



# Treaty Land Entitlement Committee of Manitoba Inc.

## Progress Report 2020/2021



A Treaty Promise made.  
A Treaty Promise to be kept.





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**Cover Photo Captions:**

- Image 1:** Signing of the Manitoba Framework Agreement on Treaty Land Entitlement, May 29, 1997 at the Opaskwayak Cree Nation, MB.
- Image 2:** Left-right: Councillor John Clarke (Barren Lands First Nation), Councillor Willie Moore (Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation), Councillor Modeste Tssessaze (Northlands Dene First Nation), Chief Elwood Zastre (Wuskwi Sipihk First Nation), and Chief Nelson Genaille (Sapotaweyak Cree Nation).
- Image 3:** Left-right: Terry Ettawacappo, Mandy Gudjonson, Linda Reimer, Chris Henderson, Marion Wilson & Jaymie Leary Balfour.
- Image 4:** Left-right: Chief Nelson Genaille, TLEC President, Elder Jimmy Hunter Spence (Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation), & Chris Henderson, TLEC Executive Director.

## Glossary of Abbreviations used in this Progress Report

“**ATR**” means Canada’s Additions to Reserve Policy

“**AGM**” means Annual General Meeting

“**DISC**” means Department of Indigenous Services Canada

“**EFN**” means Entitlement First Nation

“**IMC**” means the Implementation Monitoring Committee

“**MFA**” or “**Framework Agreement**” means the 1997 Manitoba Framework Agreement on Treaty Land Entitlement

“**MDSA**” means a Municipal Development and Services Agreement

“**RSM**” means Regional Survey Map

“**SAC**” means Senior Advisory Committee

“**TEA**” means a Treaty Entitlement Agreement or a “**TLE**” agreement

“**TLEC**” means the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee of Manitoba Inc.

“**TLE**” means Treaty Land Entitlement

“**TPI**” means Third Party Interest



## Message From Chief Nelson Genaille - TLEC President



**T**ansi! On behalf of the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee (TLEC) of Manitoba's Board of Directors, I am honoured to provide greetings for this Progress Report.

I also want to thank our Member Entitlement First Nations (EFNs) for their continued support in my service as TLEC's President. I was honoured and extremely humbled to be selected again to serve as President at our 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) last July.

I hope this message finds you, your families and your communities well during these extraordinary times.

On behalf of the TLEC, we offer our sincere condolences to those families who have lost their loved ones to the COVID-19 virus.

2020 has definitely been an unforgettable and unique year. Not only have we witnessed and are still living through a global pandemic, but we've also observed and acknowledged the Province of Manitoba's 150th anniversary.

The TLEC is a stand-alone, rights-based organization whose primary objective is to help our Member EFNs secure their Reserve land entitlement under their Treaties with the Crown in right of Canada.

To achieve this goal, the MFA was signed on **May 29, 1997**, by the TLEC, Canada and Manitoba to provide a total of 1.1 million acres of Reserve land to our Member EFNs.

24 years later, over **562,000** acres has been set aside as Reserve by Canada under the MFA, in spite of Canada's consultation process with non-MFA Aboriginal groups, which we still oppose.

By the time you have the opportunity to read this report, our Federal Court of Canada application will have been heard by a judge.

Recall that we filed this Federal Court action on February 20, 2019, seeking a declaration that the Releases and Indemnities signed by each of TLEC's Member EFNs in favour of Canada, as required under the MFA, are void and ineffective, and that Canada is barred from relying on these Releases and Indemnities.

The reason for this legal action is that Canada failed to remedy its Events of Default, or breaches, of the MFA, as determined by an independent adjudicator in a 2018 Binding Arbitration Award between TLEC and Canada.

This is the first time ever that a party to the MFA has been found to be guilty of breaching this Treaty implementation agreement. And this breach continues.



The breach is that Canada failed to secure the written consent of TLEC's Member EFNs that would amend the MFA to allow Canada to consult other non-MFA Aboriginal groups on the TLE Reserve creation process.

Section 40.07, Amendment, within the MFA states:

**“This Agreement shall not be varied or amended except by written agreement of the parties.”**

If the declaration is granted by a judge, this would clear the way for the TLEC to sue Canada for loss of use under the Treaty land claims process.

In 1997, when our Member EFNs agreed to accept the MFA's deal for land to settle their outstanding TLE claims, each EFN was required to provide Canada with a conditional release where they agreed that further legal action would not be pursued by them regarding Canada's failure to provide the Reserve lands that the EFNs were supposed to receive after their Treaties were signed.

This release however was not absolute. It was conditional. TLEC's original negotiators ensured that if during the implementation of the MFA, and if Canada was to ever breach its legal obligations under this three-party land claim agreement, an EFN could then ask a judge to set aside the Release. And this is the case with our current legal action.

As I mentioned earlier, TLEC hosted its 2020 AGM on July 23 and 24, 2020, on the Swan Lake First Nation's Reserve land in Headingley, Manitoba.

In addition to conducting our AGM business, we also paid tribute and honoured our out-going Elder Advisor, Mr. Jimmy Hunter Spence of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN), formerly known as the Nelson House First Nation.

Mr. Hunter Spence served the TLEC in his role as Elder Advisor since June 2011. He was no stranger to the TLE process, as he was also an elected Councillor of the NCN when they signed their Treaty Entitlement Agreement, under the MFA, in July 1998.

We again thank him for his dedication and guidance to the TLEC and the Board.

I also want to acknowledge and thank two (2) of our current long-serving employees of the TLEC:

- Mrs. Linda Reimer, TLEC Implementation Advisor (2009 - current); and,
- Mr. Chris Henderson, TLEC Executive Director (2010 – current).

Ekosi! Megwetch!

**Chief Nelson Genaille**  
**President – Board of Directors**



## Introduction:

# The Manitoba Framework Agreement On Treaty Land Entitlement

On May 29, 1997, the Manitoba Framework Agreement (MFA) on Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) was signed between Canada, Manitoba and the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee of Manitoba Inc., on behalf of 19 Entitlement First Nations (EFNs), at the Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Manitoba.

The MFA outlines how the Parties – Canada, Manitoba, TLEC and the EFNs - have agreed to fulfill the outstanding TLE obligations in Manitoba arising from the Numbered Treaties. It sets out the principles, responsibilities and dispute resolution processes associated with the land selection and acquisition process.

The MFA provides for up to a total of 1,100,626 acres of additional Reserve land to be selected and/or acquired for those EFNs that agreed to accept the MFA's terms through community approval process votes.

Of the 1,100,626 acres, 985,949 is the Crown Land Amount to be selected and 114,677 is the acreage amount to be acquired, or purchased, by the six (6) EFNs who were provided with land acquisition payments due to insufficient amounts of available Crown Land to select from within their territories.

Shortly after the signing of the MFA, Canada recognized the O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation and the Marcel Colomb First Nation as separate First Nations under the Indian Act. As a

result, both these First Nations are now eligible to sign on to the MFA and receive additional Reserve land.

One of the unique aspects of the MFA is the Implementation Monitoring Committee (IMC). The IMC is generally responsible for facilitating the implementation of the MFA and any Treaty Entitlement Agreement (TEA) signed by the EFNs, by monitoring and reporting on progress, making recommendations to facilitate implementation and assisting the MFA parties in resolving matters and issues in dispute.

The IMC is made up of five (5) members: two (2) representatives appointed by TLEC, one representative for each of Canada and Manitoba and an Independent Chairperson.

TLE refers to land owed to certain First Nations under the Numbered Treaties in Manitoba signed by the First Nations and the British Crown between 1871 and 1910.

Treaties 1 to 10 provided that the Crown would set aside a certain amount of Reserve land based on the populations of the "Indian bands", shortly after the Treaties were signed.

Not all Indian bands received their land entitlement as promised and cited as the "Per Capita Provision" in the Numbered Treaties; and this is what is referred to as "Treaty Land Entitlement".



## TLEC'S Implementation Responsibilities

As set out in Article 33.02, General Responsibilities of TLE Committee, of the MFA, TLEC will assist with the implementation of the MFA and each TEA signed by TLEC's Member EFNs, by undertaking the following:

1. To provide technical and professional support to an EFN in planning and conducting the Community Approval Process (CAP);
2. To develop and deliver a communications program for the EFNs informing them about the implementation of the MFA;
3. To provide professional and technical support to an EFN in explaining the provisions contained in the MFA and the TEA and in the implementation of both agreements;
4. To establish a working relationship with the departments and staff of Canada and Manitoba in support of the implementation of the MFA;
5. To provide professional and technical support to an EFN in all aspects of the Selection or Acquisition of land to be set apart as Reserve, including:
  - a) Reviewing and commenting on the Land Selection Study undertaken by the EFN;
  - b) Liaison with Manitoba in the process of review of proposed Dispositions and Mineral Dispositions within each EFN's Community Interest Zone (CIZ);
  - c) Reviewing the application of the Principles to the Selection or Acquisition of land;
  - d) The preparation and negotiation of agreements necessary for the Selection or Acquisition of land;
  - e) The monitoring of the land transfer process;
  - f) The monitoring of the process of setting apart land as reserve;
  - g) The negotiation of municipal development and services agreements as required;
  - h) The removal, discharge or accommodation of Third Party Interests;
  - i) To provide professional and technical support to the Implementation Monitoring Committee (IMC) at meetings and aiding in resolving and mediating disputes amongst the major parties involved.
6. To produce documents and manuals in support of the implementation of the MFA; and,
7. To produce reports on the progress of the implementation of the MFA and TEAs.

## Implementation Update

During this past fiscal year, and despite the global COVID-19 pandemic and its associated challenges and risks, TLEC continued to use its best efforts in working with Canada and Manitoba under the Three Party Strategic Planning Process, and assisting the EFNs in advancing their TLE parcels under this multi-step process.

The end goal of this collaborative effort, which is chaired and facilitated by the Independent Chairperson of the IMC, is to create Reserve lands.

TLEC also continued to support and assist the EFNs in their efforts to resolve and accommodate the various third party interests, and other encumbrances, on their TLE land selections and acquisitions by providing them with dedicated funding through the Third Party Interest (TPI) Account.

An example of a third party interest is a mining claim, mineral exploration license, a hydro distribution line and a lodge.

With respect to new TLE Crown Land Selections being made by the EFNs and Canada's unilateral consultation process, the EFNs have been reluctant to make new Selections due to the uncertainty and lack of rigor regarding Canada's current consultation process with non-MFA Aboriginal groups.

The EFNs believe that any new Selections may ultimately be prevented from becoming Reserve if

a non-MFA Aboriginal group opposes the Selection.

As a result, the EFNs are awaiting to see the outcome of the TLEC's legal action against Canada in the Federal Court of Canada, which stems from the 2018 Binding Arbitration Award between TLEC and Canada.

On July 23 & 24, 2020, TLEC's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on the Swan Lake First Nation's Reserve Land in Headingley, MB.

Only 14 out of 15 Voting Member EFNs attended this AGM. The Mathias Colomb Cree Nation did not attend.

Presentations included the following: TLEC's Year-end Financial Statements ending March 31, 2020 by Heartland CPA, and year-end reports by TLEC's Implementation staff.

The TLEC Voting Members also elected a new Board of Directors for the TLEC.

The following individuals were elected to the TLEC Board for a two year term (2020-2022), as well as being appointed to the following TLEC Executive Committee positions, pursuant to TLEC's By-Law No.1:

- Chief Nelson Genaille,  
Sapotaweyak Cree Nation  
– President;



- Councillor Willie Moore, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation – Vice-President;
- Chief Elwood Zastre, Wuskwi Sipihk First Nation – Treasurer;
- Councillor Modeste Tsessaze, Northlands Dene First Nation – Secretary; and,
- Councillor John Clarke, Barren Lands First Nation – Board Director.

Invited guest presenters at this AGM, included:

- Representatives from the Treaty One Development Corporation;
- Mr. Geoff Sarenchuk, Director of Consultation and Reconciliation Branch, on behalf of Honourable Eileen Clarke, Manitoba's Minister of Indigenous and Northern Relations; and,
- Mr. Laren Bill, Independent Chairperson, of the Implementation Monitoring Committee.

Representatives from Indigenous Services Canada, Manitoba Region, were invited to attend and present as well. Regrettably, Canada declined this invitation to attend citing the COVID-19 restrictions for federal government employees.

TLEC's outgoing Elder, Mr. Jimmy Hunter Spence of the Nisichawayasihk

Cree Nation, was also honoured for his services and steadfast guidance to the TLEC Board of Directors in a special Honouring Ceremony at this AGM.

During this past fiscal year, significant progress was made on the Northlands Dene First Nation's (NDFN) IMC Referral on the Reasonable Use Area (RUA) for lodges and outcamps, which affected their five (5) Crown Land Selections.

After numerous meetings and discussions amongst the MFA parties and the NDFN Chief and Council, the main RUA issue has been resolved to the satisfaction of the NDFN.

However, this referral will remain active until these Selections are set apart as Reserve by Canada.

With respect to TLEC's 2007 Hydro Easement Agreement IMC Referral, this matter was not referred to a formal dispute resolution process due to time constraints this past fiscal year.

As a result, this will be carried over into the new fiscal year and TLEC intends on advancing this Referral to its preferred dispute resolution process: binding arbitration.

There are 76 TLE Selections impacted by this issue for six (6) EFNs, representing over 89,000 acres.



# TLE Land Conversion Update

Entitlement First Nations	Crown Land (no minimum)	Other Land Entitlement Acres	Total Treaty Land Entitlement	Acres Converted to Reserve as of March 2021
Barren Lands	66,420.00	-	66,420.00	80.56
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	32,721.60
God’s Lake	42,600.00	-	42,600.00	16,310.04
Manto Sipi	8,725.00	-	8,725.00	5,544.06
Mathias Colomb	217,364.00	-	217,364.00	175340.34
Nisichawayasihk	61,761.00	-	61,761.00	33,816.01
Northlands	94,084.00	-	94,084.00	61,739.10
Norway House	104,784.00	-	104,784.00	66,745.38
Opaskwayak	47,658.00	8,410.00	56,068.00	29,685.30
Rolling River	2,356.00	44,756.00	47,112.00	6,532.34
Sapotaweyak	108,134.00	36,045.00	144,179.00	99,702.08
War Lake	,156.00	-	7,156.00	4,282.60
Wuskwi Sipi	44,168.00	14,722.00	58,890.00	26,618.54
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>848,420.00</b>	<b>14,677.00</b>	<b>963,097.00</b>	<b>562,167.75</b>
*Fox Lake	26,391.00	-	26,391.00	3.21
*Marcel Colomb	17,007.00	-	17,007.00	-
*O-Pipon-Na-Piwin	17,674.29	-	17,674.29	-
*Sayisi Dene	22,372.00	-	22,372.00	-
*Shamattawa	24,912.00	-	24,912.00	-
*York Factory	29,173.00	-	29,173.00	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>137,529.29</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>137,529.29</b>	<b>3.21</b>

\* To date, these six First Nations have not signed their individual Treaty Entitlement Agreements under the Manitoba Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement.





Left-right: Councillor John Clarke (Barren Lands First Nation), Councillor Willie Moore (Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation), Councillor Modeste Tsessaze (Northlands Dene First Nation), Chief Elwood Zastre (Wuskwi Sipihk First Nation), & Chief Nelson Genaille (Sapotaweyak Cree Nation).

The TLEC is governed by a Board of Directors, comprised of five (5) individuals elected from and by the TLEC Voting Members in accordance with TLEC's By-Law #1.

Directors are voted in by the Voting Members every two years at TLEC's Annual General Meetings, which TLEC is required to hold annually by July 31 of each calendar year.

The TLEC Board of Directors leads and guides the policies, objectives and strategic direction of the TLEC, all the while ensuring TLEC fulfills its MFA implementation responsibilities.

As of March 2021, the TLEC Board of Directors consists of the following individuals:

- **Chief Nelson Genaille**, President - Sapotaweyak Cree Nation;
- **Councillor Willie Moore**, Vice-President – Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation;
- **Chief Elwood Zastre**, Treasurer – Wuskwi Sipihk First Nation;
- **Councillor Modeste Tsessaze**, Secretary – Northlands Dene First Nation;
- **Councillor John Clarke**, Board Director – Barren Lands First Nation; and,
- **Elder Advisor**: Vacant.



## Executive Director's Report



A n i i n /  
B o o z h o o /  
T a n s i /  
Greetings. My  
name is Chris  
Henderson and I  
am the Executive  
Director of TLEC's  
Implementation  
Secretariat.

I have been in this position since April 2010, and I am also one of TLEC's Representatives on the Implementation Monitoring Committee (IMC).

Since 2008, TLEC has operated under an annual Contribution Funding Arrangement (CFA) with Canada through its formerly named Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and now called Indigenous Services Canada. This funding relationship has allowed and enabled TLEC to continue fulfilling its TLE implementation responsibilities, as well as continuing to serve and represent its Member EFNs.

24 years after the signing of the 1997 MFA, Canada has set aside over 562,000 acres of land as Reserve for our 15 Member EFNs, in spite of Canada's consultation process with non-MFA Aboriginal groups.

TLEC's Member EFNs continue to object to Canada's unilateral consultation process, which has been deemed an Event of Default by an

independent adjudicator in a 2018 Binding Arbitration Award between TLEC and Canada.

To date, Canada has not remedied this Event of Default and continues this breach by implementing its unilateral consultation process without the explicit written consent of TLEC's Member EFNs.

In accordance with Article 33 of the MFA, TLEC's Implementation Secretariat focused on the following priority areas in the 2020-2021 fiscal year:

- Continued participation in the Three Party Strategic Work Plan Process and assisting the EFNs in advancing their TLE parcels under this plan;
- Convening and participating in regular Parcel Review Meetings with the EFNs, Canada and Manitoba;
- Continuing to support and assist the EFNs in their efforts to address, resolve and accommodate the various third party interests and encumbrances on their TLE Land Selections and Acquisitions;
- Continuing to support the Barren Lands First Nation in their efforts to finalize their Land-in-Severalty Implementation Agreement;
- Continuing to assist the Buffalo Point First Nation's Birch Point Provincial Park TLE Selection



post-binding arbitration (2016) decision process;

- Assisting the Northlands Denesuline First Nation in its Referral to the IMC for resolution of Manitoba's Reasonable Use Areas for lodges and outcamps, which affects five (5) of their TLE Crown Land Selections;
- Advancing TLEC's 2007 IMC Referral on Hydro Easements to a formal dispute resolution process under the MFA;
- Encouraging and assisting those specific EFNs in making new Crown Land Selections, to the extent possible;
- Supporting TLEC's Representatives on the IMC and completing TLEC's undertakings under the IMC's 2020-2021 Work Plan;
- Any other implementation issues and matters in dispute identified as priorities by TLEC's EFNs; and,
- On-going implementation of an external communications strategy that includes production of TLEC newsletters and annual reports, updating TLEC's website and Facebook page, and participating in the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba's Speakers Bureau.

As stated earlier and to date, Canada has not remedied its 2018 Event of Default and continues to be in breach of the MFA, which TLEC continues to oppose.

That being said, TLEC will continue to use its best efforts in all other tasks related to the land transfer and Reserve creation process mandated by the MFA and assisting our EFNs in advancing their TLE parcels under the Strategic Planning Process.

As we continue our Treaty implementation work, 2021 will mark the 150th anniversary of the signing of Treaty No.1 (August 3rd). Our only Member EFN that is signatory to Treaty One is the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation. And we salute them in advance of this historical milestone as they continue to implement the Spirit and Intent of their solemn Treaty relationship with the Crown governments.

In closing, I thank the TLEC Board for their leadership and guidance and the TLEC staff for their dedication and work in assisting our Member EFNs during the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Miigwech/Ekosani/Masi Cho/Thank you,

***Chris Henderson***  
***Executive Director***



## Finance/Office Manager's Message



**T**ansi! My name is Terry Ettawacappo and I am from Norway House Cree Nation. I would like to wish you and your family good health.

This is going on my seventh (7th) year of employment as Finance/Office Manager with the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee (TLEC) of Manitoba.

I hold a Certified Aboriginal Financial Management (CAFM) designation and a Business Administration diploma.

I provide overall financial management and administration of TLEC Limited Partnership, Third Party Interest Account, and financial administration of the Implementation Monitoring Committee. Financial reports are prepared and presented to TLEC's Board of Directors to allow for informed decisions. The financial reports include year to date position, variances, and reporting Third Party Interest Account investments.

TLEC engaged the services of Heartland CPAs to conduct the financial audit 2020-2021 for TLEC Limited Partnership, and Third Party Interest. The audits were completed successfully and presented to the Entitlement First Nations (EFNs) at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at Swan Lake First Nation in July 2020.

Also, during the AGM, an update was provided to the EFNs on the position and activity of the investments in the Third Party Interest Account. The audited financial statements were submitted to Indigenous Service Canada as required.

I continue to remain hopeful that all parties can come together in good faith to resolve the outstanding Treaty obligation and the full realization of Indigenous peoples' rights.

Ekosani,

***Terry Ettawacappo, CAFM  
Finance/Office Manager***





**H**ello. My name is Linda Reimer, a member of the Sandy Bay First Nation.

This has been a difficult year due to the pandemic and I found it hard to assist my TPI Coordinators in the usual way. There were interruptions of lockdowns in their workplaces, however together we have managed to achieve some of the goals of the First Nations.

I am pleased to report that progress was still made for my assigned Entitlement First Nations:

- Bunibonibee Cree Nation has worked diligently and has selected almost of their total land quantum and most of this land has been set aside as Reserve;
- Northlands Denesuline First Nation had 11 Reserves created this fiscal year. In addition 5 RSMs have been prepared and have been sent to Northlands for their signature. These Selections can now proceed to the next steps in the Reserve creation process. One parcel has unique issues and the parties are negotiating the resolution of these issues;

- Norway House Cree Nation made a new Selection for an economic development opportunity;
- God's Lake First Nation made a new Selection to pursue and enjoy their traditional activities on this parcel;
- Opaskwayak Cree Nation is making progress in acquiring a new parcel for economic development purposes; and,
- War Lake First Nation has signed 3 RSMs for 7 of the Selections in the Town of Ilford, and are negotiating the resolution of the TPIs for the other 4 Selections.

I continue to update the Annual Work Plans, which identifies the individual detail steps for each party, and the inter-dependence that each party plays. The Annual Work Plan is the guide for all MFA parties to track and monitor the progress of the selections and acquisitions.

In spite of all our frustrations dealing with TPIs and the delay in consultation, we will work together to ensure that future generations will inherit what was promised to them under the Treaties. We will assist one another in moving forward to have our lands set apart as Reserves.

Miigwech/Thank you.

***Linda Reimer***  
***Implementation Advisor***



## A/Implementation Advisor's Message



**T**ansi. Aniin.  
Hello. My  
name is  
Marion Wilson. I  
am of Cree/Ojibway  
ancestry and a  
member of the  
Peguis First Nation  
in Manitoba.

First of all, I would like to extend warm greetings to the Entitlement First Nations (EFNs) of the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee (TLEC) of Manitoba Inc. As we are all aware this past year has been most challenging during these ill-fated times as our world is being impacted by the global pandemic caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19). I send heartfelt condolences and continued prayers to those families that have been and are being impacted directly by this atrocious disease.

In the midst of it all, I am honoured to continue provide support to the best of my ability to my assigned Entitlement First Nations (EFNs): Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, Manto Sipi Cree Nation, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, Rolling River First Nation and Sapotaweyak Cree Nation.

My role is to assist my assigned EFNs with the implementation of their respective Treaty Entitlement Agreements. I attend all party parcel review meetings and support meetings with the EFNs along with Manitoba and Canada where current updates are provided, and focus is on the methods of resolving Third Party Interests that

encumber their TLE land selections and acquisitions such as Manitoba Hydro & MTS Utility Permits, caveats, municipal issues, hydro easements, Manitoba Infrastructure interests and mining claim leases/permits.

I also participate in the Strategic Planning Meetings along with my TLEC colleagues, Manitoba, Canada and the IMC Chairperson where the All Party Annual Work Plan and other tools are maintained to transfer land as effectively and quickly as possible to Reserve status.

Though the MFA implementation process is slow, progress has been steady and it is through the dedicated efforts of the EFN's respective Chiefs and Councils and the TLE/TPI Coordinators that progress can be achieved.

My encouragement is to all EFNs, the TLEC, the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada to continue on implementing the 1997 MFA on TLE in good faith and determination to transfer all selected and acquired lands to Reserve status for the benefit of our children's future.

I look forward to continuing this work and one day seeing the completion of converting all Treaty lands to Reserve status. Until next time, love, pray and support one another and mostly stay safe in your daily life journeys.

Ekosi/Miigwetch/Thank you,

**Marion Wilson**  
**A/Implementation Advisor**



## Project Manager's Message



**M**y name is Jaymie Leary Balfour. I joined the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee (TLEC) of Manitoba in February of 2015 as a Project Manager for the Third Party

Interest Support Project.

I am responsible in working with our 15 Member EFNs in their implementation of Third Party Interest Support Project funding and their journey towards Reserve creation.

I am also responsible for providing technical support on the Treaty Land Entitlement files for Barren Lands First Nation, Mathias Colomb Cree Nation, Buffalo Point First Nation and Wuskwi Sipiik First Nation.

I am trained in the field of Environmental Science and Project Management and was raised on the Nelson River in Northern Manitoba. I gained valuable knowledge of the Reserve creation processes while working with the Norway House Cree Nation in their TLE endeavors and can speak directly to the experiences from an Entitlement First Nation perspective. I have a strong connection and understanding of the principles of protection for our traditional territories, which is represented in my work.

I work closely with the TLEC and EFN Finance Officers in the administration of the TPI funding and oversee the activity reporting from the TLE/TPI Coordinators from each of the EFNs. I provide support to our technicians and liaise with government representatives so that a path towards potential solutions can be developed.

TLEC, Manitoba, and Canada staff members work together on strategic planning materials and the annual work plans which are defined by all parties. I also provide technical support for TLEC organized events and report back to the Board of Directors and the Member EFNs with pertinent information.

The realization of the promises made in Treaty extends beyond the conversion of land and is integral to the current relationships in which we exist today.

I would like to encourage the EFNs to continue to work diligently towards the best possible outcome and demonstrate our true resilience; we all have an important role to play.

Ekosani,

***Jaymie Leary Balfour***  
***Project Manager***



## A/Executive Assistant's Message



**T**ansi! My name is Mandy Gudjonson, a proud member of Norway House Cree Nation, Treaty 5 Territory.

I am blessed to be a mother of two sweet healthy and handsome boys. I'm the youngest of a blended family of eight to two loving and hardworking parents. Growing up in Norway House, I got to experience first-hand the importance of the connection with Mother Earth and the importance to always love, respect and strive to preserve her as much as possible in this economic driven society.

I was raised with the teachings to always work hard and to show kindness and respect to yourself, family, community, and to the land and waters and all who dwell there.

I moved to Winnipeg after completing high school and a University 1 program that was offered in my home community. Prior to starting with Treaty Land Entitlement Committee (TLEC) of Manitoba, I attained my Business Administration Diploma in 2008 and have had several years of experience working in the administration field for other progressive Indigenous organizations.

I have been on the TLEC team for almost 3 years as the Acting Executive Assistant. My primary roles include; keeping the office space welcoming, tidy and greeting guests either by phone or when they come to our office. I am in charge of ordering office and meeting supplies, as well as logging and distributing mail and filing as necessary. I also assist with travel arrangements and the planning of meetings including taking minutes of all the Board meetings, EFN Special Meetings and the Annual General Meeting.

This year has been challenging due to the pandemic and the necessary precautions that have been implemented to ensure everyone's safety.

This year TLEC is taking a stand utilizing the courts to hold Canada accountable for their lack of acknowledging their breach to assure that lands are fairly moved to Reserve. We are all hopeful that with this stand will come positive and fair change honouring long overdue Treaty rights.

TLEC and the EFNs continue to be patient and steadfast and will continue to work respectfully in hopes to continue working on speeding up the land conversion process.

Ekosani.

***Mandy Gudjonson***  
***A/Executive Assistant***



# TLEC's 2020 Annual General Meeting



TLEC's 2020 AGM was held on the Swan Lake First Nation's Reserve Land in Headingley, MB.

The TLEC Board of Directors addressing the 2020 AGM delegates.



TLEC's 2020 AGM delegates listening to a presentation from the Treaty One Development Corporation.

Left-right: Councillor Michael Esquash, Swan Lake First Nation, receiving a gift of thanks from TLEC's Vice-President, Councillor Willie Moore (Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation), for allowing TLEC to host its AGM on the Swan Lake First Nation's Reserve Land.





# Treaty Land Entitlement Committee of Manitoba Inc.

## Member Entitlement First Nations

Barren Lands First Nation.....	Treaty No. 10
Brokenhead Ojibway Nation .....	Treaty No. 1
Buffalo Point First Nation .....	Treaty No. 3
Bunibonibee Cree Nation.....	Treaty No. 5
Fox Lake First Nation.....	Treaty No. 5
God's Lake First Nation .....	Treaty No. 5
Manto Sipi Cree Nation.....	Treaty No. 5
Marcel Colomb First Nation.....	Treaty No. 6
Mathias Colomb Cree Nation.....	Treaty No. 6
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation .....	Treaty No. 5
Northlands Dene First Nation .....	Treaty No. 10
Norway House Cree Nation .....	Treaty No. 5
Opaskwayak Cree Nation.....	Treaty No. 5
O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation.....	Treaty No. 5
Rolling River First Nation .....	Treaty No. 4
Sapotaweyak Cree Nation .....	Treaty No. 4
Sayisi Dene First Nation .....	Treaty No. 5
Shamattawa First Nation .....	Treaty No. 5
War Lake First Nation .....	Treaty No. 5
Wuskwi Sipiik First Nation .....	Treaty No. 4
York Factory First Nation.....	Treaty No. 5



### TLEC Implementation Secretariat

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For More Information on the MB TLE Framework Agreement and the TLEC,  
please visit our **Website @: [www.tlec.ca](http://www.tlec.ca)**