

Treaty Land Entitlement History

Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) is aimed at resolving outstanding obligations to First Nations which did not receive all of the reserve land they are entitled to under Treaty.

The federal government and First Nations signed Numbered Treaties (2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10) between 1871 and 1906 in a region that is now Saskatchewan. A key aspect of those Treaties was the allocation of reserve land to First Nations people.

Canada agreed to establish reserves based on the First Nation's population at the time of the original survey. However, this did not happen in all cases leaving the federal government with outstanding obligations.

First Nations and the land reserved for them are a federal responsibility. However, under the *Natural Resources Transfer Agreement, 1930*, Saskatchewan is legally obligated to help Canada fulfill TLEs.

Under this Agreement, Canada transferred the remaining Crown land, minerals and resources to Saskatchewan. In return Saskatchewan agreed, among other conditions, to make unoccupied Crown land available to fulfill outstanding TLE obligations.

By the 1970s the amount of available unoccupied Crown land was not sufficient and/or in suitable locations to settle all outstanding TLE claims.

As a result, attempts to address these claims at that time were unsuccessful. Another solution was eventually developed in the early 1990s.

In 1992, the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan and the Chiefs of 25 Entitlement First Nations signed the *Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement*. The significance of this Agreement is that it established a framework to address outstanding Treaty obligations and ensure that First Nations obtain the amount of reserve land to which they are entitled. Under the TLE agreements, First Nations received monetary compensation to purchase land on a "willing seller/willing buyer" basis.

The Framework Agreement is comprehensive. It serves as a blueprint for all the subsequent TLE agreements in Saskatchewan and is regarded as a model of success for the resolution and implementation of TLE.

For More Information

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

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