



Treaty Land Entitlement Committee of Manitoba Inc.

UPDATE

FALL 2015

Liberal Party of Canada commits to complete TLE in 10 years



The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau,
Prime Minister of Canada.

On October 20, 2015, a day after the 2015 federal general election, Chief Nelson Genaille of the Sapatoweyak Cree Nation, and President of the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee (TLEC) of Manitoba, offered his congratulations to the Liberal Party of Canada's Justin Trudeau.

"On behalf of the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee, I congratulate Mr. Trudeau on his electoral victory," stated Chief Genaille. "Once the post-election dust settles in Ottawa, we will be immediately calling upon the Trudeau government to follow through on its campaign pledge to complete Treaty Land Entitlement claims in Manitoba within 10 years."

In a letter issued Friday October 9, 2015, to Chief Genaille (*See letter on Pages 2 & 3), the President of the Liberal Party, **Anna Gainey**, on behalf of Party Leader Justin Trudeau, stated:

"A Liberal government will fast track Treaty Land Entitlement in Manitoba and work to complete this long overdue process within the next decade. We will ensure that the federal government allocates adequate resources to complete land surveys in a timely manner and cut through red tape to speed up setting TLE lands aside as reserve lands."

This letter was in response to TLEC's Open Letter to the leaders of the four main federal parties in Canada.

On September 8, 2015, the TLEC urged all Party Leaders to make a Prime Ministerial commitment to fast-track and complete TLE claims in Manitoba in 10 years by undertaking the following specific actions if elected to form government on October 19, 2015:

1. *Dedicate more dollars for land surveys;*
2. *Utilize existing federal legislation to set TLE lands aside as Reserve faster;*
3. *Set annual targets and firm timelines for TLE land conversions; and,*
4. *Amend the Manitoba TLE Framework Agreement to include loss of use compensation for TLE lands that are not converted to Reserve for TLEC's Member Entitlement First Nations as a result of Canada's delays.*

Upon the appointment of a new Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, the first order of TLE business for the new Minister will be signing the Ministerial Orders for roughly **6,500 acres** of TLE lands to be set aside as Reserve for five (5) TLEC Entitlement First Nations.

The Manitoba Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement:

"A DEBT TO BE PAID"



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October 9, 2015

Chief Nelson Genaille
President
Treaty Land Entitlement Committee of Manitoba
200-1765 Sargent Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3H 0C6

Dear Chief Genaille,

Thank you for writing me about the need to resolve unfinished Treaty business in Manitoba.

We fundamentally believe that Canada must complete the unfinished work of Confederation by establishing a renewed Nation-to-Nation relationship with Indigenous communities based on trust, respect and cooperation for mutual benefit. A relationship which is guided by the spirit and intent of the original Treaty relationship, respects the decisions of our courts, and is rooted in the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We also need a relationship that takes us beyond our formal agreements and speaks to how we ought to treat each other. We are confident that this renewed partnership will set us on the path to the responsible economic growth we all need and the shared future prosperity we all deserve.

Liberals understand that First Nations and all Canadians are calling for the legal certainty and reconciliation that the permanent settlement of First Nations' land claims will provide. Reconciliation starts with recognizing and respecting Aboriginal title and rights, including Treaty rights. A Liberal government will do just that. Not only in accordance with our Constitutional obligations, but also with those enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

First, as a matter of national priority, a Liberal government will develop a Federal Reconciliation Framework, created in full partnership with Indigenous Peoples, which recognizes Aboriginal title and rights, including Treaty rights. This Reconciliation Framework will include mechanisms to resolve grievances associated with existing historical treaties. The Liberal Party of Canada knows the current process simply does not work. We will also work in partnership with First Nations to re-design how Canada negotiates and fully implements modern treaties.

We know that it would be unfair – and historically inaccurate – to blame any one government for the 144-year delay in delivering the promised land to which the First Nations that you represent are entitled. However, it is clear that the Conservative government has failed to make acceptable progress toward resolving this injustice during their decade in office. A Liberal government will work with the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee of Manitoba (TLEC) to achieve fair and just resolutions to the land claims of the First Nations you represent.

We believe the Crown must always act honourably and in good faith when dealing with Indigenous Peoples. The constitutionally-guaranteed rights of Aboriginal Peoples in Canada are not an inconvenience, but rather a sacred obligation, central to what Canada is as a nation. A Liberal government will fast track Treaty Land Entitlement in Manitoba and work to complete this long overdue process within the next decade. We will ensure that the federal government allocates adequate resources to complete land surveys in a timely manner and cut through red tape to speed up setting


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TLE lands aside as reserve lands. We will respect the rights and experiences of Manitoba First Nations and will work in partnership, Nation by Nation, to set priorities and develop First Nations-led solutions to support the goals and ambitions of your communities.

It is time that we come together to build a better future for all our communities and all our children. We look forward to sharing that journey in partnership with you.

On behalf of our Leader, Justin Trudeau, and the entire Liberal team, thank you for writing to identify the major concerns of your membership.

We appreciate your interest in the Liberal Party of Canada's policies as they relate to the issues which affect you.

Sincerely,

Anna Gainey, President
Liberal Party of Canada

The logo for Liberal.ca, featuring a small red maple leaf above the text "Liberal.ca".

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Brokenhead Ojibway Nation hosts TLE and Provincial Parks forum

On October 5 & 6, 2015, the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation (BON) hosted a Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) and Provincial Parks Forum in Winnipeg, MB.

The objective of the forum was to discuss and strategize on First Nations' interests in culturally sacred sites within current provincial parks.

First Nation representatives from Treaties No. 1, 3 and 5 attended this forum.

Some Member Entitlement First Nations of the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee (TLEC) of Manitoba have made TLE Selections within provincial parks, despite the Manitoba government's objections.

For example, in December 1998 the BON selected four parcels of land within the Whiteshell Provincial Park under its TLE agreement.

The BON selected these lands to protect and preserve the sacred petroform sites within the park.

At the forum, some delegates expressed concern over people taking their dogs to roam freely at the petroform sites, which are considered sacred grounds by area First Nations and others who use the site for ceremonial purposes.

"The reason why we hosted this forum, is to better explain our rationale for selecting these sites in Whiteshell," stated BON's **Chief Jim Bear**. "As things currently stand, not enough protection and respect are being afforded to these sacred grounds. At the moment, BON may be in the best



(left-right) Chief Morris Swan Shannacappo, Chief Jim Bear, Councillor Paul Chief & Councillor Wendell Sinclair.

position to ensure First Nations have a prominent role and say in the preservation and protection of the petroform sites on behalf of all area First Nations."

The Manitoba Government has objected to these TLE selections, deeming them as "ineligible" under the terms of the 1997 Manitoba TLE Framework Agreement based on Subsection 3.03, (6) which states, "An Entitlement First Nation may not generally Select land in a provincial park..."

"The provincial government will allow and authorize mining activities and mineral exploration in provincial parks, yet will not allow a TLE Selection in a park," said **Chris Henderson, TLEC's Executive Director**. "Even within Manitoba's much touted *Building The Parks Province: Manitoba's Parks Strategy* document, there is no mention, nor consideration, given to First Nations' interests within provincial parks."

There are 750 mining claims in 13 provincial parks, including Whiteshell, Nopiming and Grass River.

A Summary Report will be provided to all delegates that attended this 2 day forum.



Petroform site at Bannock Point in Whiteshell Provincial Park.



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For More Information on the Framework Agreement and the TLEC, please visit our **Website @: www.tlec.ca**