



INFORMATION SHEET:

Importance of the KFN Land Law to the TLE Land Shortfall Process

OUR TLE SELECTIONS:

The Kátł'odeeche First Nation (KFN) is currently negotiating the addition of 6534.5 acres of land (10 square miles) to the Hay River Dene Reserve under the Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Land Shortfall process. Some of these lands are traditional lands at Ejié Túé (Buffalo Lake), along Ejié Túé Dehe (Buffalo River), along the shore of Tucho (Great Slave Lake), and along Kátł'odeh (Hay River). Other lands identified for selection are within the boundaries of Enterprise and the Town of Hay River. These urban lands are being selected for agricultural, commercial/industrial, tourism, marine, and residential leasing purposes.

TAKING CONTROL OF OUR TLE LANDS:

In all cases, it is extremely important that KFN have direct control over how these lands are managed for traditional, economic, and residential purposes. Without direct control, it will be very difficult for KFN to move quickly to address trespassing and other access issues, to enter into lease agreements to promote economic development projects, and to lease lands to members for their own residential and business purposes.

LAND LAW ENABLES PROPER KFN LAND GOVERNANCE:

The proposed KFN Land Law provides KFN and its members with the resources and the ability to shape how Reserve lands are managed and developed, without having to get permission from Canada or dealing with the very slow federal bureaucracy, where decision-making is not a priority. Furthermore, the proposed Land Law will provide KFN with an annual, core budget for the management of Reserve lands, including additional TLE lands. Right now, KFN must participate in land management activities without any core funding!

In fact, when Canada made the formal offer of 6534.5 acres of additional Reserve lands in 2017, that was one reason why KFN chose to enter into the Land Law process. Through the Land Law KFN can ensure that these new lands, along with the existing Reserve, will be under KFN control and that KFN will have adequate resources to manage all Reserve lands.

LAND LAW PROTECTS KFN'S RIGHTS:

Importantly, the Land Law does not in any way affect KFN's inherent Aboriginal or Treaty 8 rights. While pursuing additional Reserve lands under the TLE land shortfall process, and gaining control over all Reserve lands through the Land Law, KFN is also negotiating off-Reserve land and resource management jurisdiction under the RIRSD process (Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination). An RIRSD agreement would apply throughout the KFN traditional territory.

The Land Law is definitely a compliment to the TLE Lands Shortfall process. It will ensure that KFN has the ability and resources to efficiently manage and develop all Reserve lands, including TLE lands, for the benefit of KFN and its members!