

Treaty Land Entitlement Claims

Birth of the treaties

After 1870, when Rupert's Land became part of Canada, treaties were negotiated between the federal government and the various First Nations inhabitants. Treaties that significantly affect Alberta are Treaty Six (signed 1876), Treaty Seven (1877) and Treaty Eight (1899).

In exchange for cession of Indian title, the federal government agreed to provide certain specific benefits, including the provision of Indian reserves.

Most but not all First Nations received some reserve land. Many did not receive their full entitlement. Hence the federal government's obligation to fulfill these outstanding treaty land entitlements.

Alberta's treaty obligation

The Province of Alberta also has its obligation as a result of the 1930 transfer of Crown lands and resources from the federal government to the Province. Under the terms of the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (now the Constitution Act, 1930) the Province is obligated to transfer unoccupied Crown lands back to the federal government, so that Ottawa can fulfill its treaty responsibilities to First Nations.

Treaty land entitlement **claims** are filed with the federal government, but both the Province and the federal government participate in their **negotiation**.

Alberta's commitment

The Government of Alberta is committed to meet its constitutional obligation through the negotiation of land claim settlements which are fair and equitable to all parties involved and in the best interest of all Albertans.

In recent years, a number of significant settlements have been reached in Alberta:

2000: Smith's Landing First Nation received 21,500 acres of land and \$31,000,000. The Government of Alberta provided 19,000 acres of provincial Crown land and \$3,000,000. The Government of Canada provided 2,500 acres of land and \$28,000,000.

1999: Loon River First Nation received up to 44,800 acres for a new reserve and \$22,000,000. The Government of Alberta provided the land and \$7,500,000. The Government of Canada provided \$14,450,000. In addition, over a period of five years, the Government of Canada will provide \$29,500,000 for capital construction on the reserve.

1998: Alexander First Nation received up to 15,140 acres of additional land and \$10,000,000. The Government of Alberta provided up to 5,140 acres of Provincial Crown Land and \$3,000,000; the Government of Canada provided \$7,000,000.

1995: Alexis First Nation received 20,824 acres of land and \$12,000,000. The Government of Alberta provided the land and



\$2,000,000; the Government of Canada is providing \$10,000,000.

- 1993: Tallcree First Nation** received 13,000 acres of land and \$7,000,000. The Government of Alberta provided the land and \$1,500,000; the Government of Canada contributed \$5,500,000.
- 1993: Janvier First Nation** received 3,400 acres of land and \$5,000,000. The Government of Alberta contributed the land and \$1,800,000; the Government of Canada contributed \$3,200,000.
- 1992: Kapawe'no First Nation (Grouard)** received 2,600 acres of land and \$3,005,688. The Government of Alberta provided the land and \$982,000; the Government of Canada contributed \$2,023,688.
- 1991: Woodland Cree First Nation** received 35,200 acres of land and \$19,512,000. The Government of Alberta contributed the land and \$5,000,000; the Government of Canada contributed \$14,512,000. In addition, over a period of five years, the Government of Canada has provided \$35,200,000 for capital construction on the new reserves and the Government of Alberta has funded a special training and employment program at a cost of \$3,000,000.

1990: Sturgeon Lake First Nation received 16,207 acres of land and \$5,575,000. The Government of Alberta contributed the land and \$1,425,000; the Government of Canada contributed \$4,150,000.

1990: Whitefish Lake First Nation received 5,830 acres of land and \$19,166,000. The Government of Alberta provided the land and \$10,833,000; the Government of Canada contributed \$8,333,000.

1986: Mikisew Cree First Nation (Fort Chipewyan) received 12,280 acres of land and \$26,600,000. The Government of Alberta contributed the land and \$17,600,000; the Government of Canada contributed \$9,000,000.

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Updated: August 2000