

Day Star First Nation's Agricultural Benefits Claim and Miyo-Wīcēhtowin Trust

October 23, 2026

Over the past week, information meetings were held on-reserve and across our urban communities in Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg and Vancouver. Many impactful discussions were held and questions raised. While some Members would like to see the vote paused so the PCD can be increased, the vote will proceed as scheduled on Monday, October 26, 2026. All voters are encouraged to exercise their right to vote.

If vote passes, it is possible that the money will be distributed by Christmas. If the vote fails, we will determine next steps once the results are known. We will work with Canada to try to schedule a second vote in the new year.

Miyo-wīcēhtowin means having good relations, walking alongside each other in a good way and helping one another. The decision by our Council to hold half of the compensation in the Trust was a decision to honour our ancestors, support our Members in a good way now and benefit our future children and grandchildren.

One of the main reasons for the Trust is to respect and honour the sacred spirit and intent of Treaty 4 – for as long as the sun shines, grass grows and rivers flow. The Trust will create significant change for Day Star First Nation, for both present and future generations.

For example, every year, Day Star First Nation will receive a payment from the Trust. This will give our Nation a steady source of money that does not depend on government funding decisions. Day Star can use the money for programs, services, projects and initiatives that will benefit our Members and create a better future for our Nation. Here are just some examples of how the money could be used:

- Housing support, including housing repairs, rent subsidy programs or down payment assistance;
- Education support, including scholarships and cost of living support for our youth and young adults who are in post-secondary education or trade schools;
- Health, wellness and healing programs on-reserve and in our urban communities, such as youth camps, hunting camps, men's and women's support groups, mental health support and addiction recovery support;
- Sports and recreation support, such as funding for hockey programs or sponsorship in soccer, volleyball and golf tournaments for our elementary and high school students;
- Elder support, such as Elder gatherings or programs, home care, transportation to and from programs or medical appointments and emergency assistance;
- Food sovereignty initiatives, including gardening and farming projects;
- Assistance with groceries, formula, diapers and other support for single parents on-reserve and in our urban communities;
- Cultural activities and language programs so that our children and youth can embrace their identity and feel a sense of belonging;

- Economic development initiatives, including starting new Nation businesses which can create jobs for Members and generate profits that can flow back to our community, and supporting Members who wish to start their own business; and
- To fill other gaps where federal and provincial funding falls short.

We also invite you to share your ideas on how the money could be spent and benefit Day Star First Nation.

Also, to action Day Star First Nation's vision for our future and continue our journey of building up our people, we can take out a loan against the Trust Property to:

- Expand our home reserve and build more houses, so that more Members have a chance to come home;
- Build a playground, splash park, skate park or sports field for our children and youth;
- Buy and develop land for urban reserves in surrounding cities, such as Regina and Saskatoon, and lease space to businesses so that we can generate lease revenues for our Nation, which can then be reinvested in Day Star First Nation and used for more programs and services for our Members; and
- Create new Nation businesses, so that we can create jobs for our Members and generate profits that can flow back to our community.

The Trust is designed to protect and invest a core amount of the settlement monies and grow it over time, so that it can continue to benefit our Nation for many generations to come. It will be a source of wealth and prosperity for Day Star First Nation, and our present Members and our future generations will benefit from it.

The Trust was also intentionally built with safeguards so that no current or future Chief or Councillors can access the monies for improper purposes. The Trust is a tool to protect the settlement monies. There will also be an information meeting every year to discuss the Trust. There are reporting requirements for Chief and Council and the Trustee and this means that Members will have accountability and transparency from our elected Leaders. To help support Chief and Council and the Trustee in the administration of the Trust, we can set up a Trust Committee or an Elders/Knowledge Keeper Trust Counsel – this way our Members can be more involved and empowered as we all continue to do good for our Members.

Thank you for your input, participation and commitment to Day Star First Nation. We look forward to continue working together to strengthen our Nation for all our Members.

Chief Wanda Whitehawk and Council