

Article for May 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 **compilation of the Trust Survey Results and citizen sessions feedback into the first draft of the Trust Agreement.**

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.

Preparations for the upcoming May Community Engagement Sessions as reported in the April update, three engagement sessions took place as planned on March 22nd in Birch Island, March 23rd in Sudbury and March 25th in Toronto. The Trust Survey was utilized as a tool to obtain feedback on what citizens were thinking about on the developments of a first draft Trust Agreement. All sessions provided excellent citizen input through the Trust Survey, feedback and many good comments!

The Trust Working Group have accomplished their next stage of the **WRFN Trust Process** by meeting on April 10, 2018, to go through the exercise of preparing the **first draft of the trust agreement**. The Working Group assembled all Trust Survey results into a Trust Survey Engagement Summary Report. All citizen comments, input and feedback from the sessions were assembled into Separate Session Reports that highlighted citizen comments, feedback and questions. The first draft of the trust agreement created from this process is currently being reviewed by legal, the Trust Working Group and the WRFN Council to prepare it for presentation to the citizens.

The Trust Working Group now looks forward to entering the next stage in the **WRFN Trust Process** by attending the **May 2018 Community Engagement Sessions for the presentation of the first draft of the trust agreement to Both On and Off-Reserve citizens**. 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 review and have a say on the content of your draft Trust Agreement.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: The Trust Working Group has moved their May 12, 2018 Toronto Engagement Session from the Indian Friendship Center of Toronto to the **Delta Chelsea Hotel located at 33 Gerrard Street West in downtown Toronto**. The meeting will be held in the Gerrard Room from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

UPDATE ON MAILING LIST: at our February and March sessions, citizens requested they be mailed out the information shared at the community information and engagement sessions. This task has now been completed as requested. Please keep an eye out for your Trust Developments Information package that will arrive in your mail.

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 or, telephone call at **705-285-4335** and request to be put on a mailing list to receive information shared at the 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.

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

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.

IMPORTANT: The Trust Working Group has moved the May 12th Toronto Engagement Session from the Indian Friendship Center of Toronto to a new location

The May 12th Toronto Session has been moved to the Delta Chelsea Hotel located at 33 Gerrard Street West in downtown Toronto. The meeting will be held in the Gerrard Room from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

The following is what remains of our meeting schedule.

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 Delta Chelsea Hotel Gerrard Room 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm</p>
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