

Update on negotiations for the specific claim regarding the transfer of Viger lands



Here's an update on the ongoing negotiations for the specific claim related to the illegal transfer of the Viger reserve.

The facts surrounding the transfer of Viger lands

In 1827, the Wolastoqiyik Wahsipekuk First Nation received the Viger reserve lands near Saint-Épiphanie in the Lower St. Lawrence region from the Crown. These rich and fertile lands quickly aroused the colonists' envy. Despite the legal protections intended to safeguard reserve lands, the Crown illegally transferred the entire reserve in 1869, in a context marked by collusion between the clergy and the federal government, thereby favouring the interests of settlers at the expense of the rights of the Wolastoqiyik. Following the loss of nearly 4,000 acres of reserved land, the Wolastoqiyik found themselves with nowhere to settle, leading to a diaspora of their members.

Negotiation timeline

Filing of the specific claim

Filing of the specific claim for the Transfer of Viger lands with the directorate responsible for specific claims at the Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada on May 1, 2020.

→ Canada's analysis

Analysis of the specific claim regarding the Transfer of Viger lands by Canada between April 1, 2020, and September 15, 2023.

→ Canada's response acknowledging the invalidity of the transfer

In a letter dated September 15, 2023, the directorate responsible for specific claims at the Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada proposed to Grand Chief Jacques Tremblay, as representative of the WWFN, to proceed with negotiations to settle the specific claim regarding the Transfer of Viger lands based on Canada's recognition of the invalidity of the 1869 transfer.

When the Grand Council of the WFN and Canada have negotiated a satisfactory settlement offer, it will be presented to all WFN members entitled to vote at that time in accordance with the WWFN Citizenship Code (2022) to approve or reject the negotiated offer.

➔ Grand Council acceptance

Acceptance by the WWFN Grand Council in October 2023 to enter into negotiations for the specific claim regarding the Transfer of Viger lands and to conduct these negotiations in the best interests of the First Nation.

➔ Discussions and negotiations

Continuation of discussions and negotiations between the WWFN and Canadian negotiating teams on a regular basis for the purpose of reaching a settlement.

➔ Settlement offer and Canada's response

A settlement offer was submitted by the WWFN in February 2025 in collaboration with our experts and consultants in the matter, but it was rejected by Canada.

➔ Break in negotiations

Negotiations were paused for approximately five months, from March to July 2025, due to the federal election period, causing a temporary slowdown in the process.

➔ Expert report on the value of the land

An expert report has been finalized to assess the historical (1869) and present (2024) value of Viger reserve lands. This report is essential and required to support the ongoing negotiations.

➔ Work plan for 2025–2026

In September 2025, a new work plan for the years 2025–2026 was signed, allowing discussions to be resumed and the next steps to be planned.

➔ Next steps

Various expert reports are planned in order to quantify, in accordance with the Specific Claims Policy, the annual economic loss to the WWFN resulting from the loss of Viger lands.

What can the WWFN achieve at the end of these negotiations?

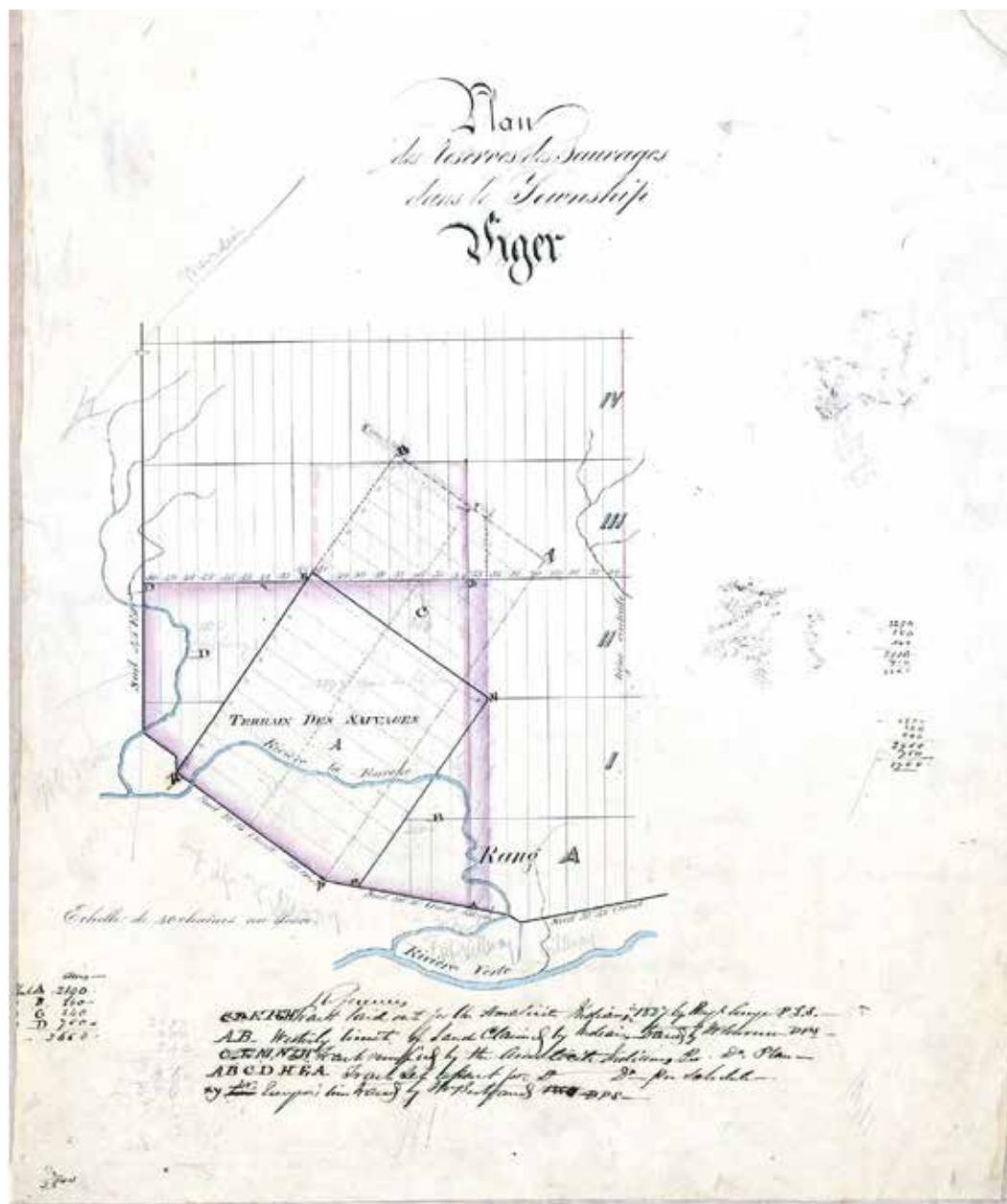
➔ Monetary compensation representing the following compensation categories:

Compensation categories:	Present value of the land	Loss of land use from 1869 to the present day			
What our experts must demonstrate:	Assess the value of Viger reserve lands as of today	Assess the value of Viger reserve lands in 1869	+	Assess the economic loss related to the loss of land between 1869 and today	= Loss of land use
Where we are now:	FINALIZED	FINALIZED		In progress	In progress

 Not eligible for compensation: Losses related to language, culture, diaspora of members, etc.

We invite you to consult the latest communications regarding the specific claim published on our website at: wolastogiyikwahsipekuk.ca/en/n-a-1728409378

We thank you for your ongoing commitment and will keep you informed of any developments.



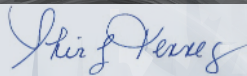
Dear members

As the sun slowly begins to shine again, the Grand Council wishes to extend its warmest wishes to all members of the Wolastoqiyik Wampanoag First Nation.
of the Wolastoqiyik Wampanoag First Nation.

May the holiday season bring you sweetness, rest and precious moments with those who matter. May we welcome the New Year with an open mind, respectful of our values, proud of our identity and confident in the projects that lie ahead.

Together, let us continue to move our nation forward
with determination and solidarity.

Our best wishes for a bright holiday season and a healthy,
peaceful and happy 2025.



Shirley Kennedy
Vice Grand Chief
and Chief Councillor



Martine Bruneau
Chief Councillor

The Grand Council



Jacques Tremblay
Grand Chief



Kevin Morais
Chief Councillor



Nancy St-Gelais
Chief Councillor

Woli
Nipayimiyan
naka Woli Piliketon!

(Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!)