



Driftpile Cree Nation
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Date: July 20th, 2020

BRIEFING NOTE- DRIFTPILE NATION AGRICULTURAL BENEFITS "COWS AND PLOWS" CLAIM

BACKGROUND:

As you are hopefully aware, Driftpile Cree Nation (the "Nation") submitted a claim to Canada's Specific Claims Branch in February of 2017 citing Canada's unfulfilled treaty promises as it relates to agricultural benefits (the "Claim").

Canada's offer to negotiate in April, 2019 and the subsequent negotiations themselves have been carried out on a "without prejudice, confidential and privileged basis", but Chief and Council will provide as much information as possible as the Claim progresses.

We are therefore pleased to advise that the Nation has received a confidential settlement offer from Canada relating to the Claim.

At this time, the Nation is unable to give specifics as to the amount of the offer as they are strictly confidential at this point, including the proposed allocation of the settlement funds, until the voting process to ratify the Settlement Agreement and Trust Agreement has commenced. However, the Nation will provide a more detailed update shortly, as it aims to provide notice of the ratification package to Members before July 30, 2020, and we thank you for your patience in this regard.

The ratification package will include confidential information that is for full Nation Members only, as well as voting timelines and the methods by which you can vote. It will also include a copy of the initialled Settlement Agreement and Trust Agreement, among other information.

A "full" Nation Member is an individual who is listed on the Membership List with the Nation. As the Nation is a section 10 Nation and controls its own membership, you must apply to become a Member. This is very different than the General List, which is the list maintained by Canada. If you have any questions with respect to membership, we encourage you to contact our Membership Clerk, Rose Alice Okimaw.

If you do not receive a package within 4-5 days from the date of the notice of ratification, you are encouraged contact our Ratification Officer, Tom Owen, to update your address

information in order to receive a new package. His contact information will be posted by the Nation in due course.

Please also refer to the "Step by Step" guide below that provides all the steps required in the negotiation and settlement process of the Claim.

Chief and Council can advise that the Nation is now at Step 7 of the negotiation and settlement process:

- **STEP 1:** Claim Accepted for Negotiation: Following a historical and legal review, specific claims are accepted for negotiation when Canada concludes it has an outstanding lawful obligation to the First Nation.
- **STEP 2:** Joint Negotiation Protocol Agreement Reached: This is an agreement that sets out the process and "ground rules" for negotiations.
- **STEP 3:** Studies/Research on Compensation: Research and studies help negotiators determine the amount of compensation that should be paid to a First Nation when its claim is settled.
- **STEP 4:** Discussions on Compensation: The negotiators review the studies and work to reach consensus on how much compensation would be fair to settle the claim.
- **STEP 5:** Settlement Proposal and Drafting of a Final Settlement Agreement: The negotiators agree on the key terms of a proposed settlement. The settlement agreement is then drafted.
- **STEP 6:** Settlement Agreement initialled by Negotiators for the First Nation and the government initial the agreement.

Where the Nation is - **STEP 7:** First Nation Ratification Vote: First Nation members have an opportunity to say "yes or no" to the settlement agreement and trust agreement through a community vote.

Next Steps Following the Vote:

- **STEP 8:** Ratification by Canada: If approved by the First Nation membership, the next step is for the First Nation leadership and the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations to sign the settlement agreement.
- **STEP 9:** Implementation of the Agreement and cash is paid, as appropriate.

Conclusion

We look forward to meeting with membership over the next several weeks to discuss the Claim and to answer as many questions as possible.

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Chief and Council