



Information Note

Advice to Minister Selena Robinson

Date: January 4, 2023

Cliff #: 127273 (xRef: 114297, 119385)

Issue: Royal Roads University (RRU) ^{s.16}

Background / Facts:

- RRU currently operates on a 565-acre national historic site known as the Hatley Park Lands located in the City of Colwood near Victoria.
- The RRU campus was established through a 99-year (\$1) lease with the Department of National Defense (DND) in 2000, with the university occupying several non-contiguous parcels of land, approximating 147 acres.
- DND declared the lands surplus to their needs in 2016 and initiated a disposition process.
- The university is interested in securing its current and future operations on the property ^{s.13; s.16}
- The property is part of the ancestral homelands of the Songhees Nation (Songhees) and Esquimalt Nation (Esquimalt). Both have expressed an interest in having the lands included in a treaty settlement currently being negotiated with the Te'mexw peoples, which includes Songhees.
- RRU entered into a non-legally binding framework agreement in May 2018 with Songhees which outlines each other's intended outcomes for the property. In June 2019, RRU signed a similar agreement with Esquimalt.
- As part of the federal land disposition process, an Expression of Interest was jointly developed by the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS), the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) and RRU and submitted to Canada.
- The document acknowledged:
 - The importance of reconciliation and the role of the property in ongoing treaty negotiations with Songhees and Esquimalt; and,
 - B.C.'s interest in the land for the continued delivery of public post-secondary education.
- PSFS is not a party to the land disposition and treaty negotiations tables. MIRR has been involved and informs PSFS of any significant developments as they arise. RRU has also been keeping PSFS apprised of the issue.

Analysis:

s.13; s.16; s.17

- S.13, S.16, S.17
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- . Public engagement related to the treaty is expected in early 2023, which may include a session held at RRU.

Conclusion / Next Steps (if any):

- MIRR to keep PSFS informed on developments in the treaty negotiations and the upcoming public engagement.

Attachment(s): *N/A*

Contact: Jason Butler, Assistant Deputy Minister (778 698-3209)