



LAND DESIGNATIONS VOTE

True or False

We will lose control of our reserve lands if we vote “yes.”

FALSE. Lands which are given a specific designation remain owned by the Nation and part of our reserve lands. Paul First Nation will also be the primary owner of any facilities developed on our reserve land to ensure that the Nation and our membership benefit.

While land designation is not a requirement, it is a wise course of action for the two projects being proposed.

TRUE. Land designation is a process to support First Nations in the management of reserve land, including for economic development purposes. While Paul First Nation has not completed land designation in all instances, the most recent example was the designation of lands at the south end of Sundance Road for an industrial park, laydown area, and other economic development opportunities.

The key reasons that Paul First Nation is seeking the community’s decision on land designation now are to:

- Get input and consent from the community regarding how the lands will be used.
- Provide the Nation with the ability to secure Indigenous Services Canada Major Economic Development and Aboriginal Business Investment Fund grants to reduce costs to the Nation.
- Offer a lessee (Paul First Nation, independently or in partnership, or another company) the ability to secure independent financing for economic development opportunities.
- Implement environmental protection measures as a condition of any lease agreement.
- Ensure that the Nation receives market rate revenues for the designated lands in connection with any market rate leases to support Nation priorities.

Members have identified economic development as a key priority.

TRUE. In community engagement sessions held in 2018 and 2019, Members said they wanted to see more on-reserve development to increase on-reserve services, create job opportunities for Members, and generate revenue for the Nation.

Our Members have the power to decide if these lands are designated.

TRUE. In this case, there will be two separate votes – one for each proposed designation. A vote in favour of one designation does not mean a vote in favour of

both. Each vote must be passed by a “simple majority” of eligible Members of Paul First Nation – or 51% of the total number of Members who vote.

All Paul First Nation Members are eligible to vote.

TRUE. All Members, 18 years of age and older, can vote. Members who live on the reserve can vote in person on Wednesday, October 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Wihnemnè (New) School gymnasium.

Members who live off the reserve are also entitled to vote. Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) has mailed information packages to each eligible off-reserve voter we have current addresses for. These packages contain two mail-in ballots, one for each of the designations, which off-reserve Members can fill out and return in the self-addressed return envelope provided. Ballots must be received by Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 8:00 p.m.

If Members approve the designations, we will continue to have a voice in how the lands are used.

TRUE. Land designation is just the first step in the process to support the management of some of our reserve lands for potential development. If you approve the proposed land designations, Council is committed to consulting with and keeping you informed regarding the proposed developments. These projects are being proposed to create job opportunities for our membership, build economic independence, and generate income to reinvest into our community.

Protecting our lands and natural environment are a priority.

TRUE. Paul First Nation has developed an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) as part of our comprehensive community planning project, in consultation with our Members. The EMP will guide any development projects that we undertake. All proposed projects will require the completion of a thorough Environmental Assessment to protect environmentally and culturally sensitive areas on our reserve lands and ensure that all environmental regulations are followed.

These projects are too risky and will cost our Nation too much money.

FALSE. The leadership of Paul First Nation is dedicated to pursuing these projects in an economically responsible manner. We will apply for all available Federal and Provincial funding available to us to reduce costs and ensure the feasibility of these community-driven projects. These development opportunities have been identified with community input to our Economic Development Action Plan to generate future revenues for the Nation and create local jobs for our membership.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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