

Northeast Land Transfers

WHAT WE HEARD FROM STAKEHOLDERS

Northeast Land Transfers - What We Heard from Stakeholders Report

November 22, 2021

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Executive Summary

This ‘What We Heard from Stakeholders Report’ is the Province’s collection of feedback from stakeholder engagement undertaken since 2016 on proposed Land transfers in Northeast British Columbia for both Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) and Site C Land Transfers.

Settling the TLE claim with Halfway and West Moberly, Blueberry and Doig, and Saulneau First Nations addresses not only a legal obligation from when Treaty 8 was first signed between 1899 and 1914, it also helps us move towards reconciliation as a society and create opportunities for the Northeast. Site C Lands Agreement land transfers are a direct accommodation for the impacts of the Site C Clean Energy project.

The Province of British Columbia (the Province) acknowledges that Crown lands selected for transfer are likely to touch on various interests. The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) has coordinated and led provincial stakeholder engagement in response to interests raised by stakeholders and has been working closely with stakeholders to better understand public interests regarding the proposed Crown land selections.

This report summarizes engagement outcomes in a manner that considers personal privacy and is structured to set the context, provide an engagement record, identify common themes, and summarize feedback on a parcel-by-parcel basis including how that feedback was considered.

Engagement Process

The purpose of engagement on TLE and Site C land parcels proposed for transfer is to inform, consult, and where possible, involve stakeholders, by:

- sharing information,
- hearing from and seeking to understand stakeholders’ interests,
- gathering feedback about specific impacts regarding lands proposed for transfer, and
- identifying and implementing approaches to address potential impacts where possible.

The Province provided a variety of opportunities for information sharing and feedback, with special consideration given to accessibility for a diverse audience within a large geographic area. The engagement was delivered through presentations to local governments and Regional Districts, regular updates to the Northeast Stakeholder Roundtable (NE Roundtable), focused stakeholder meetings, geographically accessible open houses and public engagement sessions, public notices in newspapers, the govTogetherBC website, and emails and letters responding to stakeholders.

What We Heard: Common Themes

Broad themes that emerged from stakeholder engagement on TLE and Site C parcels include:

- Access management
- Continuation of land use, safety, and recreation opportunities on Crown lands
- Development standards and regulations
- Environmental stewardship
- Effects on property values
- Tax implications

Access management

The provincial team clearly heard from stakeholders that continued access over existing roads and trails to lands beyond the TLE parcels is top of mind. Therefore, such access interests are addressed in one of three ways: 1) excluding a provincial corridor (will remain Crown land access), 2) establishing conditions in the agreements that preserve access over transferred lands, or 3) relocation of access routes.

Continued public use of Crown lands

The public can continue to use areas of Crown land selections for public enjoyment until lands transfer to Canada or when they become private lands. Once the lands transfer, as with other non-public land, anyone interested in accessing the Federal Indian Reserves or private lands will need to receive permission by the landowner (in this case, the First Nation). This permission will not be necessary for lands that remain provincial Crown land, such as excluded provincial corridors for public access to lands beyond the parcels.

Development standards and regulations

Stakeholders were concerned that changing jurisdiction for lands transferring to Canada as Federal Indian Reserve lands could result in fewer environmental protections for development and therefore may lead to a substantial impact on wildlife habitat or populations.

While there is a change in who is leading the process when it comes to Federal Indian Reserve lands, protection of the environment will remain a key aspect of the assessment of proposed development. Federal Indian Reserve lands are subject to federal laws and regulations and First Nations contemplating development would be required to prepare development plans and complete environmental surveys consistent with the *Species at Risk Act* and other applicable regulations before development could begin. Furthermore, environmental assessments will be completed for each parcel to identify any contaminated sites that need to be addressed prior to transfer.

Not all lands are intended to be added to Reserve, some will transfer and be held in fee simple – that is the same type of ownership that private property is commonly held in. Lands transferring as private lands (fee simple) will remain under provincial jurisdiction and be subject to provincial laws, local bylaws, zoning regulations and property taxes – the same as other private property.

Notably, First Nations have selected parcels for cultural purposes with expressed intent to protect ecological values, as such protecting the lands is a shared interest.

Property values

The Province heard that some stakeholders have concerns about potential negative impacts to property values because of changes in adjacent land uses. Property values can be affected by a multitude of factors; MIRR found no evidence that property values are lowered by the transfer of lands as Federal Indian Reserve or in fee simple to Indigenous Peoples for the purpose of reconciliation.

Taxation and infrastructure

Stakeholders wondered about potential effects of land transfers on infrastructure taxes. Canada requires that First Nations and municipalities develop agreements as part of the Addition to Reserve process. Taxation will be addressed during the implementation period, after agreements are signed and before lands transfer. There will be no impact to municipal tax because the lands being transferred are Crown lands (not private land) and therefore currently this tax is not levied from those parcels.

Conclusion

Since engagement began on proposed land transfers in 2016, the progress on land selections has moved at an individual pace for Halfway River First Nation, West Moberly First Nations Doig River First Nation and Blueberry River First Nations. Their land selection has now concluded.

Accordingly, the Province is now closing stakeholder engagement on the land selections for those tables and First Nations. However, where there are parcel-specific features of public interest, engagement is to continue after agreements have been initialed and ratified, such as the Halfway River Recreation Trail through Blueberry River First Nations' Pink Mountain selection.

Public engagement for Sauteau First Nations land selection is underway, and engagement has not yet begun for Doig River First Nation's Site C Land Agreement as land selections have not yet been identified. Please visit the govTogetherBC website to access materials and provide feedback for ongoing engagement.

The Province wishes to acknowledge the commitment, dedication, time and effort from the many local community groups and individual stakeholders who took the time to complete the surveys and attend meetings. Thank you for sharing your thoughts and feedback as they related to proposed land transfers.

Introduction

The Province of British Columbia (the Province), led by the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR), has been working closely with stakeholders since 2016 to understand public interests regarding Crown land selections proposed for transfer (Northeast land transfers) to Treaty 8 First Nations for both Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) and Site C Lands Agreements.

The Province hired Urban Systems in 2017 in response to stakeholders' interest in having a robust engagement process for provincial land use decisions in Northeast B.C.

Urban Systems coordinated sessions with stakeholders to seek input into recommendations for an engagement process. Three overarching recommendations included:

- to improve trust by being transparent, sharing information, clarifying the extent of influence stakeholders may have, and reporting back,
- to ensure information is useful by using plain language and providing enough information, and
- to improve coordination and engagement effectiveness, by specifically establishing the Northeast Stakeholder Roundtable (NE Roundtable) and providing information online.



The NE Roundtable was created in 2018. Since then, MIRR has continued to work with government agency partners and stakeholders to implement these recommendations.

Purpose and Scope of this Report

This “What We Heard from Stakeholders” report:

- Describes the engagement and land transfer processes, the key stakeholder groups, how stakeholders have been engaged, a summary of feedback received to date, and provincial responses to feedback.
- Shares public stakeholder engagement outcomes regarding proposed Northeast land transfers for TLE (Blueberry, Doig, Halfway, West Moberly First Nations), and for Site C Land Agreement (Halfway River).
- Considers privacy by reflecting themes and specific concerns heard throughout the process rather than setting out any individuals comments. In some cases, specific comments are captured in NE Roundtable meeting notes, open house notes, comment forms, and in stakeholders' letters and e-mails.

Some land selections are at an earlier stage and will be reported out in future (e.g., Sauleau TLE and Site C Lands Agreement, and Doig Site C Lands Agreement).

Project Team

The regional MIRR team based out of Fort St. John in northeast BC leads TLE negotiations and Site C Land Agreement implementation, including stakeholder engagement about proposed Northeast land transfers.

The MIRR Northeast team also coordinates with subject matter experts from other agencies who are participating in a detailed review of all proposed lands.

As a ministry, MIRR guides and helps coordinate the Province of British Columbia's government wide efforts to achieve true and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Stakeholders

The Province has engaged the following key general stakeholder groups about Northeast BC land transfers:

- Local government (Municipalities and Regional Districts)
- Local interest groups and community groups
- Public (including local communities and individuals)

The Province has engaged separately with tenure holders that have overlapping legal interests with specific parcels. We have also considered general interests shared by tenure holders as part of stakeholder engagement.

Additional Sources of Stakeholder Information

General TLE: Land Transfer Fact Sheet:

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2020/04/Land-Transfer-Fact-Sheet-.pdf>

General TLE: Questions and Answers Sheet:

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2020/04/Land-Transfers-Questions-and-Answers.pdf>

Blueberry TLE: Charlie Lake open house notes (from open house held March 11, 2020):

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govTogetherbc/charlie-lake-open-house-notes/>

Blueberry TLE: Red Creek open house notes (from open house held March 12, 2020):

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govTogetherbc/red-creek-open-house-notes/>

Northeast Roundtable Website (includes terms of reference, meeting notes and posted presentations):

<https://nestakeholderroundtable.ca/>

Background TLE Land Transfers

TLE is a Specific Claim against the Crown for reserve lands that were promised, but not fully provided, in Treaty No. 8 between 1899 and 1914. Settling the TLE claim with Halfway and West Moberly, Blueberry and Doig, and Sauleau First Nations addresses a legal obligation from when Treaty 8 was first signed and helps us move towards reconciliation as a society and create opportunities for the Northeast.

Site C Lands Agreement land transfers are a direct accommodation for the impacts of the Site C project.

The Province is working with Treaty 8 First Nations to identify Crown lands (not private lands or parks) for transfer as part of TLE and Site C Land Agreements. Some lands will be transferred to Canada as Federal Indian Reserves and some lands will transfer as provincial fee simple (private) lands.

There are two categories of land transfers for TLE:

1. Shortfall lands: owed for over 100 years as part of Treaty No. 8 for Federal Indian Reserve creation.
2. Additional lands: sold at fair market value as part of reconciliation for TLE as either fee simple (private) or Federal Indian Reserve land.

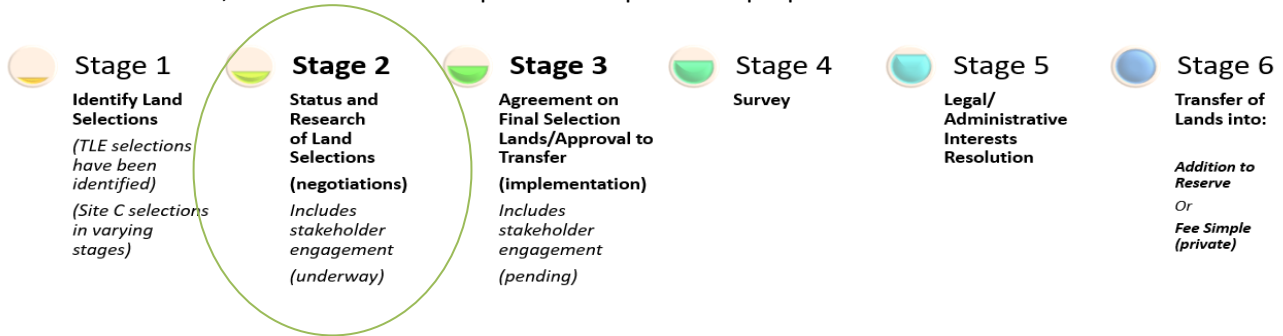
Site C Land Agreements provide accommodations for the impacts of the Site C dam to Treaty 8 First Nations treaty rights. Lands to accommodate for Site C are being provided as fee simple (private) land transfers.

See the govTogether website (for Northeast land transfers), [Land Transfers Fact Sheet](#) and [Q&A Sheet](#) for more information about TLE and Site C Land Agreements

Please note, the [govTogether](#) Northeast Land Transfers website works best in certain browsers (e.g. Google Chrome). Try a different browser if the site is not working.

Land Transfer Process

Land transfers move through stages of review and implementation. Whenever land is selected for a potential transfer, the Province will evaluate the parcel for overlapping interests, engage with stakeholders to identify additional interests, and seek to address potential impacts of a proposed transfer.



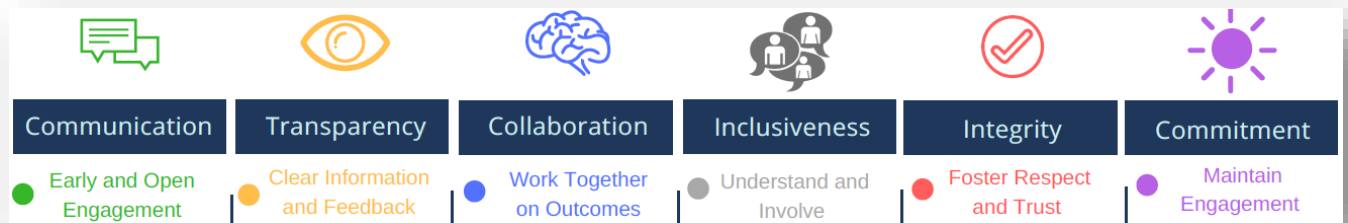
The main steps of a provincial land transfer process are set out in the diagram above. Stakeholder engagement for TLE and Site C Land Agreements has primarily occurred as part of Stage 2 (Status and Research). Where there are parcel-specific features of public interest, engagement is to continue after agreements have been initialed and ratified, such as the Halfway River Recreation Trail through Blueberry River First Nations’ Pink Mountain selection.

Stakeholder Engagement Process

The Province recognizes that when stakeholders have opportunities to participate, better results are achieved.

The purpose of engaging was to hear from and understand stakeholders’ interests, gather feedback about specific impacts and concerns regarding lands proposed for transfer, and where possible identify and implement approaches to address potential impacts. Stakeholder engagement documentation includes written comments, notes from sessions, and reports.

The following principles guided the stakeholder engagement process:



In designing engagement, the MIRR considered how to ensure opportunities for information sharing and feedback would be accessible. The provincial team provided varied ways of sharing information including e-mails, urban and rural locations, in-person and online meetings, online information sharing, and timing, frequency, and format. The Province engaged stakeholders in different ways, using several forums and platforms, including:

Correspondence

Mail and E-mail

- Individual and represented stakeholders share their comments with government by mail or by e-mail to MIRR.Northeast@gov.bc.ca, or to MIRR team members in the northeast, Fort St. John office.

Accessible Information

govTogether Website and Fact Sheets

- The provincial govTogether webpage for Land Transfers in northeast British Columbia provides a public location for information and feedback.
- The provincial team reviewed stakeholders questions and produced a northeast Land Transfer Fact Sheet and Questions and Answers Sheet to help understand the land transfer process.

Focused Groups

Meetings and Presentations

- MIRR provided regular TLE updates to local government: Peace River Regional District, City of Fort St. John, District of Chetwynd, District of Hudson's Hope, and District of Tumbler Ridge.
- The provincial team and specific interest groups met to exchange information and explore specific interests, providing opportunities for concerns to be documented, heard and understood.

Northeast Roundtable

Information Sharing and Stakeholder Feedback

- The Province established the Northeast Stakeholder Roundtable (NE Roundtable) to implement the Urban Systems report recommendation based on stakeholder design input to develop a better engagement process.
- MIRR has provided regular presentations, updates and opportunities for specific TLE parcel review and to receive feedback from the NE Roundtable members who are made up of 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 including providing opportunities for local communities to provide feedback about parcels nearest to where they live.

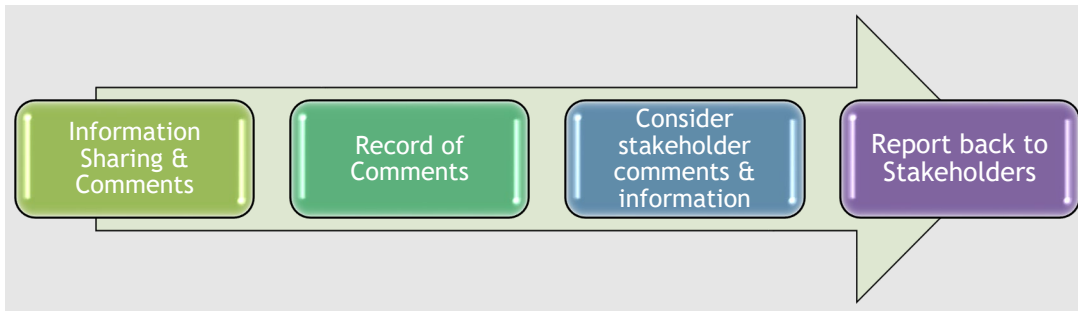


Figure 1: Stakeholder Engagement Process Steps

At stakeholders’ requests, the provincial team shared information about TLE and Site C parcels while working to complete detailed provincial agency parcel reviews. The Province considered the detailed agency review, First Nations consultation, tenure holder engagement, and stakeholder engagement to form parcel recommendations.

This ‘What We Heard from Stakeholders Report’ is the Province’s collection of feedback from stakeholder engagement undertaken since 2016 on proposed Land transfers in Northeast B.C. for both Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) and Site C Land Transfers. The purpose is to report back to stakeholders.

While stakeholder engagement for land selections is now closed with the Settlement and Lands Agreement being finalized, there will be further opportunities to engage on specific features of interests and to address Conditions Precedent at the implementation stage.

Stakeholder Comment Overview

The following section provides a summary of input collected through the provincial public stakeholder engagement. The section is structured to provide an overview of the number of engagements in different forums, outline general themes, and set out parcel-specific stakeholder comment summaries.

Provincial Engagement Record by the Numbers

Engagement Type	Number of engagement activities, participants
Local government presentations	20+ (annually / semi-annually / quarterly since 2016) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace River Regional District • District of Hudson’s Hope • District of Chetwynd • District of Tumbler Ridge • Regional District of Fraser Fort George • City of Fort St. John
NE Roundtable meetings	9 (including a specific workshop about each First Nation’s parcels) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halfway (November x, 20xx) • Blueberry (January 30, 2019) • Doig (January 30, 2019) • West Moberly (June 26, 2019)
Focused stakeholder group meetings	9+ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 Blueberry Charlie lake and Red Creek meetings with select stakeholders and community representatives)
Open Houses/Public Engagement Sessions	8 (including the following specific open houses) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Moberly parcels (Summit Lake, March 9, 2019) • Blueberry parcels (Pink Mountain, March 8, 2019) • Blueberry parcels (Buick Creek) March 12, 2019) • Blueberry (Charlie Lake, March 11, 2020) • Blueberry (Red Creek, March 12, 2021) • Doig (Cecil Lake, March 9, 2019) • Doig (Rose Prairie, March 10, 2019) • Halfway (Tsaa Nuna & Chowade parcels, January 16, 2019)
Public notices (newspaper advertisements)	2 (Alaska Highway news for Charlie Lake and Red Creek Open Houses)
Stakeholder emails, letters & responses	100+

What We Heard: Common Themes

Several themes emerged from engagement with stakeholders.

Theme	Description	Provincial Response
Access management	Road and trail access to and/or through parcels to lands beyond	The Province is ensuring that access continues to land beyond parcels, including maintaining public roads and provincial recreation trails that cross through lands proposed for transfer.
Crown lands: land use, safety, and recreation opportunities	Considering potential changes to the public access and use of Crown lands (e.g., increasing traffic levels on public roads)	<p>Parcels are Crown land and can continue to be used for activities such as hiking, hunting, and fishing up to the time of transfer.</p> <p>The land use of specific land parcels will change when they transfer either as fee simple private lands, or federal Indian Reserve lands.</p> <p>Once a parcel transfers it will no longer be public land, and while access through to areas on the other side of the parcel will be maintained, access into the land will be determined by the First Nation. People who are interested in accessing Federal Indian Reserve or private lands would need to ask for permission.</p> <p>Agreements will be put in place to keep roads that travel through land parcels under provincial jurisdiction or to provide a federal road permit, statutory right of way, or easement on reserve land. The public can continue to travel through these lands to access the provincial Crown lands or private lands on the other side.</p>
Development standards & regulations	Equivalency to provincial regulations and development standards as part of land transfers	<p>Lands transferred in fee simple will remain under provincial jurisdiction and be subject to provincial laws, local bylaws, zoning regulations and property taxes - the same as any other private property.</p> <p>Reserve lands are officially owned by the federal government for the exclusive use and benefit of First Nations.</p> <p>Reserve lands are subject to federal laws and regulations. When contemplating development, First Nations would be required to complete appropriate environmental surveys and prepare development plans consistent with the <i>Species at Risk Act</i> and other federal environmental regulations to protect and conserve specific species, before any development could begin.</p>
Environmental stewardship	Considering potential adverse impacts to wildlife, ecosystems, and water quality because of transfers	<p>Environmental assessments will be completed for each parcel to identify if there are any areas with contaminated sites that need to be addressed. The Province has conducted ecological and wildlife reviews regarding proposed land parcels to support decision-making. The federal government has existing environmental requirements that must be followed on Federal Indian Reserve Lands.</p> <p>Many of these lands have been identified for cultural and traditional purposes and are intended to remain in their current wild state.</p>

Theme	Description	Provincial Response
		Northeast Treaty Land Entitlement will not have a substantive impact on wildlife habitat or populations.
Property values	Considering potential effects to property values due to land use changes following transfers	The Province acknowledges that people have concerns about potential effects to property values because of changes in adjacent land uses. Property values can be affected by a multitude of factors. MIRR found no evidence that property values are lowered by the transfer of lands for the purpose of Treaty and Reconciliation
Tax Implications	Local government has an interest in understanding any implications that land transfers may have on taxes from infrastructure on lands that are proposed for transfer to Canada.	The lands being transferred are Crown lands, not private land, as such municipal tax had not been generated from those parcels. In terms of potential effects of land transfers on infrastructure taxes, Canada requires that First Nations and municipalities develop agreements as part of the Addition to Reserve process. This will be further addressed during the implementation period, after agreements are signed and before lands transfer.

Stakeholder Comment Summaries by Parcel

The following section provides a summary of stakeholder comments and provincial responses for each parcel. Parcels that are geographically close have been grouped together when stakeholder comments were consistent. The report includes thumbnails of the overview maps with links to help spatially locate each parcel.

Parcel maps and kms (Google Earth) files can be found at:

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govTogetherbc/consultation/land-transfers-in-northeast-british-columbia/>.

Blueberry River First Nations TLE Land Selections

Overview

Blueberry River First Nations (Blueberry) has selected Treaty Land Entitlement lands at Pink Mountain, Dancing Grounds, IR 205, Red Creek, Charlie Lake.

[Overview Map:](#)

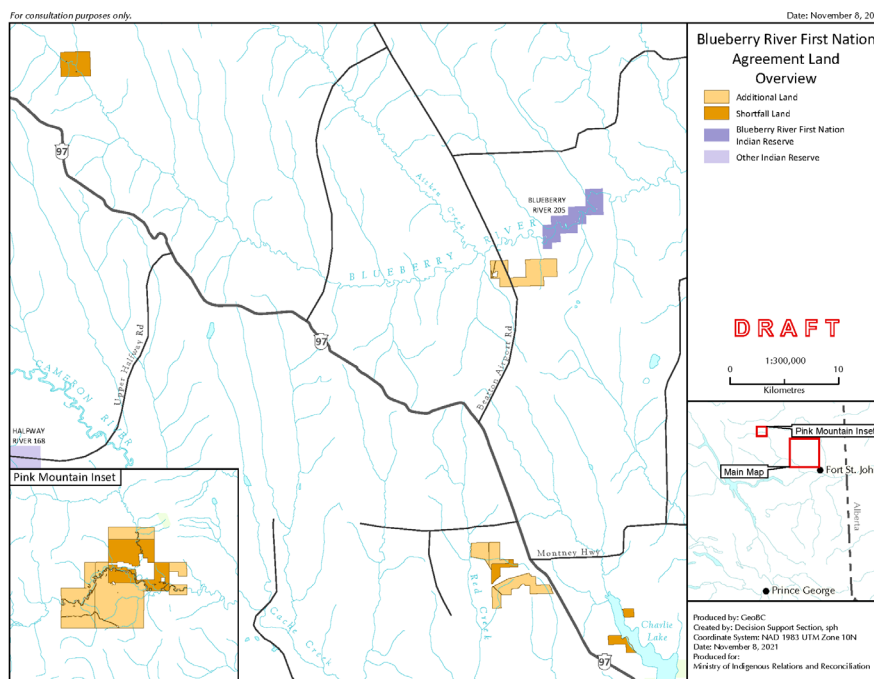


Figure 2: Blueberry TLE Parcel Overview Map

Note, more detailed [Blueberry parcel maps and shape files](#) may be found on the [govTogether website](#).

MIRR hosted four public open houses about Blueberry’s parcel selections between 2019-2020 (one at Pink Mountain, one at Buick Creek, and two at Charlie Lake Hall). Provincial staff worked closely with stakeholder contacts in the communities where the sessions were held to spread word of the events. Stakeholders asked to use additional methods for notifying them of events; the Province responded by posting public notices in the Alaska Highway News.

Blueberry River First Nations also hosted a public open house session in 2019, in Fort St. John, to share their TLE processes and parcels with the public.

Additional Blueberry TLE Stakeholder Engagement resources:

- [Charlie Lake Open House Notes](#),
- [Red Creek Open House Notes](#), and
- [Northeast Roundtable Notes \(January 30, 2019\)](#).

Two of Blueberry’s land selection areas have garnered significant attention from stakeholders – the land selections at Charlie Lake and Red Creek. Stakeholders have also expressed particular interest in ensuring that the recreational trail access remains public across the land selections at Pink Mountain, as well as ensuring access remains for the parcels at Dancing Grounds and IR 205.

Dancing Grounds (1 parcel)

Blueberry selected the Dancing Grounds parcel, approximately [1,510 acres/611.08 ha], for its significant cultural and historical importance, and as a place of historical summer gatherings.

Main Stakeholder Interest: Access to and through parcel

Engagement Status: Public comment period for Dancing Grounds is closed.

Table: Stakeholder Comment & Provincial Response Summary Dancing Grounds parcels

Access	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to and through the parcel (access to the parcel is not currently defined) and ensuring for other landowners and users (e.g., trapline holders). 	<p>Access through the parcel would conflict with the intended use of the parcel for cultural purposes.</p> <p>There are alternate means of accessing the lands beyond. There is also a road allowance along a portion of the Dancing Grounds south parcel boundary, which will provide for future access to this parcel.</p>
Timber	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the timber management and values for this parcel? 	<p>Dancing Grounds is a Shortfall land selection which will be transferred to the Federal Government and its intended use is for cultural purposes.</p> <p>Transferring these lands with the timber meets the Crown’s legal obligation and advances reconciliation.</p>

South of IR 205 (1 parcel)

Blueberry selected the parcel south of IR 205, approximately [2,536 acres / 1,026.28 ha], due to its adjacency to the current main Blueberry IR 205 Reserve. Blueberry has also already acquired some private lands in the area. Blueberry selected this area due to its proximity to their current reserve, to expand community amenities such as additional residential housing, and to develop agricultural and grazing activities.

Main Stakeholder Interest: Beaton Airport road access through the parcel.

Engagement Status: Public comment period for South of IR 205 parcel is closed.

Table: Stakeholder Comment & Provincial Response Summary South of IR 205 parcels

Access	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure Beaton Road is maintained as Crown land for public access such as for oil and gas and trapping activities.• Ensure access is maintained to lands beyond including for accessing private lands.• There is a CN Railway that crossed the parcel and should be deleted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Beaton Road is carved out. Tenure holder agreements ensuring access (e.g. to oil and gas activities) are a condition and must be in place prior to parcel transfer.• Lands Agreement maps identify and ensure access is provided through the parcel to private lands.• The railway line is carved out.

Pink Mountain (7 parcels)

Blueberry selected the parcels at Pink Mountain, approximately [14,469 acres / 5,855.40 ha], selected to practice their traditional ways of life, including teaching traditional practices and supports traditional activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering. The area has been described as critical for community health as it provides a healthy environment with clean air and water.

Main Stakeholder Interest: Access along the Halfway River Trail (Designated Recreation Trail)

Engagement Status:

1. General comment period for Pink Mountain parcels is closed.
2. Focused engagement on Halfway River Recreation Trail remains active:
 - The Province will engage stakeholders about specific trail options during implementation (after the Settlement and Lands Agreements are signed).
 - The Province intends for a collaborative and early engagement process with Blueberry River First Nations and stakeholders to understand interests. Decisions will be based on contracted studies to understand landscape, geotechnical engineering, and proposed costs, and will consider interests and how users access the land identified through engagement.

Table: Stakeholder Comment & Provincial Response Summary Pink Mountain parcels

Public access through Pink Mountain parcels to lands beyond	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued public access through Pink Mountain parcels to lands beyond: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure that the Halfway River Trail continues to provide Crown land access for the public through the Pink Mountain parcels to lands beyond following the lands transfer, including along the base of Pink Mountain and to Robb Lake. ▪ Ensure there are opportunities for stakeholders to be engaged early, often and throughout the trail review, identification, and development. ▪ Provide for an adequate staging/ parking area at the trailhead to prevent trespass use of First Nations land in the future. ▪ Consider access along former roads to abandoned wellsite at the base of Pink Mountain and from Cypress Creek to the south of the Halfway trail. ▪ Ensure access to lands beyond for activities such as trapping operations. 	<p>The Province and Blueberry have heard and understand that there is a significant level of interest from stakeholders to make sure the Halfway River Trail continues to provide public access through Pink Mountain to lands beyond, including of an adequate staging area at the trailhead.</p> <p>The Province intends to ensure that there is public access through Pink Mountain to lands beyond by way of the Halfway Trail, including for activities such as trapping operations. There is also an oil and gas road located in the southern portion of the Pink Mountain parcels, which is carved out and remaining as a Crown land access.</p> <p>The TLE Lands Agreement sets out a condition/ requirement to relocate the Halfway River Trail through the Pink Mountain parcel. As a condition before the Pink Mountain parcels affected by access can transfer (primarily the parcels north of the Halfway River) a new trail and staging area must be established.</p> <p>The Province and Blueberry will be seeking further consultant reviews of the area to understand where the trail may best be located. As part of this work, we will be engaging with stakeholders, including local community and recreational groups and individuals that indicate a desire to be engaged.</p>
Environmental Stewardship	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for stewardship of the area including maintaining rare and unique biodiversity in this area (the ecosystems and area needs to be protected). 	<p>Blueberry’s reasons for selecting this parcel include protection of natural biodiversity and the ecology of the area. This purpose is aligned with the stakeholder’s interest in protecting the rare and unique biodiversity.</p>

Third Party Interests	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address the impacts on overlap with one grazing tenure. 	<p>The Province is addressing the third-party interests in grazing through direct tenure holder engagement with the proponent. The grazing licence overlaps must be resolved prior to parcel transfer.</p>

Charlie Lake 1 (west parcel) and Charlie Lake 2 (east parcel)

Blueberry has selected two parcels at Charlie Lake, approximately [654 acres / 264.66 ha], as an area with longstanding cultural and historical connection. Charlie Lake has a rich indigenous history. Archaeological evidence of occupation dates to 10,500 years and the lake was named after Big Charlie (relation to Chief Yahey). These are among the few Crown land parcels available at Charlie Lake. Other important cultural sites at Charlie Lake, apart from the Charlie Lake Cave, have been taken up by commercial land and private interests.

Blueberry has indicated they have an interest in developing an elder’s residence on the Charlie Lake 1 parcel along the western shore. The Charlie Lake 2 parcel is largely intended to remain rustic at this time.

Main Stakeholder Interest: Charlie Lake water quality – health and integrity of the surrounding watershed

The provincial team has considered a range of values/information/data about the Charlie Lake parcels proposed for transfer as TLE Shortfall lands in response to key stakeholders concerns about Charlie Lake parcels and through the provincial review process, including:

1. Access review
2. Stakeholder comments
3. Treaty Land Entitlement legal obligations
4. Reconciliation with indigenous peoples
5. First Nations information
6. Federal government information
7. Provincial agencies reviews (e.g., archaeological, ecological, and biological)
8. Overlapping third party legal interests

All this information has helped to inform the Province’s recommendation to proceed - subject to meeting all conditions precedent set out in the TLE Lands Agreement - with the transfer of these parcels.

Engagement Status: Public comment period for Charlie Lake parcels is closed.

Table: Stakeholder Comment & Provincial Response Summary Charlie Lake parcels

Watershed health, ecological integrity and development standards and regulations	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect water quality and watershed integrity (including a concern with amending the Section 16 Watershed Reserve and protecting Charlie Lake as the City of Fort St. John backup water supply). • Protect ecological integrity wildlife habitat, and corridors including for fish, large ungulates, furbearers, carnivores, bats, and birds). • Consider visual quality. • Desire to continue working collaboratively and in partnerships with local landowners and industry to protect the lake. 	<p>The Province acknowledges that stakeholders are concerned that changing jurisdictions could result in less stringent environmental protections during development.</p> <p>Provincial reviews have included information from Provincial biologists and water specialists about the land selections under consideration, including the identification of some vulnerable and threatened species like bats and Canada Warblers.</p> <p>Canada has also shared information about the types of development requirements that would be essential if lands become Federal Indian Reserves. For example, Blueberry River First Nations would be required to complete appropriate environmental surveys and prepare development plans consistent with the federal <i>Species at Risk Act</i> and other environmental regulations to protect and conserve specific species, before any development could begin.</p> <p>Blueberry will need to comply with applicable federal and provincial legislation on Federal Indian Reserve lands. If the proposal that Blueberry has outlined is done properly, it will respect the wetland and provide setbacks along the foreshore.</p> <p>Additionally, Blueberry has indicated an interest in negotiating a memorandum of understanding agreement with various groups (e.g., Peace River Regional District) with respect to maintaining the watershed health and ecological integrity of Charlie Lake.</p>
Access	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring continued access for activities such as trapping operations in the area. • Parcel transfer could result in increased traffic and noise on Golf Course Road. 	<p>The Province has ensured access to Charlie Lake shores and lands beyond by carving out the road allowances along the edge of the parcel.</p> <p>Activities such as trapping operations may continue in surrounding Crown lands and areas available for such purposes.</p>

	Increased traffic along the golf course road to Charlie Lake 1 is not a specific issue that would be addressed with respect to the proposed land transfer; however, it would need to be part of any future development plans proposed by Blueberry River First Nations and may be part of a service-level agreement with the Peace River Regional District.
Blueberry Community support for parcels	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some Blueberry River First Nations members have indicated they oppose certain parcels. 	<p>Blueberry River First Nations have recently undertaken an internal leadership review. The result has confirmed that Chief and Council continue to have the community's majority confidence.</p> <p>Blueberry is providing an updated Band Council Resolution signed by the Chief and all five councilors that affirms Blueberry River First Nations community's confidence that their proposed TLE parcels are supported.</p> <p>The Blueberry community must also pass a ratification vote supporting the Settlement and Lands Agreements with all the parcels for the agreements to be finalized and for land transfer work to proceed.</p>
Alternative Parcels	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could Blueberry select different parcels (e.g., private or Crown lands)? 	<p>The provincial TLE settlement mandate is to provide Crown land, not private lands. Like anyone, Blueberry members can choose to purchase private lands at their discretion.</p> <p>Blueberry is aware of the public suggestion to choose different lands and has indicated that these parcels meet their interests. The Province supports the parcel transfer in principle, subject to meeting the conditions set out in the Blueberry TLE Lands Agreement.</p>
Public Interest	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crown lands should be preserved as a public asset for all Canadians. 	<p>The provincial team has considered several factors and is recommending transfer of these parcels as being in the public interest based on the following:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Province has a legal obligation to provide settlement lands to satisfy the terms of Treaty No. 8, which is in the best interest of the public. Further delaying providing TLE lands risks increasing the cost to settle either through legal action or being required to provide a greater settlement for lost opportunity. 2. Blueberry River First Nations have a compelling case to seek lands at Charlie Lake given that most available Crown lands around the lake have been disposed of for private and commercial interests, and 3. Charlie Lake is in a particularly important cultural area as evidenced by archeological findings dating back to 10,500 years and is a culturally important area specifically to Blueberry River First Nations.
Recreational Interests	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set the area aside for snowshoeing, snowmobiling, and hiking. 	<p>There are existing opportunities for recreational activities around Charlie Lake, including at Beatton Provincial Park, Charlie Lake Provincial Park, and the local Montney Regional Park, at the south-east boat launch, and boating and winter activities on Charlie Lake.</p>
Buffer	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could one be established between Blueberry and the residential areas? 	<p>There are many ways to address interests with respect to land transfers and in some situations, buffers can make sense, however, this is not the case here.</p> <p>The Charlie Lake parcels do not surround the subdivision or preclude access, so there is no compelling reason to create a buffer. The impact to the parcel value is high as the parcels are small.</p>

Red Creek (3 parcels)

Blueberry chose the area, approximately [3,334 acres / 1,349.22 ha] for community development due to its location along the Alaska Highway and proximity to Fort St. John (approximately 25 km). Blueberry has proposed light residential development similar to the surrounding subdivision.

Main Stakeholder Interest: Rural lifestyle and proposed changes in adjacent Crown land use.

The provincial team is recommending the transfer of Red Creek lands on the basis that Blueberry has selected lands for community development purposes in an area that is relatively close to Fort St. John and accessible to the Alaska Highway.

Blueberry has also narrowed their selection over the course of several years to avoid other overlapping third-party interests.

Residents in the Red Creek subdivision have expressed concerns about keeping forested areas adjacent to their homes for wind protection, as well as keeping a rural feel.

The parcel has been adjusted in response to stakeholder concerns to include a 200 m buffer area to the south and a 100 m buffer area to the north.

Engagement Status: Public comment period for Red Creek parcels is closed.

Table: Stakeholder Comment & Provincial Response Summary Red Creek parcels

Lifestyle & changes in adjacent Crown land use	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the benefits of rural living by allocating Crown land next to the Red Creek subdivision as a green space where residents can enjoy quiet of the outdoors. Concern that development right next to the subdivision will remove forest adjacent to houses and increase wind for Red Creek Residents. 	<p>The Province acknowledges that local residents have enjoyed access to, and use of, the adjacent Crown lands for many years, and that a transfer of parcels may impact the continued use of adjacent land. However, the selected parcels have been classified for potential future development for many years, and a potential change in land use is not unexpected. Once a TLE land parcel transfers it will no longer be public land, and access into the land will be determined by the First Nation. People who are interested in accessing these lands can ask for permission by the new landowners.</p>
Recreational Interests	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set the area aside for hunting, firewood collection, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, and hiking. 	<p>There are other areas with existing opportunities for recreational activities within the northeast region including around Charlie Lake, the Beatton hills, and Stewart Lake. Some trails that access areas outside of the Red Creek parcel may continue to be accessible once the parcel transfers to Canada. Neither provincial nor local governments, nor tourism associations have indicated a specific interest or plans for recreational development of this area.</p>

Development Standards & Environmental Stewardship	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would a change in jurisdiction from provincial to federal authority potentially result in different standards of development and limit protective measures? • Interest to be consistent with the North Peace Fringe Area Official Community Plan 	<p>Blueberry will need to comply with applicable federal and provincial legislation on Federal Indian Reserve lands.</p>
Blueberry Community support for parcels	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some Blueberry River First Nations members have indicated they oppose certain parcels. 	<p>Blueberry is providing an updated Band Council Resolution signed by the Chief and all five councilors that affirms Blueberry River First Nations community's confidence that their proposed TLE parcels are supported.</p> <p>The Blueberry community must also pass a ratification vote supporting the Settlement and Lands Agreements with all the parcels for the agreements to be finalized and for land transfer work to proceed.</p> <p>Blueberry River First Nations have recently undertaken an internal leadership review. The result has confirmed that Chief and Council retain the community's confidence.</p>
Alternative Parcels	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could Blueberry select different parcels (e.g., private or Crown lands)? 	<p>The provincial TLE settlement mandate is to provide Crown land, not private lands. Like anyone, Blueberry members can choose to purchase private lands at their discretion.</p> <p>The Province supports the parcel transfer in principle, subject to meeting the conditions set out in the Blueberry TLE Lands Agreement.</p>
Public Interest	

Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown lands should be preserved as a public asset for all Canadians. 	<p>The provincial team has considered several factors and is recommending transfer of these parcels as being in the best public interest based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Province has a legal obligation to provide settlement lands to satisfy the terms of Treaty No. 8, as well as for reconciliation purposes, which is in the overall interest of the public. Further delaying providing TLE lands risks increasing the cost to settle either through legal action or being required to provide a greater settlement for lost opportunity, and • Few locations are available to satisfy Blueberry’s interest in obtaining Crown land for community development near Fort St. John, along the Alaska Highway.
Other Concerns	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Creek does not have an available source of potable water. • Safety setbacks around the BC Hydro transmission line need to be considered. • Vesco logging in the past could have left contaminated areas in the parcel area. • Sour gas wells in the area can be a safety concern for residents. 	<p>The availability of potable water, potential contamination from past activities, and safety concerns related to the BC Hydro transmission line and nearby sour gas facilities are all valid considerations that Blueberry and Canada will take into consideration with respect to the suitability of lands for final transfer, and for any future development proposals.</p>

Doig River First Nation TLE Land Selections

Overview

Doig River First Nation (Doig) has selected Treaty Land Entitlement lands near the Alberta border, adjacent to the Doig River First Nation Reserve at IR206, at Petersen’s Crossing, and at Big Camp.

[Overview Map:](#)

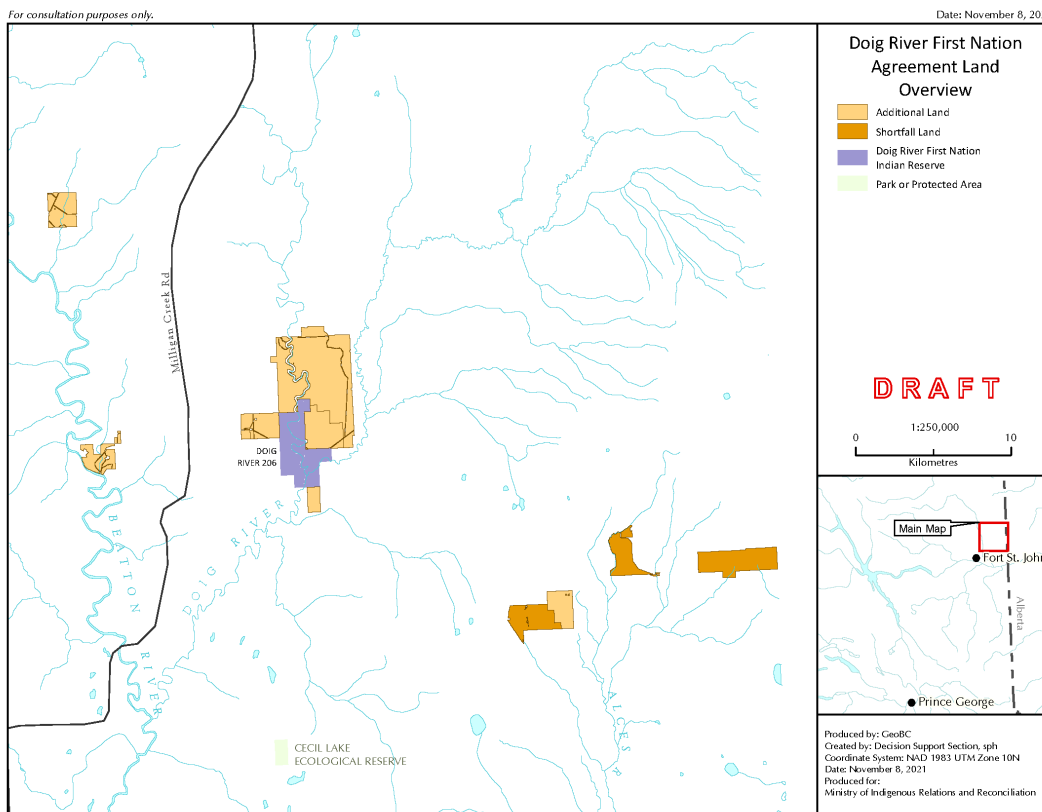


Figure 3: Doig TLE Parcel Overview Map

More detailed [parcel maps and shape files](#) may be found on the govTogether website.

We have grouped some of Doig’s parcels in the comment summary tables below where parcels are geographically together, and about which stakeholders have provided similar comments.

Stakeholder comments about Doig’s parcels have primarily focused on ensuring that access is maintained, and general comments about the overall intent of land transfers. The public has not provided very many parcel-specific comments about Doig River First Nation’s parcel selections.

As part of the stakeholder engagement process, the provincial TLE team organized open houses in March 2019 at Rose Prairie and Cecil Lake to provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about the Doig TLE parcels, and to provide feedback. The Province collected comments and questions from these and other open houses held in 2019 and developed the [Fact Sheet](#) and [Q&A Sheet](#).

In 2019, Doig River First Nation held a public open house session in Fort St. John to share their TLE processes and parcels with the public.

Shortfall Parcels: KTP 1, 2, 3, and Broomfield

These Shortfall parcels are within the historically important area near the Alberta border (Doig’s K’ih tsaa?dze Tribal Park), which has taken on greater significance in the modern context as Doig wishes to keep the area whole for future practice of Treaty 8 rights.

Main Stakeholder Interest: Access to lands beyond

Engagement Status: Public comment period for KTP 1, 2, 3 and Broomfield parcels is closed.

Table: Stakeholder Comment & Provincial Response Summary for KTP 1, 2, 3 and Broomfield Parcels

Access	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the main road accesses (e.g., Lagarde Road) are maintained as Crown land for public access, such as for oil and gas and trapping activities. 	<p>The Lagarde Road is carved out of the parcels and will remain a Crown land access.</p> <p>Forestry roads along the north and west Boundaries of KTP are carved out.</p>

Mygosh West (Shortfall) and Mygosh East (Additional Fee Simple)

The Mygosh parcel includes Mygosh West Shortfall parcel (487.65 ha) and Mygosh East Additional Fee Simple parcel (385.26 ha) within the historically important area (Doig’s K’ih tsaa?dze Tribal Park), which has taken on greater significance in the modern context as Doig wishes to keep the area whole for future practice of Treaty 8 rights.

Main Stakeholder Interest: Access to lands beyond

Engagement Status: Public comment period for Mygosh parcels is closed.

Table: Stakeholder Comment & Provincial Response Summary for Mygosh Parcels

Access	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure access to lands beyond. 	<p>The McTavish Trail along the western boundary is carved out and will remain as a Crown corridor.</p>
Third Party Interests	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cecil Lake Livestock Association / community pasture grazing licence overlaps with the parcel. Ensure consultation about fence lines, cattle grazing and impacts to users. 	<p>The grazing license is being addressed through direct tenure holder engagement with the proponent and must be resolved prior to parcel transfer.</p>

Doig East (Fee Simple and Additional ATR), West (Fee Simple) and Northwest (Additional ATR)

Doig selected these parcels, which are adjacent to the Doig main present-day Reserve (IR 206) as a location where members can continue to practice their treaty rights or further expand their community uses close to home. The parcels currently have several dormant well sites, remediation sites, roads and pipelines.

Main Stakeholder Interest:

Engagement Status: Public comment period for Doig East, West and Northwest is closed.

Table: Stakeholder Comment & Provincial Response Summary for Doig East Parcels

Access	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road access ensuring access through the parcel for other landowners and users such as for oil and gas and trapping activities; particularly Doig Road and Ed Nick Road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doig Road is carved out with input from Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to provide additional area at the bridge over the Beaton River for maintenance and at the hill for road realignment needs. Pugh Road is carved out. Tenure holder agreements ensuring access (e.g., to oil and gas activities) must be in place prior to parcel transfer.
Oil and gas site restoration	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring oil and gas companies have access and the ability to complete restoration once requirement of the dormant well sites, facilities and pipelines are no longer required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oil and gas continued access and ability to complete restoration of sites is considered as part of the TLE Lands Agreement and must be addressed prior to parcel transfer.
Gravel reserves	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a MOTI gravel reserve in Doig Northwest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure tested the gravel resource and determined the portion of the pit that overlaps with Doig Northwest will be released. Access to other portions of the gravel resource outside of the TLE parcel are considered in the TLE Lands Agreement and must be addressed prior to parcel transfer.

Doig South

Doig selected this parcel, which is adjacent to the Doig main present-day Reserve (IR 206) and which is a location where members can continue to practice their treaty rights or further expand their community uses close to home.

Main Stakeholder Interest: Access

Engagement Status: Public comment period for Doig South is closed.

Table: Stakeholder Comment & Provincial Response Summary for Doig South Parcels

Access	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure access to and through the parcel. 	There is a road allowance that meets the southern edge of the Doig South parcel.

Petersen’s Crossing and Petersen’s Crossing Top

Doig’s largest year-round settlement, this is a historical site where Doig carries out treaty rights and traditional practices. Elders know where old pack trails can be found and grave sites. This parcel has a long history including a store that supplied food and trade for furs, a day school that Doig children attended between Sept. – June, and it served as a location where Doig members resided while their replacement reserve was in transition (1948-1962). This parcel continues to have permanent residences on a site leased to Doig. [Petersen’s Crossing \(Virtual Museum of Canada\)](#)

Main Stakeholder Interest: Access

Engagement Status: Public comment period for Petersen’s Crossing parcels is closed.

Table: Stakeholder Comment & Provincial Response Summary for Petersen’s Crossing and Petersen’s Top Parcels

Access	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road access ensuring access through the parcel for other landowners and users such as for oil and gas and trapping activities; particularly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doig Road, Milligan Creek Road, and Pugh Road ensuring access to the east and south is maintained and road maintenance will not be a concern. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doig Road is carved out. Milligan Creek Road is carved out with input from Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to provide additional area at the bridge over the Beatton River for maintenance and at the hill for road realignment needs. Pugh Road is carved out. Tenure holder agreements ensuring access (e.g., to oil and gas activities) must be in place prior to parcel transfer.

Third Party Interests	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address the Beatton-Doig Community pasture grazing licence overlap with the parcel. Ensure consultation about fence lines, cattle grazing and impacts to users. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The grazing licence is being addressed through direct tenure holder engagement with the proponent and must be resolved prior to parcel transfer.
Water	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the Beatton River in or out of the parcel? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Beatton River is not a part of the Petersen’s Crossing parcel.

Big Camp

Doig has identified this as located on one of their main pack trails along the Beatton River; it was a historic gathering place with camp areas, roads and trails. The parcel is within 1 km of IR 204. Big Camp (T̓̓azuułh Saahgáe) means "Big Timber Creek." [Big Camp \(Virtual Museum of Canada\)](#)

Main Stakeholder Interest: Access

Engagement Status: Public comment period for Big Camp is closed.

Table: Stakeholder Comment & Provincial Response Summary for Big Camp Parcel

Access	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road access ensuring access through the parcel for other landowners and such as for oil and gas and trapping activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads through Big Camp are carved out ensuring access to lands beyond. Tenure holder agreements ensuring access (e.g., to oil and gas activities) must be in place prior to parcel transfer.

Halfway River First Nation TLE and Site C Land Selections

Overview

Most of Halfway River First Nation’s (Halfway) land selections for both TLE and Site C are south of their existing Indian Reserve in a contiguous package, with one smaller parcel in the Chowade River valley.

Overall stakeholder comments have been minimal, focused on ensuring that access is maintained. While there have been general comments and interests relating to the overall intent of land transfers, there have been very few public parcel-specific comments about Halfway River First Nation’s parcel selections.

As part of the stakeholder engagement process, the provincial TLE team, with the assistance of the Peace River Regional District and Upper Halfway community members, organized an open house in January 2019 at Upper Halfway to provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about the Halfway TLE and Site C parcels, and to provide feedback. The Province collected comments and questions from this and other open houses held in 2019 and developed the [Fact Sheet](#) and [Q&A Sheet](#).

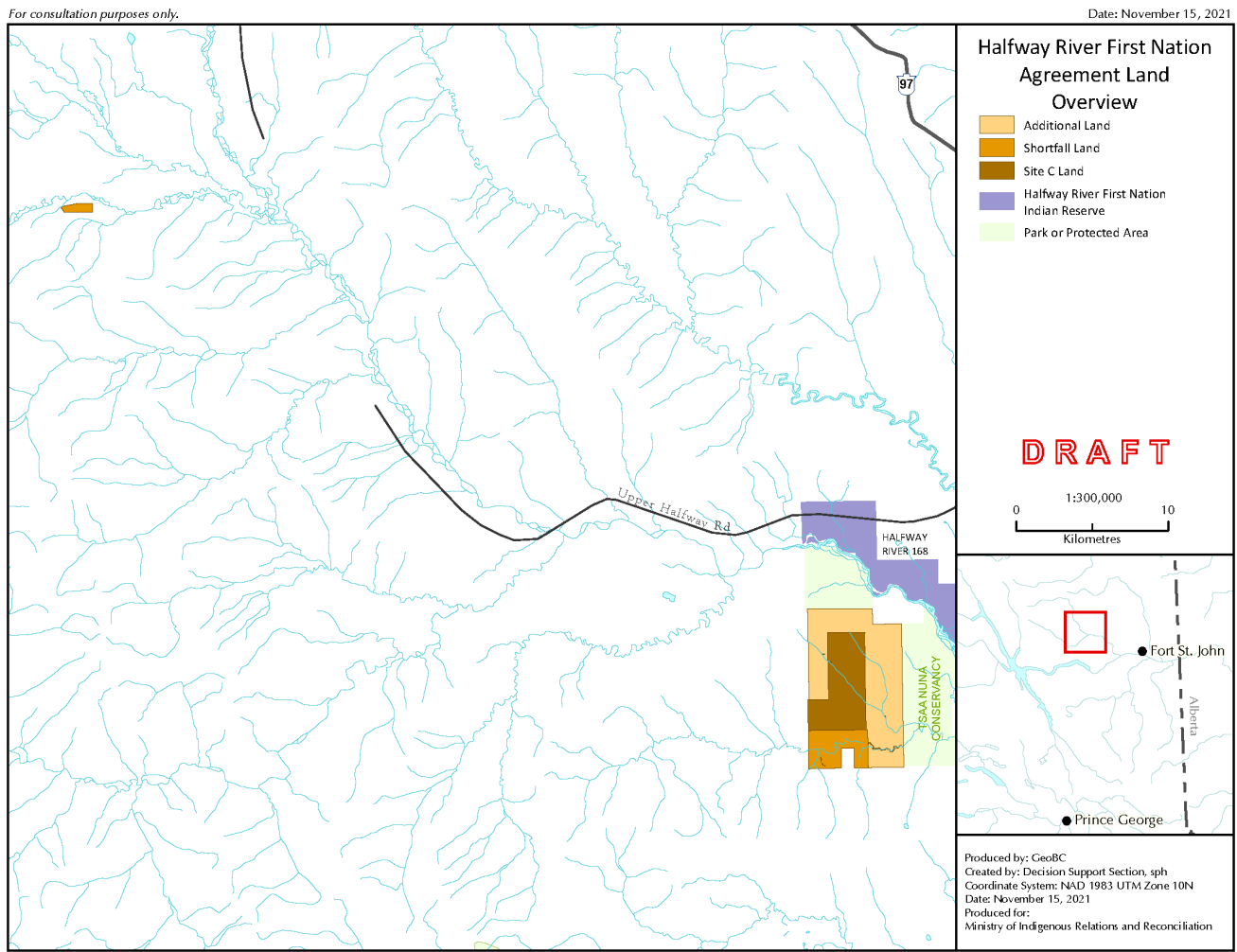


Figure 4: Halfway TLE Parcel Overview Map

Tsaa Nuna (TLE & Site C)

Made up of Halfway’s Site C and TLE selections, a portion of the TLE selection will be transferred directly to the federal government as reserve lands with surface and subsurface rights. This area was selected by Halfway for its’ cultural significance, proximity to the existing Indian Reserve and for its economic potential.

Main Stakeholder Interest: Impacts to existing Guide Outfitter businesses and access to lands beyond.

Engagement Status: Public comment period for Tsaa Nuna is closed.

Table: Stakeholder Comment & Provincial Response Summary for Tsaa Nuna Parcels

Access to lands	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring access to lands beyond. 	Access to lands beyond has been a focus for the Province; analysis has been completed and any lands beyond the parcel are deemed accessible by alternate routes or via the Halfway River.
Impacts to Guide Outfitter Businesses	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts to existing Guide Outfitter businesses. 	The Province is engaging with third parties that have overlapping interests separately. Any guide outfitters with tenures that overlap with the parcels have had opportunities to engage.

Chowade

The parcel is located south of the Chowade River; Halfway has selected this parcel due to the cultural and spiritual connection the community has to it.

Main Stakeholder Interests: General concern regarding access to lands beyond, specifically that Horseshoe Creek Road will be closed or cut off. Impacts to existing Guide Outfitter businesses were also raised as a concern.

Engagement Status: Public comment period for Chowade is closed

Table: Stakeholder Comment & Provincial Response Summary for Chowade Parcel

Access	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General concern regarding access to lands beyond, specifically that Horseshoe Creek Road may be closed or cut off. 	Horseshoe Creek Road is not part of the Chowade parcel and also provides access to lands beyond.

Impacts to Guide Outfitting Businesses	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts to existing Guide Outfitter businesses. 	<p>The Province is engaging with third parties that have overlapping interests separately. Any guide outfitters with tenures that overlap with the parcels have had opportunities to engage.</p>

West Moberly First Nations TLE Land Selections

Overview

West Moberly First Nations (West Moberly) selected 31 (Stewart Lake North is divided into shortfall and additional) parcels of land in the South Peace and Omineca regions. West Moberly selected lands for the purposes of industrial, commercial, residential, reserve expansion, utilities, conservation, cultural and protection.

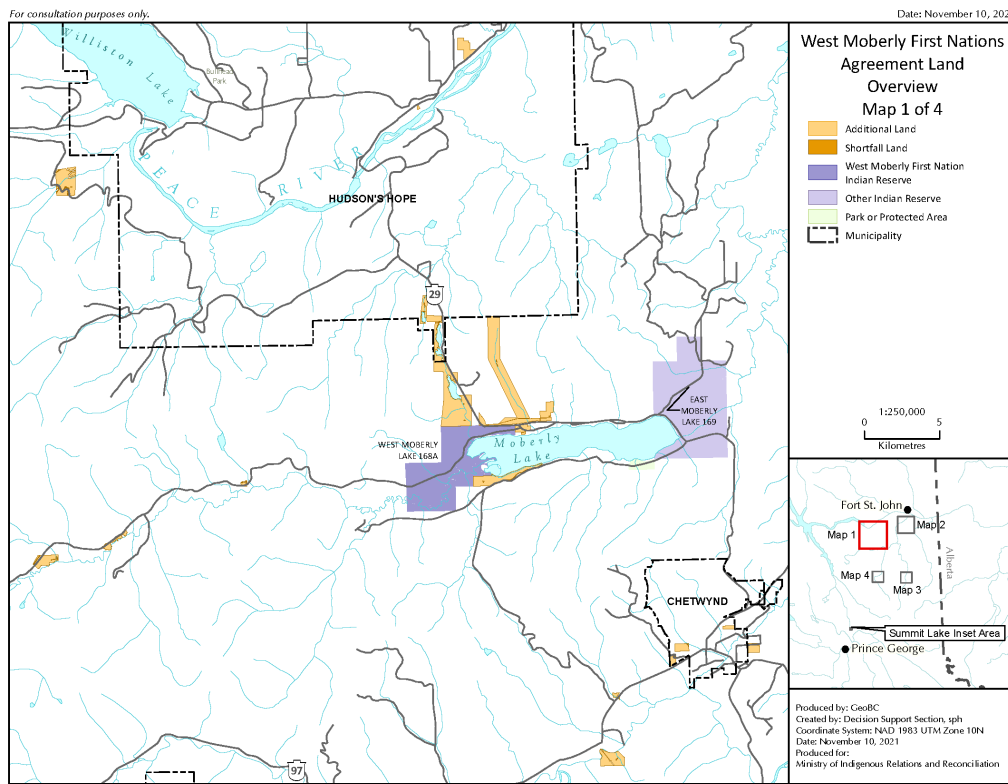


Figure 5: West Moberly TLE Parcel Overview Map 1

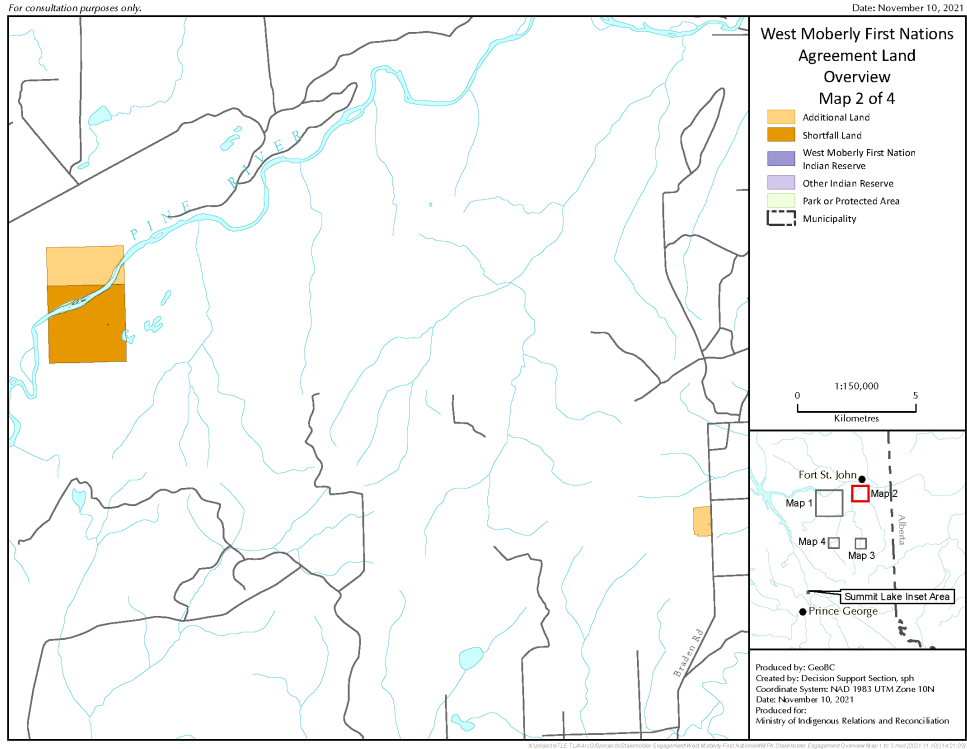


Figure 6: West Moberly TLE Parcel Overview Map 2

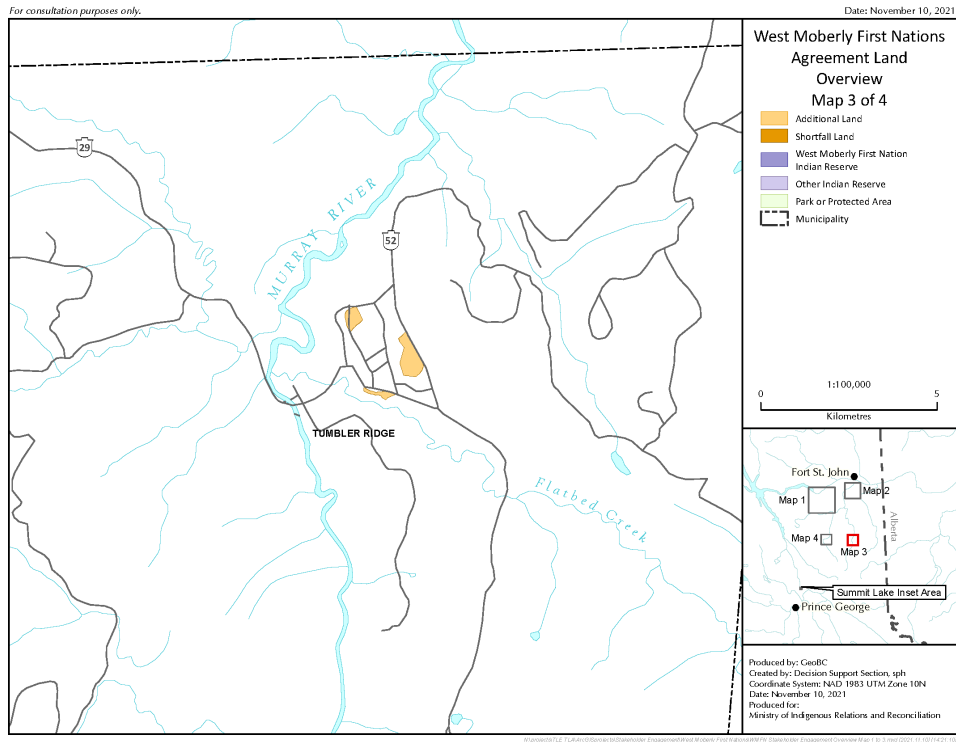


Figure 7: West Moberly TLE Parcel Overview Map 3

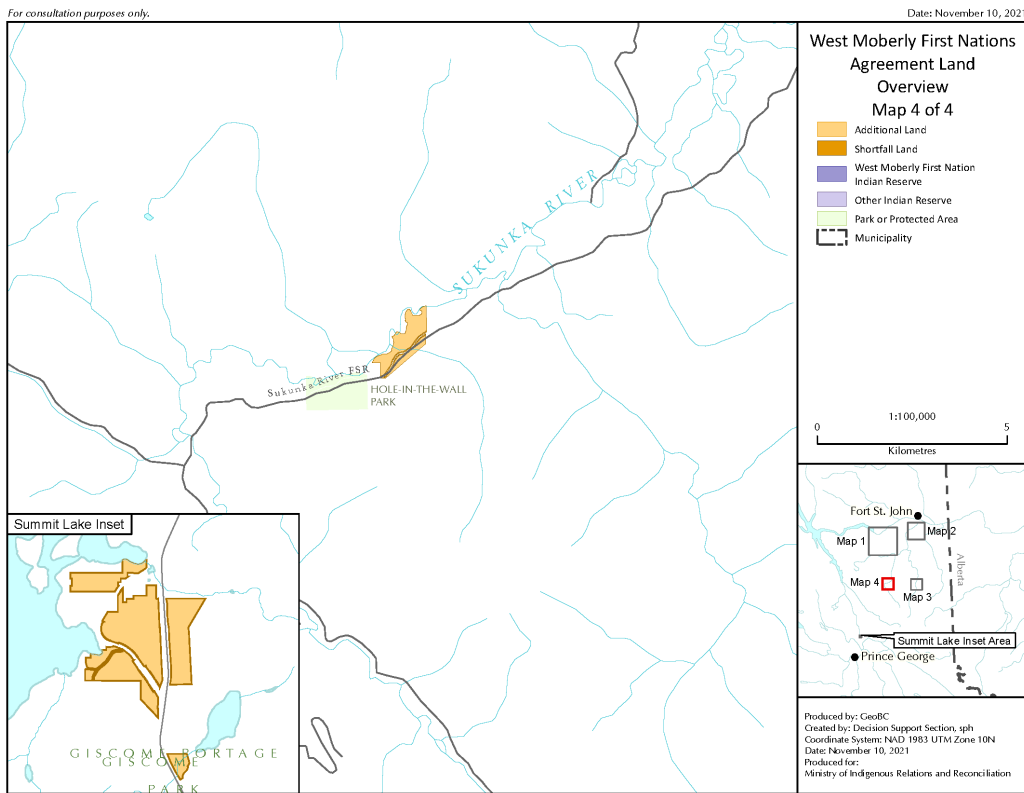


Figure 8: West Moberly TLE Parcel Overview Map 4

Engagement on West Moberly First Nations parcels started in early 2019. The engagement has now concluded, and the parties are working to finalize West Moberly and Halfway River First Nations Treaty Land Entitlement Settlement and Lands Agreements.

Cabin 1,2,3

These parcels are located west of Moberly Lake. West Moberly has selected these parcels for the purposes of cultural/protection/other. West Moberly has requested these three parcels are transferred as additions to reserve, and will include surface rights only.

Engagement Status: Public comment period for Cabin 1,2,3 parcels is closed.

Table: Stakeholder Comment & Provincial Response Summary for Cabin 1,2,3 Parcels

Topic Access to lands beyond	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
Require access to lands beyond to continue operations.	The Upper Moberly Lake Rd will remain under provincial jurisdiction to allow continued access through the parcel.

Cameron Lakes, Hidden Lake and Three Lakes

These parcels are north of West Moberly’s IR on Moberly Lake. These parcels were selected by West Moberly for cultural; protection/conservation and that the lands be transferred as additions to reserve, with surface rights only.

Status of Engagement: Public comment period for Cameron Lakes, Hidden Lake and Three Lakes is closed.

Table: Stakeholder Comment & Provincial Response Summary for Cameron Lakes, Hidden Lake and Three Lakes Parcels

Topic School District 60 children’s camp and associated trails; Day use at Cameron Lake	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
School District 60 children’s camp has been on the north end of Cameron Lake North since 1989, and they have made large investments in lease improvements including maintaining a trail network for outdoor education. The public and the School District are concerned that the transfer may impact their ability to continue operations and put the investments at risk.	Negotiations will be occurring between School District 60, West Moberly First Nations and the Federal Government of Canada for federal equivalent authorizations associated with these interests. The federal equivalent tenures must be agreed upon by all parties before the transfer of the lands overlapping the School District 60s interests can occur.
Will the public still be able to access Cameron Lakes for day use?	Cameron Lakes will still be available for day use. The Hudson’s Hope campsite is not included in West Moberly’s TLE selection and the province has negotiated additional public access to South Cameron Lake and Hidden Lake.

Chetwynd Parcels (Chetwynd Northeast, Chetwynd East, Chetwynd West and Chetwynd Southwest)

These parcels are Crown lands in the District of Chetwynd, West Moberly selected the northeast parcel for industrial-general, east for residential, and the west and southwest parcels for commercial/residential purposes. West Moberly has requested these lands be transferred as additions to reserve and will include surface rights only.

Status of Engagement: Public comment period for Chetwynd parcels is closed.

Table: Stakeholder Comment & Provincial Response Summary for Chetwynd Parcels

Topic Access to the lands being transferred	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
How can industry use or access these lands?	After the transfer, if industry would like to do business or a project on lands owned by the First Nations or lands held in trust for the Nations by the federal government, they would need to work with the individual First Nation or their representatives to receive permission to use/access the lands.
Will there be any changes in the general public's rights to use and access to and through these selected lands?	After the signing of the agreements, if the public wants to access these lands, they should do so only with the permission of the First Nation. The Province will be retaining established corridors through parcels that access lands beyond.
Topic Tax Implications	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
If the lands are turned into reserve will the First Nations need to pay taxes to the District of Chetwynd?	The lands that are to be transferred as additions to reserve will not be subject to municipal or provincial taxes as they would be under federal jurisdiction; however, the First Nations may wish to explore service agreements with the municipality for things such as water, sewage, garbage and recycling.
Would those businesses on the reserve lands be subject to charge taxes on gas, groceries, alcohol, cigarettes, general merchandise and sale, vehicles and equipment sale?	A business located on a reserve that does not qualify as a small supplier, including those owned by a First Nation or one of its members, must register for GST/HST and collect and remit any tax payable on all taxable sales.
Topic Status of Governance of Lands	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
Are the lands currently governed by the First Nation or the Province?	The lands are still governed by the Province until the agreements are signed, then the lands will be held in trust until the transfer occurs.

Topic Recreational Trails	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
How will the transfer of these land affect the recreational trails that are overlapped or adjacent to the parcels?	The District of Chetwynd has expressed that they are not concerned regarding the impacts to recreational trails, they are willing to work around the TLE parcels.

Dokkie Parcels (Dokkie North and Dokkie South)

Vacant Crown lands in the Dokkie area, west of Chetwynd. Dokkie North was selected by West Moberly for highest and best use, potential economic development; Dokkie South was selected for cultural; protections/conservation. West Moberly requested that these lands be transferred to them as additions to reserve and will include surface rights only.

Engagement Status: Public comment period for Dokkie parcels is closed.

Main Interest: No comments were received

Gething Parcel

This parcel encompasses the Gething recreational site. It was selected by West Moberly for Cultural; protections/conservation purposes. West Moberly has selected this parcel as additions to reserve and will include surface rights only.

Engagement Status: Public comment period for Gething parcel is closed.

Table: Stakeholder Comment & Provincial Response Summary for Gething Parcel

Topic Access	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
Will there be access beyond these parcels after the transfer of lands?	All corridors that provide access to lands beyond have been excluded from the parcel.

Hole in the Wall Parcel

Crown lands to the northeast of the Hole in the Wall Provincial Park. This parcel was selected by West Moberly for cultural; protections/conservation as an addition to reserve parcel with surface rights only.

Engagement Status: Public comment period for Hole in the Wall parcel is closed.

Table: Stakeholder Comment & Provincial Response Summary for Hole in the Wall Parcel

Topic Access	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
Will access be maintained through the parcel?	The FSR is being excluded from the parcel and remains under provincial jurisdiction to provide continued access to lands beyond.
Topic Protection of Water Feature	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
There is an important water feature adjacent to this parcel will this be protected?	The water feature is not included in West Moberly First Nations TLE parcel. The water feature will remain protected by the Hole in the Wall Provincial Park.
Topic Water Quality	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
Will there be measures in place to protect the water quality of the Sukunka River?	West Moberly's end use is cultural, conservation and protection, so no future development is anticipated. As this parcel is deemed to become reserve lands it will be protected by Federal legislation if any future development is proposed.

Hudson’s Hope Parcels (Hudson’s Hope Industrial, Hudson’s Hope School)

Crown lands in the District of Hudson’s Hope, selected by West Moberly as additions to reserve (surface rights only) for commercial/residential purposes.

Engagement Status: Public comment period for Hudson’s Hope parcels is closed.

Table: Stakeholder Comment & Provincial Response Summary for Hudson’s Hope Parcels

Topic	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
What will be the end use of these parcels in Hudson’s Hope?	West Moberly has agreed to work with the District to determine the best end use of the parcels.

Topic	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
What are the tax implications for the District?	The lands that are to be transferred as additions to reserve will not be subject to municipal or provincial taxes as they would be under federal authority. However, the First Nations may wish to explore service agreements with the municipality for things such as water, sewage, garbage and recycling.

North Moberly Lake Parcels (Jim’s Triangle, George Weeksa, Moberly Lake Northshore)

Vacant Crown lands north of Moberly Lake, Jim’s Triangle was selected for utilities; Moberly Lake Northshore were selected for residential/community & institutional; protection/conservation; and George Weeksa was selected for cultural; protections/conservation. West Moberly has requested these lands as additions to reserve and will include surface rights only.

West Moberly conducted a Community Stakeholder meeting at Moberly Lake in August 2019.

Engagement Status: Public comment period for North Moberly Lake parcels is closed.

Table: Stakeholder Comment & Provincial Response Summary for North Moberly Lake Parcels

Topic Access	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
Ensure access beyond the parcels to Crown lands and to the shoreline.	The Province is doing studies to ensure the public and residents have continued access to Moberly Lake and the Crown lands beyond the TLE and Site C parcels.
There is a trail network north of the highway, will this transfer prevent access to those trails?	The Province will have discussions with West Moberly First Nations and Sauteau First Nations regarding the trail network in the interest of continued public use and enjoyment.
Topic Municipal and Recreational Development	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
How will this agreement impact future municipal or recreational development around Moberly Lake? How does it impact any future infrastructure for services such as drinking water, wastewater, emergency response, etc. Does it effectively limit any expansion in future recreational infrastructure (boat launches, parks, etc.)?	The Province will explore the intentions of the Nations in the future development of the community. Any infrastructure that would benefit the residents of Moberly Lake would also benefit the First Nations communities’ such as green space, fire services, natural gas, healthcare, and retail services. West Moberly and Sauteau First Nations are already heavily invested in

	the Moberly Lake community and have provided lands for retail, commercial development, and support for the local fire department. There are opportunities for everyone to work together for the interests of the whole community.
Topic Water Quality and Lake Health	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
Has any consideration been given to retaining appropriate riparian buffers around the lake, its tributaries and other waterbodies as Crown land, municipal environmental reserve or another appropriate mechanism to protect such areas from development and ensuring water quality / lake health?	The shoreline will remain Provincial jurisdiction and all application for new development on the lands to be transferred, both fee simple and Federal Indian Reserve lands, will be reviewed and approved by Crown staff with due consideration for environmental impacts.

Moberly Lake Golf Course

This parcel is north of Moberly Lake, West Moberly has a crown land lease over this parcel for the operation as a golf course. This parcel is selected as fee simple lands (surface rights only) for the purpose of commercial.

West Moberly conducted a Community Stakeholder meeting at Moberly Lake in August 2019.

Main Stakeholder Interest: No comments were received

Engagement Status: Public comment period for Moberly Lake Golf Course parcel is closed.

Moberly Lake Parcels (Moberly Lake South Shore)

These lands are adjacent to Moberly Lake and was selected by West Moberly as additions to reserve, surface rights only, the rationale for these lands is Protection/Conservation.

West Moberly conducted a Community Stakeholder meeting at Moberly Lake in August 2019.

Engagement Status: Public comment period for Moberly Lake Southshore parcel is closed.

Table: Stakeholder Comment & Provincial Response Summary for Moberly Lake Southshore Parcel

Topic Access	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
There is a private property which is accessed by a driveway that is overlapped by West Moberly's selection.	In light of the private driveway, West Moberly has requested that we amend the Southshore parcel to exclude the driveway to the private property as well as the lands south of the driveway.

There are trails in the area that overlap West Moberly's selection.	The trails that overlap with West Moberly's selection are remanence of the Scouts Canada Land Act lease. These trails were not permitted through any authorizations or designations and therefore there are no pre-existing rights to be addressed.
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Stewart Lake Parcels (Stewart Lake North and Stewart Lake East)

The southern 2/3rds of the Stewart Lake North parcel were selected by West Moberly as shortfall, it will be transferred directly to the federal government as reserve lands with surface and subsurface rights. The top 1/3rd of the parcel is additions to reserve (surface rights only) selected for the purpose of industrial-oil and gas; protection/conservation. Stewart Lake East was selected as ATR lands for the purpose of industrial-general.

Engagement Status: Public comment period for Stewart Lake parcels is closed.

Table: Stakeholder Comment & Provincial Response Summary for Stewart Lake Parcels

Topic Pine Dunes	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
Will this allow the First Nations to mine gravel and sand from the Pine Dunes?	West Moberly has stated that they are interested in conserving and protecting the portion of the Pine Dunes that is overlapped by their tenure.
Topic Community Pasture (East)	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
What are the effects to the adjacent community pasture?	The Province is completing an impact assessment on the Grazing Licence and the results will be shared with the tenure holders.

Summit Lake Parcels (Summit Lake 1,2,3,4,5)

Crown lands east of Summit Lake is to transfer as fee-simple lands. Parcel 1 was selected for residential/utilities; Parcel 2 highest and best use; Parcel 3 commercial; residential; Parcel 4 for commercial; Industrial-oil and gas; Parcel 5 for commercial purposes.

Engagement Status: Public comment period for Summit Lake parcels is closed.

Table: Stakeholder Comment & Provincial Response Summary for Summit Lake Parcels

Topic Access	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
How will the public access the shoreline?	West Moberly has reduced their parcels and removed approximately 50% of their shoreline selections from their original request. West Moberly has one selection that has shoreline access if anyone would like to use this land, they should seek permission from West Moberly as the new private property owner.
Continued use and access to the area for recreational purposes including snowshoeing, snowmobiling, and hiking is an important consideration; public lands provide important and unique recreation opportunities for the surrounding communities.	There will be continued and sufficient opportunities for recreation on Crown lands. Anyone who wishes to continue to use the private parcels after the transfer should request access from West Moberly First Nations as the new owners of the lands.
There are undesignated roads that are access to shoreline private properties.	Constructed access corridors have been excluded from the parcels to maintain existing access.
Topic Land Designation, Rules and Regulations	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
Maintain the same standard of development on Federal Indian Reserve as on provincial Crown land.	In response to the feedback received from stakeholders, West Moberly First Nation has changed their request from making these parcels “Additions to Reserves” to fee-simple parcels. Therefore, the lands will be subject to local and provincial standards of development.
Maintain and respect the Lakeshore Development Guidelines.	These lands have been selected as fee-simple lands and West Moberly First Nations will have to adhere to the same guidelines as any other private property owner.
Compliance to Official Community plan and stewardship initiatives	West Moberly First Nation indicated during the community meeting that they are willing to comply with the Official Community Plan. As owners of fee simple lands, they will need to follow local, regional and provincial laws and regulations.
Will all the bylaws, Official Community Plans and other rules and regulations that apply to current resident owners of land in the area be applicable to the transferred lands?	West Moberly has selected these parcels to be transferred as fee-simple lands so they will be required to abide by all rules and regulations that other private property owners adhere to.

What special rights and privileges might be associated with the transferred lands?	The parcels are being transferred as fee-simple lands and therefore West Moberly will have the same rights and responsibilities as other private property owners.
Is any of the land in question being transferred into Reserve Land status?	No, not at this time. First Nations can apply to the Federal Government to transfer any lands that they own to reserve lands.
Who will regulate the use of these lands in the future?	The Province will continue to regulate the lands after the transfer to West Moberly First Nations.
Crown Lands are a public asset and should be preserved for the use of all Canadians.	Crown Land is available to the public for many different purposes – from industry to recreation and research. The Province may also sell Crown Land for a variety of purposes.
Topic Infrastructure	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
Consider highly congested areas, including boat launch; forecast increased traffic due to the transfer of lands.	West Moberly has worked with Regional District of Fraser-Fort George to create additional parking and ensure roads have adequate exclusion widths for maintenance and improvements.
How will you address future needs to update, expand and/or maintain sewer collection infrastructure?	Exclusion widths of the sewage corridors were discussed with the Regional District to ensure adequate room for maintenance and expansion.
Consider the capacity for water supply and sewage disposal (adhere to restrictions and limitations for new development)	West Moberly First Nations will have to apply for the use of water and sewage from the local supplier, just like any other private property owner.
Additional parking will be needed to fulfill current and future needs.	In response to the Regional District's request, West Moberly removed an additional parcel of land from Summit Lake 1 for future expansion of the parking lot.
Topic Land Values and Taxes	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
Property owners made investment decisions based on the understanding that the Crown land would remain in perpetuity.	The Province acknowledges property owners' concerns regarding property value. However, all Crown land can be subject to dispositions including leased, licenced, and sold via Crown grant.

Local governments could lose tax revenues.	Currently the local government is not receiving taxes from the lands selected by West Moberly and Sauteau First Nations in Summit Lake. However, if the transfers go forward the First Nations will be purchasing the lands and will be required to pay property taxes as a fee-simple owner.
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Tumbler Ridge Parcels (Tumbler Ridge 100 acre Wood, Tumbler Ridge East, Tumbler Ridge South)

Vacant Crown lands in the District of Tumbler Ridge selected as ATR Additional lands. 100 acre was selected for commercial; residential purposes; East parcel for commercial/residential/industrial and the south parcel for commercial purposes.

Engagement Status: Public comment period for Tumbler Ridge parcels is closed.

Table: Stakeholder Comment & Provincial Response Summary for Tumbler Ridge Parcels

Topic Recreational Trails	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of West Moberly’s selections is directly adjacent to community trails, will there be any issues for expanding those trails (not on West Moberly’s parcel)? 	As long as the trails do not trespass onto West Moberly’s selected parcels there should be no issue with the expansion of the community trails.
Topic Murray River Boat Launch	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Murray River boat launch needs an expansion. 	West Moberly and the District of Tumbler Ridge agreed to work together to develop a cohesive development plan for the TLE parcels.
Topic Municipal Expansion	
Stakeholder Comments	Provincial Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A lot of the available Crown lands in Tumbler Ridge has been selected by West Moberly and Sauteau First Nations, how will Tumbler Ridge be able to continue to expand? 	West Moberly and the District of Tumbler Ridge agreed to work together to develop a cohesive development plan for the TLE parcels.

Conclusion

Settling the Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) settlement claim with Halfway and West Moberly, Blueberry and Doig, Saulteau First Nations, and Canada addresses a legal obligation, and helps advance reconciliation by correcting an imbalance that has been in place since the Treaty was first signed between 1899 and 1914. Transferring lands for Site C Lands Agreements is an accommodation for the Site C Clean Energy project.

With this report the Province concludes parcel-wide consultation and stakeholder engagement for TLE with Halfway River, West Moberly, Blueberry River, and Doig River and for Halfway River's Site C parcels. The collected feedback was considered and helped the parties to amend the initial transfer proposals to address stakeholder interests. The Province supports the transfer of the proposed land selections, subject to meeting all conditions for parcels that are set out in the TLE Lands Agreements.

As a next step the parties will be finalizing the Settlement and Lands Agreements. The Land Transfer Process will then proceed with approval to transfer and implementation – conditional on provisions in the Lands agreements. For some parcel-specific features of public interest, engagement is to continue, such as the Halfway River Recreation Trail through Blueberry River First Nations' Pink Mountain selection.

Lessons Learned

Since 2017 the Province has engaged with multiple stakeholders about land transfers in the Northeast. By listening to stakeholders' interests regarding process, we have been able to adjust and improve how the Province and stakeholders worked together. This included setting up the Northeast Roundtable and working with key stakeholders over the past few years.

The province collected stakeholder interests together with information provided by First Nations, provincial agency reviews and Canada. The provincial team has also met with local governments and held numerous meetings and open houses to hear from stakeholders. The substantive engagement has helped to inform how and what parcels will transfer.

What worked well

- Going out to the local rural community halls to provide opportunities close to where the parcels are located and hearing from rural nearby residents.
 - Adapting timelines and scheduling based on what we heard from local government, northeast roundtable, and other stakeholders
 - Northeast Roundtable meetings provided opportunity for regular updates
 - Having representatives from First Nations communities attend meetings.
 - Allowing multiple ways of collecting comments including in-person feedback, comment forms, website, Q&A format at open houses
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Stakeholders indicated that maps are an essential tool to communicate. Therefore, maps have been made easily accessible on the govTogetherBC website. The maps have been updated to show the current land selection and

changes made prior to agreement signing. For example, the maps show where roads have been excluded from parcels.

The province also heard from stakeholders that they would like to clearly understand how their feedback was considered and what changes have been made to parcels and what additional conditions have been placed on the transfer. To provide this information this stakeholder report lists specific mitigation measures how stakeholder interests were considered in the land transfer for each parcel.

What's coming next?

Finalizing the TLE Settlement and Lands Agreements is not the end of the land transfer process. The work to transfer the lands will take place during the 10-year implementation period, after the Agreement signing, and will include a requirement to meet conditions identified in the Lands Agreements prior to lands transferring.

Stakeholder engagement may continue where there are conditions identified in the Lands Agreements for site-specific interests that require further engagement prior to land transfers being completed.

Future Engagement on Northeast Land Transfers

Land selections proposed for some land transfers are at different stages in the Land Transfer Process. The Province will initiate engagement with stakeholders when new land selections are identified by First Nations. The Province will also continue with engagements that are already underway but are in an earlier stage of engagement.

Saulteau First Nations TLE and Site C Land Selections

Saulteau First Nations public engagement is currently underway. Visit the govTogetherBC website to access materials and view the parcels selected by Saulteau First Nations for both Treaty Land Entitlement and the Site C Lands Agreement.

Doig River First Nation Site C Land Selections

Doig River First Nation has not yet identified their Site C land selections. Public engagement will be undertaken after Doig River First Nation has provided their selections to the Province. The Province will post any new parcel information as part of future engagements to the govTogetherBC website.