

FIRST NATION TO PURCHASE 19,487 ACRES IN BIG RIVER

Please be advised the RM of Big River No. 555 has received notice that Ahtahkakoop First Nation has submitted a request to purchase 19,487 acres within the RM. The property in question surrounds Hackett and Pancake Lake, please see map for more information.

The RM Council has met with government officials from Sask Environment and Government Relations to gain a better understanding of the process from the request to purchase to the final decision. In this case a decision will be made by October 9, 2023.

Purchase Process Overview.

1. First Nation submits a Request to Purchase to the Government.
2. Government initiates a 90-day review process.
 - a. Review involves 13 government agencies who identify those with 3rd party interests. These can include Government departments such as Sask Power and their easements or RMs and their road allowances, lease holders, trappers, commercial fishers, outfitters, etc.
3. The landowner (Ministry of Environment in this case) reviews the 3rd party interests and determines if the land can be made available for sale.
4. If it is decided the land is available for sale, the First Nation is advised and presented with a list of 3rd party interests that must be addressed prior to the sale of lands.
5. At this time the affected individuals will receive notification of the pending sale and that their interest must be addressed by the First Nation.
6. The First Nation is responsible to obtain written consent from each occupant through negotiations relating to the release of their interests from the property prior to the sale of land.
7. The First Nation has 18 months to address all interests and conditions of the sale.

In the event certain 3rd party interests do not consent, the First Nation may make an adjustment to the request for purchase by exempting those lands.

If you would like more information on the Treaty Land Entitlement you may find it at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/first-nations-citizens/treaty-land-and-entitlements#treaty-land-entitlement>

