
INDIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

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CONTENTS

Letter from the Co-Chairs

v

Abbreviations

vii

REPORTS

Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation
Treaty Land Entitlement Inquiry (Mediation)

3

Kahkewistahaw First Nation
Treaty Land Entitlement Inquiry

21

Lucky Man Cree Nation
Treaty Land Entitlement Inquiry

109

Mikisew Cree First Nation Inquiry

183

Fishing Lake First Nation
1907 Surrender Inquiry

219

THE COMMISSIONERS

249

FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

This is the sixth volume of the *Indian Claims Commission Proceedings* to be published and we are pleased to present it on behalf of the Commissioners and staff of the Indian Claims Commission. This volume includes five reports of the Commission.

Two are reports of full inquiries completed by the Commission into rejected claims of First Nations. The first of these reports, released in November 1996, details the Commission's inquiry into the treaty land entitlement claim of the Kahkewistahaw First Nation. This inquiry dealt with whether the Kahkewistahaw First Nation had a valid claim to additional reserve land under the terms of Treaty 4. The second report, released in March 1997, is also an inquiry into a treaty land entitlement claim – that of the Lucky Man Cree Nation. This Saskatchewan First Nation requested an inquiry into its rejected claim for additional reserve land under the terms of Treaty 6.

The three remaining reports of this volume of the *Proceedings* demonstrate the usefulness of the Commission's planning conference in promoting discussion and clearing up misunderstandings over the nature of the First Nation's claims. The following three reports illustrate how the planning conference, chaired by the Commission as a neutral third party, can assist in resolving outstanding issues without the need for a full inquiry.

After 14 years in negotiation, the treaty land entitlement claim of the Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation was finally settled with the assistance of a mediator provided by the Indian Claims Commission. The Commission's report on this successful mediation was released in March 1996. In March 1997, the Commission released its report on the 1907 Surrender Claim of the Fishing Lake First Nation. In that report, Canada accepted the claim for negotiation under the Specific Claims Policy after considering the testimony of the First Nation's elders at a community session held by the Commission. Finally, the Commission's report into the Mikisew Cree First Nation's claim to economic benefits under Treaty 8, released in March 1997, outlines how the claim was accepted for negotiation by Canada without the need for a full inquiry into the matter.

We hope that you find the Commission's reports into these claims interesting and informative.

Daniel J. Bellegarde
Co-Chair

P.E. James Prentice, QC
Co-Chair

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21

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109

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183

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1907 Surrender Inquiry

219

ABBREVIATIONS

BCR	Band Council Resolution
BCSC	British Columbia Supreme Court
CA	Court of Appeal
CNLR	Canadian Native Law Reporter
CPR	Canadian Patent Reporter
CTC	Canada Tax Cases
DIAND	Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
DINA	Department of Indian and Northern Affairs
DLR	Dominion Law Report
DLS	Dominion Land Surveyor
DOFS	date of first survey
FC	Canada Federal Court Reports
FCA	Federal Court Appeal Division
FCTD	Federal Court Trial Division
FSI	Federation of Saskatchewan Indians
FSIN	Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
ICC	Indian Claims Commission
ICCP	Indian Claims Commission Proceedings
IR	Indian Reserve
MCFN	Mikisew Cree First Nation
MIB	Manitoba Indian Brotherhood
NA	National Archives of Canada
NR	National Reporter
NSCA	Nova Scotia Court of Appeal
NWMP	North-West Mounted Police
ONC	Office of Native Claims

ABBREVIATIONS

OTC	Office of the Treaty Commissioner
RSC	Revised Statutes of Canada
SCB	Specific Claims Branch
SCW	Specific Claims West
SCC	Supreme Court of Canada
SCR	Canada Supreme Court Reports
TLE	treaty land entitlement