



# BACKGROUND

- **WHAT IS A SPECIFIC LAND CLAIM?**

A Specific Land Claim is a legal claim made by a First Nation which arises in the context of the Crown's failure to fulfill a legal duty it owed to the First Nation. This often occurs in the context of the Crown's administration of lands and or other assets of the First Nation.

- Where the First Nation believes that they have a valid claim, they can submit their claim under the federal land claim process to the Specific Claims Branch of Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) for consideration by Canada. They are then required to develop various documents to submit to Canada to prove that the Crown breached their legal duty.

- **THE NATOAGANEG 1844 ACT SPECIFIC LAND CLAIM**

In the late 1700's, Natoaganeg experienced significant unlawful occupation of Natoaganeg reserve lands by non-Indigenous peoples during the colonial settlement of our region. Even though the Crown had a duty to protect our lands from encroachment, they failed to remove the squatters from Natoaganeg lands. The colonial government sold these lands, without Natoaganeg's agreement, or compensation being provided for the sale of the lands. These actions by the Crown were considered a breach of the Crown's fiduciary duty owed to Natoaganeg.

- In 2017, Natoaganeg First Nation ("Natoaganeg") submitted a Land Claim to Canada relating to the loss of Natoaganeg Reserve Lands and the breach of the Crown's duty owed to Natoaganeg. The Claim alleged that Canada failed to uphold its legal obligations when it:
  - A. Failed to protect the Natoaganeg Reserve Lands from unlawful occupation, and/or remove the occupiers from the lands, occurring primarily between the 1790s and 1840s.
  - B. Illegally sold Natoaganeg Reserve Lands in 1847 without first acquiring a surrender from Natoaganeg.
- The Claim lands are located to the west and east boundaries of present day Natoaganeg and form 1116 acres of lands. (See map identifying claim lands in orange)