

BREAKING NEWS

Canadian Federal Government announces in Budget 2018:

Non-repayable contributions for those participating in modern treaty negotiations!

Prior to this—80% of contributions were a loan, and 20% of contributions were grants for those active in negotiations. NOW—there will be no loans to be paid back. This is exciting news for the Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw Treaty Association!

Supporting the Recognition and Implementation of Rights and Self-Determination

While Canada has advanced a number of modern treaties and agreements since the 1970s, the pace of progress in many cases has been slow and uneven. Negotiations can take a decade or more, and Indigenous communities are forced to take on debt in order to participate.

Budget 2018 outlines new steps the Government will take to increase the number of modern treaties and self-determination agreements in a manner that reflects a recognition of rights approach. These changes, along with the new approach brought forward through the Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination negotiation process, will shorten the time it takes to reach new treaties and agreements, at a lower cost to all parties.

As part of this new approach, the Government of Canada will be moving away from the use of loans to fund Indigenous participation in the negotiation of modern treaties. Starting in 2018–19, Indigenous participation in modern treaty negotiations will be funded through non-repayable contributions.

The Government will engage with affected Indigenous groups on how best to address past and present negotiation loans, including forgiveness of loans.

Through Budget 2018, the Government also proposes to invest \$51.4 million over the next two years to continue its support for federal and Indigenous participation in the Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination discussion tables.

<https://www.budget.gc.ca/2018/docs/plan/chap-03-en.html>
