



## INFORMATION PACKAGE

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

### Part 2: Questions & Answers

June 2026



## Introduction

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This Q&A is [Part 2](#) of the Land Transfer Information Package and is not a stand-alone document. See [Part 1: Fact Sheet for an overview of the Land Transfers in Northeast B.C.](#)

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) is sharing information and building understanding about land transfers in northeast B.C. Ministry staff provide regular updates to local governments and to the Northeast Roundtable, which includes representatives from the Province, local governments, industry, public interest groups, and First Nations.

This Q&A was first published in March 2020 to answer common questions from those discussions and was updated in June 2026 to reflect the latest information on land transfers.

## Land Transfers in Northeast B.C. — Questions & Answers

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### What types of land transfer agreements are signed by the Province and Treaty 8 First Nations?

- The Government of British Columbia (the Province) has signed two types of land transfer agreements with Treaty 8 First Nations:
  - Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Settlement Agreements – to fulfill a promise to transfer lands owed from a treaty signed more than 100 years ago.
  - Site C Tripartite Land Agreements (Site C Land Agreements) – to accommodate First Nations impacted by the Site C dam, which was renamed the John Horgan Dam and Generating Station in May 2026.

### What are Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Settlement and Lands Agreements?

- Treaty Land Entitlements (TLE) settlement agreements are settlements of specific claims against the federal government made by First Nations who are signatories to Treaty 8, which was signed between First Nations and the Crown more than 100 years ago.
- The federal and provincial governments are working to honour the historic treaty terms, including providing reserve land the First Nations were promised, but never received, over 100 years ago.
- The Province and the Government of Canada (Canada) have signed agreements with five Treaty 8 First Nations in northeast B.C. — Blueberry River, Doig River, Halfway River, West Moberly and Saulneau First Nations. — to settle their TLE claims and address the unfulfilled land promises.
- Fort Nelson First Nation, Prophet River First Nation, and McLeod Lake Indian Band are not part of these TLE Lands Agreements.

- McLeod Lake Indian Band joined Treaty 8 in 2000, which included the creation of reserve lands. Prophet River and Fort Nelson First Nation resolved their Treaty Land Entitlement with Canada separately, using a different process many years earlier.
- These agreements correct longstanding injustices and support reconciliation.
- The Province, the five Treaty 8 First Nations and Canada have identified Crown lands for transfer in the TLE agreements, following extensive engagement and review by provincial agencies, tenure holders, local governments, interest groups and the public.
- The TLE agreements set out a specific amount (quantum) of land that will be transferred to the First Nations. The TLE lands are transferred from Crown lands to Treaty 8 First Nations as private land (fee simple) or to Canada as reserve land(s).
- Some TLE land quantum remains unselected and new lands will need to be identified and reviewed by the Province.
- Similar TLE settlements have been successfully completed in other provinces, including Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.
- Land selections are at different stages of the transfer process.
  - Engagement has been finalized and the implementation of TLE agreement land transfers is underway for Blueberry River, Doig River, Halfway River, Saulteau, and some of West Moberly First Nations' TLE lands.
    - Read the "What We Heard from Stakeholders" report on the feedback collected during that engagement period online: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/engagement/land-transfers-in-northeast-bc>
  - For these lands, the parties are working implement the land transfers. Thirteen parcels have transferred under TLE parcels to date.
  - To fulfill the full amount (quantum) of land committed in each TLE agreement, some First Nations will still have to identify additional parcels.
  - West Moberly First Nations has not yet selected their full quantum of lands. This outstanding quantum that they need to select is called "Outstanding Lands" under their agreement. As West Moberly First Nations makes their selections of "Outstanding Lands", the parcels will undergo engagement with interested parties and the public.

## What are Site C Land Agreements?

- The Province and BC Hydro have signed agreements with several Treaty 8 First Nations to transfer Crown land to First Nations as accommodation for impacts from the Site C project on their treaty rights. These are called Site C Land Agreements or Tripartite Land Agreements (TLAs).

- Doig River, Halfway River, Prophet River, Sauleteau and West Moberly First Nations, and McLeod Lake Indian Band have signed agreements. Blueberry River First Nations is also in discussions with the Province to sign a Site C Land Agreement.
- Land selections are at different stages. Some First Nations are still identifying parcels, while others are in more advanced stages of the land transfer process.
  - Halfway River First Nation selected one TLA parcel for which engagement has been finalized. A summary of feedback is available in the “What We Heard from Stakeholders” report. The report is publicly available online: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/engagement/land-transfers-in-northeast-bc>
    - The transfer of Halfway River First Nation’s TLA selection was completed in August 2025.
  - Engagement has been finalized and implementation of Site C Agreement land transfers is underway for Sauleteau First Nations.
  - Doig River, Prophet River, West Moberly First Nations and McLeod Lake Indian Band still need to select lands (and Blueberry River First Nations, once they have a signed agreement).

### **How much land will be transferred to First Nations?**

- Approximately 65,000 hectares of land is expected to be transferred to Treaty 8 First Nations for both Treaty Land Entitlement Settlement Agreements and Site C Land Agreements.

### **How was this amount of land decided on?**

- For TLE, Canada and Treaty 8 First Nations researched to determine the amount of Shortfall Land the Treaty 8 First Nations were owed. The Province and Treaty 8 First Nations negotiated the opportunity for purchasing Additional Lands as a reconciliation measure.
- For the Site C Land Agreements, the Province assessed potential adverse impacts on Treaty 8 First Nations’ treaty rights to determine the land required for accommodation related to the Site C project.

### **What is the process to select and transfer Crown land to First Nations?**

- Any transfer of Crown lands to a First Nation is a multi-step process that begins with identifying proposed land parcels of interest.
- Treaty 8 First Nations identify (or have identified) specific parcels of Crown land that are of importance to their members.
- The proposed land parcels are only selected from Crown lands and not from privately owned fee-simple lands.

- Once lands are identified, all existing legal interests, such as overlapping tenures and licences are identified.
- The review stage is next, which includes engagement with local governments, tenure and licence holders, provincial agencies, and other interested parties.

The following outlines key stages and steps of the land transfer process:

### **Stage 1. Identify Lands for Transfer**

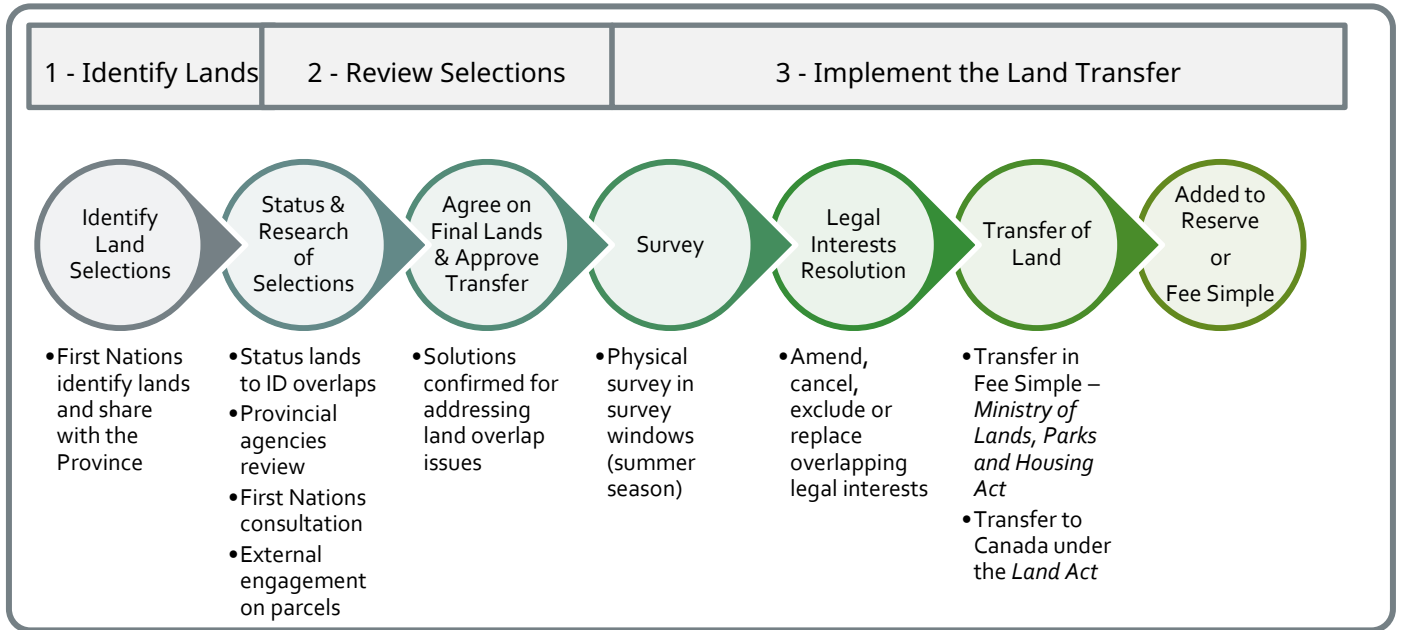
- The First Nation identifies Crown land of importance to them and their members.

### **Stage 2. Review Selections**

- The Province reviews the identified parcels to assess their current land use status and any overlapping interests. This includes:
  - Checking for existing legal interests or uses
  - Consulting with First Nations
  - Engaging with tenure holders where there are legal overlaps (e.g., authorizations, tenures), and
  - Engaging with other interested parties, including local governments and the public.
- After completing parcel reviews and considering feedback from engagement, the Province and the respective First Nation agrees on the parcels. Canada also provides approval for parcels that are transferring to Canada during this stage.

### **Stage 3. Implement the Land Transfer**

- Once parcels are determined suitable for transfer, the following steps are taken:
  - Surveying the land to formally define boundaries
  - Resolving legal interests by amending, cancelling, excluding, or replacing them as needed
  - Transferring the land:
    - Parcels are transferred as fee simple (private) by ministerial order under the *Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing Act*.
    - Parcels are transferred to Canada as Addition to Reserve (ATR) for TLE by Order-in-Council under the *Land Act*.
  - Communicating the transfers to ensure transparency, which may be shared through the govTogetherBC website, with local governments, and at the Northeast Roundtable.



### What is the current status of Treaty 8 land transfers?

- Land transfers under the TLE and Site C agreements are progressing in stages, with each parcel at a different point in the process (e.g. identification; active review involving the Province, First Nations, tenure holders, and other interested parties; survey and transfer implementation; or transferred).
- As of June 2026, 13 TLE parcels and 1 TLA parcel have been successfully transferred to Treaty 8 First Nations, with more expected in 2026 and 2027.
- The Province is engaging with local governments, tenure and licence holders, interested parties, and the public throughout the process.
- A status table is publicly available on the Northeast Land Transfers govTogether website. It indicates:
  - Parcels yet to be identified
  - Parcels under review
  - Parcels approved for transfer (in implementation)
  - Parcels that have been transferred

### How long will any land transfers take?

- Land transfers can take months to years, especially for newly identified parcels. Once parcels move into implementation, transfers typically happen more quickly.
- Because there are many parcels, completing all transfers will take time.

- The Province will continue to share regular parcel status updates through the govTogetherBC website and through communications with local government and the Northeast Roundtable.

### **Why are First Nations selecting multiple parcels, instead of one complete parcel?**

- First Nations traditionally and currently practice treaty rights throughout the Treaty 8 territory.
- First Nations have selected land parcels in areas of importance to their First Nation.
- First Nations are not being transferred private lands and must select parcels of Crown lands, which is limited. The Province and First Nations also have to consider existing legal rights such as licences and tenures, BC Hydro transmission lines, other existing infrastructure, and access to lands beyond proposed land selections.

### Treaty Land Entitlement Lands

#### **What types of lands are included in Treaty Land Entitlement Agreements?**

- There are two types:
  - Shortfall Lands: Crown lands transferred to the federal government to add to existing reserves or create new reserves. These make up the land promised but not provided when communities adhered to Treaty 8.
  - Additional Lands: Crown lands offered for purchase at fair market value. First Nations can have the lands transferred as fee simple (private) lands, apply to add these lands to existing reserves, or create new reserves through the federal Addition-to-Reserve process.

#### **Why is the Province providing Additional Lands?**

- Additional Lands are being offered to advance reconciliation and address a historic injustice.
- Offering the Additional lands for purchase helps meet community needs in a fair and respectful way.

#### **What is the value of the Additional Lands being transferred and how is it calculated?**

- The purchase price of Additional Lands will be based on an independent appraisal of fair market land value.

#### **Will the federal government refund the Province for the land it is providing as part of these agreements?**

- No, the federal government is providing funding to First Nations to compensate for lost opportunity, while the Province transfers the land.

- First Nations are paying for a majority of the costs of the land transfers, including surveys, appraisals and a fair market purchase price for the Additional lands.

### **What does lost opportunity mean and how is its value determined?**

- Lost opportunity refers to the economic benefits that First Nations missed having over the years because they did not receive all the land promised under Treaty 8.
- The federal government and First Nations agreed on the value of lost opportunity, and the federal government included a sum of money in the TLE settlement to compensate the First Nations for those losses.

### **Why were the First Nations not given the full amount of land they were entitled to under Treaty 8?**

- Treaty 8 was signed by First Nations in B.C. between 1900 and 1914.
- A federal population count done shortly afterward did not accurately capture all families and members.
- Treaty land was allocated based on one square mile for each family of five or in proportion for larger or smaller families.

### **How many people were missed in the count, and have you reached a final number?**

- First Nations were required to complete historical record reviews and genealogies to identify who was missed during the census. That information is confidential — the count has been determined and agreed to in the TLE settlement.

### **Where in the Treaty does it say these lands are owed to the Treaty 8 First Nations as an entitlement?**

- There is a section in Treaty 8 which refers to the lands, and states:

“Her Majesty the Queen hereby agrees and undertakes to lay aside reserves for such bands as desire reserves, the same not to exceed in all one square mile for each family of five for such number of families as may elect to reside on reserves, or in that proportion for larger or smaller families; and for such families or individual Indians as may prefer to live apart from band reserves, Her Majesty undertakes to provide land in severalty to the extent of 160 acres to each Indian, the land to be conveyed with a proviso as to non-alienation without the consent of the Governor General in Council of Canada, the selection of such reserves, and lands in severalty, to be made in the manner following, namely, the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs shall depute and send a suitable person to determine and set apart such reserves and lands, after consulting with the Indians concerned as to the locality which may be found suitable and open for selection.”

## How are the TLE Settlement Agreements structured?

- Saulteau First Nations signed a single agreement that outlines the full settlement of their TLE claim, including selected lands and the land transfer process steps.
- Blueberry River and Doig River First Nations, and Halfway River and West Moberly First Nations, each signed joint settlement packages, which include:
  - A Settlement Agreement that sets out the terms for full and final settlement of their TLE settlement including the amount of land owed.
  - A Lands Agreement that sets out the proposed land selections and the process for completing the land transfers.
- All the TLE agreements were ratified by the communities and signed by the First Nations, federal, and provincial governments between February and April 2023.

## Engagement

### How will the Province engage with interested parties on land transfers?

- The Province meets regularly with tenure holders, local governments, interested parties, First Nations, and the public to discuss parcels under review for transfer. These conversations have been ongoing since 2016.
- The Northeast Roundtable, launched in 2018, is one way the Province shares information and gathers input. The Roundtable brings together local governments, interested parties, First Nations, and provincial representatives to learn about and provide feedback on provincial initiatives, including:
  - Sharing updates on reconciliation
  - Explaining different types of land transfers, and
  - Seeking feedback on proposed parcels.
- Interested parties can also learn about land transfers and provide comments to the Province through meetings, emails and letters, open houses, and online at govTogetherBC.

### How will the Province consider comments and concerns voiced by interested parties?

- The Province will review feedback from local governments, tenure holders, the public, and other interested parties.
- Interested parties have opportunities to share input during engagement sessions. All comments are considered by decision makers as part of the review process.
- The Province has published a “What We Heard” Report for parcels where public engagement has closed. The report:
  - Keeps interested parties informed about the land transfer process

- Summarizes the engagement process, including feedback themes, and
- Provides feedback on how the Province considered responses to public comments.
- Additional “What We Heard” reports will be prepared for future parcels when engagement closes on those parcels.

## Tenure Overlap

### **What happens to tenure, licence, or lease holders when Crown land is transferred to a First Nation?**

- Most Crown land in B.C. is under some form of tenure, licence, or lease, and these can overlap with parcels being transferred. Some tenure holders may be affected, and the Province aims to find solutions that consider everyone’s interests.
- The Province will work with tenure holders directly to understand their interests in the parcel areas and resolve overlaps prior to parcel transfers.
- Possible solutions include creating a replacement agreement, adjusting parcel boundaries to avoid tenure overlap, or amending existing tenures to avoid parcel overlap.

### **How will the Province make sure new tenures don’t add to overlaps on proposed land parcels?**

- The Province has placed interim *Land Act* protections over the selected parcels so that new tenures are not granted while the land transfer process is underway.
- These protections will ensure that no new activities will occur until a decision is made on the transfer of land parcels.

## Access to land

### **How will access to existing infrastructure be maintained within a land parcel?**

- The Province will make sure roads and other infrastructure, like well sites, remain accessible when land is transferred under Treaty Land Entitlement and Site C agreements.
- Roads will either stay under provincial control or be covered by legal agreements such as rights of way, permits, or easements.
- Agreements that are part of the parcel transfers with First Nations and the federal government will include these provisions to guarantee continued access.

## **How will service providers access existing oil and gas and other resources following the land transfers?**

- Oil and gas companies with existing rights will continue to operate as they do now.
- For parcels that become reserve, the federal government will negotiate replacement agreements to ensure that companies continue to have rights and access.

## **Can the public access selected land parcels up to the time of transfer?**

- Yes. Parcels under interim protections, such as *Land Act* Section 16 or 17, are Crown land and can be used for activities like hiking, hunting, and fishing until transfer.
- The protections simply hold the land in its current state while the land transfer process is underway.

## **Can the public still access the lands after transfer?**

- After transfer, the land is no longer public. While access through the parcel on provincial roads will continue, people will need to ask permission from the First Nation for entry onto private land or reserve land.

## **Will roads and trails remain open, including for access to recreational and outdoor sites?**

- Yes. The Province will keep public roads and provincial recreation trails open for travel through parcels, either by excluding the roads or trails, or by providing road permits, statutory right of ways, or easements.

## **Why have First Nations selected parcels in these locations, such as around roads?**

- First Nations may select provincial Crown lands based on their needs and interests and often select lands in areas where they have traditionally practiced their treaty rights, such as hunting or fishing, and for other reasons such as community and economic development.
- Because resource development has occurred here for more than a century, most areas now include roads, power lines, and overlapping development including various tenures.
  - As a result, it is challenging to identify lands that are completely free of existing development.

## **What happens if a parcel includes public roads or infrastructure?**

- Roads may be excluded from the parcel transfer, or there may be other means of maintaining access, such as statutory rights of way, permits, or easements.
- Some roads built for resource activities, such as logging, may be closed once their purpose is complete.

- The agreements set out a process for identifying alternate lands to make up for areas that are excluded from parcels.

## Economic impacts

### **How does the transfer of land parcels to Reserve affect the Peace River Regional District and local municipal governments' tax revenues?**

- The lands being transferred are Crown lands, not private land, so municipal tax is not currently generated from those parcels.
- The Province conducts an analysis of infrastructure for each parcel to determine how taxes may be affected, if at all.

### **Are oil and gas subsurface rights included on Reserve Land, and if so, why? Where is it in Treaty 8?**

- Subsurface rights are being included for Shortfall Lands.
- Lands that became reserve at the time of first survey following the signing of Treaty 8 included subsurface rights just as lands provided to the Province around that same time included subsurface rights.
- The federal government will manage subsurface resources under Federal Reserve land using the Indian Oil and Gas Commission.

### **Will the value of subsurface rights be considered by the Province as a credit toward lost opportunity?**

- No, the value of subsurface rights is for current and future value, upon transfer.
- The federal government has already considered past economic losses the First Nation sustained for not having had the land for over 100 years.

### **What is the timeframe for subsurface royalties to be provided to the First Nations for lands transferring to Reserve?**

- The First Nations will receive royalties for oil and gas subsurface rights once land is transferred into reserve, which is managed by the federal Indian Oil and Gas Commission.

## Regulatory Considerations

### **What would happen to Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR) areas that overlap Treaty Land Entitlement parcels?**

- ALR designation remains in place on land that is transferred in fee simple (private lands). ALR will not apply to lands that become reserve land.

### **What regulations will apply to the Treaty Land Entitlement fee simple (private) land?**

- The fee simple (private) land remains under provincial jurisdiction and is subject to the same laws and regulations as any other private land parcels.

### **How will wildlife and the environment be considered in the land transfer process?**

- The Province carries out ecological and wildlife assessments on proposed land parcels to support decision-making.
- Once engagement on parcels has closed and parcels move into implementation of the transfer, environmental assessments are completed for each parcel to identify if there are any areas with contaminated sites that need to be addressed.
- The federal government has existing environmental requirements that must be followed on reserve.
- Many of these lands have been identified for cultural and traditional purposes, which means they will be maintained in their current state.

## Other Questions

### **Will the Province expropriate land from private landowners for First Nations?**

- No. The Province will not expropriate private land for Treaty Land Entitlement or Site C Land agreements.
- All northeast land transfers will come from Crown land, not private property.

### **Are any other land transfers being considered or anticipated for Treaty 8 Nations?**

- Currently, land transfers in northeast B.C. are only for two purposes: Treaty Land Entitlement and accommodation for Site C impacts.
- Some parcels are still being identified under these agreements, and the Province will continue to share updates as new parcels are identified.

- There are times when land transfers may be negotiated. For example, if resource development activity impacts Treaty 8 First Nations' rights, land can be used to accommodate a First Nation for adverse impacts.

### **How does Reserve land differ from fee simple (private) land owned by a First Nation?**

- Fee simple (private) land owned by a First Nation is subject to provincial laws, local bylaws, zoning regulations and property taxes — the same as any other private property.
- Reserve lands are officially owned by the federal government for the exclusive use and benefit of First Nations.
  - They are generally not subject to provincial laws or local bylaws that regulate land use or land ownership, such as zoning and property tax. Reserve lands are subject to federal and First Nation laws and regulations.

### **Has one particular political party been responsible for proposing these land transfers?**

- Negotiations to address this historic shortfall of Treaty 8 land have spanned multiple federal and provincial governments since 2004 and are not based on any one political party's views. The goal is to right a long-standing injustice.

## **How to provide feedback**

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Members of the public are invited to provide written comments about how they may be impacted by proposed land transfers for both Treaty Land Entitlement Settlements and Site C Land Agreements. Comments may be submitted by letter or email to:

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation  
Suite 100-10003 110th Avenue  
Fort St. John, B.C. V1J 6M7  
E-mail: [MIRR.Northeast@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MIRR.Northeast@gov.bc.ca)

### **How will my feedback be considered?**

Ministry staff will compile your feedback in a detailed record, which will be taken into consideration as part of the Province's principled approach to Crown land transfers in B.C.