

May 20, 2021

Chief and Council
Saddle Lake Cree Nation
Box 100
Saddle Lake, AB T0A 3T0

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Dear Chief and Council:

Re: Specific Claims Status Update

We are writing to provide you with an update on the status of the Specific Claims on which we represent you. As you know, there are several files that we have been retained to represent the Nation. All of these claims are Specific Claim matters that are in various stages of the Specific Claims Process. While work remains ongoing, no claims have reached settlement as of this date, meaning Canada has not paid any compensation to the Nation for any of these claims. Only upon settlement, will Canada pay the Nation any compensation due to the Nation under these claims. We remain optimistic that this time will come soon.

1. 1925 Surrender Specific Claim Negotiations

This Specific Claim was originally filed with Canada in 1994 and accepted for negotiations under Canada's Specific Claims Policy on a very narrow basis in 2000. Gowling WLG was retained in 2016 to provide legal representation on this claim. Based upon fresh arguments raised by Gowling WLG, Canada then significantly expanded the basis of acceptance to include loss of oil and gas revenues. Expert studies are currently being reviewed and completed. These studies will identify all losses on a historical dollar value basis. The historical value of the losses will then be updated to reflect modern day dollar values for all losses related to the claim. Once updated, the negotiation team will be in a position to return to the negotiation table with Canada to discuss compensation numbers.

At this stage, the 1925 Surrender Claim continues to move forward with significant work already completed by Chief and Council. We remain hopeful that by the end of 2021 we will be in a position to report positive news to the community on the status of this claim.

2. Agricultural Benefits (Cows and Ploughs) Specific Claim Submission

This specific claim submission is in the early stages of claim development and research. We have already retained a professional research firm to begin researching the history of cows and ploughs. At this stage, we have received a second draft of the historical research report. The historical research report covers the early history of the Saddle Lake Cree Nation, including the amalgamated First Nations, and reviews whether or not the Saddle Lake Cree Nation received its full share of treaty benefits. Once a report is finalized, we will be in a position to advise on whether there is a shortfall in entitlements and whether a valid specific claim exists. Historical research and legal assessment remains ongoing in respect to this file.

3. Treaty Annuities Specific Claim Submission

Historical research recently started on this claim to determine whether treaty annuities were withheld from the Nation based on the events of the Northwest Rebellion and, if so, to what extent. We are currently waiting for the first draft historical report and upon receipt, we will be a position to advise on whether a valid specific claim exists. This specific claim submission is in the early stages of claim development and research.

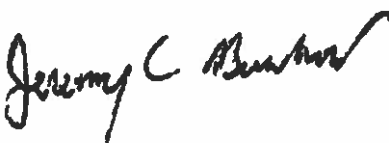
4. Highway 652 Specific Claim Submission

This specific claim submission was submitted to Canada on October 14, 2020. Following an early review of the Highway 652 Specific Claim Submission, it was determined that the claim submission meets the Minimum Standard which is set out in the Specific Claims Policy and Process Guide. The claim was officially filed with the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations on March 23, 2021. Canada has up to three years to reply to the Nation on whether the claim is accepted for negotiations under the Specific Claims Policy, failing which the Nation can submit the claim to the Specific Claims Tribunal. In the claim submission, Saddle Lake argues, among other things, that the Crown breached various fiduciary and statutory obligations owed to the Nation.

We trust that this update is of assistance and we welcome the opportunity to present this information to community members at a later date. Should you have any questions in respect to this update, please feel free to contact either of the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Gowling WLG (Canada) LLP



Jeremy C Bouchard



Robert Winogron

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