

News Release

For Immediate Release

Canada, Ontario and Rainy River First Nations announce new reserve creation

May 19, 2017

Ottawa, Ontario

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

The settlement of land claims is key to advancing reconciliation with Indigenous communities in Canada and creates the foundation for social development and economic growth that can generate benefits for Indigenous peoples and all Canadians.

Today, the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, and Rainy River First Nations announced that approximately 6,000 hectares of reserve land have been created for the use and benefit of Rainy River First Nations.

Increasing the land base of Rainy River First Nations will meet the current and future needs of the community and create new opportunities for the 1,100 community members.

Quotes

"With this addition, Rainy River First Nations is better placed to achieve their vision of a stronger, more resilient, and prosperous community. Progress like this, provides hope for their youth and sets an example of our shared journey of reconciliation."

*The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, M.D., P.C., M.P.
Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs*

"I am happy to see the Rainy River First Nations settlement agreement being fulfilled to benefit community members. This additional land will lead to a brighter future and better opportunities for the community and surrounding region. I look forward to continuing to work with leadership, and community members as we continue to forge the path of reconciliation."

*Don Rusnak, P.C., M.P.
Thunder Bay — Rainy River*

"We are pleased that these lands are now reserve. Our membership will move forward with our vision to build a stronger economy and a more sustainable community."

*Chief James Leonard
Rainy River First Nations*

"I am thrilled that the Rainy River First Nations settlement agreement is being fulfilled to benefit community members. This additional land will lead to a brighter future and better opportunities for the community, an important part of reconciliation."

*The Honourable David Zimmer
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Ontario*

Quick Facts

- In 2005, Rainy River First Nations, and the Governments of Canada and Ontario negotiated a settlement agreement, which identified lands for reserve creation.
- In February 2017, federal Order in Councils set apart 5,986 hectares/14,792 acres of land as reserve for the use and benefit of Rainy River First Nations.
- Today's announcement recognizes several years of collaboration to increase the reserve land base for Rainy River First Nations.

Associated Links

- [Policy on Additions to Reserve/Reserve Creation](#)
- [Orders in Council](#)
- [Rainy River First Nations website](#)

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