTC initiative</p>	<p>Meet new people, learn about our history, use your strengths, develop your skills</p>
	



## Getting ready

You do not have to organize and plan a presentation on your own. You can let people know that you are available to talk to their groups about the initiative. Ask them to invite you. Many community groups will be interested in having presentations and will take care of booking a space, inviting participants, copying materials and providing refreshments. Build on existing networks by attending gatherings where people already come together to address similar topics. This could include youth gatherings, elders council, community events and meetings.

Here are some things you will need to get ready for a presentation:

**Provide information:** to the host group before the session. Let them know what to expect. Explain that the first session will include a presentation, discussion, and opportunities to increase knowledge.



**Know your audience:** ask the host group:

- What is the purpose of the group?
- How many people will be attending?
- What does the audience expect?
- Will I be the only presenter? If not, will I be following or followed by another presenter? If so, what is their topic?
- How much time do I have?

**Know your material:** reread the presentation

**Choose a topic for discussion:** prepare enough copies for the participants, or ask the host group to make copies.

**Decide how you will gather feedback:** if you plan to use the evaluation form provided, prepare enough copies for the participants, or ask the host group to make the copies.

These are some things you might ask the host group to organize:

**Book the meeting space:** ideally this will have enough room for the group to divide into smaller groups for discussion. Movable chairs and small tables are helpful.

**Announce the event:** here are some possible ways to spread the word:

- Post flyers in the community. See sample
- Put a notice in the community newspaper or electronic board (if available)
- Send an email to your contacts



**Organize resources:**

- If the session will include a slide presentation, make sure you have a projector, computer and power cords. Locate the power outlets in the room. Test the equipment to ensure that it works.
- Provide pens or pencils for participants to take notes
- Think about and prepare for people's needs: for example, is there room for wheelchairs and walkers?



## Supporting the conversation

The focus of each session is on starting a meaningful conversation. Your role is to facilitate the conversation so the wisdom in the room can be revealed and can grow. Remember that everyone has something valuable to bring to the conversation.

Opinions may vary, and that's okay. Some participants may make statements that contradict the guiding principles of this toolkit (respect, love, humility, courage, wisdom, honesty and truth). People are entitled to their opinions and your role is not to change their minds. You will find that the group can be your greatest ally and has the greatest wisdom.

The more you allow the group to have lively, respectful, and safe conversations, the more likely you are to have a positive impact on people. By the end of the session, you will have given them something to think about and resources to help them continue the conversation when they leave.





## Keeping the Focus

Design the session to achieve the agreed-on purpose. Develop an agenda to support and assess the goals of the session. Stay on topic so you do not lose people's interest.

An agenda will provide participants an idea of how long the presentation will be. The time for each item will depend on the size of the group. The suggested timeframe is 60 – 90 minutes, including time for people to settle.

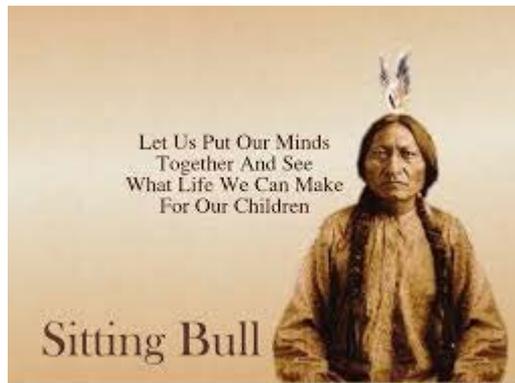
### Sample Agenda

1. **Introductions** (5 – 10 mins)
  - a. Tell participants about you and your role
  - b. Invite them to introduce themselves
2. **Presentation** (15 – 30 mins)
  - a. Distribute the presentation so that participants can look at it and take notes if they like.
  - b. Present the key messages, using the speakers notes and optional slides
3. **Group discussion**
  - a. Put group into Clans
  - b. Hand out questions, encourage group to take notes
  - c. Facilitate a discussion based on the questions
4. **Wrap up and closing**
  - a. Thank the group for their attention and willingness to share
  - b. Invite them to stay in touch and provide resource material
5. **Evaluation**
  - a. Ask the group to complete an evaluation. This will help you to continually improve and grow as a community champion.



**Stick to your purpose and timeframe.** Respect that people made a decision to attend based on the information you provided. So, try as much as possible to stick to the time you were given. This may be difficult: once people start talking about the initiative they can have a lot to say. There is a fine balance between providing enough time for discussion and not so much time that you feel you are not able to say everything you would like to say. You can always check with the group about how they feel about going a little longer. You can also offer to come back to continue the conversation.

**Make people comfortable.** Take notice of things such as temperature, seating, and sound quality. Speak clearly and use plain language. The words that people understand and use everyday are the words with the greatest power.





## Respecting Diversity

### **Eni piiskaaying danwendaagwat wii mina naadmaading.**

As we grow on this journey there is a need for kind and shared common protocols

**(As we move forward there will be a need to help each other in a good way)**

Clan Grandmothers Council, 2019

In any group you work with, there will likely be people with different cultural beliefs, practices, and understandings about RHTC. As a community champion, it is important to be considerate about other points of view. During any presentation, allow everyone to feel they share their beliefs and perspectives without judgement. By your example, you can show that other cultural views are not wrong but different.



## Evaluating and following up

Evaluation is key to knowing whether you have accomplished what you set out to do. You might worry about being evaluated, but without it you will not know how you or the materials are reaching your people. It will help you improve and help us ensure our materials are effective.

As an alternative, you might prefer to put your own questions on a flip chart or slide and invite people to write their responses on blank paper. For example, you could ask the following three questions:

1. What was most useful to you today?
2. What was least useful to you today?
3. What would you suggest to improve the workshop?





## RHTC Engagement

### Feedback Form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Engagement: \_\_\_\_\_

Facilitator: \_\_\_\_\_

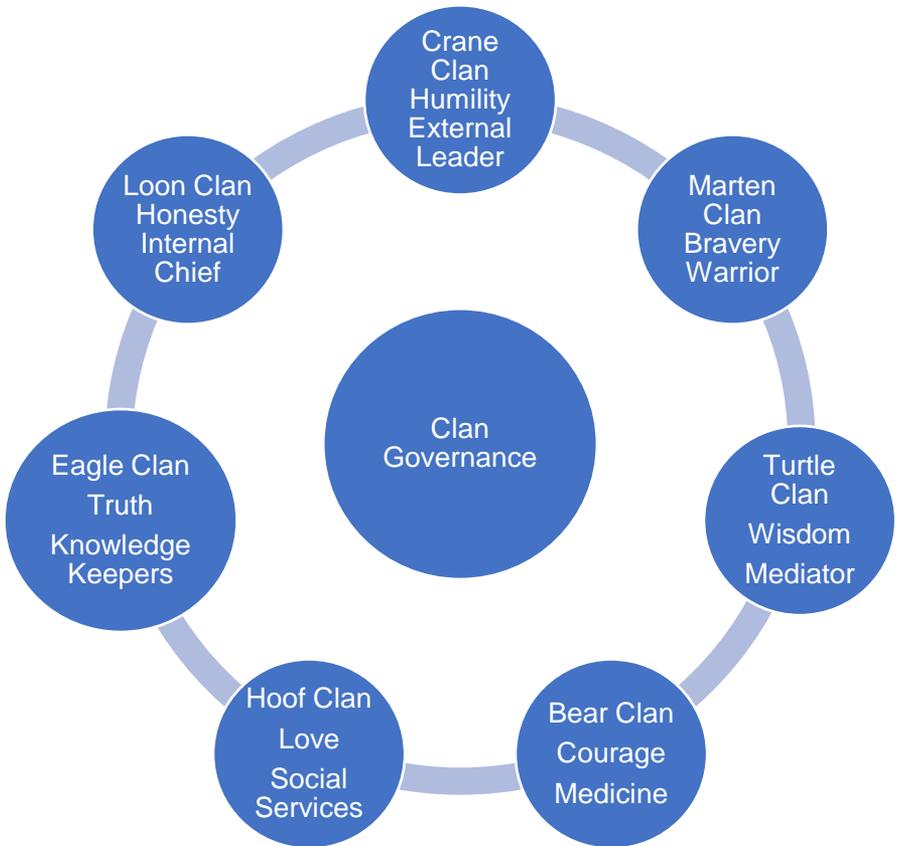
Miigwetch for attending and participating in the Robinson Huron Treaty Confederation engagement session. Please take a few minutes to provide your feedback below. Mno Nendam Ghiizhigad

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	The purpose of the RHTC initiative was clearly defined					
	Participation and interaction were encouraged					
	The topics covered were relevant to me					
	The materials distributed were helpful					
	The content was organized and easy to follow					
	The facilitator was knowledgeable about the initiative					
	The time allotted for the session was sufficient					

Are there other topics you would like to learn more about?

Will you share the information you heard today with family, friends?

How can we improve?



### **Spreading the Message**

The purpose of this formation of the RHTC will be to assist and guide in the development of an honorable, respectful relationship between Crown and the RHTC First Nations. This will establish a foundation to work towards a future that moves the Treaty Relationships forward.

The RHTC will be a resource for the 16 Signatory First Nation communities and potentially the 5 non-signatory



First Nation communities that will assist in preparing, developing and coordinating activity to renew the RHTC First Nations and Crown relationship pursuant to the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850.

The Clan System is a way to describe the connections that make a community stronger. In healthy and safe communities, we take care of each other, respect each other, and support each other's right to make their own decisions.

Take time to reach out and expand your own circle. Continue to seek support from other members in your community who can share the enthusiasm and excitement for this initiative. Talk with them and share your knowledge; ask them to participate in creating a safe space where members can share and record the history of your treaty territory.

Look for opportunities where the generations can learn from each other. Encourage healthy relationships between your Elders and youth; with participation by Adults.



## Robinson Huron Treaty Confederation

### Engagement Session

[Location]

[DATE]

**Purpose:** To share information, educational resources and provide ongoing support to RHTC signatory communities. Begin a dialogue on 'Renewing the Treaty Relationship' and/or 'polishing the chain' between the Crown and 16 RHT Sovereign Signatory First Nation communities and potentially 5 non-signatory First Nation communities. This will establish a foundation to work towards a future that moves the Treaty Relationship forward.

#### Agenda

- Opening – Elder
- Presentation – Your Name here
- Questions/Answers
- Closing – Elder

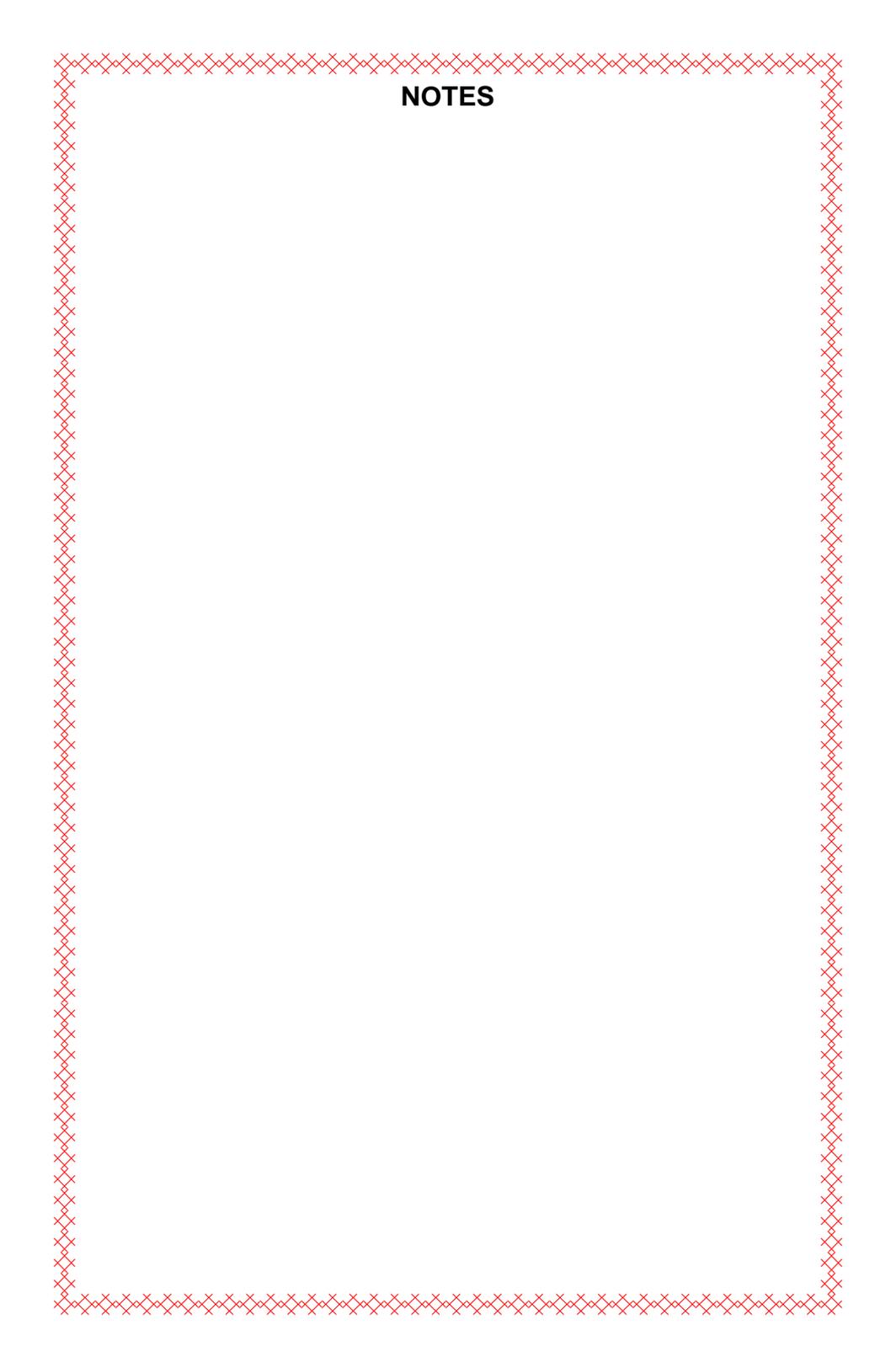


**For further information:** Your Name here

**E:** [your email here](#)

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# NOTES