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Canada and Saskatchewan share the costs of TLE settlement agreements; Canada contributes 70% and Saskatchewan contributes 30%.

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A brighter future

Treaty Land Entitlement addresses an unfulfilled Treaty promise of the federal Crown and demonstrates Saskatchewan’s commitment to working together in partnership with Canada and First Nations to resolve long outstanding TLE claims.

Benefits include:
• strengthening local land markets through increased demand for saleable land;
• providing First Nations with entitlement money that can be used for community and economic development, which has positive outcomes for the rest of the Province;
• contributing to the creation of new employment opportunities for First Nations people and other Saskatchewan residents;
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Lands and Resources Branch
220 – 1855 Victoria Avenue
REGINA SK S4P 3T2
Phone: (306) 787-5722

Treaty Land Entitlement in Saskatchewan

Cover: On September 22, 1992, Premier Roy Romanow, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and the Chiefs of 22 entitlement Bands signed an historic Indian land agreement at the Wanuskewin Heritage Park near Saskatoon.

"Helping to Fulfil Promises from the Past for a Brighter Future"
Moving forward together

Since 1992, Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) has become an integral part of Saskatchewan’s geographic, social and economic landscapes. Through the TLE process, Saskatchewan is working with the federal government to help fulfill promises from the past for a brighter future.

Resolving outstanding Treaty land obligations leads to greater economic and social development opportunities for First Nations; in turn, this extends to neighboring communities and creates spiral benefits that have positive impacts on the rest of the Province.

What is TLE and where does it come from?

TLE is aimed at resolving outstanding obligations to First Nations who did not receive all of the reserve land to which they are entitled under Treaty.

The federal Crown and First Nations signed Numbered Treaties (2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10) between 1871 and 1906 in a region that is now Saskatchewan. A key aspect of these Treaties is the allocation of reserve land to First Nations people.

Canada agreed to establish reserves based on the First Nation’s population at the time of original survey, but this did not happen in all cases, which left the federal government with outstanding obligations.

Why is Saskatchewan involved in TLE?

While First Nations and the lands reserved for them are a federal responsibility, Saskatchewan is legally obligated to help Canada fulfill TLEs because of the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement, 1930.

Under this Agreement, Canada transferred the remaining Crown lands, minerals and resources to Saskatchewan and in return, the Province agreed, among other conditions, to make unoccupied Crown land available to fulfill these outstanding Treaty land obligations.

What is the significance of the Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement (1992)?

By the 1970s, the amount of available unoccupied Crown land was not sufficient and/or in the right location to settle all outstanding land claims, so another solution was developed.

After years of discussion and negotiation, the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan and the Chiefs of 25 entitlement First Nations signed the Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement (1992). The significance of the Agreement is that it established a framework that addresses these outstanding obligations and ensures First Nations receive the amount of reserve land to which they are entitled. In particular, Saskatchewan agreed to offer Crown land for sale and to contribute financially to settle outstanding TLE claims.

Since then, the Agreement has been the blueprint for all subsequent TLE agreements in Saskatchewan and is generally regarded as a model of success for the resolution and implementation of TLE.
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Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis Relations