

Land Claims in the Lake of the Woods Area (May 2019)

There are several kinds of land claims. The ones that Ontario deals with are about Indigenous communities' rights to land and to the use of land.

In a land claim, an Indigenous community asks Ontario to address historic wrongs. The community provides historical and legal documents to prove that the community is legally entitled to reserve land and/or to financial compensation.

Types of Claims

- Reserve Land Claims
- Unsold Surrendered Lands
- Aboriginal Title (Comprehensive Claim)
- Land and Larger Land Base (LLLLB)

Reserve Land Claims

These claims are about:

- The size, location and/or quality of reserves
- The improper use of reserve lands by others, particularly government

In a reserve land claim, an Indigenous community might allege that:

- The boundaries or the size of a reserve should be adjusted
- Reserve land was used in the past (e.g., to build a road) without proper permission
- Financial compensation should be paid for using reserve land (e.g., the flooding of reserve land by a dam) without proper permission

Types of Reserve Land Claims in the Lake of the Woods Area

Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE): The First Nation did not receive the proper quantity of land according to the relevant treaty.

Animakee Wa Zhing #37 TLE Claim

For further information, please contact: AWZTLE@Ontario.ca 416-326-4381

Boundary: The current boundaries of a reserve are incorrect.

Obashkaandagaang Garden Islands Claim

For further information, please contact: OFNGardenIslands@Ontario.ca 416-327-9582

Flooding: Reserve land was unlawfully taken or damaged from the construction of hydro-electric power facilities, dams, river diversions etc.

Lake of the Woods Flooding Claims

For further information, please contact: LOTWFloodingClaim@Ontario.ca 416-326-4755

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Types of Claims Continued...

Unsold Surrendered Lands

- A First Nation may seek the return of, or payment for, reserve land previously transferred to Canada for sale on behalf of the First Nation but remains unsold.

Aboriginal Title (Comprehensive Claim)

- An Indigenous community asserts that original rights to the land were never surrendered to the Crown (for example, the Algonquins of Ontario).
- An Indigenous community asserts that the surrender of land was flawed, and therefore the Aboriginal Title of the community was not extinguished.

Land and Larger Land Base (LLLB)

- A 1991 policy on behalf of five communities in the Robinson Superior Treaty area to expand three very small reserves and provide land for two landless communities.