

## Article for April 2018 - Rezound & Website

Whitefish River First Nation Boundary Claim Trust Working Group

Greetings Citizens!

My name is Esther Osche and as the Trust Coordinator for the Whitefish River First Nation Boundary Claim Trust Working Group I provide a monthly report that provides an update on the activities of the Trust Working Group and our engagement with citizens on the development of a draft Trust Agreement. The Working Group has now completed their **March Community Engagement Sessions On and Off-Reserve**.

**Purpose of A Trust Agreement for the Whitefish River First Nation:** The Whitefish River First Nation has reached a draft Boundary Claim Settlement Agreement with the federal government of Canada that specifies a settlement offer amount. The draft Settlement Agreement requires the First Nation to develop a Trust Agreement to flow, preserve and protect the Settlement Agreement funds.

**A Trust Agreement** is a Rule Book that preserves and protects the settlement offer funds for today's and future citizens.

**A Trust Operates** as a separate legal entity and its function along with Trustees, are limited to receiving the Settlement funds, investing the Trust property and, making an annual payment to the First Nation. The decision to determine how to spend the annual payment is left up to the community and is outlined in the Trust Agreement.

**The Trust Working Group's Role in the Development of a Draft Trust Agreement:** The Working Group provides representation and input into a draft Trust Agreement template. They will accomplish this with input from the citizens at community sessions.

**The March Community Engagement Sessions** three sessions took place as planned on March 22<sup>nd</sup> in Birch Island, March 23<sup>rd</sup> in Sudbury and March 25<sup>th</sup> in Toronto. The Birch Island Session had a turnout of twenty-one (21) citizens in attendance. We invited special guest speaker Dwayne Nashkawa, CEO of Nipissing, to share the Nipissing Trust Development story and act as a resource for attendees. In case you missed the story it will be available on the Trust webpage. The Sudbury session had a turnout of six (6) citizens and, the Toronto session had a turnout of eleven (11) citizens. Our sessions presented on highlights of the Trust Working Group Backstory, our Citizenship Law, a brief presentation by Peace Hills Trust and, the presentation of the Trust Survey Questionnaire. The Trust Survey was recommended by the Trust Working Group and, approved by the WRFN Council on March 20<sup>th</sup> for use as a tool to obtain feedback on what citizens are thinking about on the Trust Developments. All sessions provided excellent citizen input through the Trust Survey, its feedback and good comments!

The Trust Working Group will now collect all citizen comments, input and feedback from the sessions into one report. This information will be forwarded to our technical advisors

for the development of the first draft of a trust agreement. The Trust Working Group will meet on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to move into the next stage of the **WRFN Trust Process** by preparing for the ***first draft of the trust agreement***. The Trust Working Group will also begin preparations for the next stage in the **WRFN Trust Process** by preparing for the ***Community Engagement Sessions scheduled for May 2018 for the presentation of the first draft of the trust agreement for Both On and Off-Reserve***. These sessions will engage and inform citizens on the first draft content to determine if the draft contains everything citizens wanted included in the Trust Agreement design. Further input and refinement will take place if revisions are needed. The Trust Working Group encourages all citizens to plan ahead to attend and view the first draft of the trust agreement created by their input. This will also be an opportunity to help further refine the draft so it comes closer to meeting citizen's expectations. Your input is **valued** and **important**. Please make every effort to attend. This is your chance to have a say on the content of your draft Trust Agreement.

**UPDATE: The WRFN Website on Trust Development:** Access will be made even easier to view public information shared at the sessions. Plans are underway to develop a "Trust" Tab on the homepage of our website to view materials on the trust developments. You may also continue to access information through the Membership Portal. We encourage citizens to check in on a regular basis at the website and to help spread the word on this important development. All updates and presentations will be uploaded to the website following the sessions.

**MAILING LIST:** Not all citizens can attend the sessions or, have access to computers and can view our website. We have received comments to prepare a mailing list for those individuals who fall into this category so information shared at the sessions can be mailed out to citizens to keep them informed on trust developments. You can send the Trust Coordinator either a letter, email at [eosche@whitefishriver.ca](mailto:eosche@whitefishriver.ca) or, telephone call at **705-285-4335** and request to be put on a mailing list to receive information shared at sessions or uploaded to the website. The information will be sent out to you as soon as we receive your request.

**Questions:** We encourage citizen feedback and questions at all times throughout the trust development process. Please send a letter or, email to the above-noted email address to the attention of Esther Osche, Trust Coordinator. A response will be prepared and sent back to you. The WRFN Council has approved a Citizens Queries Column for our home webpage. Please let us know when you submit your questions if you would like the questions and our responses to be shared at the website location. We will also mail out questions and answers documented on our website to those on our mailing list.

**The WRFN Trust Process Chart:** the chart has been developed as a guide for all to follow as the development of the draft trust agreement process unfolds. The Process chart is attached for your review.

**“INSERT PROCESS CHART HERE”**

## **COMMUNITY TRUST MEETING SCHEDULE**

**IMPORTANT** - Please mark the following dates and times on your calendar and plan to attend the sessions to provide your continued input into the draft trust agreement design.

**Please Note:** the March Sessions ***“Development of Draft Trust Agreement”*** have now been removed from the Community Trust Meeting Schedule.

The following is what remains of our meeting schedule.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSION – PRESENTATION OF DRAFT TRUST AGREEMENT**

<p><b><u>BIRCH ISLAND</u></b>            May 10, 2018            WRFN Community Center            Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm</p>	<p><b><u>SUDBURY</u></b>            May 11, 2018            N'Swakamok Friendship Center            Basement Meeting Room            Time: 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm</p>	<p><b><u>TORONTO</u></b>            May 12, 2018            Native Canadian Center of            Toronto - Auditorium            Time: 4:00 am to 6:00 pm</p>
--	---	---