

A green combine harvester is shown in the lower right quadrant, harvesting a field of golden-brown crops. The harvester is moving from right to left, leaving a trail of harvested material behind it. The field is vast and flat, extending to a distant horizon. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. In the background, there are some trees and a small structure.

Cowesses First Nation

Agriculture in the Classroom AGM

April 21, 2022

Chief Cadmus Delorme

Cowessess First Nation Lands

- Home Reserve Lands of 28,000 acres;
 - 17,000 acres of agricultural land
 - Indian Act Section 28(2) Permits - The Minister may by permit in writing authorize any person for a period not exceeding one year, or with the consent of the council of the band for any longer period, to occupy or use a reserve to reside or otherwise exercise rights on a reserve
- Treaty Land Entitlement has added total 60,000 acres to status land for Lands Department to oversee: (1) Agriculture 27,533, (2) Grazing/Hay 31,170, (3) Un-leased 2,697;
 - All permits have current due process Section 28(2) verification;
 - Rental fee provided to the band;
 - Treaty land Entitlement current land in Fee Simple Land total acres (1) 23,474 cultivated acres (2) 2,834 Agriculture (3) 13,148 grazing/hay

Cowessess First Nation People

- Home Reserve
 - 910 community members
 - 3,300 citizens living throughout Canada and beyond
- Cowessess First Nation heritage is Saulteaux, Cree, Nakota, Metis

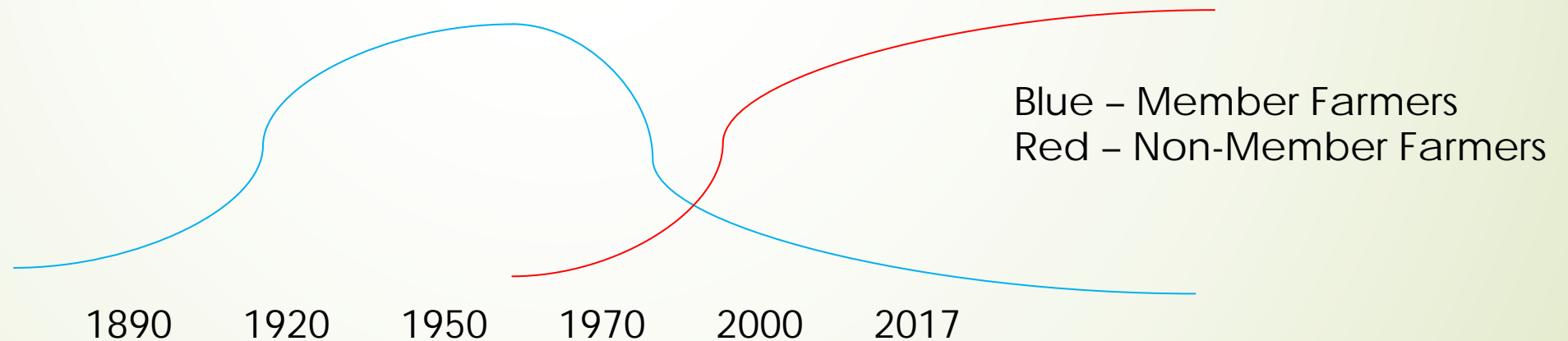


Inherent Rights, Treaty Rights, and Jurisdiction

- The Inherent Right to self-determination and self-sustaining is a driver of Cowessess First Nation; economic self-sustainability
- Fulfilling the Treaty Rights to agriculture; pimācihowin
- United Nations Declaration on Rights of Indigenous People Article 23: Right to Development affirm Cowessess and Canada's obligation to continue Nation to Nation;
- Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #92: Economic participation

History of Farming on Cowessess

- ▶ Four generations of farming;
- ▶ Blue line shows the peak of Cowessess;
- ▶ Agriculture was always a challenge with Government regulating success and Cowessess members through generations succeeded then drifted away from farming.



Cowessess First Nation after Treaty Four

- In 1874-1880 Chief Kwiwizance (Cowessess) and tribe broke ground in Cypress Hills which lead to lied to move
- 1882 Chief Kwiwizance and tribe moved to present day Cowessess with Louie O'Soup and remainder of followers to settle
- 1882-1905 Cowessess First Nation excelled in agriculture; winning competitions and breaking ground
- 1907 a illegal land surrender hindered growth
- Moving forward policies hindered the growth of Cowessess in agriculture

What Happened

- Agriculture on First Nation reserves are generally thought to have failed because the First Nation people lacked either a interest in farming or a patite for it
- Truth is First Nation people were anxious to farm and expended considerable effort on cultivation
- Government policies, more then anything else, acted to undermine success
- Repeated requests for assistance from First Nation, Canadian government provided very little help between and what they provided proved useless
- First Nation farmers were determined to create an economy based on agriculture and to become independent of government regulations and the need for assistance

What Happened

- Officials in Ottawa, however attributed setbacks not to economic conditions but to the First Nation character and traditions, which government claimed made the First Nation unsuited to agriculture
- In the decade following 1885 government policies made farming virtually impossible for the First Nation
- First Nation were expected to subsist on one or two acres and were denied access to any improvements in technology
- After the turn of the century, the government encouraged land surrenders in order to make good agriculture land available to non-First Nation people
- This destroyed any chance of First Nation had of making agriculture a stable economic base

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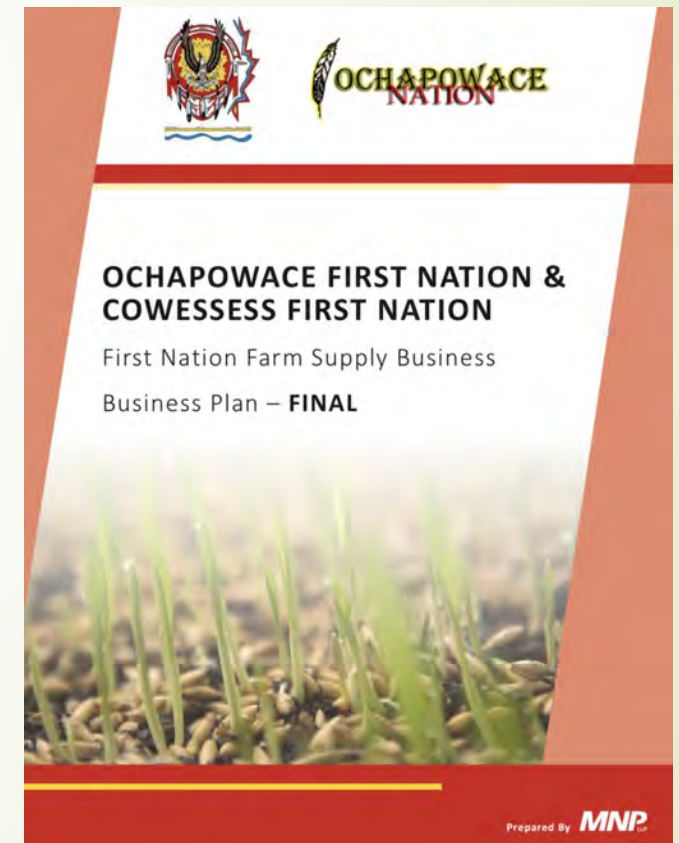
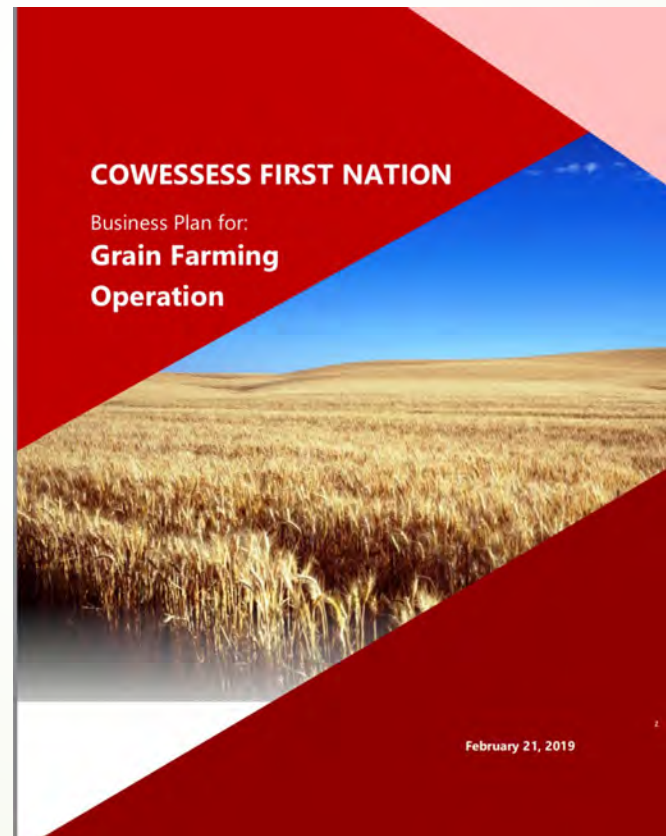
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1876 Indian Act



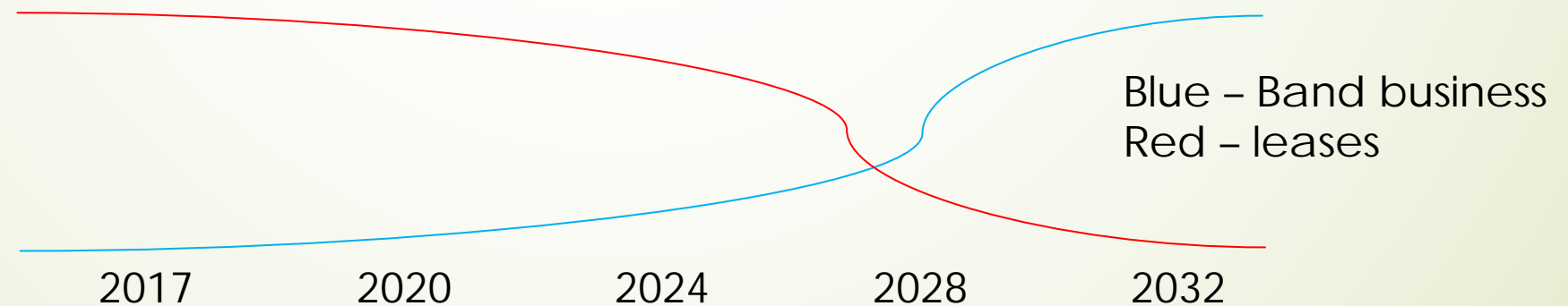
Moving Forward

- Cowessess First Nation is in the cattle and grain industry
- Cowessess Nation wants to be a major player Nationally and Internationally



Economic Opportunity with Lands

- 2019-2020 – farm 500 acres;
- 2020-2024 – farm up to 5,000 acres;
- 2024-2028 – continue purchasing farm machinery and begin bushel negotiations with buyers; assess selling byproducts
- 2028+ create factories to take raw material into finished product;
- Cowessess Nation can retain full economic participation with land.



Cowessess Custom Lands Act

Laws and Jurisdiction

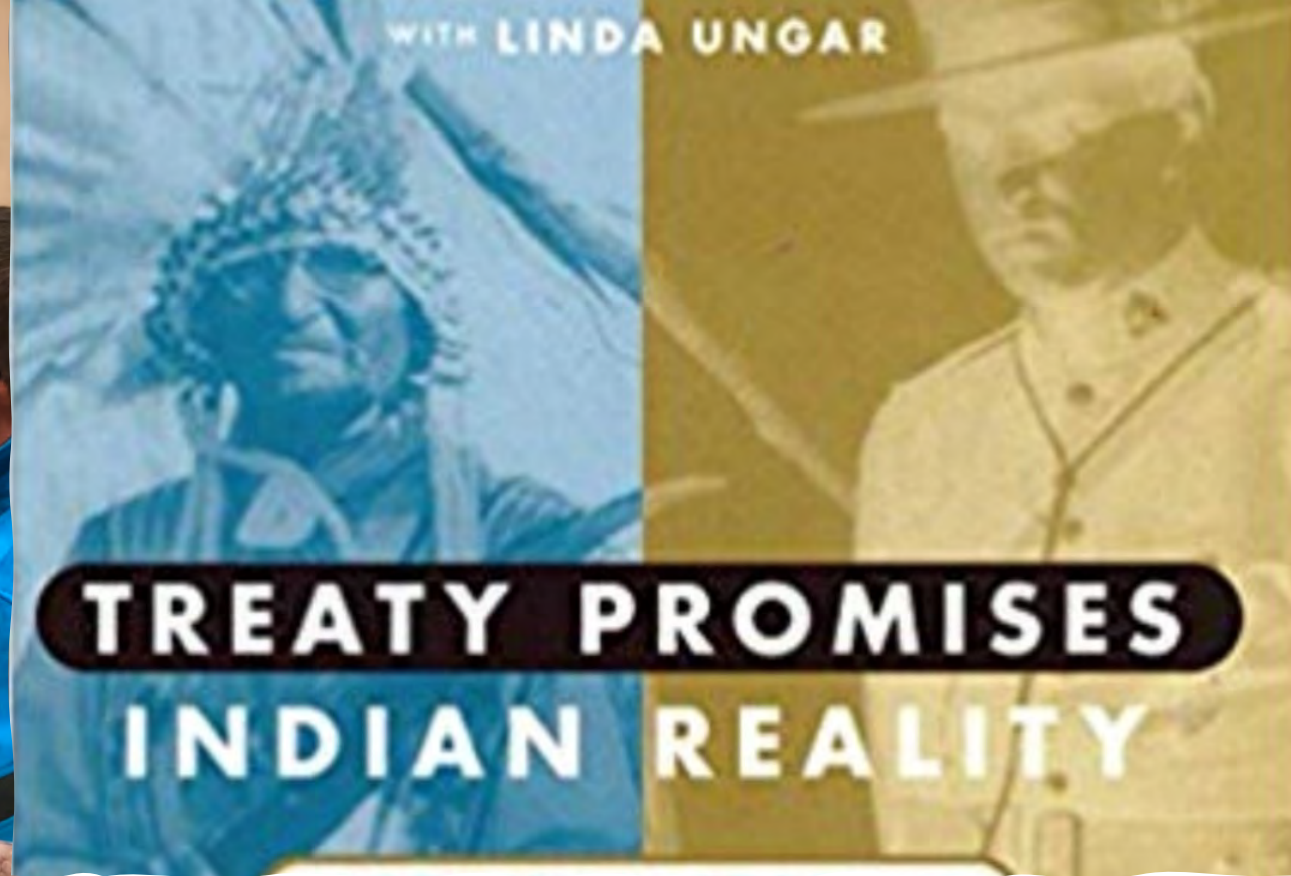
1. Centralize through Lands Department;
 2. Ratify Lands Act;
 3. Incorporate Lands Department to run as a business.
- Exercising Cowessess' Nation's Inherent right is to retain control of land, including the power to regulate and the exercise of eminent domain.

Cowessess First Nation Custom Lands Act

- Once the land act is ratified, Cowessess Nation would no longer be subject to the land-management provisions of the Indian Act;
- Allow Cowessess Nation to develop land law that addresses the following:
 - The use and occupancy of First Nation land, including licences, leases, and allotments;
 - Transfer of land interests and the revenues from natural resources obtained from reserve land;
 - Requirements for accountability to Cowessess members for land management and money derived from reserve land;
 - Community consultation processes for the development of rules respecting matrimonial property issues, use, occupancy and possession of Cowessess land and the division of interests in Cowessess land;
 - Conflict of interest in the management of Cowessess land;
 - Establishment of a forum for the resolution of disputes in relation to interests;
 - Granting or expropriating interests.

Opportunities and Challenges

- Today it is about inequality and help the the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative Grant
- Capacity building; agriculture is not a 8am to 4:30pm job
- The current system was not build with First Nation involvement and major overhaul is needed to adjust
 - Indian Act is not business friendly
 - Access to capital on reserve
 - Programs and policies have minimal First Nation voice at the table
- What markets are available: goats, poultry, buffalo
- Transport to markets nationally and internally
- Partnership with Ducks Unlimited to assure Stewardship to Land and Animals



Treaty Promises – Harold Lerat







Cowessess First Nation 4-C Farms Grain