



WHITE BEAR FIRST NATIONS

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From the Office of Chief Nathan Pasap

November 25, 2020

Good day Fellow Nation members,

I write to update you on the progress of our ongoing Treaty Land Entitlement (“TLE”) claim negotiations.

As previously reported, we have now had our claim validated by Canada (inclusive of the Crown). We were able to achieve this validation through negotiations with Canada at a special table developed specifically with White Bear First Nations. This table also received support funding to undertake this work and those funds have been utilized to help facilitate the negotiations and all other costs associated with our TLE claim.

We have worked extensively with our legal counsel to expedite the Nation’s claim. We are now in the process of finalizing the adjusted date of first survey population (1877) of our First Nation. Canada requires that we provide research and evidence of our membership at the date of first Survey and thereafter, including evidencing which members took Treaty annuity payments with White Bear. We currently have 65 additional individuals possibly to be added to our adjusted date of first survey Treaty payroll as “one and two time onlies”, and approximately another 9 possibly to be added as “questionnables” under Canada’s 1998 TLE negotiation policy.

Our goal as a leadership team is to ensure that we include as many people as part of our adjusted date of first survey playlists possible. We have enlisted the services of experts to undertake the research supporting our position, to ensure that we do our utmost to honor all or as many of our relatives possible, to hold Canada accountable to the terms of Treaty and for the land that we were entitled to at and around the time of signing Treaty 4.

The leadership team remains committed to this process as it is a very important step in our path to reconciliation with the Crown. We remain determined and are well equipped to ensure that Canada is held accountable for our Treaty entitlement shortfall. There will be compensation for this historical wrong against our Nation and rest assured that, as Chief, I will bring the settlement terms to our membership for final ratification vote before we agree to any final settlement with Canada.

This claim has the potential to put our Nation in a very strong position financially for generations to come. Most importantly, it will allow us to transition to a position of wealth management. We have an opportunity to breathe life into our traditional values of looking ahead for seven generations through building a protected trust that will be managed by trustees comprised of

members of our Nation, along with experienced financial experts. Again, the ultimate objective of this trust is to protect our wealth and grow it for generations to come.

I understand through my many discussions with Nation members about our TLE claim that there are some questions. Please find below a few high-level facts with regard to our claim.

1999 - White Bear TLE claim submission to Specific Claims Branch, Canada: 6,448 total acres

2007 - Specific Claims Branch shortfall acres' adjustment (based on further research and negotiation): 7,088 total acres

2008 – 2015 – Negotiations largely put on hold as Canada took the position during this period the issues raised by our TLE were tangled up with the issues raised in Federal Court Action T-1672-99 the “McArthur action” and as a result refused to negotiate our TLE further

Late 2015 – Negotiations recommenced with the then newly - elected Trudeau government in Ottawa

2018 - Specific Claims Branch shortfall acres' adjustment (based on further research and negotiation) along with formal validation of our TLE by Specific Claims Branch: 8,240 total acres

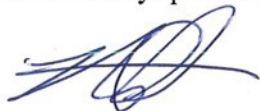
2020 - Specific Claims Branch shortfall acres' adjustment (based on further research and negotiation): 9,520 total acres

2021- Specific Claims Branch shortfall acres anticipated adjustment (based on further research and negotiation): UNKNOWN at this time – maximum acreage adjustment would likely be 9,472 added, based on 65 “one and two time onlies” and 9 “questionables”, for an adjustment of 9,472 acres, or 18,992 total shortfall acres.

As you can see from the timeline above, there has been significant progress made by current leadership in advancing our claim and ensuring that the Nation’s shortfall acres are justly recognized. The current leadership team, along with its advisors, continue to negotiate with the Specific Claims Branch of Canada towards an anticipated increase to the currently known or confirmed shortfall acreage amount of 9,520 acres. The number of acres which may be added is unknown at this time and we anticipate having more clarity around this in the coming weeks and months.

I trust the above supports our collective understanding of our ongoing TLE negotiations. I can assure you that we are working with a well - experienced and highly qualified team of experts to move this forward. As your Chief, along with members of Council, just resolution to this claim remains of utmost priority to all of us.

Please feel free to contact either myself directly or members of council to discuss further or address any questions you may have.



Chief Nathan Pasap
White Bear First Nations