



Lac La Ronge Indian Band AGRICULTURAL BENEFITS CLAIM

Frequently Asked Questions

1 What is "Cows and Plows"?

"Cows and Plows" refers to a significant commitment under Treaty No. 6, negotiated with the Queen in 1876. This pledge from Canada was meant to help First Nations transition from a hunting-centric lifestyle to a lifestyle more aligned with Euro-Canadian agriculture or livestock raising. Treaty-related issues arising from this commitment are commonly referred to as "Cows and Plows".

2 When did LLRIB's Claim Start?

Following the completion of expert historical reports, LLRIB's legal team initiated a claim with the Specific Claims Branch, an agency that handles claims related to First Nation assets, land administration, and First Nations Treaty fulfillment.

In 2021, LLRIB received partial validation for its Agricultural Benefits Claim under Treaty No. 6, but as Canada only agreed to negotiate part of the claim, LLRIB escalated the matter to Federal Court.

3 What is the Current Status?

After in-person meetings with Canada last December, Canada has shown willingness to begin accelerated discussions regarding LLRIB's complete claim. The Agricultural Benefits Committee (ABC) and legal counsel are preparing for these in-person discussions, which are anticipated to happen in the Summer of 2023.

4 When will the Claim be settled?

Since the accelerated negotiations are just starting, it is difficult to predict a precise timeline for the settlement of the claim. However, it is our aspiration that a resolution will be achieved soon.

5 Have any Treaty 6 Nations Settled Claims?

It's important to note that each Nation's negotiation process is confidential. As of today, no Treaty 6 Nation has been compensated for "Cows and Plows".

6 What Happens After a Negotiation Agreement?

If LLRIB and Canada agree on a compensation amount, a ratification vote will take place. This means LLRIB members will decide whether to accept the proposed compensation. Before this vote, Community Information Meetings will be held to clarify the proposed settlement and answer any member questions.

7 Why is the Claim Information Confidential?

LLRIB is bound by a Non-Disclosure Agreement with Canada as part of the negotiation process. This means that while negotiation details can be shared with LLRIB members, they cannot be made public.

8 Where can Members get Updates?

LLRIB will provide necessary updates to members as negotiations proceed. Additionally, it's expected that further community meetings will be held in the Fall of 2023 for legal counsel to provide direct updates to the membership.