

Sapotaweyak Cree Nation and the Town of Swan River sign second municipal services agreement

On Wednesday August 16, 2017, Chief Nelson Genaille, of the Sapotaweyak Cree Nation (SCN), Manitoba, signed a Municipal Development and Services Agreement (MDSA) with the Town of Swan River's Mayor Glen McKenzie for a second parcel of land that SCN purchased under its Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) agreement.

On October 19, 2015, SCN bought 0.21 acres in Swan River, where the old "Swan Valley Hotel" used to be located at on 703 Main Street.

SCN is planning another economic development project for this second land purchase after it becomes Reserve land.

An MDSA provides for the provision of municipal services to the parcel of land and the payment for such services by the First Nation to the municipality.

This will be the second MDSA between SCN and Swan River. Their first MDSA was signed in 2012 for SCN's first urban Reserve in Swan River, which currently hosts its "Club Sapp" gaming center.

This first acquired parcel was set aside as Reserve by Canada in 2014.

MDSAs are a key milestone in the TLE land conversion process and paves the way for Canada to set urban lands aside as Reserve for First Nations like SCN.

SCN is located on Dawson Bay in the north section of Lake Winnipegosis, next to the community of Pelican Rapids, approximately 450 kilometers north of Brandon, Manitoba.

SCN is signatory to Treaty No. 4 and is one of the 15 Entitlement First Nations (EFNs) that has signed its TLE agreement under the 1997 Manitoba TLE Framework Agreement.

SCN is also one of the six (6) EFNs that were provided a land acquisition payment to enable them to purchase, or buy, their Other Land amount.

The reason why these 6 EFNs – identified as "Schedule B" EFNs within the TLE Framework Agreement – were provided with dollars to buy lands is that there was a lack of available Crown Lands to select from within their immediate areas.

Once this second acquired parcel is set aside as SCN Reserve by Canada, Swan River will become the only municipality in Manitoba to have two urban Reserves within its boundaries.



Glen McKenzie, Mayor of Swan River, signs the Municipal Development and Services Agreement as Chief Nelson Genaille, Sapotaweyak Cree Nation, and others look on.



Treaty Land Entitlement Committee of Manitoba Inc.

UPDATE

FALL 2017

War Lake First Nation marks land conversion with celebration

It's better late than never! This sentiment was without a doubt held by the people of the War Lake First Nation (WLFN) when they held a community celebration on August 22, 2017.

What was being celebrated? Canada's recent land conversion of 17 lots into Reserve lands under the WLFN's Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) agreement.

To mark this momentous occasion, WLFN's Chief Betsy Kennedy and Council hosted several dignitaries in WLFN, along with Elders and community members for a feast.

"This is a very emotional day for us," stated Chief Kennedy. "This process has taken so long. It's been a long journey. And I want to thank the Elders and the previous Chief and Councils for their past work to get us here."

In 1993, and prior to officially signing their TLE agreement in 1999 under the 1997 Manitoba Framework Agreement (MFA) on TLE, the WLFN first selected a total of 40 lots within the community of Ilford, Manitoba, which neighbours the WLFN.

The reason why WLFN selected these lots was for housing purposes.

"We need more housing for our members," said Chief Kennedy. "We have no more land to build on within our existing Reserve."

Some of the 40 lots do contain housing units, while other lots do not.



Chief Betsy Kennedy, of the War Lake First Nation, accepting a gift from Chris Henderson, Executive Director of the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee of Manitoba, at the community celebration in War Lake First Nation.

Under the 1997 MFA, Entitlement First Nations like the WLFN may select available Crown Lands within a Northern Affairs community like Ilford, with that land eventually becoming Reserve land.

Now that these 17 lots are now Reserve, the WLFN is waiting for the federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (formerly known as the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada) to set the remaining 23 lots apart as Reserve.

Under its TLE agreement, the WLFN can select 7,156 acres of Crown Land. To date, Canada has set aside a total of 486.19 acres as Reserve land for the WLFN.

The WLFN is signatory to Treaty No. 5 and is located at Ilford, Manitoba. Ilford is located along the Bay line, now owned and operated by OmniTrax, 144 air km northeast of Thompson, 416 km northeast by rail from The Pas and 688 air km north of Winnipeg.

The Manitoba Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement:

"A DEBT TO BE PAID"



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

Land claims hearing held in Winnipeg

The Treaty Land Entitlement Committee (TLEC) of Manitoba was recently invited to appear before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

The committee was holding public hearings across Canada to better understand the issues that affect the negotiation and implementation of specific claims and comprehensive land claims and to understand the outcomes and impacts for Indigenous communities.

The makeup of the committee consists of various Members of Parliament from the three main political parties in Ottawa's House of Commons.

On Wednesday September 27, 2017, the committee held its hearing in Winnipeg.

Other First Nations presenters included: Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Grand Chief Arlen Dumas; Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc. Grand Chief Sheila North Wilson; and Chief Jim Bear of the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation.

In his opening comments, **Chief Nelson Genaille** of the Sapatawayak Cree Nation and TLEC's President, informed the committee members of the Manitoba Framework Agreement (MFA) on Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE).

"The 1997 TLE Framework Agreement is the only and real comprehensive legal land claims settlement agreement in Manitoba," stated Chief Genaille. "And since its signing 20 years ago, less than half of the promised 1.1 million acres of new Reserve lands have been set aside as Reserve land by Canada."

On May 29, 1997, the MFA was signed by the TLEC, Canada and Manitoba to implement and resolve the outstanding, constitutionalized TLE claims of TLEC's Member Entitlement First Nations (EFNs).

To date, approximately **484,550.86** acres has been set aside as Reserve by Canada for 14 out of the 15 EFNs that have signed onto the MFA.

Chief Genaille also reminded the committee about the Liberal Party of Canada's 2015 election campaign promise to fast-track the TLE land conversion process in Manitoba.

"Canada recently celebrated its 150th anniversary, and given our unfinished Treaty business with the Crown, we are calling upon the Trudeau Liberal government to make good on their 2015 campaign promise to speed up the TLE process," said Chief Genaille. "Two years into their TLE campaign promise, this Liberal government must do more on this file, given their recent unanimous support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples."



Photo by Doug Thomas

AMC Grand Chief Arlen Dumas, Chief Nelson Genaille, TLEC President, and MKO Grand Chief Sheila North Wilson at the committee hearing in Winnipeg.

TLE LAND CONVERSION UPDATE 2017

PRESENT STATUS:

The following chart provides the Crown Land and Other Land Amounts that each Entitlement First Nation ("EFN") is entitled to receive under the Manitoba Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement (1997). For those EFNs that have signed their individual Treaty Entitlement Agreements ("TEAs") under the Framework Agreement, it also provides the amount of acres that have been converted to Reserve as of October 2017.

Entitlement First Nations	Crown Land (no minimum)	Other Land Entitlement Acres	Total Treaty Land Entitlement	Acres Converted to Reserve as of Oct. 2017
Barren Lands	66,420.00	-	66,420.00	-
Brokenhead	4,344.00	10,137.00	14,481.00	679.46
Buffalo Point	3,432.00	607.00	4,039.00	2,450.90
Bunibonibee	35,434.00	-	35,434.00	31,342.34
God's Lake	42,600.00	-	42,600.00	16,310.04
Manto Sipi	8,725.00	-	8,725.00	5,540.90
Mathias Colomb	217,364.00	-	217,364.00	175,346.34
Nisichawayasihk	61,761.00	-	61,761.00	33,816.01
Northlands	94,084.00	-	94,084.00	14,595.84
Norway House	104,784.00	-	104,784.00	42,045.53
Opaskwayak	47,658.00	8,410.00	56,068.00	29,685.30
Rolling River	2,356.00	44,756.00	47,112.00	5,931.60
Sapotawayak	108,134.00	36,045.00	144,179.00	99,701.87
War Lake	7,156.00	-	7,156.00	486.19
Wuskwi Sipiik	44,168.00	14,722.00	58,890.00	26,618.54
TOTAL	848,420.00	114,677.00	963,097.00	484,550.86

