



## For more information

City of Saskatoon  
Community Services Department  
Regional Planning Section  
P 306.975.2645  
regional.planning@saskatoon.ca

Government of Saskatchewan  
Department of First Nations  
and Métis Relations (FNMR)  
P 306.787.5722  
saskatchewan.ca/residents/first-nations-citizens

Indigenous Services Canada  
P 1.800.567.9604  
canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada

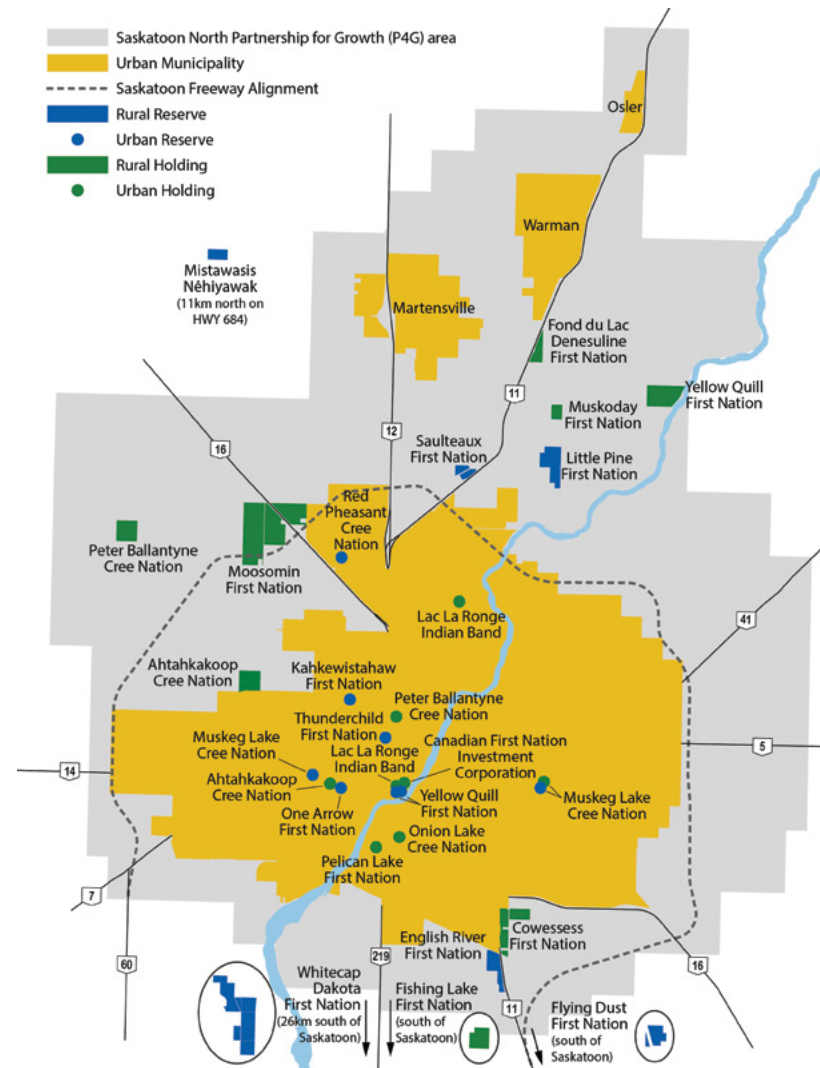
Crown-Indigenous Relations  
and Northern Affairs Canada  
1.800.567.9604  
canada.ca/en/crown-indigenous-relations-  
northern-affairs

Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC)  
P 306.244.2100  
otc.ca

*Thank you to the Office of the Treaty Commissioner  
for providing the Treaty Medallion image featured  
on the inner panel.*



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### The future is bright...

Treaty Land Entitlement is a partnership that includes First Nations, Canada, and Saskatchewan. It promises to resolve outstanding land claims.

Benefits for First Nation communities and the City of Saskatoon include:

- Providing opportunities to participate in current economic growth in and around Saskatoon.
- First Nations can create new employment opportunities for First Nations people and other residents.
- Creating and enhancing government to government relationships with all levels of government.
- A negotiation process that is based on cooperation and respect, which promotes stronger relationships between First Nations and the City of Saskatoon.
- Land purchases or development projects utilize local and regional expertise, thus creating economic spin-offs for Saskatoon and surrounding communities.



# Treaty Land Entitlement



*Following Muskeg Lake Cree Nation in 1988, several First Nations have obtained land in the City of Saskatoon and have either initiated or completed the process of establishing urban reserves in Saskatoon. The City of Saskatoon recognizes that urban reserves provide tremendous economic, social, and cultural development opportunities that benefit the entire community including First Nations and non-First Nations people and welcomes the opportunity to encourage honouring Treaty relationships with First Nations.*

*First Nations are strategically purchasing land in the Saskatoon region to provide economic and employment growth for their communities. These land purchases are then used to create new urban reserves or add to existing reserves through two processes: the Federal Government's Additions to Reserves Policy for Specific Claims (begun in the 1970s) and the Canada-Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Framework Agreement for TLE claims (signed in 1992).*

### **What is the Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement (1992)?**

After years of discussion and negotiation, the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan and the Chiefs of approximately 30 entitlement First Nations signed the *Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement (1992)*.<sup>1</sup> Currently, of the 70 First Nations in Saskatchewan, 33 have signed the Framework Agreement. The Agreement established a framework that addresses the outstanding obligations of the Provincial and Federal Governments and ensures First Nations receive the amount of reserve land to which they are entitled under historical Treaties.<sup>1</sup>

### **What is Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE)?**

Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) is a process used by the Federal and Provincial governments to fulfill commitments to resolve outstanding obligations to First Nations who did not receive all of the reserve land to which they were entitled under Treaty.

### **What happens under TLE?**

Each party in the TLE process has its own unique set of responsibilities. The First Nation is responsible for selecting and purchasing their desired land with the monetary compensation received from both the Provincial and Federal Government.<sup>1</sup>

The Saskatchewan Government assists by making Crown land available for sale to First Nations and also aids in the evaluation of provincial interests. The role of the Federal Government is to transfer the land to reserve once the requirements of the Agreement have been fulfilled.<sup>1</sup>

The entitled First Nation receives monetary compensation based on an agreed upon formula. The formula was created to compensate First

Nations for the shortfall in land received when the original land survey was completed. The shortfall occurred due to the insufficient population number used by the surveyors back in the 1880s and also in part to the lack of available Crown land.

### **What happens when land is purchased in Saskatoon?**

When a First Nation purchases land it is held in 'fee simple' until the Federal Government has declared the land to be reserve. While awaiting declaration, the land is still subject to all provincial and municipal bylaws and taxes. After Reserve Status is granted, primary jurisdiction of the land changes from the City to the First Nation. For example, City taxes no longer apply.

Before an urban reserve is created, the City and the First Nation sign a Municipal Services and Land Use Compatibility Agreement. The City of Saskatoon's agreements with First Nations provide for all municipal services (police, fire, snow removal, water/sewer) in exchange for a fee-for-service. The fee-for-service is calculated in the same way as property taxes and is equal to the amount that would be billed for municipal and library taxes. First Nations also enter into separate agreements with the school boards for the education portion of the standard property tax levy. First Nations ensure, through their bylaws and leases, that urban reserves have the same compatible land use, zoning standards, building standards, and business regulations as those on surrounding properties.

Additionally, the Agreement establishes protocol between the City and the First Nation, or in other words, a commitment to reaffirming relationships through regular and ongoing dialogue, communication, information sharing, identifying common issues, and developing common resolution approaches.

### **Is the process different if land is purchased outside the city?**

If land selections are made within a rural municipality, Municipal Services Agreements are not required, including when the land selection is located within the area known as the Saskatoon North Partnership for Growth (P4G) Planning District, where the City, the RM of Corman Park, City of Martensville, Town of Osler, and City of Warman jointly manage planning and development. However, the First Nation and partnering municipalities often work together to encourage land use compatibility and complementary development for land selections in this area. When a rural property is designated Reserve under the Treaty Land Entitlement claim process, the Federal and Provincial governments contribute to the Rural Municipal Tax Loss Compensation Fund which, through a predetermined formula, allows rural municipalities the ability to receive ongoing tax loss compensation.

### **How is the TLE process funded?**

Canada and Saskatchewan share the costs of the TLE settlement agreements; Canada contributes 70% and Saskatchewan contributes 30%.<sup>1</sup>

### **How much land is involved?**

Under the terms of the agreement, Entitlement First Nations in Saskatchewan are entitled to receive approximately \$539 million over 12 years to buy just over 2 million acres of land to settle outstanding land claims.<sup>1</sup>

*“ Strengthening cooperation and mutual support by working in partnership with Indigenous communities toward respective community goals and objectives is vital to fostering more inclusive communities. ”*

*City of Saskatoon Strategic Plan 2022-2025*



<sup>1</sup> [saskatchewan.ca/residents/first-nations-citizens/treaty-land-and-entitlements](https://saskatchewan.ca/residents/first-nations-citizens/treaty-land-and-entitlements)