

Article for February 2018 - Rezound & Website

Whitefish River First Nation Boundary Claim Trust Working Group

Greetings Citizens!

My name is Esther Osche and I have been contracted to work as the Trust Coordinator for the Whitefish River First Nation Boundary Claim Trust Working Group. The Working Group's Terms of Reference have received approval by the WRFN Chief & Council on January 16, 2018. All vacancies for the Working Group have now been filled. Currently, the Working Group is in their **Planning & Development Process** stage and is finalizing their Work Plan & Communications Plan. This will be posted to citizens shortly. The Working Group has now finalized the dates they will meet with citizens according to the Meeting Schedule attached to this article:

I am looking forward to assisting the Working Group with their objectives and responsibilities outlined in their Terms of Reference as follows:

Objectives:

- to provide representation and input into the development of a draft Trust Agreement for WRFN as per Settlement Agreement on the Boundary Claim;
- to have a Trust Agreement document ready for community ratification for August 2018.

Responsibilities:

- provide advice and recommendations to the WRFN Chief and Council on the development and implementation of a draft Trust Agreement that supports the best interests of WRFN in finalizing the Boundary Claim Settlement Agreement;
- provide advice on communicating the draft Trust Agreement to WRFN Citizens;
- provide advice on the procedures for voting on the Trust Agreement;
- discuss issues and questions raised by the WRFN Chief and Council, WRFN Citizens and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada in relation to the draft Trust Agreement;
- identify and bring forward any issues or priorities for discussion and review by the WRFN Chief and Council;
- provide a final draft Trust Agreement to WRFN Chief and Council for review and approval before June 2018 for ratification;

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 specifies that in order for the First Nation to receive the settlement offer amount, the First Nation must develop a Trust Agreement to flow, preserve and protect the funds.

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

How A Trust Operates: The Trust will be a separate legal entity and its function along with the Trustees, are limited to receiving the 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. First, an educational information session will be provided on understanding trusts and trust designs and, on understanding investments and investment policies. A second session will engage citizens to begin the process of what they want included in the draft Trust Agreement design. A third session will engage citizens to present the results of the input received from the second sessions and, to finalize and complete the design.

The WRFN Website on Trust Development: In addition to providing monthly updates in the Rezound it is the intention of the WRFN Chief & Council and Working Group members to educate and inform the citizens on the trust development process through the WRFN website. Access will be through the Membership Portal.

The WRFN Trust Process Chart: the chart has been developed as a guide for the WRFN Chief & Council, Working Group and citizens to follow as the development of the draft trust agreement process unfolds. The Process chart is attached for your review.

“INSERT PROCESS CHART HERE”

MEETING SCHEDULE

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

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION - UNDERSTANDING TRUSTS & TRUST INVESTMENTS

<p><u>BIRCH ISLAND</u> February 22, 2018 WRFN Community Center Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm</p>	<p><u>SUDBURY</u> February 23, 2018 N'Swakamok Friendship Center Basement Meeting Room Time: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm</p>	<p><u>TORONTO</u> February 24, 2018 Native Canadian Center of Toronto – Auditorium Time: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm</p>
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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSION – DEVELOPMENT OF DRAFT TRUST AGREEMENT

<p><u>BIRCH ISLAND</u> March 22, 2018 WRFN Community Center Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm</p>	<p><u>SUDBURY</u> March 23, 2018 N'Swakamok Friendship Center Basement Meeting Room Time: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm</p>	<p><u>TORONTO</u> March 24, 2018 Native Canadian Center of Toronto - Auditorium Time: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm</p>
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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSION – PRESENTATION OF DRAFT TRUST AGREEMENT

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