

Aboriginal Land Claims

There are three different types of Aboriginal land claims: **Comprehensive**, **Treaty Entitlement** and **Specific**.

Only the federal government has authority to negotiate most of these claims, but the province or territory is usually involved.

Comprehensive Claims

Comprehensive land claims happen where there is no signed treaty or other type of settlement and Aboriginal peoples live on the land in question. Settlement of these claims involves the Aboriginal peoples giving up their rights to the land in exchange for:

- the right to use and manage the resources on other lands
- monetary compensation
- help developing the economy of their community (e.g., by attracting and supporting new businesses)
- health care and education benefits.

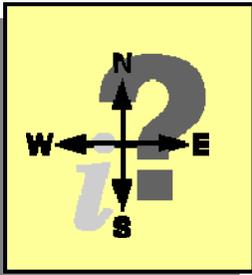
Treaty Entitlement Claims

Treaty Entitlement claims happen when the rights of Aboriginal peoples are not granted according to a signed treaty. For example, many Treaty Entitlement claims involve Indian reserves that were promised in a treaty. Alberta treaties numbers 6, 7 and 8 say that for each Aboriginal person in the province, 128 acres should be set aside for Indian reserves.

Specific Claims

Specific claims happen when the federal government does not give the money and/or land, as promised in the *Indian Act*.





Aboriginal Land Claims (continued)

Important Land Claim Settlements

- 1975** The **James Bay and Northern Quebec Final Agreement (JBNQA)** was signed with the Cree and Inuit of Northern Quebec. The Agreement provided \$225 million; full land ownership of 14,000 km²; exclusive fishing, trapping and harvesting rights over 150,000 km²; income security program for hunters and trappers; and self-government under legislation.
- 1978** The **Northeastern Quebec Agreement** was signed with the Naskapi First Nation of Northern Quebec. It provided the First Nation with \$9 million.
- 1984** The **Inuvialuit claim** was signed and provided \$152 million; full land ownership of 91,000 km², of which 11,000 km² includes subsurface rights (i.e., rights to anything found beneath the surface, such as oil and gas, minerals); wildlife harvesting rights; help to encourage economic development; and a voice in decisions dealing with wildlife and environmental management.
- 1992** The **Gwich'in** of the Mackenzie Delta Region signed their final land claim agreement. It provided \$75 million over 15 years, full land ownership of 22,420 km² in the Northwest Territories and 1,550 km² in the Yukon, 6,160 km² of subsurface rights, wildlife harvesting rights and a voice in decisions that deal with renewable resources, land use planning, protection of the environment and land and water regulation.
- 1993** The **Nunavut Final Land Claims Agreement** was signed, giving the Inuit of the Eastern Arctic \$580 million over 14 years, full land ownership of 350,000 km², wildlife harvesting rights, a share of resource royalties, a voice in decisions that deal with land and environmental management and self-government.
- 1993** The **Sahtu Dene and Métis** of the Northwest Territories signed their final land claim agreement. This Agreement provided \$75 million over 15 years, full land ownership of 41,437 km², subsurface rights of 1,813 km², wildlife and harvesting rights, exclusive trapping rights, a share of resource royalties and a voice in decisions that deal with renewable resources, land use planning, protection of the environment and land and water regulation.