

Land Titles Initiative

A project to support
land clarification within
designated areas

July 2022



The Land Titles Initiative (LTI) is a government commitment established to right an historical wrong which assists residents in the communities of North Preston, East Preston, Cherry Brook/Lake Loon, Lincolnville and Sunnyville (LTI communities) get clear title to their land. Government's commitment includes covering the legal fees and other costs associated with clarifying land ownership.

Introducing our new legal services!

The province is transitioning legal services for the LTI from Nova Scotia Legal Aid (NSLA) to three private firms: Boyne Clarke, Stewart McKelvey, and Cox & Palmer. These full-service firms increase the capacity to help clients with the various legal areas that may be involved to clear title.

We would like to extend our utmost gratitude and appreciation to the team at NSLA for their high-quality legal services delivered to residents over the last four years. As a result of their efforts and dedication, clear title to 288 parcels of land within the LTI communities have been granted to residents.

Regulations and Commissioner Appointments

On April 19, 2021, the *Land Titles Initiative Acceleration Act* was enacted to help speed up the settling of claims to rectify land ownership issues in the LTI communities. The legislation amended the *Land Titles Clarification Act* to enshrine the LTI into law and, among other things, enable the Minister to make regulations to govern the work of the Commissioners who will negotiate, mediate and arbitrate competing claims. The regulations for the Commissioners were enacted as of July 5, 2022, by Order in Council.

Retired Judge Corrine Sparks and lawyer Douglas Ruck, Q.C. have been appointed as Commissioners. Preparations are underway to equip the Commissioners for their important roles.



Welcome our new Community Navigator Holly Adams

Holly Adams is a wife and mother of three young children. Her roots are from North Preston, and she also has family ties in the communities of East Preston and Cherrybrook/Lake Loon. She has over seven years' experience working within African Nova Scotian communities and with people of African descent. Holly was recently employed with the East Preston Daycare/Family Resource Centre where she worked as the ANS Parenting Journey Home Visitor. In her role, she assisted people who needed help with various issues such as child welfare, income assistance, housing, and parenting supports. Holly also has volunteered within the Preston Township for many years.

Welcoming new support for the Land Titles Clarification Act

We are happy to announce that the LTI has expanded by hiring a second Land Administration Officer which will help speed up the review and processing of Land Titles Clarification Act claims. This move is another important step in accelerating the land claims process for African Nova Scotians from the LTI communities.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can simply call a Community Navigator to ask questions about the status of the title to a parcel within the LTI communities that you have an interest in. You do not have to have a land titles claim registered with the LTI. If title is unclear, you may submit an intake application to determine your eligibility for the LTI at that time. This can be a quick call to provide you with the confirmation you need to ensure title to your land is in order!

Contact a Community Navigator for more information at
1-833-424-6100 or communitynavigator@novascotia.ca