

**Dene Tha First Nation**  
PO Box 120  
Chateh, Alberta  
T0H 0S0



**Telephone:**  
(780) 321-3774  
(780) 321-3775  
(780) 321-3842

**Fax:**  
(780) 321-3886

October 17, 2018

**Dene Tha' Members**

Bushe River, Chateh, Meander River

Dear Members:

**Re: Update - DTFN Treaty 8 Agricultural Benefits Claim (Cows & Plows)**

October 2018 update on the status of Cows and Plows. As previously explained the Agricultural Benefits claim was accepted by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA) as meeting the minimum standard and has been passed on to the Minister of CIRNA for consideration.

This claim is based on the Treaty 8 Adhesion that was signed, on or about June 23, 1900, by our then leadership of the Nation, and in 1950 our reserves lands 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 Claim requests compensation for Canada's failure to live up to its promise under Treaty 8 to provide agricultural support and benefits to our citizens (membership), such as livestock, farming tools, crop seeds and livestock feed. Canada failed to provide these benefits to us as promised in our Treaty.

We are asking Canada, same as other Treaty 8 Nations, to make good on its outstanding promise through the payment of cash compensation to DTFN.

As of January 2018, we have received updates from the Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs representatives confirming that the claim process will take 3 to 3 ½ years for the Minister to accept the claim for negotiation.

On Friday, March 16, 2018 Councillors Andrea Godin, Charlie Chambaud and I had met in person with Minister Bennett in Edmonton and asked her on behalf of DTFN members; to consider shorter timeline to consider our claim for negotiation. A follow up letter to the Minister was sent to repeat our request in writing to consider earlier start of negotiation. We know and understand the claim is

very important to our members. As of the end of August 2018, we have not received any communication from the Ministry.

For this reason, on behalf of the council and Dene Tha' members, **I have written a second follow up letter (Dated September 10, 2018)** to the Minister to once again request and urge the government to give us a shorter timeline to start negotiating our agricultural benefits claim. The Council is aware of how much the members wish for the Cows & Plows benefits to come in sooner; however, it is up to the Federal Government to decide when the negotiation of the claim will start.

We look forward to providing you with further updates on the progress of this claim process as new information is received from the office of the Minister.

Yours truly,

PER; DENE THA' FIRST NATION



Chief, James Ahnassay

Enclosure – previous correspondences

cc: Dene Tha' First Nation – Councillors  
DTFN All Staff