

Treaty Agreements and Self-determination

Self-determination, when formalized through treaty agreements, creates a base for financial stability, economic growth, and sustainable development. Treaty agreements transform uncertainty into clarity, dependency into partnership, and short-term funding into long-term prosperity—benefiting our people and the broader Canadian public and economy.

Overview of Self-Determination

- Self-determination is the right of our people to freely determine our political status and to pursue our own economic, social, and cultural development.
- They provide political autonomy and authority to make decisions about our own governance, laws, and institutions.
- They provide economic control and the power to manage our own lands, resources, and economic development.
- They provide cultural integrity by protecting and revitalizing our language, traditions, and social systems.
- They provide legal recognition through the formal recognition and acknowledgment of our rights under Canadian and international law (UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples).
- Self-determination does not necessarily imply full independence but often exists within a broader legal framework through self-government, autonomy, and/or agreed to arrangements.

Role of Treaty Agreements in Advancing Self-Determination

- A treaty agreement is a legally binding arrangement between the governments and our people that formalizes rights, responsibilities, and accountability.
- Treaties recognize inherent rights to self-determination
- Establishes jurisdictional authority
- Provides legal certainty and long-term stability
- Creates a foundation for economic participation, partnerships and development

Financial Benefits of Treaty Agreements

- Treaties provide predictable and Stable Funding
- Long-term fiscal transfers or revenue-sharing arrangements
- Reduced reliance on short-term or discretionary funding programs
- Greater ability to plan multi-year budgets and investments

Increased Access to Capital

- Treaties provide legal certainty and improves credit worthiness
- Ability to borrow, invest, and form partnerships
- Improved access to private investment and development financing

Revenue Generation

- Share of natural resource revenues
- Taxation powers or tax-sharing arrangements
- Income from land use, leases, and enterprises

Cost Efficiency

- Reduced administrative duplication between governments
- Fewer legal disputes and litigation costs
- Streamlined service delivery

Economic Benefits of Treaty Agreements

- Treaties provide economic development opportunities and Growth
- Authority to design and develop our own economic strategies
- Support for WLFN-led businesses and entrepreneurship

- Job creation through infrastructure, resource development, and services

Land and Resource Management

- Recognition of land rights, jurisdiction and decision-making authority
- Sustainable resource development aligned with Secwepemc values and priorities
- Improved environmental stewardship

Workforce and Human Capital Development

- Investment in education, training, and skills development
- Greater employment participation and income levels
- Reduced dependency on social assistance over time

Regional and National Economic Gains

- Increased economic activity benefits within the surrounding regions
- Stable investment climate attracts broader economic participation
- Contribution to national GDP and tax base

Broader Socio-Economic Impacts

- While not purely financial, these impacts have strong economic implications
- Improved health and social outcomes reduce public expenditures
- Stronger governance leads to better policy outcomes
- Cultural continuity supports social cohesion and productivity
- Long-term intergenerational wealth creation