



Northeast Land Transfers

Presentation to: Peace River Regional District

By: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

July 20, 2023

Land Transfer Context

Selected from Crown lands

Treaty Land Entitlement

(Historic Treaty Settlement)
Canada, BC and First Nation

- TLE Settlement and Lands Agreements (2023)
- Making up for land owed over 100 years under Treaty 8 *(missed at the time of Treaty)*
- Land transfers to Canada and in fee simple
- Blueberry River First Nations, Doig River First Nation, Halfway River First Nation, West Moberly First Nations, and Sauteau First Nations

Site C Tripartite Land Agreements

(Accommodation for project impacts)
BC Hydro, BC and First Nation

- Lands to *accommodate for adverse impacts of the Site C project* to Treaty 8 rights.
- Land transfers in fee simple *(as private land)*; First Nations may apply to have some lands added to existing reserve land.
- Doig River, Halfway River, Prophet River, Sauteau, and West Moberly First Nations, and McLeod Lake Indian Band

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Context - Background

- TLE represents a fundamental change in the engagement and future dialogue in the Northeast this is accomplished in several ways:
 - Settles an outstanding specific claim
 - Tangibly demonstrates the Province's commitment to reconciliation
 - Provides substantive land to Treaty 8 First Nations for many reasons (e.g., economic, cultural, spiritual)
 - Is the first expansion of Treaty 8 reserves in decades

TLE Form of Transfers

TLE Shortfall Land

- A historic land debt
 - Owed since the treaty was signed
 - Land will be transferred directly to Canada
(to create *Indian Reserve*)

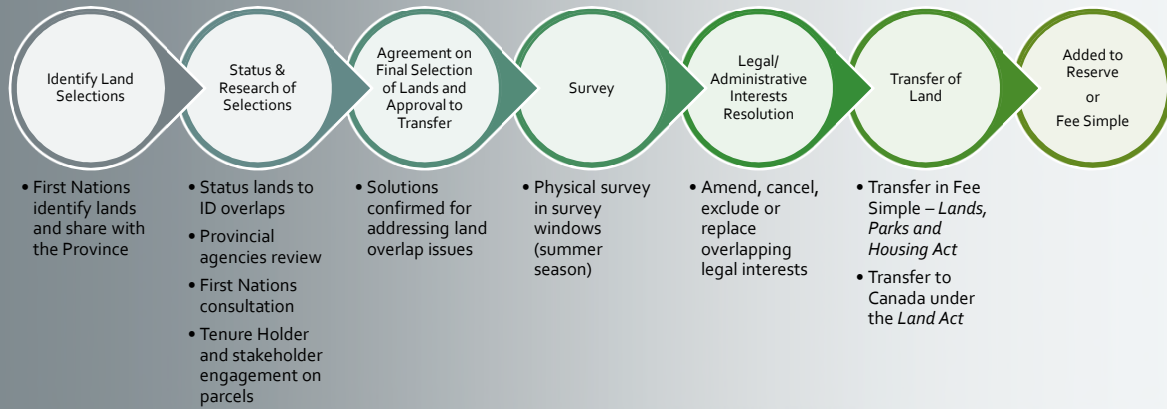
TLE Additional Land

- For reconciliation
 - Land will be purchased by the First Nations
 - Land may be considered for transfer to Canada as *Indian Reserve (ATR)*

*ATR = Addition to Reserve (Federal process to add land as Indian Reserve)

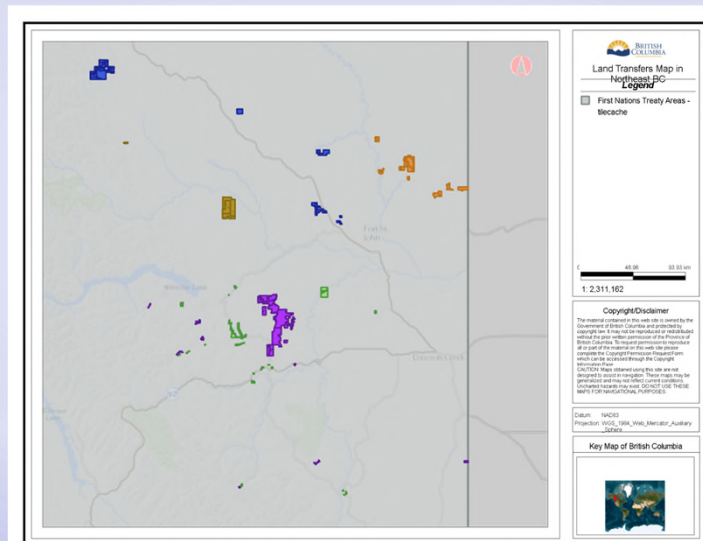
Land Transfer Process

The stages of transfer vary for each parcel



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TLE Map



Status of Land Transfers

- Level and extent of engagement varies across the parcels
- Status of land transfers regarding:
 - Parcel stage (e.g., identification, review, implementation)
 - Tenure holder engagement
 - Stakeholder (public and interest groups)

Communication & Engagement Methods

Correspondence

Mail and E-mail

• Individual and stakeholders shared comments with government by mail or by e-mail.

Accessible Information

govTogether Website and Fact Sheets

• The provincial govTogether webpage: a public location for information, maps and feedback about northeast land transfers.
 • The provincial team reviewed stakeholders' questions and produced a NE Land Transfer Fact Sheet and Q&A Sheet to help understand the land transfer process.

Focused Groups

Meetings and Presentations

• Regular updates to local government: City of Fort St. John, District of Chetwynd, District of Hudson's Hope, District of Tumbler Ridge, RD Fraser Fort George, and PRRD.
 • Provincial and interest group meetings to exchange information and explore specific interests, providing opportunities for concerns to be documented, heard and understood.

Northeast Roundtable

Information Sharing and Stakeholder Feedback

• Established from the Urban Systems recommendation that incorporated stakeholder design for a better engagement process.
 • MIRR regularly provides updates and opportunities for feedback on land selections from NE Roundtable members (local government, industry and community groups).

Open Houses

Community Consultation / Engagement Sessions

• The Province has held several open houses to share information and receive public feedback about proposed parcels
 • Open houses included opportunities for local communities to provide feedback about parcels nearest to where they live.

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Engagement

Commitment to engage

- Opportunity to comment
- Record comments
- Consider your interests
- Report on decisions
(e.g., What We Heard from Stakeholders Report)

How to provide feedback

- Written: letters or parcel comment forms (provided)
- E-mail: MIRR.Northeast@gov.bc.ca
- govTogether website:
<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogether/bc/engagement/land-transfers-in-northeast-bc/>

The TLE Stakeholder Engagement process was developed together with stakeholder and local government representatives



Questions?

Blueberry Implementation Agreement & Treaty 8 Consensus Docs/LOAs



Context: why agreements are needed

Treaty promises and court declarations



New Agreements: Expected and Anticipated Outcomes

Creates space for us to move forward to find mutually supported solutions



A Framework for Change

Cumulative effects, restoration and predictability