

First Nations Reserve Creation in Rural Municipalities

All land selected by First Nations for reserve creation purposes is reviewed by the provincial government to identify provincial and/or third-party interests and concerns.

Part of this review includes obtaining information from the affected rural municipality (RM). Identified interests and concerns are addressed in accordance with the applicable Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) or Specific Claims agreement prior to the land being transferred to reserve status.

Rural Municipality Role

RMs are responsible for providing information related to roads, the environment and outstanding taxes.

RMs may also meet with First Nations to discuss issues of mutual concern such as municipal services, bylaw compatibility and a dispute resolution process. These discussions may take place before or after the land selection is transferred to reserve status.

Roads

When land is selected by a First Nation an RM is first contacted by the provincial Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure (HI). HI requires that the RM identify any current or future road needs related to road widening, easements, undeveloped road allowances, trails, road diversions and unsurveyed and/or unregistered roadways. For more information on roadway concerns contact HI at (306) 787-4828.

Environment

The First Nation or Canada will request RMs to identify issues related to the existence and location of any contamination, fuel tanks, garbage related items, landfills, sewage problems, noxious weeds and livestock facilities on the selected land. This information may be requested before or after the provincial review has been completed.

Property Taxes

From the time a First Nation acquires land until the time it is transferred to reserve status, First Nations are required to pay property taxes assessed against the land.

If there are outstanding taxes on the land, RMs should first contact the individual First Nation, and then if payment is not received, RMs may follow up with Canada and the province for assistance.

Tax Loss Compensation

Once selected land within an RM is transferred to reserve status it is no longer subject to property taxation. The land claim agreements have provisions to address the future loss of tax base.

For More Information

For more information about TLE or reserve creation, please contact:

Lands and Consultation Branch
Ministry of Government Relations
Phone: 306-787-5722
Address: 410 – 1855 Victoria Avenue, Regina SK S4P 3T2