

# PASQUA AGRICULTURE BENEFITS CLAIM: (COWS & PLOWS)



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*June 12 & 13, 2023*

# PFN Agriculture Benefits Claim

- What is an Agriculture Benefits Claim
  - When Treaty #4 was entered into on September 15, 1874 between the Crown and the Assiniboine, Cree and Saulteaux Nations.
  - Agriculture Benefits were amongst the many promises made during the Treaty making process.
  - The promise of Agriculture Benefits were to assist the First Nations to take up farming as a new way of life.

# PFN Agriculture Benefits Claim

- Items to assist First Nations to start farming included but not limited to:
  - Seedlings
  - Hoes
  - Scythes
  - Scythe stones
  - Spades
  - Oxen
  - Plows
  - Axes

# PFN Agriculture Benefits Claim

- Items to assist First Nations to start farming included but not limited to continued:
  - Tool chest
  - Augers
  - Cross-cut saws
  - Harrows
  - Rifles
  - Pit saw
  - Grindstone
  - Other items to assist Pasqua to start farming

# PFN Agriculture Benefits Claim

- Over time Pasqua First Nation eventually received:
  - 7 bushels of barley
  - 8 bushels of potatoes
- In Spring of 1879 Pasqua received:
  - 2 hoes
  - 9 scythes
  - 9 whetstones
  - 93.5 bushels of seed potatoes,
  - 5 bushels of barley,
  - 6 pounds of corn and some garden seed

# PFN Agriculture Benefits Claim

- In 1883, the Pasqua Band had 127 acres under crop: 64 in wheat, 6 in oats, 35 in barley, 10 in potatoes, 5 in turnips, 2 in carrots, and 5 in gardens.
- In the aftermath of the Rebellion the Crown devised and implemented a wave of illegal punitive policies. These policies included the withholding of treaty payments from men, women, elders, and children; the confiscation of horses and rifles.

# PFN Agriculture Benefits Claim

- On April 15, 1886, Liberal Member of Parliament, Malcom Cameron, launched “a stinging indictment of Indian administration”. Cameron heavily criticized the Department for their treatment towards the Indian population, condemning the Department’s policy of starvation and widespread fraud in reporting the distribution of implements.

# PFN Agriculture Benefits Claim

- In 1887, the Pasqua Band farms had limited success due to the continuing drought. To earn income, the Band continued to harvest hay, engage in freighting goods, cut and sell wood and raise cattle.
- In 1888, the Pasqua Band cultivated 92.5 acres of reserve land producing a substantial harvest of award-winning grain. Three hundred tons of hay were stacked for winter feed for the expanding cattle herd.



# PFN Agriculture Benefits Claim

- In March of 1889, Chief Pasqua passed away. The Band would be without a chief for the next 22 years.
- The Crown had a strategy of blaming the lack of agricultural advancement on the Indians rather than the Crown's failure to provide agricultural implements to deflect against the growing criticism of the Department's continued failure to account, which persisted through the 1880s.

# PFN Agriculture Benefits Claim

- ***The Crown's Indian Agricultural Policies***
- Although the Crown's failure to provide the tools and implements stipulated under Treaty 4 made the transition to agriculture extremely difficult for Pasqua First Nation, it was the imposition of the Crown's **"Indian Agricultural Policies"** which ensured that the premise of the treaty promise was frustrated entirely.

# PFN Agriculture Benefits Claim

## **Pasqua First Nation Ag Benefits Claim Submission:**

- March 15, 2022 claim was filed with the Specific Claims Branch.
  - Specific Claims places a 3 year time frame as to when the First Nation will be advised as to: If the claim will be accepted or rejected.
  - Pasqua's Ag Benefit Claim 3 year time limit is March 15, 2025.

# PFN Agriculture Benefits Claim

- Pasqua has submitted a settlement proposal to Canada in order to expedite the Specific Claims 3 year time limit.
- Pasqua's settlement proposal to Canada is in the amount of \$122,000,000.00 (one hundred and twenty-two million)
- Numerous meetings have been had with Ministers and senior government officials to expedite Pasqua's Ag Benefit Claim.
- Although Pasqua Leadership cannot predict the outcome time frame, Pasqua Leadership is confident that Canada will look favorably at Pasqua's settlement proposal.

# PFN Agriculture Benefits Claim

Thank You

