



From Dream to Reality: Video Activity

For this activity, each of the four major groups involved in Treaty Land Entitlement negotiation have one key player singled out because of their influence in achieving The Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement. While viewing Part Two of *From Dream to Reality*, make notes about what the groups these individuals represent have to say about Treaty Land Entitlement.

After viewing the video, consider the following questions:

1. What commonalities exist between the key players and the organizations they represent in finding a resolution to the issues of Treaty Land Entitlement?
2. Why would they want to find a resolution?

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations: represented by Roland Crowe then Chief of the FSIN

“in the spirit of negotiation rather than confrontation”

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations believed the Treaty promises for land must be upheld to contribute to the First Nations economic foundations.

During the negotiations leading up to The Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations was represented by Chief Roland Crowe. Roland Crowe was born in 1943 as a member of the Piapot First Nation. He was chief of the Piapot First Nation for six years. He then committed himself to working for all Saskatchewan First Nations by becoming involved in the FSIN. He served as Vice Chief of the FSIN for four years and Chief of the FSIN for eight years.

Federal Government: represented by the Honourable Bill McKnight

then Member of Parliament for Kindersley-Lloydminster and Minister in the Conservative Government of Brian Mulroney

“I wanted to make a change for my province, for Canada I guess, and I decided I was bloody well going to run.”

The federal government agreed with First Nations that land had been inadequately allocated for Treaty Land Entitlement, but felt that limiting the land debt was necessary as there was an inadequate amount of Crown land available to fulfill this promise.

Bill McKnight was first elected as Conservative Member of Parliament for Kindersley-Lloydminster in 1979 and was re-elected in the next three federal elections. Between 1986 and 1989, critical years in the negotiations leading up to the Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement, Bill McKnight was Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Bill McKnight went on to hold different portfolios in the federal government until his retirement from federal politics before the 1993 election. In 2007 he was appointed as Treaty Commissioner for the newly re-opened Office of the Treaty Commissioner.

From Dream to Reality: Video Activity ...continued

Provincial Government: represented by Grant Devine

then Premier

“economic diversification and land entitlement [are] very important to the Aboriginal people”

Like the federal government, the provincial government shared the belief that the amount of land allocated for Treaty Land Entitlement had been inadequate, but felt that limiting the land debt was necessary because remaining Crown land was limited.

Grant Devine was first elected as Premier in 1982. In 1986 he was re-elected for another term. Grant Devine represented the interests of the province in the negotiations leading up to The Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement. Before the Agreement was signed his government was defeated in the fall of 1991. Roy Romanow was Saskatchewan’s Premier at the time the Agreement was signed.

Office of the Treaty Commissioner: represented by Howard McMaster

then advisor to Treaty Commissioner Cliff Wright

“We are all Treaty people”

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner was set up to find a way to resolve Treaty Land Entitlement issues.

Howard McMaster is a member of the Siksika Nation in Alberta. He spent his early years on the Red Pheasant Reserve where he learned the Cree language. He worked with the first Treaty Commissioner Cliff Wright from 1990-1996 carrying out historical research and advising the Commissioner. His ability to speak and understand Cree was valuable in working with Elders on historical and genealogical research to validate family records showing that populations had been undercounted when reserves were initially set aside under the Treaties. The research team of the Office of the Treaty Commissioner worked with 30 First Nations to develop the recommendations that resulted in the signing of The Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement.