



INFORMATION PACKAGE

Treaty Land Entitlement and Site C
Agreement Land Transfers in Northeast B.C.

Part 1: Land Transfer Fact Sheet

June 2026

This fact sheet is [Part 1](#) of the Land Transfer Information Package and provides general information about the land transfer process for Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) and Site C Land Agreements to support engagement with interested parties, including tenure holders and the public. Originally published in March 2020, this fact sheet has been updated in June 2026 to reflect the latest updates on land transfer work.

See [Part 2: Land Transfers in Northeast B.C. Questions & Answers](#) for more detailed information.

About Treaty 8

Treaty 8 is one of the 11 historic numbered treaties in Canada and the only one of the numbered treaties signed with First Nations in British Columbia (B.C.). Eight First Nations communities in northeast B.C. are signatories to Treaty 8: Blueberry River, Doig River, Fort Nelson, Halfway River, McLeod Lake, Prophet River, Saulteau, and West Moberly First Nations.

Treaty 8 provides for reserve land and sets out the constitutionally protected hunting, fishing and trapping rights of each First Nation within Treaty 8 territory. The majority of Treaty 8 Nations did not receive all the reserve lands promised to them at the time the treaty was signed.

The provincial government's goal is to help right this long-standing injustice and move reconciliation forward with Treaty 8 First Nations — fairly and justly — in a way that honours the Treaty and responds to their communities' needs. The Province is working to transfer lands owed to Treaty 8 First Nations for more than 100 years through signed Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Settlement and Lands Agreements. The lands to be transferred are only being selected from Crown lands and not from privately owned fee-simple lands. Five Treaty 8 First Nations in B.C. (Doig River, Blueberry River, Halfway River and West Moberly First Nations) have signed TLE Settlement and Lands Agreements.

The Province is also working to transfer Crown lands to accommodate for the impacts of the Site C project on Treaty 8 First Nations' treaty rights through signed Site C Land Agreements.

Reconciliation

As part of its work to create true and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in B.C., the provincial government is implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and adopting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action.

In November 2019, B.C. became the first jurisdiction in Canada to pass legislation to implement the UN Declaration. The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act is creating a path forward to respecting the human rights of Indigenous Peoples, while introducing better transparency, predictability and accountability in Indigenous-provincial relationships.

Part of reconciliation is building government-to-government relationships with Indigenous Peoples that are based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation and partnership.

Transferring lands to settle Treaty Land Entitlement and accommodating for the adverse impacts of Site C by making lands available and other measures, are examples of this approach.

Treaty Rights

Aboriginal Peoples have a unique legal status recognized under Section 35 of the Constitution Act of Canada, 1982.

In the case of Treaty 8 First Nations, these rights include the right to hunt, trap and fish in all areas within Treaty 8, and way of life. They also include the rights to reserve lands.

About Land Transfers in Northeast B.C.

The Province is working with Treaty 8 First Nations in northeast B.C. to transfer Crown land under two types of signed agreements:

- Treaty Land Entitlement Settlement (to settle a historic claim)
- Site C Land Agreements (to accommodate for the impacts of Site C)

Private lands are not part of land transfers. Lands are only being selected from Crown Lands. Some of the lands will be transferred to Canada as reserve and some lands will transfer to First Nations as fee simple (private) lands.

Lands proposed for transfer in fee simple or to Canada move through several stages, from identifying new parcels to finalizing ownership.

The process takes time, particularly when new parcels are proposed. Each stage involves identifying parcels, completing detailed agency reviews, consulting with First Nations, and considering feedback from tenure holders, local governments, interested parties, and the public.

For some parcels, reviews, consultation and public engagement are complete, and these parcels have entered the implementation phase and are progressing toward transfer.

Total Quantum of Land Transfers

The Province expects the total amount of land transferred for both Treaty Land Entitlement and Site C Land Agreements to be approximately 65,000 hectares of Crown land. Final decisions on any newly identified Crown land parcels will consider input from interested parties.

Treaty Land Entitlement

• Historic Treaty Settlement

- Shortfall lands: owed for over 100 years as part of Treaty No. 8 for Federal Reserve creation.
- Additional lands: sold at fair market value as part of reconciliation for Treaty Land Entitlement as fee simple (private) reserve land.

Site C Land Agreements

• Accommodation for project impacts

- Lands to accommodate for the adverse impacts of the Site C project to Treaty 8 rights.
- Lands will be transferred in fee simple (private) and the First Nations may apply to have some of their fee simple lands added to existing reserve land or created as new reserve.

Purpose of Treaty Land Entitlement

Background

Treaty Land Entitlement is a specific claim for land that should have been provided to Treaty 8 First Nations after Treaty 8 was signed, between 1899 and 1914.

Treaty land was allocated on a per-family or person basis, but many members were not counted by the Crown when the survey was conducted.

As a result, many First Nations did not receive all the reserve land they were owed.

Treaty Land Entitlement is intended to help right this historic wrong by providing reserve land to those First Nations that have been owed additional land since the date of first survey (early 1900s).

The Province has signed agreements with five First Nations and the federal government to transfer provincial Crown lands to Canada as reserve land or as provincial fee simple (private) land. Treaty Land Entitlement settlement in B.C. is only with these Treaty 8 First Nations.

The Treaty Land Entitlement settlement releases the federal and provincial governments from the legal claim arising from the shortfall in reserve land that should have been provided

Each First Nation's Treaty Land Entitlement Lands Agreement sets out the process for transferring lands and includes some parcels that have already undergone engagement with interested parties, including the public.

Purpose of Site C Land Agreements

Background

Site C – renamed in May 2026 to the John Horgan Dam and Generating Station – is the third dam and hydroelectric generating station to be constructed on the Peace River in northeast B.C. The reservoir is now known as Nááchę mege (Dreamer Lake), a name put forward by Doig River First Nation and Blueberry River First Nations to reflect the deep history, language and cultural connections Indigenous Peoples have to the region and the Peace River.

In 2013-2014, the provincial and federal governments established a Joint Review Panel that examined the project's impacts on First Nations and held a public hearing on the project. The Joint Review Panel report found that the Site C project would "significantly affect the current use of land and resources for traditional purposes by Aboriginal peoples..." (Joint Review Panel Report, May 1, 2014)

Site C Land Agreements

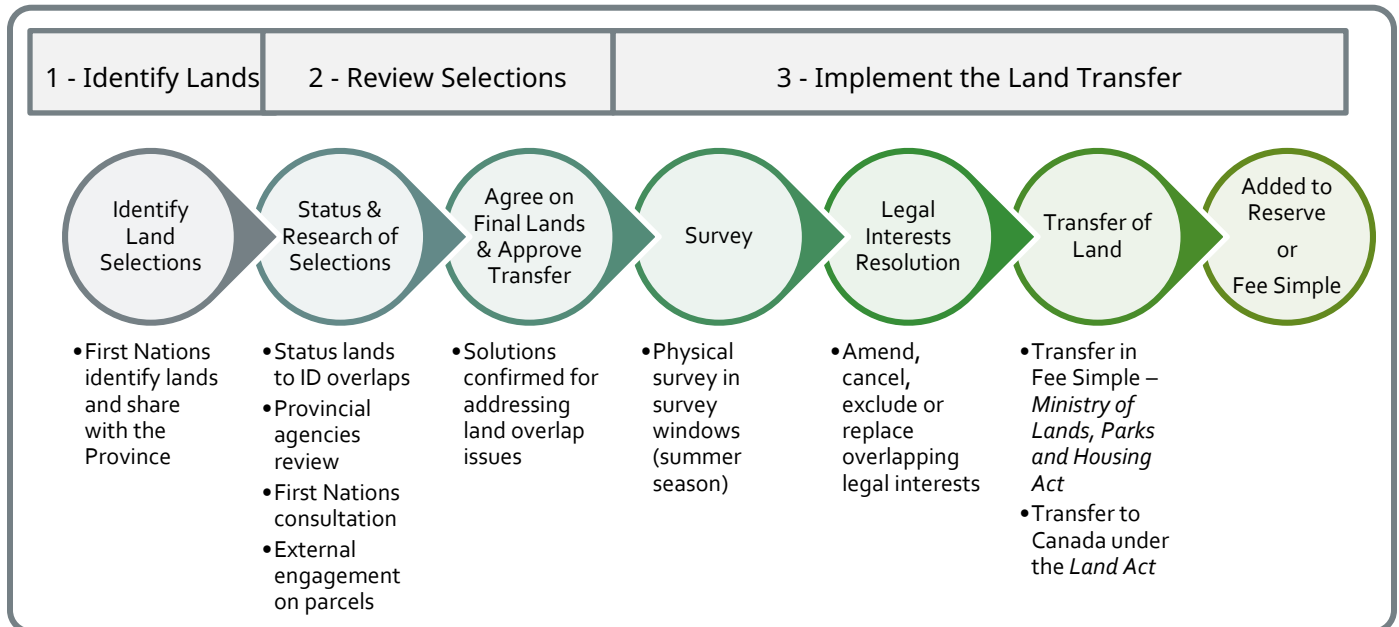
The Province, BC Hydro and some Treaty 8 First Nations have signed Site C Land Agreements that commit to transferring Crown land to compensate First Nations for the impacts of the Site C project on their treaty rights.

The Joint Review Panel determined that Site C will have adverse impacts to the hunting, fishing and trapping rights of some Treaty 8

Currently, Doig River, Halfway River, Prophet River, Sauteau and West Moberly First Nations and McLeod Lake Indian Band have signed Site C Land Agreements. Blueberry River First Nations is also eligible for Site C Land Agreements.

The Land Transfer Process

The following diagram depicts the provincial Land Transfer Process in three main stages, each with a series of steps, of which the lands are in various stages.



Treaty Land Entitlement Agreements include parcel maps for land selections that have already gone through public engagement. Engagement on these selections is now closed.

The parcels are in different stages of implementation: some have been transferred, others are close to transfer, and some are still in early steps, such as surveying.

Under West Moberly First Nations' TLE Agreement, a portion of the land quantum (amount) promised, was not yet selected at the time of the Agreement. This remaining amount of land to be selected is referred to in the Agreement as "Outstanding Lands." West Moberly is now identifying new parcels to fulfill this commitment and has identified 13 new parcels to date.

Interested Parties Engagement

The Province is engaging with a range of interested parties including tenure holders, local governments, interest groups, and the public to gather input on newly proposed land transfers.

To support meaningful engagement, the Province hosts focused group meetings and open houses for parcels undergoing active engagement.

Regular updates on land transfers are also shared through forums such as the Northeast Roundtable, which includes representatives from local governments, First Nations, industry, and public interest groups. This forum plays a key role in sharing information and building mutual understanding.

Tenure-related matters are addressed separately from public engagement.

Final decisions on new parcels will only be made once an approach to resolving overlapping tenures is established and stakeholder concerns have been reviewed.

Throughout the land transfer process, the Province remains committed to transparency and keeping interested parties informed.

This includes reporting on final decisions and explaining how interested parties' input was considered.

Feedback is carefully considered alongside other relevant factors, such as First Nations rights, history and cultural practices, ecological considerations and potential economic impacts.

In response to concerns raised during external engagement, the Province and First Nations may adjust proposed parcels to reflect community input.

For parcels where engagement has concluded, the Province publishes a "What We Heard" report summarizing feedback and demonstrating how it has informed decision-making.

Engagement also helps build shared understanding of TLE and Site C Land Agreements, contributing to broader reconciliation efforts.

Engagement activities typically occur during Stage 2 of the land transfer process, and timelines may vary depending on the specific parcels. The overall goal is to ensure that land transfers are informed by interested parties' input, support reconciliation, and reflect a balanced consideration of all interests.

Commitment to Engagement

The Province commits to:

- Listen carefully to what people share
- Keep track of feedback received
- Consider everyone's interests
- Share how input was considered
- Share feedback with decision-makers

How to provide feedback

Members of the public are invited to provide written comments about how they may be impacted by proposed land transfers for both TLE settlements and Site C Land Agreements.

Comments may be submitted by letter or email to:

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
100-10003 110th Avenue
Fort St. John, BC V1J 6M7
E-mail: MIRR.Northeast@gov.bc.ca

How will feedback be considered?

The Province will compile feedback in a detailed record for parcels that are in active engagement (Phase 2 of the Land Transfer Process), which will be shared with decision makers for their consideration.

