

FOND DU LAC DENESULINE FIRST NATION

TO KEEP THE MEMBERSHIP INFORMED

RESOLVE THE PAST - BUILD THE FUTURE

Resolving the Past:



Fond du Lac Denesuline First Nation Chief Kevin Mercredi and Council have been working hard to resolve long outstanding claims.

In 2018, Fond du Lac settled its agricultural benefits claims, and the funds from that settlement are available to support economic opportunities for the community.

On August 3, 2023, Fond du Lac received a formal offer from the Government of Canada to settle a claim that the \$5 annuity payment promised under Treaty 8 should have been adjusted for inflation. The settlement will include an individual payment to those members alive today plus compensation that can be used for the long-term sustainable benefit of our members both on reserve and in urban areas.

Our elders will get the most now depending on when they were born, and our youth will see the benefit of an increased annuity in the future and opportunities for education and employment through the economic development opportunities that this settlement will facilitate.

We are also undertaking research to show that Fond du Lac did not get all of the land promised under our Treaty and that we have an outstanding Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE). The resolution of the TLE claim would provide Fond du Lac with the opportunity to acquire additional reserve lands which can be used for economic development projects.

Building the Future:

While resolving our past claims, we are also working hard to take advantage of opportunities to build a bright and prosperous future.

MINING

Our territories are rich in discoveries of critical rare earth elements which are minerals that are in short-supply and high-demand around the world for use in permanent magnets and modern electronics used in electric vehicles and wind turbines. Currently, China is the main supplier of rare earth minerals to the world, but with two significant discoveries, Fond du Lac could be critical in making Canada a world leader.

The potential economic benefits to Fond du Lac are considerable. We are looking to partner with private industry so that the revenue generated goes to make our community and its members prosperous.



The building and development of these minerals in our territories would provide tremendous opportunities for training and employment for our members as all the contracts for

construction, transportation and food services would go to companies owned by Fond du Lac or Fond du Lac members. By owning a stake in the mines, the revenue generated can be used to support housing, education and yearly dividends to once mines are in production.

These projects will also need infrastructure including roads linking us to the South year-round.

CLEAN ENGERY

We are all aware of the high-power rates paid by Fond du Lac and its members. We have an agreement with a power company to develop a hydro project near Grease Rapids which would supply power to the mines and our community but with a considerable amount of additional power being for sale.



Fond du Lac and the Athabasca Sand Dunes are attractions.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT RM OF CORMAN PARK

Like other First Nations, we purchased 78 acres of land in the RM of Corman Park near Saskatoon for commercial development. This development will eventually include a store, gas bar, retail mall and commercial office space for rent to First Nation corporate businesses. Fond du Lac is currently having the environmental work completed to have the land transferred to the reserve. The land will be strategically developed for the benefit of both the Fond du Lac community and urban members which may include offices to support our mining and hydroelectric economic development projects.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Our community lacks a central gathering facility that can provide services and programming for the entire community. We have had tragedies in our community taking some of our youth far too soon.

We are looking to build a Wellness Gathering Place (WGP) that will cater to children, youth, adults, families and Elders and will provide a place where they can share stories, wisdom, laughter, and tears. The WGP will include a cultural center for sharing traditional customs, a gymnasium with a stage for physical activities and community events, an Elder's room for sharing knowledge and fellowship, a youth center for recreation programming, a fitness center for teaching and maintaining healthy lifestyles, three multi-purpose rooms for education or meetings, a workshop for teaching traditional crafts and trades, a 200 m walking track for increased activity in inclement weather, and a spectator seating area for watching sporting events.

CHIEF AND COUNCIL ARE COMMITTED TO:

- Taking the settlement offer to members for ratification of a claim that our annuities, ammunition and twine, Chiefs and Headmen salaries and clothing should have

been adjusted for inflation to benefit our community by supporting projects and initiatives that benefit members on and off reserve while providing payments to individual members;

- Submitting a TLE (Treaty Land Entitlement) claim that we did not get the land we were owed under Treaty 8 to provide additional lands for our members and for economic development;
- Taking advantage of the rich deposits of critical rare earth elements in our territories by developing partnerships so that Fond du Lac and its members can prosper from the resources in our territories while ensuring environmental protection of our lands while making Canada a world leader;
- Getting support for needed infrastructure including roads to link us to the south year round;
- Pursuing a partnership agreement with a power company to supply a reliable cost-effective source of clean power for our members and to support our economic development opportunities;
- Developing land purchased in the RM of Corman Park for commercial development which will include a store, gas bar, retail mall and commercial office space for rent to First Nation corporate businesses;
- Ensuring that all projects benefit members of our community no matter where they live including a future potential dividend payment so that our people are prosperous; and

- Providing a health and wellness multi-purpose facility as a place where our members of all ages can meet and participate in workshops, meetings, and other events that will bring our community closer together and promote a healthier lifestyle.

Chief and Council are committed to working hard to ensure that opportunities from resolving our past claims and creating new economic development opportunities will provide us all with a bright and prosperous future.

Further updates and meetings will be forthcoming in the following initiatives:

- Child and Family Services;
- Housing and Community Infrastructure;
- Education
- Regional Collaborations
- Comprehensive in-person engagement and updates

Chief Kevin Mercredi & Council