

Community Update

DTFN Treaty 8 Agricultural Benefits Claim

This update is to provide information to our community members about the status of the specific claims that have been prepared and filed on behalf of the Nation. Dene Tha' First Nation Chief and Council are very happy to report that we have submitted a specific claim for agricultural benefits under Treaty 8 (the “cows & ploughs claim”). On March 30, 2017, the cows & ploughs claim was filed with the Specific Claims Branch of the Government of Canada.

In 1900, DTFN signed Treaty 8, and in 1950 our reserves were set aside. The mutual understanding under Treaty 8 was that the Crown was to provide agricultural benefits to us. This is clear from the text of the Treaty and the historical record. The cows & ploughs claim requests compensation for Canada's failure to live up to its promise under Treaty 8 to provide agricultural support and benefits to DTFN, such as livestock, farming tools, crop seeds and livestock feed. Canada never provided these benefits to us as promised in our Treaty.

We are asking Canada to make good on its outstanding promise as soon as possible through the payment of cash compensation to DTFN.

Now that the cows & ploughs claim has been submitted, the Specific Claims Branch has six months to determine if the claim meets the necessary standard. This means that we will have a response before the end of September. Once the cows & ploughs claim is determined to have met the minimum standard, the Specific Claims Branch has three years to accept the Claim for negotiation. We are confident that the claim and historical report submitted with it will meet the standard and be accepted for negotiation. We will update the community members once it is confirmed that our claim has been found to meet the necessary standard, to provide information on next steps and timelines for resolution of the claim.

With this claim, DTFN has the opportunity to right a longstanding wrong and ensure that our people—at long last—receive what they were promised in our Treaty. This claim is an important step in confronting the generations of injustice we have faced and the decades of failure by Canada to live up to its Treaty promises to our Nation.

We are proud of this claim's submission on behalf of the Nation and look forward to providing you with further updates on its progress in the future.