



November 8, 2024

To: Citizens/Members of the Pasqua First Nation

RE: Proposed Settlement of the Pasqua Treaty 4 Benefits and Ammunition & Twine Claim

Dear Pasqua Citizens/Members:

On behalf of the Council and I for the Pasqua First Nation, I am very pleased to announce that the Pasqua First Nation has reached an agreement with Canada for the proposed settlement of the Pasqua Agriculture Benefits Claim arising from the failure to provide agricultural implements, ammunition and twine, and treaty benefits to Pasqua First Nation pursuant to the terms of Treaty 4 (the "Treaty 4 Benefits Claim"). This represents the culmination of many years of hard work and determination since the Treaty 4 Benefits Claim was submitted for review under Canada's Specific Claims Policy.

Pasqua Leadership was able to negotiate a settlement with Canada in the amount of \$155,114,319.00. We believe that this is very good settlement as it is reflective of Pasqua's First Nation, and Canada's failure to fulfil its solemn promises. To officially settle the Pasqua Treaty 4 Benefits Claim, all Pasqua members who are 18 years of age or older will be asked to participate in the ratification vote scheduled for December 12, 2024 and to make a decision on whether to accept the terms of the proposed Settlement Agreement and Trust Agreement. The proposed agreements will not be signed, however, unless a majority of the eligible voters of the Pasqua First Nation vote in favour of the proposed agreements. If a majority of the eligible voters of the Pasqua First Nation do not attend and vote in favour at the first ratification vote, we will not meet the terms required for the ratification vote to succeed, so we encourage all members to come out and vote.

Information meetings will be held in two weeks in Saskatoon, Pasqua First Nation, and Regina. (A schedule is set out in the Notice of Vote.) At these meetings, we will provide an overview of the proposed terms of the Settlement Agreement along with the Trust Agreement and other relevant documents.

The Treaty 4 Benefits settlement has taken a long time for us to achieve, but after years of hard work with professional advice and consultation, we feel that we can now comfortably come to you and say that:

- the proposed settlement provides for fair compensation for the Treaty 4 Benefits Claim, which will provide a long-term sustainable fund for distributions to members;

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- we have protected and not given up our interests in the land, our inherent and sovereign rights, our treaty rights and our water rights;
- we have not allowed any infringement of our Treaty and Aboriginal Rights;
- we are proud of the Trust Agreement that we are presenting to you. We have structured it so that it will be professionally managed and protected, and it is projected to grow annually and provide annual income to the First Nation that can be used for ongoing distributions to our Pasqua First Nation Citizens/Members.

Once the compensation is paid by Canada, the funds will be deposited into the Pasqua First Nation Citizens Benefits Trust, a trust created specifically for this settlement. Peace Hills Trust is appointed as corporate Trustee to protect your trust monies and we will appoint independent professional investment managers to maximize investment returns to the First Nation.

If the Settlement Agreement and Pasqua First Nation Citizens Benefits Trust are ratified by the members, we have arranged a bridge loan to allow for the payment of a per capita distributions as follows: \$30,000 for all Pasqua Adults and a further \$5,000 payment on November 1, 2025. Pasqua Minors who are under 18 years of age will remain in trust and paid to the minor once reaching the age of 18 years. Upon payment of the Compensation into the Trust, the Distribution Loan will be repaid in full from our settlement.

Upon payment of the Compensation from Canada, the Trust will be invested in a diversified portfolio of stocks and bonds to generate a substantial income to be paid to the Pasqua First Nation each year. The Trust will not only generate a long term and reliable source of income for the Pasqua First Nation people, but it is also intended to last forever and to grow over time. This Trust will help our Nation generate wealth to be invested in our people on an annual basis.

I would like to offer a special thanks to our past Chiefs, leaders, and Elders who began this long and arduous journey many years ago. This not only represents an opportunity for the Government of Canada to right past wrongs and injustice, but it also holds the promise of a brighter future for our people and the Pasqua First Nation as a whole. Today, we are rewarded by the hard work and persistence of the Pasqua leadership, Elders and our legal and technical team of professional advisors.

On behalf of the Chief and Council of the Pasqua First Nation, I am proud to recommend that the members approve the terms of the proposed Settlement Agreement and Trust Agreement. In our view, a negotiated settlement is the best way to resolve our grievances with Canada because litigation would only result in prolonged, expensive, and bitter battle through litigation with an unpredictable outcome.

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In closing, settlement of the Pasqua Treaty 4 Benefits Claim will allow us to look forward to address pressing issues and to provide for the needs of Pasqua members. The Pasqua First Nation Citizens Benefits Trust will ensure that the compensation from the Settlement Agreement is held in trust for future generations while providing a better quality of life for our people today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Matthew T. Peigan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chief Matthew T. Peigan  
Pasqua First Nation #79