

Misleading claims by The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (New Credit)

Leading up to the 1784 Haldimand Treaty, the Haudenosaunee knew of and used the lands that later became known as the Haldimand Tract. Before the 1700's, these lands were the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and the Neutral Indian Nations. They were both Iroquois Nations whose territories were taken over by the Five Nations (now Six Nations) in the 1600's. Most of the Neutral Indians were absorbed into the Seneca Nation.

In 1701 at Fort Albany, the Five Nations put the land they had obtained from the Huron-Wendat and the Neutral Nations under the protection of the British reserving the rights to hunt and fish and to harvest their crops and plants thereon. This is known as the Nanfan Treaty as it was made with the Governor of the New York Colony, John Nanfan. It was also to allow the British to place their castles (forts) upon Six Nations' lands to prevent occupation by the French.

The Six Nations continued to use the Nanfan Treaty Territory for harvesting purposes up to 1784 and pressured the removal of early French occupation from the Six Nations' Nanfan Treaty Territory.

In 1784, following the American Revolution, the British had to compensate the Mohawks and others of the Six Nations who had lost their homelands in New York State. The Six Nations were angry that the British had promised the Six Nations that they would be no worse off if they allied with them in the war against the Americans and that their homelands would be protected. Their homelands were not protected but given to the Americans and in order to prevent another Pontiac's Rebellion that occurred in 1763. The British promised to give the Mohawks and others of the Six Nations a home in what remained of British North America.

For the land between the Lakes of Huron, Ontario and Erie in accordance with British-Indian policy, the British decided to take a surrender from the Indians who appeared to be in possession, which was the Mississauga Indians.

In or around 1701, the Haudenosaunee and the Anishnabek agreed to a peaceful sharing of the lands which now comprise Southern Ontario. Both Nations agreed to share the lands and the resources within and neither would claim exclusive ownership of the lands. The Treaty recording this Agreement is called the Dish With One Spoon Treaty. The Mississauga Indians were a party to the Dish With One Spoon Treaty.

The Mississauga of the Credit were a smaller band of the larger Mississauga Nation.

The May 22, 1784 Between the Lakes Surrender was made with the larger tribe of the Mississauga. For some reason the Mississauga of the Credit claimed that they never received any benefits from the Quit Claim. They claimed that the other members of the Mississauga had as well as other Chippewa Indians. It is worth noting that Joseph Brant and other Mohawk Headmen were present at the 1784 Surrender so it was clear to all parties what land was being surrendered and what land Six Nations would be receiving.

The Mississauga of the Credit claim to not having received any of the benefits was satisfied in another surrender made with them on December 7, 1792 in which the exact wording of the 1784 Surrender was utilized.

The wording of the 1792 Surrender reads in part “the said Wabakanye, Wabanip, Kautabus, Wabinship and Mattatow in hand duly paid at and before the sealing and delivering of these presents and for the better ratifying and confirming of the here to fore recited Indenture have granted, bargained and sell and confirm to His Brittanick Majesty, His Heirs and successors, all the tract or parcel of land lying, and being between the lakes Ontario and Erie...” and further it reads, “To have and hold all and singular the said tract or parcel of land unto His Brittanick Majesty, His Heirs and successors forever.”

The Mississauga, the Mississauga of the Credit and other Chippewa Indians surrendered all their interest in the land around the Haldimand Tract itself and the Niagara Peninsula.

On October 28, 1818, the Mississauga Indians, which specifically mentions the Mississauga of Credit River, surrendered a huge Tract just east of the Between the Lakes Quit Claim containing 648,000 acres which reads in part; "... do freely, fully and voluntarily surrender and convey the same to His Majesty without reservation or limitation in perpetuity. And the said William Claus, on behalf of His Majesty does hereby promise and agree to pay to the said Nation of Indians inhabiting as above mentioned yearly and every year for ever the said sum of five hundred and twenty two pounds ten shillings currency in goods at the Montreal price, which sum that said Principal Chiefs and people, parties hereunto, acknowledge as a full consideration for the lands hereby sold and conveyed to His Majesty." This is known as the Ajetance Purchase. The Mississauga Indians retained no rights to the land under the surrender.

The Toronto Purchase of August 1, 1805 is a huge tract of land which comprises part amount of money mentioned in the Surrender, but in the Quit Claim it reads in part; "... to have and to hold all and singular the said Tract of land, hereditaments and premises in and by these presents released and confirmed unto Our Sovereign Lord the King, His Heirs and successors as aforesaid shall and may at all times for ever hereafter peacefully and quietly have, hold, occupy, possess all and singular the said tract or parcel of land with the appurtenances and every part and parcel thereof without trouble, hindrance, molestation, interruption or disturbance of them the said Principal Chiefs, Warriors and people of the Mississauga Nation or any of them, their heirs or successors or any other person or persons lawfully claiming or to claim by, from or under them or any of them."

On September 12, 1806, the Mississauga of the Credit surrendered 85,000 acres called the Head of the Lake Surrender for consideration of one thousand pounds of lawful money of Upper Canada beginning at the Etobicoke River south-westerly to the land granted to Joseph Brant along Burlington Bay.

However, the Credit River Mississauga did retain small reserves along the banks of the Credit River, Sixteen Mile Creek and the Etobicoke River. This surrender reads in part; "... To have and to hold the said parcel or tract of land and all and singular other than the

premises mentioned (the small reserves along the banks of the rivers and creek) to be hereby granted and released as aforesaid with their and every of their appurtenances unto His said Majesty, His Heirs and successors to the use of His said Majesty, His heirs and successors for ever.”

The Mississauga of the Credit are also claiming that they never quit claimed their interest in the Rouge Valley, which is a Tract just east of the Toronto Purchase. This claim has yet to be settled.

It is worth noting that all of the lands which the Mississauga of the Credit quit claimed or are still claiming is land in the Nanfan Treaty area, the land that was formerly owned by the Huron-Wendat and Neutral Indians.

The Nanfan Treaty has never been abrogated by the Crown and today remains a valid pre-Confederation Treaty. The Nanfan Treaty lands are in the lands quit claimed by the Mississauga, which included the Mississauga of the Credit. The legal status of these lands will be determined in Six Nations’ court case against Canada and Ontario for Breach of Fiduciary Duty and Trust Accounting which case is scheduled for trial commencing on October 5, 2026.