



ANNUAL REPORT

For the Period Ending December 31, 2024

2024



PEGUIS FIRST NATION
SURRENDER CLAIM TRUST

Building *Our* Future

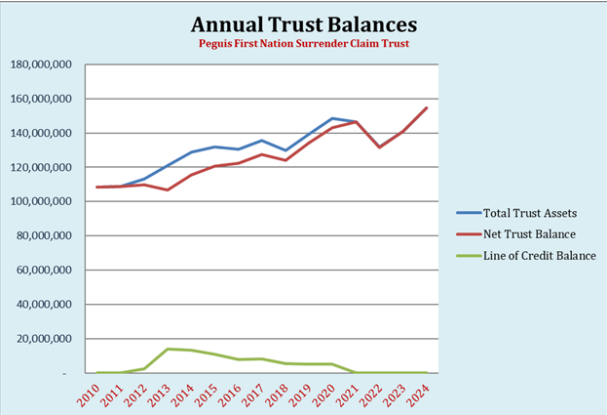


Contents

Financial Chair's Message	 2
Community Fund Message	 3
Message from the Trust Manager	 4
Our History & Reflection on the Past Years	 5
Financial Trustees	 8
Community Fund Trustees	 9
Staff	 10
Trust Activities & Events	 11
Capacity Building & Professional Development	 13
Trust Nomination Committee	 14
Trustee Honorarium	 14
Financial Operations Report	 15
2023 Community Fund Project Summaries	 16
Community Fund Outstanding Reports	 17
Investment Counsel & Managers	 20
Certification	 30

Financial Chair's Message

The Peguis Surrender Claim Financial Trustees are pleased to report the results of investment and operations during the 2024 year. From a financial investment point of view, we have become accustomed to navigating volatile investment markets. Last year, we saw a continued rebound in trust investment performance, reaching new highs in our year-end trust balance. Regardless of current market conditions, the financial trustees maintain investment policies that ensure our investments will gain in value over time, meeting the needs of our present-day generation while preserving the trust assets for future generations, providing reassurance about our future financial security. The financial trustees are obligated to provide governance oversight for the Trust. We engage experts and investment advisors who monitor investment managers to achieve high-level performance.



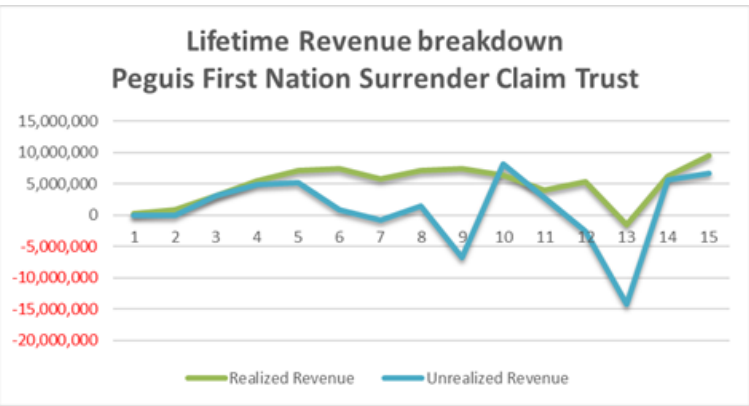
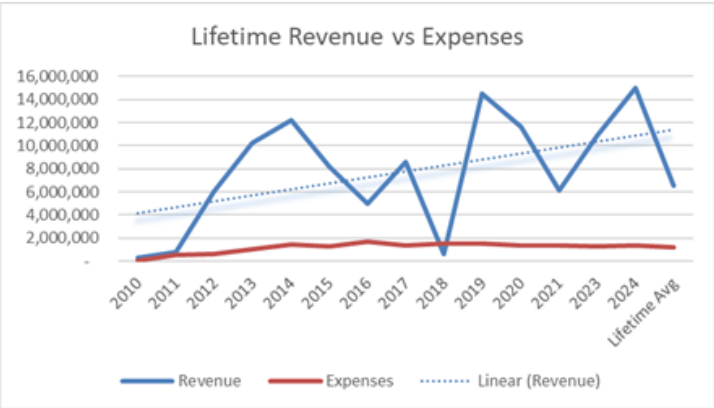
The Peguis Surrender Claim Trust has a strong financial position as of December 31, 2024, with a net asset balance of \$154,613,101. The Trust's line of credit has been at a zero balance since 2021, and \$40 million remains available for future use to pay present-day community disbursements and maximize trust investment growth.

The Trust's operating expenses were \$1,356,156, which aligns with the previous year and the historical average.

Once again, in 2024, Peguis Surrender Claim Trust's operations were hampered by a lack of a quorum of Community Fund Trustees to fund new projects. However, we are delighted to welcome three new Community Fund Trustees, elected in January 2025, who are immediately oriented to their roles and have begun their duties. The

unfinished business of the election of Financial Trustees remains for the year ahead.

Regarding community engagement, we continue to advocate for and support the work of the Comprehensive Community Plan, which is necessary to ensure that Peguis First Nation's collective voice is heard and valued in our operations.



In the future, our work will focus on maximizing the use of trust assets, particularly as we explore the Trust's ability to lend funds to community projects. We look forward to holding community meetings to roll out this initiative.

In closing, I want to recognize the hard work and diligence of the Trust administration in providing the Trustees with the information they need to govern the Trust's operations effectively.

Peguis Surrender Claim Trust
Errol Wilson
Financial Trustee, Chair 2024

Community Fund Message

Aaniin, Ekosi, Greetings

After three years without quorum, the Surrender Claim Trust is now fully operational with the addition of newly elected Trustees Gloria D. Sinclair, Lezley Sutherland, and Holly Courchene. The electoral process was notably competitive, featuring eight highly qualified candidates vying for three positions. The new Trustees have been familiarizing themselves with the Trust policies and procedures and are eager to resume the trust's work of focusing on building our nation and providing limitless opportunities for future generations.

The Trust has been under the management of the Trustees for 14 years since its founding in 2011. We remain committed to ensuring that the Trust adheres to our mission statement: "The Surrender Claim Trust will manage and safeguard the Trust so that it benefits the people of Peguis for all time. We are dedicated to applying our resources to support Peguis, build a strong nation, elevate the quality of life for our people, and preserve and protect the legacy that defines us as a sovereign nation."

Chief Peguis spoke in 1863 in a letter to the Queen Mother, "A proper settlement should be made with us for our lands, so that our children, and our children's children, whose lands are being taken possession of by foreigners, may receive what is just and fair for the loss of their lands." We honor Chief Peguis' vision by ensuring that the 2009 settlement benefits our people for generations to come.

The Peguis First Nation Surrender Claim Trust is structured to provide resources for the future as envisioned by Chief Peguis. It is recognized for effective management among First Nation Trusts in Canada. The Trustees are responsible for safeguarding the principal, promoting its growth, and ensuring that the community benefits from the Trust's resources.

Our administration team, under the leadership of Debbie McElhinney, has consistently demonstrated exceptional performance in contributing to the success of our Trust. We are

also pleased to welcome Alfreda Sinclair as our Project Officer and look forward to collaborating with to serve and safeguard a Trust that is vital to our future.

We appreciate the community's support as we strive to "build our future." Growth and progress are always possible, and together we can achieve a brighter future. We remain committed to collaborating with the community and leadership to meet Peguis' needs.

With a complete team of trustees, we are prepared to assist the community effectively. As trustees, we look forward to this year's applications for future development and betterment for the benefit of the community.

Miigwech, Ekosi, Thank you



Hal Sutherland
Community Fund Trustee
Co-Chair 2024



Lloyd Sinclair
Community Fund Trustee
Co-Chair 2024

Message from the Trust Manager

The year 2024 was a whirlwind of change, brimming with new opportunities and invaluable learning experiences that kept life vibrant and exciting. As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with anticipation for what 2025 has in store.

Peguis Chief and Council's appointed Trust Nominating Committee embarked on a mission to seek out new trustees, setting the stage for the upcoming Trustee election on January 28th, 2025. This election is crucial as the Community Fund Trustees have been operating without a quorum, hindering their ability to review or approve applications. Despite this challenge, we remain committed to assisting clients and departments in preparing their funding applications, eagerly awaiting the election of trustees.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Peguis Surrender Claim Trustees for their dedication in updating their five-year strategic plan. This comprehensive plan has paved the way for the development of annual work plans aimed at achieving their objectives. With this roadmap in hand, we are ready to support the Trust and walk the path they have set forth.

Our deepest thanks go to the Trustees, Chief & Council, and the entire community of Peguis for their unwavering support and guidance. Together, we are moving the Trust forward, ensuring it continues to serve the best interests of our beneficiaries.

Kind Regards,

Debbie McElhinney

Trust Manager



Our Mission Statement:

"To manage and safeguard the Trust so it will benefit the people of Peguis for all time. We are dedicated to applying our resources to support Peguis, to build a strong nation, to elevate the quality of life for our people and to preserve and protect the legacy that defines us as a sovereign nation."

Our History & Reflection on the Past years

As we look back on our history, we recognize the need to reclaim our identity and acknowledge our ancestors, forefathers, leaders and community members for the strength and resilience they have shown us and their inspiration for us to fight the good fight for our future.

MIGRATION STORY Not so long ago, the oral history of the Anishinaabek and other Algonquin tribes begins with them on the lands near the great salt water, in the land of the first light. Our ancestors had their homes, lands for hunting & gathering, education systems, Clan Systems, governance structures, culture, traditions and lived in harmony with Mother Earth and all that Kiche Manitou provided.



The Seven Fires Prophecy was brought to the Anishinabek as they enjoyed life along the great salt water. It included the prophecy of the coming of the light-skinned race in the near future and the need to migrate to the west. As they migrated west, they settled in camps and villages along the way. A village was established at Bawwating, now known as Sault St. Marie, because of its abundance of fish, wildlife, and plants, a good place to enjoy life.

CHIEF PEGUIS Here at this Anishinabek village of Bawwating, was born the Great Leader we know as Peguis. As a young man, in his teenage years, Peguis continued the migration journey to the West, where food grows on the water. With a band of other Anishinabek members, he began the journey West to seek out a new home and territory that would provide them with ample hunting grounds and a place to call home.

After many moons of travelling, making their way through uncharted territories, fighting the elements

and on the look out for enemies, they arrived at a place where they found an abandoned village along a river just off the woodlands and the beginning of the prairie lands.

The Red River, as it was later known, and the Netley Marsh area provided ample resources for the fledgling group of Anishinabek and those new family members that they picked up on their path West.

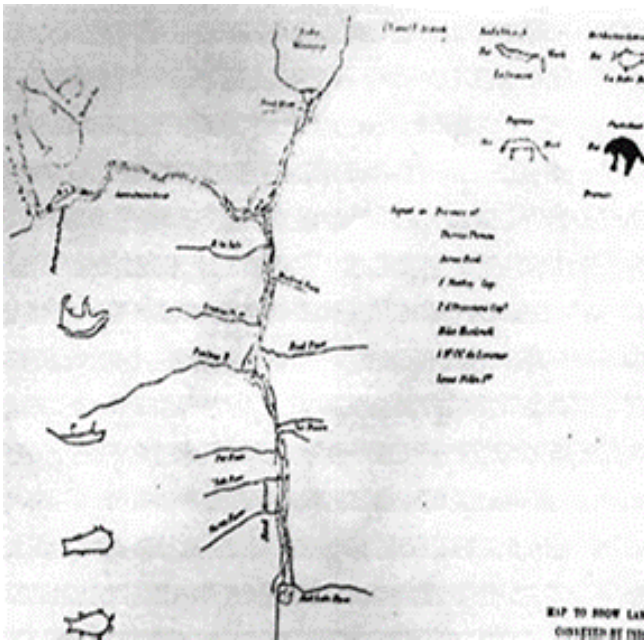


The river systems in the new area provided an opportunity to set up a trade system, to venture out and hunt and gather in the area, and the opportunity to keep in touch with their relatives to the south, east, north and west of their new home. The lakes to the east of the area also provided the food that grows on water, wild rice beds.

SELKIRK TREATY In 1817, Chief Peguis entered into an International Treaty with Lord Selkirk, to arrange the sharing of access to land in the area with the Selkirk Settlers, who had recently arrived in the area. Chief Peguis and his band members assisted the Selkirk Settlers and ensured their survival during the harsh winter months.

The Hudson's Bay Company and Northwest Company had been set up in the area to pursue the fur trade. The Red River system and Lake Winnipeg were a major travel and trade routes for those wishing to pass through the area and either going North, West, South or East. A prime location for the trade routes.

TREATY #1 In and around 1870, the Government of Canada had established the Province of Manitoba within the territory of the late Chief Peguis and his St. Peters Band. Subsequent negotiations began in 1871, on an international



Treaty with Chief Peguis' son, Chief Henry Prince (Misko Gineu) and other members of the Chippewa and Swampy Cree Indians in the area. On August 3rd, 1871 Treaty #1 was signed at Lower Fort Garry.

Chief Henry Prince (Misko Gineu) and his descendants, known as the St. Peters Band of Indians, arranged for a reserve of their choice to be located around present day Selkirk and Netley



Creek, along the Red River. Other Treaty #1 reserves included: Brokenhead, Swan Lake, Long Plain, Sagkeeng, Sandy Bay & Roseau River.

The St. Peters Band was well known for their

agricultural skills and their successful harvesting & animal farming. Their homes, gardens and fields were well maintained and often the envy of many, including the new settlers and immigrants to the area.

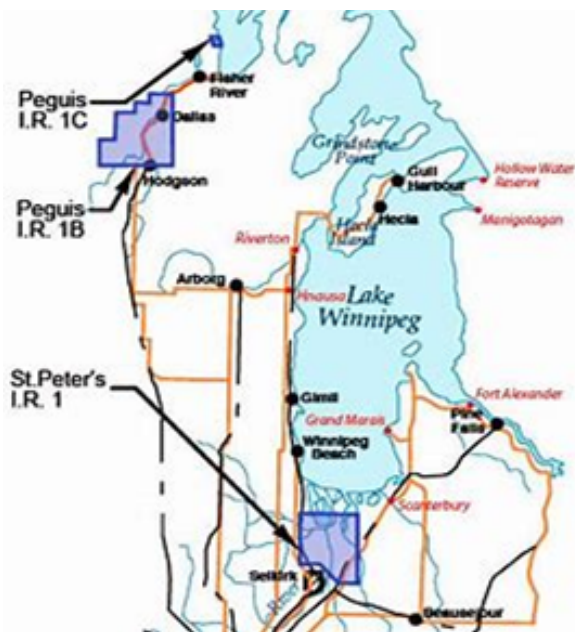
ILLEGAL SURRENDER ST. PETERS It was the success of the St. Peters Band farming and agricultural pursuits that were the envy of local settlers, who wanted the lands and agricultural fields. In 1907, the Federal Agent, with persuasion from local agents and settlers, called for the St. Peters Band to vote on the surrender of the Reserve and accept a new Reserve located 200 kilometers north in the Interlake area.

This vote was seen as illegal and misunderstood by many members of the St. Peters Band. They continued to fight the vote and express their concern regarding the method that was utilized to



achieve a close margin on the vote. The government eventually passed an Act recognizing the surrender of the St. Peters Reserve as a way of legitimizing the illegal surrender and vote.

PEGUIS INDIAN RESERVE The new reserve is known as Peguis and was located in the swampy area along the Fisher River, just south of the Fisher River Cree Nation. The band members had to endure much hardship to create a home and clear the land and muskeg for agricultural purposes. The trek to the new reserve, was without hardship, as there were no roads and oxen carts carried their furnishings and homemaking supplies. Some members came by boat, north along Lake Winnipeg and up the Fisher River to Peguis.



In
the

The total settlement amount was \$126,094,903.00. Upon payment of settlement costs and legal fees, Canada deposited \$118,750,000.00 into the Peguis First Nation Surrender Claim Trust.

The Trustees would like to acknowledge the following Trustees who have made an impact and appreciate them for their assistance with the Peguis Surrender Claim Trust growth and development within the formative years:

- Ralph Sutherland, Community Fund Trustee (2011-2012)
- Clarence Daniels, Financial Trustee (2011-2012)
- Gerald McCorrister, Financial Trustee (2011-2014)
- Eric Bear, Financial Trustee (2011-2014)
- Katina Cochrane, Community Fund Trustee (2011-2016)
- Ken Genaille, Community Fund Trustee (2016-2017)
- Bill Willms, Corporate Trustee (2011-2020)
- Robert Delorme Sr, Community Fund Trustee (2011-2021)
- Michelle Samagalski, Corporate Trustee (2020-2022)
- Eva Miller, corporate Trustee 2022-2024

Provincial archives are articles of Band Members who were not impressed with the new Reserve and returned to St. Peters area to advise the government that it was not a good decision and they would like to return home. Unfortunately, the St. Peters Reserve lands were quickly scooped up by settlers and other local people, as it was prime agricultural lands and homesteads.

Peguis First Nation leadership continued to pursue the illegal surrender of the St. Peters Reserve within the government and political routes. They had the support of the community who continued to show their resilience and determination in righting a wrong.

ST. PETERS LAND CLAIM On June 29, 1998, after 91 years of struggle by Peguis First Nation, Canada confirmed it agreed with Peguis that the 1907 surrender of the St. Peter's Reserve was void and legally invalid due to Canada's failure to comply with requirements of the Indian Act of 1906. Canada and Peguis entered negotiations to compensate Peguis for its loss of land and economic loss as a result of this illegal surrender.

On June 13, 2009, Peguis members voted in favor of the proposed settlement claim, and the agreement was ratified by the parties on October 4, 2010.

Financial Trustees



Errol Wilson MBA, ICD.D, Chair Financial Trustee

Errol's lifelong learning includes Rotman-ICD Directors Education at the University of Toronto and an Executive MBA at the University of Alberta. Currently, he resides with his wife Velvalee just south of Edmonton. He is the son of the late Florence and the late Frank Wilson.

Errol is one of the original, elected Off-Reserve Financial Trustees from May 11, 2011.



Elva McCorrister, BA. Financial Trustee

Elva is retired after a long & successful career in management and healthcare initiatives and organizations. With a passion, she continues to provide her knowledge and expertise in these areas, Elva continues to build on her Trust knowledge with active involvement in national organizations like AFOA Canada and NATOA.

Elva is one of the original elected On-Reserve Financial Trustees from May 11, 2011.



Rob Magnusson, B.Comm, CA, CPA.

Rob is a graduate of the University of Manitoba Asper School of Business. He pursued his Chartered Accountant professional designation. Rob has been involved in Senior Financial Management positions and continues to pursue his entrepreneurial spirit with the management of his own commercial business. He is a proud Peguis member.

Rob was appointed in September 2014 as the Professional Financial Trustee with a CA designation, as required by the Trust.



Hirra Paracha, Corporate Trustee - TD Indigenous Trust Services as an Associate Trust Officer on the Indigenous Trust Services Team

Hirra has experience in the Trust industry and in the Legal Industry. She joined TD Wealth in February of 2024 as a member of the growing Indigenous Trust Services Team. Hirra is a relationship manager for several clients and is responsible for the day-to-day administration and support of Nations Trusts.

Her education includes a Bachelor of Arts in Conflict Resolution Studies and Alternative Dispute Resolution. She loves to travel and loves to bake in her free time. She is currently working toward her TEP designation.



Michelle Samagalski, Corporate Trustee TD Indigenous Trust Services as a Trust Officer on the Indigenous Trust Services Team

Regional Manager (Prairies) for Indigenous Trust Services. She has over 30 years' experience in the Trust Industry. In addition to managing complex Indigenous Trust accounts throughout the Prairies and Northwest Territories, she presents at the National NATOA conference and is involved with AFOA. She has a background in law and finance, as well as Indigenous Studies and has completed numerous industry related courses. She is the Student Liaison for the Winnipeg Branch of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP), and an Advisory Board member for the Public Guardian and Trustee of Manitoba. She is married and has a disabled adult daughter. She enjoys kayaking and is former resident of Nunavut.

Community Fund Trustees



Hal Sutherland, Co-Chair Community Fund Trustee

Hal serves as the off-reserve representative for the Community Fund Trustees. He had a long and dedicated career as a Border Services Officer with the Canada Border Services Agency from 1984 to 2020. Hal was awarded the Peace Officer Exemplary Service Medal in recognition of his professional conduct as a Border Services Officer. Hal resides in Winnipeg with his wife, Mirenda, where they raised their 3 children. They are proud grandparents of 11. Hal is one of the original elected Trustees.



Lloyd Sinclair, Co-Chair Community Fund Trustee

On-Reserve Representative. Lloyd is happily married to Janice, and is the father of 3 children, he keeps busy with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Lloyd was on the Peguis First Nation Council for 10 years and was involved in the negotiation of the TLE Trust and the Surrender Claim Trust. The knowledge that he continues to share with the Trust and the community.

He is currently self-employed and continues to be actively engaged in community events, sports, and the overall welfare of Peguis. Lloyd is one of the original elected Trustees



Peguis Surrender Claim Staff

Our office has moved to Lot 45 and staff welcome the opportunity to meet with beneficiaries to discuss funding for their ideas, hopes, dreams, and wishes. It is our pleasure to discuss the Trust criteria, application completion, business plans, alternative funding sources, and additional resources available to applicants.

Please contact us by phone: 204.645.5644,
Email: trustmanager@peguissurrendertrust.com,
Facebook: Peguis Surrender Claim Trust
website: peguissurrendertrust.com



Debbie McElhinney CDA, TAED
Trust Manager

Graduate of Prince George Senior Secondary School, with Honors in Business. Attended Saskatoon Business College and completed Word Processing Secretarial. Completed 1st Year Accounting Technician, Rossan College, Ireland. Graduated Community, Development & Administration Diploma with Honors at University College of the North, also Accredited with CANDO as Certified Technician Aboriginal Economic Developer (TAED). Completed National Aboriginal Trustee Training Program and Received the Atleo National Aboriginal Trust Officers Association Award for Top Student. Received Service Excellence Awards for unqualified audit with Dallas/Red Rose Community Council. Terms of employment May 2011 – Present.



Denise Sinclair,
Finance Officer

Completed grade 12 with a Certificate in Business Education & Retailing. Attended Angus/Business College for Secretary Course and RRCC for Accounting & Bookkeeping courses. Worked in the banking industry for 11 years. Completed the NATOA Trustee Accreditation course and a QuickBooks accounting software course. Denise has been with the Trust since 2016 as an Administrative Assistant, then took on the role of Financial Officer.

Terms of employment May 2016 – Present.



Alfrieda Sinclair
Administrative Assistant

I am excited to begin the next chapter in my life as the Administrative Assistant with the Peguis Surrender Claim Trust. I spent ten years working with Peguis Child & Family Services while living in Winnipeg. I returned home in 2007 and began to work with Intertribal Child & Family Services in Fisher River. During this time, I achieved my educational aspirations on a part-time basis by obtaining a Social Work degree, a Master of Public Administration degree, and a Human Resources Management degree.

Trust Activities & Events

Throughout the year, the Peguis Surrender Claim Trust engages in various activities to promote and support the Trust and the community.

The Peguis Surrender Claim Trust extends an opportunity for students to work with the Trust over the summer, either as a Post-Secondary Student or High School Student. These term staff provide administrative support and assistance to the staff, community members, and Trustees. They learn about the Trust, the history of Peguis, the governance procedures, and the career opportunities in the Trust & Investment area. This year our Post-Secondary Student was offered to Becky Bear, and it was a pleasure working with Becky and appreciated the support she provided.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Friday, May 10th in Peguis and Saturday, May 11th in Selkirk, it was also available to join via Zoom. Both meetings were well attended by our membership to learn more about the trust.



Peguis Training & Employment hosted a career fair on May 2nd, 2024 annual career fair, where we connected with the community and enthusiastic students eager to explore careers in the trust industry. The attendees engaged with our informative sessions and networked with industry professionals.

We had draws for Peguis Surrender Trust bag, notebook, and pen. Congratulations to our lucky winners, Malakai Sinclair and Brayden Bear!

We can't wait to see you all again next year for another fantastic event!



Grand Opening of Our New Office Location!

We were thrilled to announce that our office has moved from the recreational centre to Lot #45 on Highway 224. To mark this exciting new chapter, we hosted an open house grand opening on

June 26th, and it was a huge success! Over 200 visitors joined us for a barbeque, mingling with Trustees and Staff in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate with us. We look forward to continuing our journey in this wonderful new location!

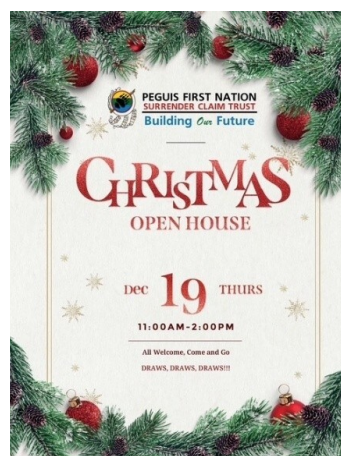
Halloween Fun at Peguis Multiplex!



Halloween was a blast at Peguis Multiplex, where our amazing staff and Hal Sutherland, Co-Chair of the Community Fund Trustees, handed out candy bags to 1200 excited children! The smiles and laughter filled the air as the kids enjoyed their treats and celebrated the spooky

season.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a memorable one for our community!



Festive Christmas Open House!

Our Christmas open house on December 19th, 2024 was a heartwarming celebration, with 67 visitors stopping by to enjoy delicious snacks and participate in our exciting draws. The holiday spirit was truly alive as everyone

mingled and shared in the joy of the season.

Congratulations to our lucky draw winners:

- Sherry Asham – Toy Basket
- Cynthia Cameron – Food Basket
- Grant Thompson – PSCT Bag
- Trevor McPherson – Large Ham



Thank you to everyone who joined us and made the event special.

Peguis Midnight Madness - December 13th, 2024

The Peguis Midnight Madness event on December 13th, 2024, was a night to remember! The community came together for an evening filled with excitement and festive cheer. One of the highlights was our gift basket draws, and we had some very happy winners:

- Laura Bear – Girls Toy Basket
- Dawson Forster – Boys Toy Basket
- Gertrude Johnson – Food Basket
- Lindsay Oigg – Food Basket

Christmas candy bags were distributed to over 1000 children during a Christmas Community Event at Peguis Multiplex on December 23rd, 2024.



Capacity Building & Professional Development

In October, Denise Sinclair, Financial Officer, and Debbie McElhinney, Trust Manager, attended the 10th Annual Leadership and Administrators Conference hosted by Aboriginal Financial Officers Association. The conference, themed “Inspiring Change Through Best Practices,” featured insightful discussions on crucial topics such as good governance and accountability, comprehensive community planning, HR policies, and financial policies, among others.

The event was a fantastic opportunity for leaders and administrators to share knowledge, learn from each other, and inspire positive change within their communities.

In April 2024, the National Aboriginal Trust Officers Association (NATOA) hosted an event titled “Unlocking the Potential of Your Trust.” Errol Wilson, Financial Trustee Chair and Elva McCorrister, Financial Trustee attended. One of the highlights was a panel discussion on “COMMUNITY FUNDING FOR IMPACT” presented by TD Wealth, featuring our very own Debbie McElhinney as one of the participating panelist.

Panelists shared their expertise on evaluating and managing funding for projects & proposals, discussing critical factors and challenges in the process. They provided valuable insights on setting a strong foundation, overcoming obstacles, and effective communication strategies.

In October 2024, the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (Cando) celebrated its 30th Annual National Conference, themed “Evolution & Growth: 30 Years of Inspiring Success.” We were proud to have Hal Sutherland, Co-Chair Community Fund Trustee, and Alfrieda Sinclair in attendance.

Cando, a federally registered, non-profit society, is Indigenous-controlled, community-based, and membership-driven. It is the only national organization dedicated to the education and professional development of Economic Development Officers (EDOs) working in Indigenous communities or organizations.

The conference was a fantastic opportunity to reflect on three decades of inspiring success and to look forward to continued growth and evolution in Indigenous economic development.

In September, the conference brought together key stakeholders to discuss vital topics such as partnerships, investment, supplier opportunities, and best practices. Rob Magnusson, Chartered Accountant, attended and contributed to the engaging discussions.

The conference provided a platform for meaningful dialogue and collaboration, fostering strong relationships and exploring new opportunities for growth and development within Indigenous communities.

Trust Nominating Committee

The Trust Nominating Committee's role and responsibilities with the Peguis Surrender Claim Trust are to conduct the call-out and review for eligible candidates based on community-approved criteria, to stand for election to the Trust.

Trust Nominating Committee Members, as appointed by Chief and Council: Clarence Daniels, Victor Sutherland, Jules McPherson, Wayne Bird, Heather Sinclair, Rose Mayo, and Courtney Hudson.

The Peguis Surrender Claim Trust Financial Trustees currently have three vacancies, and the Community Fund Trustees also hold three vacancies for Trustee positions, for a total of six vacancies. There is a schedule election for January 28th, 2025.

The Trust Nominating Committee is responsible for submitting a list of eligible candidates for the vacant Trustee positions to the Peguis Chief and Council. The Chief and Council have the mandate to call an election once the list of eligible candidates is received.

Trustee Honorarium

Elected Trustees are provided with an honorarium for meetings attended to a maximum of 18 meetings per year.

The honorarium is recorded and paid out by year-end. In some cases, the accrued honorarium will be paid out in the following year. In the event of honorariums exceeding 18 meetings per year, the payments will be deducted from the following year.

Financial Trustees	# of Meetings	Honoraria	Travel	Prof Dev	Total
Errol Wilson, Chair	12	\$6,000	\$23,451	\$1,943	\$31,394
Elva McCorrister	15	\$4,500	\$10,426	\$5,000	\$19,926
Rob Magnusson, CA	9	\$7,000	\$1,200	\$4,956	\$13,156

Community Fund Trustees	# of Meetings	Honoraria	Travel	Prof Dev	Total
Hal Sutherland, Co-Chair	18	\$5,600	\$6,632	\$4,336	\$16,468
Lloyd Sinclair, Co-Chair	14	\$5,600	\$5,545	\$2,553	\$13,698

Financial Operations Report

Investment Income Received for the Period

Revenues for the Period:

- Investment Income: \$5,551,042 Interest & Dividend Income
- Realized Capital Gains (Losses): \$2,891,245 Sale of Investments
- Revenue for the Period: \$8,442,287
- Unrealized Gains on Investments: \$6,581,738 Lower Market valuation

The unrealized gains on investments of \$5,673,187 are the higher 2023 market value of the stocks and bonds held by the Trust. These investments have not been sold, so the gains are unrealized, but a paper gain recorded on the books. Book value – Market Value.

Expenditures Incurred for the Period

Expenditures incurred for the period totalled \$1,356,156 which represents 1% of the Trust value and were comprised of the following:

- Investment Management fees \$459,342
- Accounting and Audit \$30,659
- Investment Advisor Fees \$81,393
- Legal Fees \$3,920
- Consulting Fees \$59,000
- Corporate Trustee fees \$161,485
- Insurance/Utilities \$3,591
- Salaries and Benefits \$236,099
- Contractor \$22,668
- Trust Administration expenses \$129,231
- Trustee Honoraria and expenses \$94,642
- Loan interest and related charges \$1,727
- Meetings and Advertising \$70,399
- Per Capita Payments \$2,000

Expenditures Beneficial to the Beneficiary

The amount of \$20,000 was disbursed to the community for approved projects and programs from previous years. For 2024 a quorum of Trustees.

In addition, various projects totalling \$863,237 had been approved in previous years and are expected to be paid once all documentation and reports are completed and filed. These funds are listed as a commitment in the audit notes.

Trust Property Approval Limits

Approval limits regarding applications for Trust funds increase each year by the rate of inflation. The Community Fund Trustees can approve amounts up to \$103,861.42, and the Community Fund Trustees and Chief and Council can approve amounts up to \$346,204.72. Amounts greater than \$346,204.73 must be approved by the Community Fund Trustees, Chief and Council, and the Members of Peguis First Nation.

Per Capita Distributions

An amount of \$10,500,000 was approved by the Initial Trustees in 2010 to fund per capita payments to eligible Peguis Band members. There were six applications processed in 2024, for a total of \$2,000.00 paid out.

Investment Activities of the Trust

The Trust funds are managed by TD Waterhouse Private Investment Counsel, Beutel Goodman Investment Council, Mawer Investment Management Ltd., and Ridgewood Capital Asset Management in accordance with the objectives of Peguis First Nation and as set out in the Trust Agreement and Investment Policy Statement. Generally, the objectives are to provide safety of principle, stable and consistent income flow, and capital appreciation. The investments consist of government and high-quality corporate bonds and equities. No more than 30% of the Trust funds can be invested in equities or stocks. The balance of 70% is invested in bonds and held as cash.

Line of Credit

The Financial Trustees increased their secured line of credit with TD Commercial Bank to \$40,000,000.00 in 2020. Prior to that, the line of credit was used to fund the arena and housing projects and is available to fund other projects. As of December 31, 2024, the balance owed on the line of credit was \$0.00. Interest is charged at the prime rate, which as of December 31, 2024, was 5.25%.

Value of the Trust

The value of the Trust as of December 31, 2024, was **\$154,613,101**.
The net value of the Trust as of December 31st (excluding accrued liabilities) was \$154,481,914

2024 Community Fund Project Summaries

Projects Paid by Year Summary

Year	Projects Paid
2011	\$205,000
2012	\$4,467,056
2013	\$12,054,071
2014	\$2,088,444
2015	\$1,667,397
2016	\$1,325,576
2017	\$2,332,139
2018	\$2,455,661
2019	\$2,909,554
2020	\$1,483,047
2021	\$1,438,525
2022	\$893,030
2023	\$302,887
2024	\$20,000
Total Projects Paid	\$33,642,387

2024 Projects Paid - \$20,000

Peguis Land's Depart - Percy E. Moore Hospital Matters - \$74,306.50 Approved July 14, 2021

Jerch Law will develop and file for Hospital Lands, compensation for its use and ensure Peguis is involved with all levels of decision making related to these lands. Peguis has not received any compensation or land rent or compensation for the failed promises and Peguis has not been consulted to administration and management of the lands.



Community Fund Projects Outstanding Reports

Year	Proponent	Project Name	Amount
2012	Peguis Housing Authority	Sustainable Housing Project	\$3,500,000.00
2013	Peguis Agricultural Committee	Farmers Revitalization	\$150,000.00
2013	Trevor Greyeyes	Marketing Business	\$5,000.00
2015	Peguis Justice Board	Diversion Program	\$30,000.00
2014	Keith F. Wilson	Private Auto Dealership	\$21,500.00
2015	William Lee Flett	Niibin Winshielf Repair Service	\$2,640.00
2015	Kelly Sinclair	Business	\$10,500.00
2015	Lorne Flett	Business	\$5,000.00
2015	Kevin Clowes	Business	\$30,000.00
2015	Fairwind Truscott	Air Filtration Business	\$10,000.00
2016	Doris Elizabeth Sinclair	Purchase Donut Making Machine & Acc	\$5,000.00

2016	Allan Sinclair	Purchase Drain Cleaning Equipment	\$5,000.00
2016	Peguis Health Services	Peguis Traditional Healing Program	\$49,300.00
2017	Peguis Health Services	National Gathering of Elders 2017	\$170,000.00
2017	Desmond Bear	Tire Balancer/Changer Combo	\$5,000.00
2017	Garret McPherson	McPherson Yardworks	\$5,000.00
2017	Peguis First Nation	Retainer Fees	\$200,000.00
2018	Peguis Consultation & Special Projects	Rights to Water	\$150,000.00
2018	Chief Peguis Investment Corporation	Cannabis Development Project	\$140,000.00
2018	Derwin Stevenson	Cattle Operation	\$5,000.00
2018	Angela Bair	Sole Consulting Advancement - Bus Operation Support	\$2,500.00
2017	Garry Stevenson	Fire Wood Services	\$4,000.00
2017	Allan David Thompson	Trapping Project	\$5,000.00
2018	Stanley Bird	Bineshii Culture and Language Camps	\$3,000.00
2018	Peguis Development Corporation	Office Complex Feasibility	\$85,000.00
2019	Rodney James Allan Thomas	Vehicle for Scrap Metal Business	\$5,000.00
2019	Debra Cook	The Cook House Concession	\$3,500.00
2019	Terina Spence	Tiddly's Bakery Equipment & Supplies	\$5,000.00
2019	Tammy McCorrister	Airbrush Business	\$4,000.00
2019	Alvin Randy Thomas	Basic Life Support Certificate Equipment	\$5,000.00
2019	Renee S. S. Stevenson	WWJHL Junior A Women's Hockey League	\$1,650.00
2019	Valerie Hudson	Quilting Project	\$4,472.00
2019	Samantha Spence	Hair Glamm By Samm	\$5,000.00
2019	Phillip Sutherland	Olds College Volleyball Scholarship	\$3,000.00
2019	Erica Contois	Expand Catering Business To Open A Cafe	\$5,000.00
2019	Peguis Counseling & Resource Centre	McLean Day School Hearing	\$15,900.00

2019	Angel Pelletier	Dyson AA Hockey League	\$1,000.00
2019	Rhonda & Darrel Sutherland	R&D Animal In Need of Rescue	\$10,000.00
2018	Tina McCorrister	Tina's Leather Cree-ations	\$5,000.00
2019	Daniel Cook	Belle Cook AAA Bantam Female Hockey	\$2,000.00
2019	Kenneth A. Prince	Purchase Heavy Equip/Semi Tools	\$5,000.00
2019	Bryden Sinclair	Elite Hockey Equipment & Expenses	\$3,000.00
2019	Candace Thomas	Elizabeth Thickfoot-Thomas Volleyball	\$2,000.00
2019	Cheryl Kretsmann	Mathew Mason-Vandel AAA Midget Interlake Lightening	\$1,000.00
2019	Perry Hourie	Cultural Handicrafts	\$5,000.00
2019	Lorilee Wastasecoot	Indigenous Women's (Re)Matiation Relationships	\$1,500.00
2019	Robert C. Slater	Native Nation Clothing Start-Up	\$5,000.00
2020	Ramona Bird	Aki Muskkiki Docuseries	\$15,000.00
2020	Faith Sutherland	Cooking By Faith	\$5,000.00
2020	Larry Prince	ATV Memorial Poker Derby Mud Bog	\$2,500.00
2020	Peguis Income Assistance	Mental Health Awareness	\$3,750.00
2021	Jules Sutherland	Family Support Worker Program	\$5,000.00
2021	Allan Churchil Jr	Churchizzled Pizza	\$5,000.00
2021	Redmen Fastball Club	Canadian Native Fastball Championship Rings	\$2,500.00
2021	Redmen Fastball Club	Saskatoon Tournament	\$5,000.00
2021	Warren Chernichan	Chernichan Farms	\$5,000.00
2021	Peguis Consultation & Special Projects	Capacity Development	\$10,000.00
2021	Paige Spence	Babygirls Cheesecakes	\$5,000.00
2021	Derek McCorrister	Tavon U17 AAA Winnipeg Wild	\$2,000.00
2021	Ramona Favel	Jaden AAA Ligtning U18	\$2,000.00
2021	Cheryl Sutherland	Colton U15 AA Lightning	\$1,000.00
2021	Cheryl Sutherland	Tallon U15 AA Lightning	\$1,000.00
		TOTAL	\$4,766,212.00

Investment Counsel & Managers

INVESTMENT COUNSEL

The Peguis Surrender Claim Trust contracts the services of an Investment Counsel to provide investment and trust industry advice and support to the Trustees. It is with the guidance and advice of the investment counsel that the Trust can implement, manage, and develop their investment policies. As an independent advisor, the investment counsel oversees and ensures compliance of the investment policies. Quarterly investment reviews are also conducted and presented to the Trustees for their review and market updates.

2024 Annual Investment Report

On behalf of T.E. Wealth's Indigenous Investment Advisory practice, we are extremely honoured to support the Peguis Surrender Claim Trust through the provision of independent and objective investment advisory services to help ensure the Trust is structured optimally and is meeting its investment objectives.



Market Commentary – “A Year in Review”

During 2024, the Peguis Surrender Claim Trust experienced a great year in the markets. The Trust's bond holdings produced a 6.89% return over the year which added tremendous value to the overall returns due to the Trust Agreement's requirement to hold a significant percentage weight in bonds. Additionally, the Trust recognized stock market returns of 16.4%, 25.2% and 15.8% returns in the Canadian, U.S. and International stock markets respectively. We saw inflation decline in 2024 to within the Bank of Canada's target range of 1% - 3% together with a lowering of interest rates accordingly which was positive for the overall general economy and the Surrender Trust's performance on all fronts.

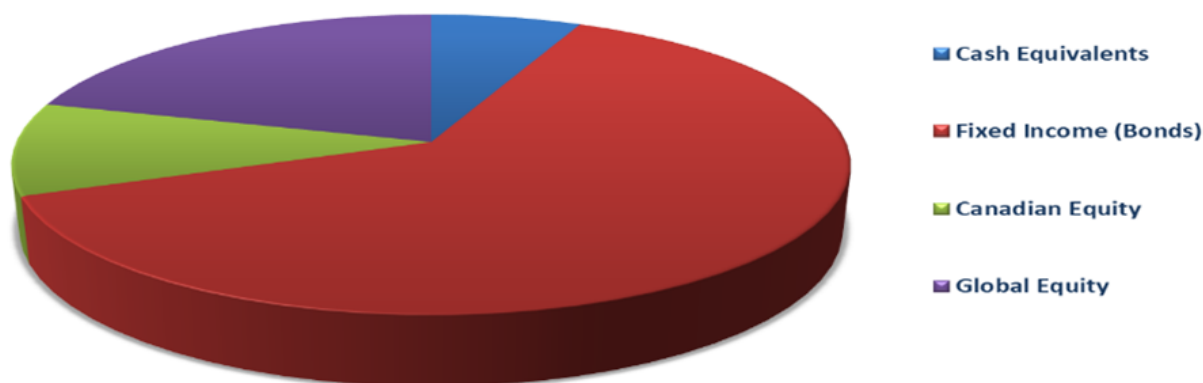
Throughout the 2024 calendar year, the U.S. stock market was predominantly driven by U.S. technology stocks which are commonly referenced as the Magnificent 7 (Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Meta, Microsoft, NVIDIA and Tesla). These 7 stocks drove U.S. markets to new highs on ever-expanding profits and potential growth. Concerns over a slowing economy and escalating trade tensions saw a significant reversal in the Magnificent 7 performance. In 2024, only 30% of U.S. stocks outperformed the U.S. S&P 500 stock market however, in the first quarter of 2025, that number rose to 65% with only one of the Magnificent 7 stocks outperforming the U.S. market. A broader market should be a better environment for stock picks if the trend continues.

While it seems that all we are hearing in 2025, as investors, are negative market returns but from a positive perspective, the U.S. market is the only asset class that is negative up to March 31st, 2025, with bonds, Canadian equities and international equities all retaining positive performance in the markets.

Combined Holdings: Asset Mix

The chart below highlights the breakdown of the Trust's security holdings by Asset Class as of December 31, 2024.

Cash Equivalents	0 – 10%	5%	5.6%
Bonds	62 – 72%	67%	62.3%
Canadian Equity	5 – 15%	10%	10.7%
Global Equity	13 – 23%	18%	21.4%



The Surrender Claim Trust is managed using a multi-manager, multi-style approach as a risk management strategy. Employing multiple Investment Management firms, which adopt different investment philosophies, provides an additional level of diversification that helps avoid the potential of having too many eggs in one basket: especially in the event of a prolonged underperformance.

How Has the Peguis Surrender Trust Performed @ December 31, 2024?

The combined holdings of the Peguis Surrender Claim Trust started with a balance of approximately \$109.4 million dollars in 2012 and has appreciated by \$88.3 million since its inception. Since inception, the Trust has also distributed (net transfers out) of \$42.5 million to fund authorized uses. At year end 2024, the market value of the combined Peguis Surrender Claim Trust has reached \$155,164,103 as noted below.

<i>Combined Portfolio Flows</i>			
	1 Year(2024)	3 Years(2022 to 2024)	Since Inception (Q2/2012)
Beginning Trust Value	\$142,081,356	\$147,045,171	\$109,370,911
Net Transfers(Out)	-801,216	-\$3,430,268	-\$42,515,542
Appreciation	\$13,883,963	\$11,549,199	\$88,308,734
Ending Value	\$155,164,103	\$155,164,103	\$155,164,103

We are pleased to report that effective March 31st, 2025, the Peguis Surrender Claim Trust has gained a further \$2,897,2297 since December 31, 2024, which reflects further positive appreciation for a closing Trust balance of \$158,061,332.

How Has the Trust Performed? (Overall Combined Holdings)

It is important that the Investment Managers make money in the good times, but it is equally important that they protect the investments during down markets. Since the outbreak of COVID 19 in 2020, it has been a challenging time for investors. In particular, the 2022 markets experienced negative returns in all asset classes which is something that had not occurred in over 50 years.

Despite some very challenging times, the markets have rebounded, and the overall Trust holdings have earned a solid return of 10.08% for the year ending December 31, 2024, with a return of 5.77% since inception when compared to the market benchmark of 5.19%.

Peguis Surrender Fund Performance					
	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Inception
Fund Performance	10.08%	2.97%	4.30%	4.95%	5.77%
Market Benchmark	10.25%	2.74%	4.33%	4.66%	5.19%

Investment Management Structure

The Peguis Surrender Claim Trust is managed under a multi-manager structure as a risk management strategy, thereby diversifying the investment risk amongst more than one investment firm in the event of prolonged underperformance of any given firm. This approach utilizes the management of Beutel Goodman and Mawer Investment Management who both manage a combination of stocks and bonds.

Given that markets can favor growth stocks or value stocks in any given period, the Trust has benefited from Beutel Goodman’s value style of management combined with Mawer’s growth-oriented strategies. This multi-manager and multi-style diversification will assist in ensuring that the portfolio is well positioned to take advantage of all market environments, which enables a smoother pattern of returns.

As the Peguis Surrender Trust Agreement also mandates a significant percentage of holdings in bonds (per the Target % above), the Trust has also engaged the management of Ridgewood Capital as a dedicated bond specialist.

Distribution of Funds Amongst Managers and Their Performance



\$43,950,506

2024 = 12.16% Return

Balanced Asset Mix

Growth Style



\$63,680,909

2024 = 7.63% Return

100% Bonds



\$44,178,797

2024 = 12.25% Return

Balanced Asset Mix

Value Style

Looking Forward

The investment environment historically goes through periods of market volatility, however strong market conditions emerged during 2024. One of the key principles of long-term investing is to stay the course. History has shown that sharp declines in stock markets tend to be concentrated in short periods of time, which was proven again by the strong returns experienced in the later part of 2023 and into 2024 after a challenging 2022. While most markets will experience periods of short-term volatility, over the long term they historically have maintained a steady, upward growth path. Although nobody has perfect insight as to the future markets ahead, those investors who remain invested have historically been rewarded by the long-term upward market trends.

In Closing

T.E. Wealth’s Indigenous Services practice, once again, considers it a privilege and an honor to have supported the Peguis Surrender Claim Trust since its inception and we are pleased to confirm that the overall Trust portfolio continues to provide strong market returns as at December 31st, 2024.



Kain Big Canoe, CPA, Senior Manager, T.E. Wealth Indigenous Services

David is a member of the Serpent River First Nation and, in his role as a Senior Analyst, he provides investment research to support our national investment manager research team. In addition to assessing investment managers and strategies, he is also actively involved in the analysis of our clients' investment performance and the writing of quarterly reports.

David holds degrees in Math and Economics from Carleton University as well as Civil Engineering from Concordia University and is certified bilingual in English and French



David Pelletier, BEcon., Senior Analyst, T.E. Wealth Indigenous Services

David is a member of the Serpent River First Nation and, in his role as a Senior Analyst, he provides investment research to support our national investment manager research team. In addition to assessing investment managers and strategies, he is also actively involved in the analysis of our clients' investment performance and the writing of quarterly reports.

David holds degrees in Math and Economics from Carleton University as well as Civil Engineering from Concordia University and is certified bilingual in English and French



Vanessa Mahan, Senior Administration, Indigenous Services

Vanessa is Mushkego Cree and Italian, from Missanabie Cree First Nation.

She received her Liberal Arts degree in Michigan and brings a vast experience in the Administration field through her employment with a variety of Indigenous organizations as well as owning her own business.

Vanessa leads our administrative team relative to performance reporting and general communications.



Gordon Clissold, FCPA, FCGA, AVP, Indigenous Services

A member of the Henvey Inlet First Nation, Gordon supports Indigenous clients throughout Western Canada. He draws on more than 25 years of experience working as a finance executive in non-profit, private, and public organizations in bringing his considerable depth and breadth to help plan and implement customized wealth management strategies for Indigenous communities. Gordon is a highly esteemed Chartered Professional Accountant, with wide ranging expertise. He was recognized by his peers by being awarded a fellowship designation and life membership from the Chartered Professional Accountants Association.



Jack Jamieson, Vice President, T.E. Wealth Indigenous Services

As Vice President (and founder) of T.E. Wealth's dedicated Indigenous Services practice, Jack brings over 30 years of experience to the investment and financial services industry. Jack volunteers his time with NATOA (National Aboriginal Trust Officers Association) as a member of their national advisory board in addition to sitting on the membership committee.

Jack is also a recipient of AFOA's Certificate of Recognition for his work in co-developing the curriculum for AFOA's National Trust Management workshops which was rolled out across Canada in 2013. He has authored articles for the Journal of Aboriginal Management and is a regular speaker at Indigenous conferences across Canada.

INVESTMENT MANAGERS



Beutel, Goodman & Company Ltd. was founded in 1967 to provide investment counsel and discretionary portfolio management to institutional and individual clients. We are dedicated to achieving the investment objectives of our clients and manage money on behalf of Indigenous clients, pension funds, endowments, foundations, mutual funds and high net worth individuals across Canada.



Beutel Goodman has been committed to developing relationships with Indigenous Peoples for more than 20 years. The company is a founding member of the National Aboriginal Trust Officers Association (NATOA). We are also corporate members of the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada (AFOA). In addition to helping our clients achieve investment goals, we are dedicated to investment education and sharing knowledge with Chief and Council, Trustees, and community members. Beutel Goodman is committed to Truth and

Reconciliation and is answering the call to action through employee participation, awareness, and education.

For many years we have contributed to Indigenous investment and trust management workshops as speakers and sponsors. Beutel Goodman routinely sponsors community activities such as hockey tournaments, golf tournaments and Indigenous Foundation fundraisers. We are also co-sponsors of an Aboriginal Scholarship awarded each year to support Indigenous students studying at the University of Toronto in the Faculty of Social Work. We have also proudly sponsored the graduation ceremony awards for Peguis high school graduates for many years.

Victor Pelletier, Vice President at Beutel Goodman and portfolio manager for the Peguis Surrender Claim Trust, has visited Peguis First Nation on many occasions to deliver updates at Annual General Meetings and he meets regularly with the Trustees and their advisors to provide portfolio updates.

Victor Pelletier joined Beutel Goodman in 2022 and has over 12 years of investment experience. Victor supports investment management and servicing of the Peguis Surrender Claim Trust. Prior to Beutel Goodman, he held progressively senior roles at an Investment Consulting firm in their Indigenous Service practice and most recently was Head of Indigenous Services at an Investment Management firm.

The Peguis Surrender Claim Trust Portfolio Report for 2024

It was a banner year for equities in 2024, coming on the heels of double-digit performance in 2023. This was especially the case for U.S. equities as the S&P 500 produced an annual gain of 36.4% (CAD), with the Artificial Intelligence (AI) theme continuing to drive returns on the index. The ongoing dominance of the Magnificent 7 has drawn comparisons with the dot-com bubble of the late 1990s, as valuations have soared among a narrow contingent of companies in the S&P 500, leaving the index with a virtually unprecedented level of concentration risk.

Canadian equities also had a strong year, up 21.65% in 2024. The momentum of both the TSX and the S&P 500 in the second half of 2024 was

facilitated by supportive central banks, that is, up until December. In its final meeting of the year, the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) reduced the Federal Funds Rate by 25 bps to 4.25%-4.50%, but roiled markets with a hawkish (aggressive) shift in tone, expressing its lingering concerns about stubborn inflation.

Broadly speaking, value stocks have lagged their growth counterparts for some time. However, the combination of high valuations and index concentration in a handful of growth stocks compared to the broader markets, and somewhat contradictory economic signals is setting up for an interesting dynamic in 2024.

Given the current high valuations and elevated consensus expectations for growth in revenues, margins, and earnings, we anticipate equity market volatility, with the potential for sharp drawdowns should earnings or guidance announcements fall short. We believe this risk is particularly acute with respect to growth stocks, and across the Information Technology, Communication Services and Consumer Discretionary sectors in the U.S.

Looking forward, despite continued economic headwinds for Canadian equities in 2025, further rate cuts from the BoC should be positive for Canadian stocks as Financials, Real Estate and Utilities are particularly sensitive to interest rate changes.

We believe our portfolios today offer attractive quality and value characteristics, with solid and differentiated exposure across industry sectors, as well as attractive returns-to-target. We continue to apply the strict buy-sell discipline that underpins all our equity strategies and are confident in our positioning going into 2025.

For the one-year period ending December 31, 2024, the Peguis Surrender Claim Trust Portfolio returned 12.4%, which underperformed the benchmark return of 16.1% largely due to our value investment style being out of favour as growth stocks had another strong year. Since inception, April 1, 2012, the Peguis Surrender Claim Trust Portfolio has returned, on average, 7.4% (compounded annually), exceeding the underlying benchmark by approximately 10 bps.

Beutel Goodman has had the honour and privilege to manage the Peguis Surrender Claim Trust portfolio for the benefit of the members of Peguis Nation for 12 years and we thank you for your continued trust and confidence.

Respectfully Submitted,

Victor Pelletier

Vice President

Beutel Goodman & Company Ltd.

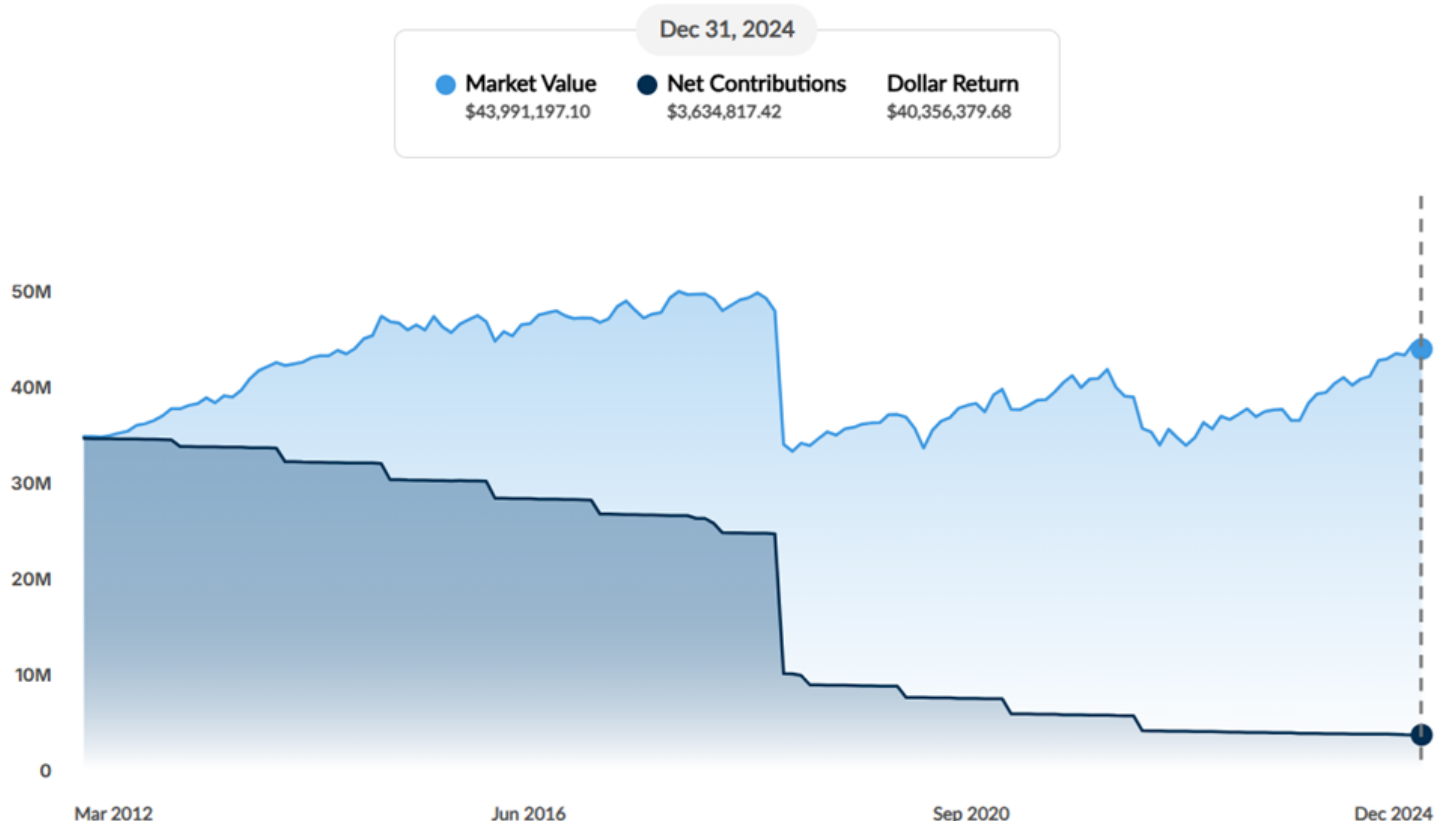
MAWER

Be Boring. Make Money.™

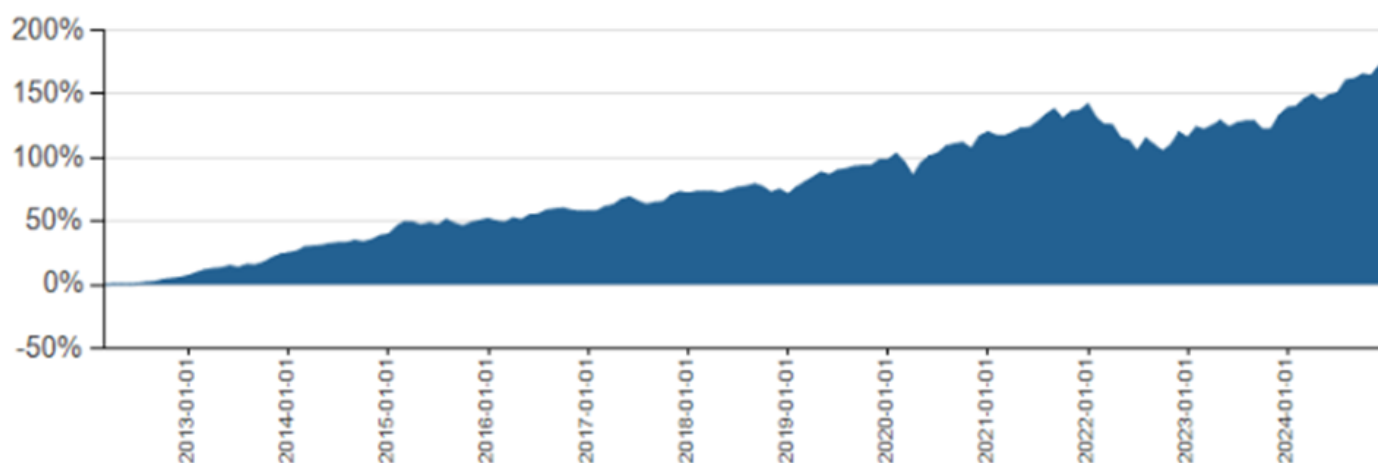
Performance (gross) as of December 31, 2024	YTD	3-Mo	1-yr	3-yr	5-yr	10-yr	Since Inception*
Peguis SC	12.36	1.18	12.36	3.52	6.24	6.77	8.02
Blended Benchmark **	16.22	3.00	16.22	5.62	7.49	6.84	7.32

* Inception date of performance reporting March 31, 2012

** From November 2018: 5.00% FTSE Canada 91 Day TBill Index 40.00% FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index 20.00% S&P/TSX Composite Index (TR) 35.00% MSCI World Index (Net). From Inception: 5.00% FTSE Canada 91 Day TBill Index 50.00% FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index 15.00% S&P/TSX Composite Index (TR) 30.00% MSCI World Index (Net).



Cumulative Growth Since Inception



Asset Class	Current Weight	Strategic Asset Mix	Rebalancing Range
Cash & Equivalents	7.1	5.0	0-10
Canadian Fixed Income	38.1	40.0	35-45
Total Fixed Income	45.2	45.0	40-50
Canadian Equity	16.9	20.0	15-25
Global Equity	37.9	35.0	30-40
Total Equity	54.8	55.0	50-60

Mawer is proud to manage a portion of the Surrender Claim Trust for Peguis First Nation having worked for the Trust over the last thirteen years. The year 2024 had themes from 2023 carry-over with enthusiasm around Artificial Intelligence and related technology stocks, mostly focused in the United States. As the year progressed, signs began to emerge that higher interest rates from the previous two years were starting to slow economic growth and central banks started lowering interest rates around mid-year. With lower interest rates, financial services companies that are more sensitive to rates started to perform better as investors were focusing more on concerns of the high valuations of technology stocks. As Canada has a high concentration of financial services in its benchmark, the Canadian market started to perform better during the summer and autumn period. China also began stimulating their economy after years of stagnation which provided a boost for Chinese securities later in the year. Bonds made a positive contribution for the year but trailed the remarkable returns of equity markets.

Looking back over the last year it is hard to not be delighted with the large absolute returns for the Surrender Trust portfolio of 12.4%, although we are mindful of the relative underperformance compared to the benchmark return of 16.2%. The portfolio underperformed the benchmark as a result of the relative underperformance of some of our equity strategies. Our U.S. equity strategy struggled to keep pace with a market driven by a few high-flying technology and consumer stocks (i.e. NVIDIA, Broadcom, Tesla, Meta, Netflix, and Apple). The reality is that an environment where the market is driven by narrow market leadership is not a period in which we would expect our style to outperform. Canadian equities were also behind the benchmark for the year. Overall, we would characterize the current market as exuberant—the market, as defined by S&P TSX was up 22% over the past year. The portfolio largely kept up with the torrid returns of the market by gaining 19% but falling short of the benchmark largely due to our underweight in pipelines, gold miners, and Shopify.

International equities were a bright spot in 2024 and relative outperformance was primarily driven by a few key exposures. Shares of German

defense contractor Rheinmetall rose sharply due to geopolitical uncertainty, expectations for greater European defense spending, and strong internal execution. Advanced semiconductor manufacturer TSMC continued to benefit from increasing spending on AI infrastructure while its technological leadership provides the competitive advantage to translate higher demand into genuine wealth creation. And long-time portfolio stalwarts continued to perform reliably: reference information providers Wolters Kluwer and RELX and insurance broker Aon.

The performance of our International Equity strategy is a reminder of why we continue to lean heavily into the durability of our philosophy and process in an effort to responsibly steward our clients' investments. Despite short-term challenges in 2022, the strategy has bounced back very well.

The economy in Canada faces a mixed outlook as declining interest rates may stimulate consumer spending and business investment, but challenges such as low productivity, high housing costs, and trade uncertainties linked to the incoming U.S. administration policies could create economic turbulence. Potential tariffs targeting Canadian exports, despite a weaker Canadian dollar, add further pressure, particularly for industries reliant on cross-border trade. Yet, companies with U.S. dollar revenues or global operations could capitalize on these dynamics, while a weaker Canadian dollar may drive a surge in M&A activity.

There are times when a quality style approach to investing may seem out of favor, especially in markets driven by speculative enthusiasm. However, we remain steadfast in our belief that disciplined adherence to our philosophy yields attractive, long-term results over entire economic cycles. Our investment approach is about ignoring fads, staying grounded, and focusing on sustainable wealth-creation rather than getting swept up in market frothiness.

At Mawer, we maintain a long-term investment perspective regardless of market conditions. Through careful analysis and selection of quality investments, we work to grow our clients' capital over time, while acknowledging that market fluctuations are an inherent part of the investment journey.

Team members working directly with Peguis:



Greg D. Peterson, CFA

Greg Peterson is a Director and Investment Counsellor at Mawer Investment Management Ltd., which he joined in 2002. He is the manager of the Mawer Balanced Fund and the Mawer Global Balanced Fund. In addition, he leads the asset allocation team for the firm and is responsible for client portfolio management.

Mr. Peterson earned a Bachelor of Commerce degree, majoring in Finance, from the University of Alberta and is a Chartered Financial Analyst charterholder. He has investment experience since 1991.



Grant Bunker, MBA

Grant Bunker is an Investment Counsellor within the Private Client Investment Counselling team at Mawer Investment Management Ltd., which he joined in 2014.

Mr. Bunker has investment experience since 1995, serving both private and institutional clients.

Mr. Bunker earned his MBA from Schulich School of Business at York University and his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Guelph. In 2006, he obtained his Certified Investment Manager designation from the Canadian Securities Institute.



Ridgewood continues to enjoy working with the Peguis First Nation and appreciates your continued vote of confidence as we manage a portion of the Surrender Trust. In 2025, we are happy to continue supporting the AGM and lend financial assistance to the community where we can. We value our partnership with all members of the community and look forward to working with the Trustees this coming year.

Ridgewood Overview: With a history spanning more than 25 years, Ridgewood Capital Asset Management is a well-respected investment counseling firm providing asset management services to both individuals and institutions. We manage over \$1.9 billion in assets and have been managing investment portfolios for First Nations and other Indigenous communities for over 20 years.

Surrender Claim Trust Portfolio: Ridgewood manages a Fixed Income (Bond) portfolio for the Surrender Trust. Our goal is to provide consistent

long-term performance while maintaining a high quality, liquid bond portfolio. Our disciplined approach to fixed income management combines interest rate anticipation with strategic sector selection, to produce above-average returns with below-average volatility. In 2024, Central Banks began the process of lowering interest rates. The Bank of Canada cut their overnight interest rate by 1.75%, to 3.25%. The U.S. Federal Reserve also lowered rates, but less than the Bank of Canada.

The Fed cut their overnight rate by 1% to a range of 4.25% - 4.50%. These rate cuts were driven by the continued decrease in the level of inflation. In Canada, inflation ended the year at 1.8%, slightly below the Banks 2% target. The U.S. ended the year at 2.9%, higher than Canada but within their target range of 1% to 3%. The main focus for the year was the continued decrease in inflation and how low would interest rates go. That focus shifted in November after Donald Trump regained the U.S. presidency. At that time, markets became

more optimistic on his promises of deregulation and tax cuts, which would spur economic growth in both the U.S. and Canada. With the message that inflation was under control and interest rates would continue moving lower, bond markets rallied, and bond prices increased. For the year 2024, the Surrender Trust portfolio generated a return of 7.50% versus the benchmark at 4.26%.

Ridgewood continued to grow the portfolio's capital nicely, beating the benchmark by 3.24%. As of December 31, 2024, your portfolio had a value of \$63,648,812.34. This is an increase of just over \$4,300,000 since the start of the year. 55 University Avenue, Suite 904 Toronto, Ontario M5J 2H7 Tel: 416-842-0227 Sample Holdings As of Dec 31, 2024 Athabasca Indigenous Mid LP First Nations Finance Authority Ontario Power Generation – Green Bond Province of Manitoba TD Bank

As we begin 2025, tariffs are dominating the news and everyone's attention. The lingering question is how long these tariffs will remain in place. We anticipate that trade agreements will be negotiated, but how quickly, and what the final terms will look like are yet to be determined. In the meantime, tariffs will likely increase the price of goods and services. They may cause inflation to

creep back up, potentially above the 3% upper limit. It also opens a period of great uncertainty for the world economy and has the potential to slow the pace of global economic growth. With the potential for lower economic growth, and higher inflation, select countries could enter a period of stagflation.

Stagflation occurs when inflation increases, and economic growth slows. Stagflation has historically been a difficult scenario for Central Banks to counter. On the one hand, interest rates should be lowered to spur economic growth. On the other hand, interest rates should be increased to lower inflation.

Financial markets will continue to be volatile until we have clarity on tariffs, economic growth, and inflation, so patience is required. The Peguis Surrender Trust portfolio remains well diversified.

The portfolio has a yield to maturity of approximately 5.23%, much higher than the index yield. We continue to hold a higher weighting of corporate bonds which offer a higher yield and should do well as rates decrease.

We thank you for your continued trust.

Sincerely, Robert Cruickshank. Vice President



Robert Cruickshank is a Vice President and partner at Ridgewood and brings over 30 years of experience in the financial services and investment industry to the firm. Robert has experience in custody, performance analytics and providing investment solutions to both high net worth and institutional investors. He has been actively involved with Aboriginal clients for over 14 years. Robert is a CFA charter holder and holds the CIM designation.

Certification



PEGUIS FIRST NATION SURRENDER CLAIM TRUST

Building *Our* Future

WE CERTIFY THAT, to the best of our information, knowledge and belief that the information contained on the preceding pages are true and that all expenditures and investments of the Trust Property were properly documented and authorized in compliance with the Trust Agreement.

Community Fund Trustees

Lloyd Sinclair, Co-Chair 2024

Hal Sutherland, Co-Chair 2024

3 Vacancies

Financial Trustees

Errol Wilson, Chair 2024

Elva McCorrister

Robert Magnusson, CA

TD Canada Trust Company

Management & Staff

- Debbie McElhinney, Trust Manager
- Denise Sinclair, Financial Officer
- Alfrieda Sinclair, CF Project Officer/Administrative Assistant

Contact Information:

www.peguissurrendertrust.com

Box 942 Peguis, Mb R0C 3J0

Tel. 204.645.5644

Fax 204.645.5866



PEGUIS FIRST NATION
SURRENDER CLAIM TRUST

Building *Our* Future