

Ginoogaming First Nation Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Claim



July 2019

GFN TLE LAND SELECTION PROCESS: UPDATE #2

From May 16-18 of this year, the Ginoogaming First Nation Treaty Land Entitlement Claim (TLE) Negotiation Committee conducted GFN TLE Land Selection sessions in: Thunder Bay, Hornepayne, and in Ginoogaming First Nation.

GFN members were provided with light supper with desserts and refreshments at each session.

They were also given a quick update on the current status of the GFN TLE Negotiation Sessions.

The immediate topic, however, is the GFN TLE Land Selection process.

GFN members were provided with the opportunity to select their own areas on maps, which may one day be put forward as “candidate lands” that could eventually become part of the Ginoogaming First Nation land base.

GFN members took to the exercise excitedly. They talked about residential lands, economic development lands, and cultural lands.

Selected lands do not have to be connected to the current GFN reserve land base.

WHAT IF I CANNOT ATTEND A GFN TLE LAND SELECTION SESSION?

Sasha and Jennifer work closely with our team, and are resource staff available most days of the week, to assist you with land selection choices.

Please contact:

**Sasha Michano, GFN TEK Data
Collector (807) 876-1660**

sasha.michano@ginoogamingfn.ca

OR

**Jennifer Duncan, Program Manager,
Four Rivers Environmental Advisory
Services (807) 285-9400**

jduncan@fourrivers.group



GFN TLE Loss of Use Update:

As many are aware, the GFN TLE also includes a Loss of Use component. GFN did not have use of the 11.4 square miles of land that should have been reserve land (7,296 acres) from 1906 to 2019, so financial compensation must be paid by Canada.

Lands have been profited from by Ontario and Canada, with no benefit to Ginoogaming First Nation, from 1906 to 2019.

At the current time, there is no update on that part of the GFN TLE negotiations. It is much too early in the appraisal process to be able to do that.

However, GFN members can rest assured that the GFN TLE Negotiation Committee is very excited at the prospect of being able to provide a Loss of Use update in the upcoming year.

We do need to begin thinking about Loss of Use financial compensation in the upcoming year.

When it is time, you will definitely see a Loss of Use update here in this GFN TLE newsletter. It will be a regular feature, to keep all members updated.

For now, we will need to focus on progressing the GFN TLE Land Selections process.



We value your questions. Please email us (Peter Rasevych, GFN TLE Communications: peter.rasevych@ginoogamingfn.ca). Here is a sample of one great email that was received from one of our GFN members recently:

“...I am seeking additional information regarding the Treaty Land Entitlement negotiations. In the most recent newsletter it mentioned upcoming open houses to discuss the location for the additional acres that will be provided as compensation from Ontario. As you know many band members do not live on reserve or in communities where the open houses took place. I’m hoping you can relay any plans to seek input from band members who live in other urban centres such as Toronto.

My second question is about the financial compensation negotiations with Canada. The newsletter indicated that Canada and Ontario have agreed that Ginoogaming should have had the use of the additional 7,296 acres since 1906, and that Canada will provide financial compensation for GFN’s loss of use of the land since that time. Would you be able to provide a further update as to where the negotiations are with respect with this? I.e. what, if any, has been the proposed compensation package from Canada thus far, including per capita payments; if negotiations haven’t started when can we expect them to? I understand the policy for TLE negotiations is that all band members must vote before accepting any compensation, I’m hoping we can all stay informed throughout the process.

Thank you”



Here is our response to that email:

“Good morning:

1) one does not have to be present at the TLE Land Selection events to indicate choices for candidate lands. That can be done at anytime through our GFN TEK Data Collector, Sasha Michano whom you can reach at (807) 876-1660. She is a regular full-time staff employee here at GFN.

Also working on this file with us is Jennifer Duncan at Four Rivers Environmental Advisory services in Thunder Bay. She works closely with Sasha and with our GFN TLE Negotiation Committee, on the mapping. You can contact her Monday through Friday at (807) 285-9400.

The sessions are necessary for face to face interaction with our members.

2) Information updates on Loss of Use compensation have been provided to GFN membership in the past. There have also been updates on the GFN TLE process (how it has been going, where it is at). We do this mostly at Christmas time, as an insert in Chief Echum's community newsletter, and at the Christmas parties. Suffice to say at this point, that those developments stand where they were at then. But hopefully this fall, there may be something to report to the membership, and you will see it in the GFN TLE newsletter -- if there was something to report on, then you can bet that it would have been included the newsletter that was just released last month (in May). Gradually, we hope to see more Loss of Use content in the TLE newsletter.

It is so great to hear interest from our members. We will use your questions in our upcoming TLE newsletter.

Miigwech, have a great day.”



OTHER WAYS OF BECOMING INVOLVED?

Live Stream:

We are currently investigating this as an option. If it does become a reality, then GFN members could attend the GFN TLE Land Selection sessions from the comfort of their own living rooms. However, this may or may not become available for this purpose.

We are still extremely early on into the GFN TLE process of engaging with our members. Nothing is going to be settled anytime soon.

We can take this time to map out not only our land selections, but how to assist those who want to be included, and in what ways.

GFN TLE Focus Groups:

Before we started the GFN TLE Land Selection Process, we knew that we would have a lot of GFN members interested.

We had an idea of breaking the larger gatherings of people up into smaller focus groups. Thankfully, this did come up during one session!

- 1) Elders
- 2) Youth
- 3) Trappers

These are some of the ideas. Or, a combined Elders/Youth sub-group.

Send us your ideas:

We love hearing from the GFN membership, on how we can make this process better.

We will strive to include as many as we possibly can, as we move towards finalizing the GFN TLE Land Selection process (hopefully in the upcoming year).

Our GFN TLE Negotiation Committee and Technical Lands Working Group are always ready to take on the challenges.

We hope to have some exciting news this upcoming year, with regular newsletter updates as we progress.



JULY 2019 TLE LAND SELECTION OPEN HOUSES

The GFN TLE Negotiation Committee aims to hold a few more sessions for Land Selection Open Houses in July 2019, and again in August 2019

The GFN Technical Lands Working Group will coordinate meetings with GFN band members both on- and off-reserve.

GFN band members will be asked to start the Land Selection Process by selecting their areas of interest on maps.

Areas of interest include: residential lands, economic development lands, and also cultural lands (to protect hunting, fishing, and other cultural sites).

July 2019 Open Houses will be held 4pm-7pm at the following locations:

Tuesday, July 16: Thunder Bay (233 South Court Street, Matawa First Nations Management)

Wednesday, July 17: Hornepayne (Hornepayne Legion Branch 194, 48 Sixth Avenue)

Thursday July 18: Ginoogaming First Nation Training Centre

Door prizes, refreshments, and dinner will be provided at all sessions.



For more information, GFN members may contact the GFN TLE Negotiation Committee:

Chief Celia Echum

Wally McKay, Lead Negotiator

Greg Johnson, Legal Representative

Maurice Waboose, GFN Council Liaison

Peter Rasevych, Communications

Calvin Taylor, Lands & Resources

Elizabeth Ferris, Woman Representative

Victor Chapais, Elder Representative

Sheri Taylor, GFN Council Liaison

Debbie Charles, GFN TLE Administration

OR:

Jason Rasevych, GFN TLE Land Selection Session Coordinator (jrasevych@gmail.com)

If calling the GFN Band Office then please be sure to ask to speak with a member of the GFN TLE Negotiation Committee, as listed:

(807) 876-2242

You can also contact the GFN Timber Claim Trust Office for information, as they are assisting with our administration for the Land Selection Process:

(807) 876-1678 or cell (807) 854-8536

1-866-882-0305

gfntct@bellnet.ca