



March 9, 2022

Government of Saskatchewan
Analyst – Strategic Initiatives
Lands Branch, Ministry of Agriculture
202-3085 Albert Street
Regina, SK S4S 0B1

Attention: Chandra Nimmo

Dear Ms. Nimmo,

RE: Agricultural Land Sales & Consultation

Thank you for meeting with me and members of Onion Lake Cree Nation to discuss our Nation's concerns regarding Saskatchewan's Consultation Policy last Thursday. In follow up emails, you mentioned that you were going to be getting a "legal consult" regarding our request for notifications for projects, land sales, and other activities within our Traditional Territory. I am writing to clarify the Nation's position for the benefit of Saskatchewan's legal review.

Onion Lake Cree Nation considers our Traditional Territory to be that including, but not limited to, our reserve areas as well as lands adjacent or approximate to those reserve areas. We also consider our Traditional Territory to be that of the Treaty 6 Area, as members of our Nation have long traveled significant distances and have taken up our traditional provocations and livelihoods throughout all of Treaty 6 Territory.

With respect to the overlap of Treaty 6 Territory and the Province of Saskatchewan, I am advised that the coverts' interpretations of the Natural Resource Transfer Agreements purport to extend Treaty Rights, such as they are, through the entire Province.

Such, Onion Lake is not asserting that its traditional territory is the entire Province of Saskatchewan nor are we asserting that any Crown activity whatsoever throughout the Province of Saskatchewan necessarily impacts our Treaty Rights. Rather, our position is that any sale of lands held by the Crown within the Treaty 6 Territory has a potential impact upon our Treaty Rights and thus requires, at a constitutional minimum, notification to our office. Our Nation has the consultation capacity to vet these proposed sales and activities and to determine whether or not they have an impact on our Treaty Rights. Our long-standing concern is that many sales of land and other development activities that have had actual impacts upon our Nation have not been the subject of any notice or notification by the Crown, due to the Crown's apparent policy (there appears to be nothing on the actual statute books dealing with this) of simply drawing a radius out from First Nation reserves to determine whether or not there is any duty to consult.

I reiterate my request for a timeline for you to provide the crown's position regarding notifications and I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Sincerely,
ONION LAKE CREE NATION



Terri Quinney,
Duty to Consult Coordinator

cc.
Chief and Council, OLCN
Philip Chief, Director of Operations, OLCN
Betty Nippi-Albright, NDP MLA for Saskatoon Centre
Critic for First Nations and Metis Relations