

# Final Report: Evaluation of Land Management Sub-Programs\*

Presentation to the National Aboriginal Land Managers Association 12<sup>th</sup> Annual National Gathering

Evaluation

Strategic Policy and Partnerships Sector

September 27th, 2023



*\*In conversation with First Nation partners, the point was recognized that the Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management (FNLN) is a self-government agreement and should not be referred to as a program. Hereafter the evaluation refers simply to "land management".*



Indigenous Services  
Canada

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Autochtones Canada

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## Evaluation Scope:

Covered Fiscal Years 2014-15 to 2020-21, and early impacts of COVID-19. Implicated three land management areas:

- Reserve Land and Environment Management Program (RLEMP)
- ISC support for First Nation Land Management (FNLM)
- Land Use Planning (LUP)

### Assessed seven areas:

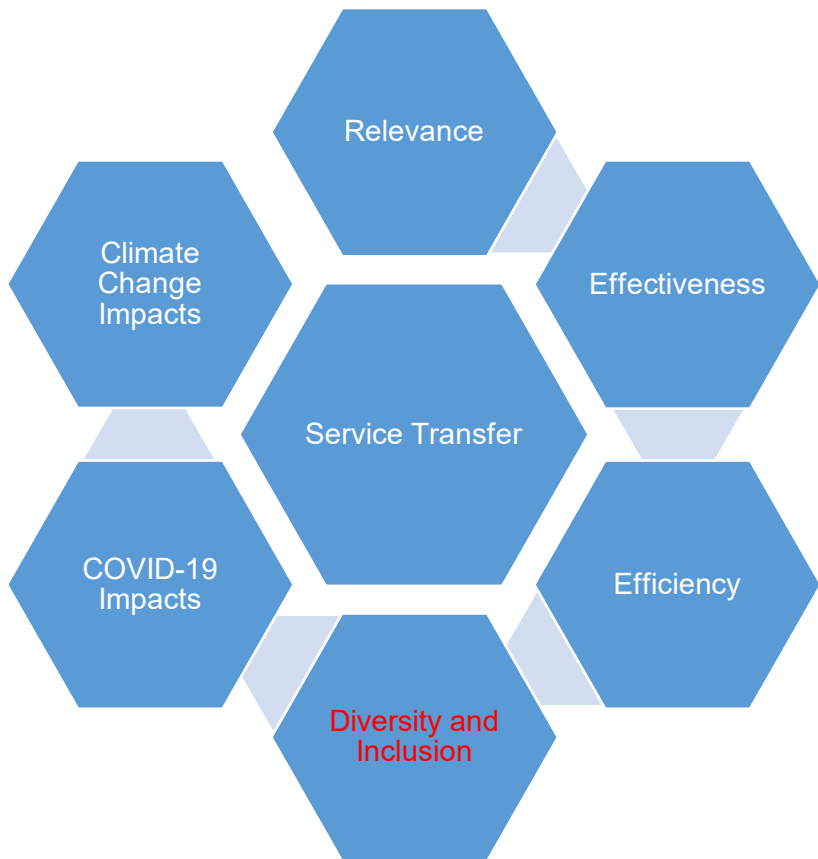
## Presentation of Findings

The 17 major findings **were** grouped thematically based on the ideas that were most present in the information shared with the evaluation team.

The findings can be broadly separated into three themes: Importance of Land, Current Challenges, and Ways to Move Forward.

## Indigenous Service Delivery Partners:

The First Nation Land Management Resource Centre (FNLMRC) and the National Aboriginal Land Managers Association (NALMA).





# Funding

**Recommendation #1:** As First Nations in RLEMP experience disparities within the current model that hinders their capacity to effectively manage their lands and natural resources, **ISC re-assess the funding formula for RLEMP.**

## Related Findings:

There are **disparities in funding access and distribution** across and within RLEMP, FNLM and Land Use Planning that **create differences in opportunities** for First Nations to benefit from their lands and natural resources.

Current **RLEMP funding is inadequate** to meet its objectives.

The RLEMP **funding formula does not reflect the land management reality** of many First Nations.



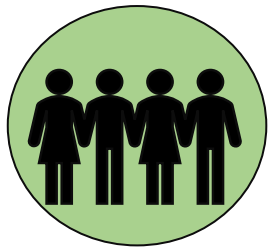


# Capacity

**Recommendation #2:** Working with First Nations partners and Regions, **ISC support a gap analysis for training in lands governance**, at the discretion of First Nations partners.

Related Finding:

First Nations and their non-Indigenous partners in the Lands sector could **benefit from expanded training.**



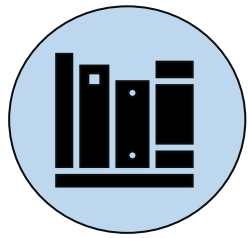
# Relationships

**Recommendation #3:** Working with Regions, Human Resources, and the Chief Finances Results Delivery Office (CFRDO), **ISC lead an organizational capacity assessment across land management, focusing on training needs, human resource continuity and retention of corporate knowledge for ISC staff.**

Related Finding:

ISC has opportunities to **improve its relationships with First Nations** communities.



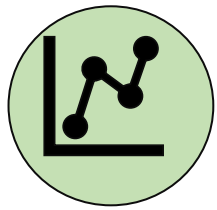


# Capacity

**Recommendation #4:** Working with First Nations partners, ISC provide funding and support to carry out studies on existing capacity for land management in First Nations communities.

Related Finding:

**An appropriately-compensated and dedicated Land Manager is vital** to ensure First Nations' lands and natural resources are sustainably managed.



# Reporting and Service Transfer

**Recommendation #5:** Working with First Nations partners and the Chief Data Officer, **ISC explore how to ensure First Nations have access to and ownership of their lands-related data, and the necessary data governance and management capacity to support that access and ownership, in support of service transfer and in order to facilitate evidence-based decision-making in land management.**

## Related Findings:

There are opportunities to streamline and **improve the utility of reports required by ISC** for land management funding.

‘Service Transfer’ speaks to a future where **First Nations have the control they desire** in managing their lands and natural resources.



# Next Steps

- Share report
  - Share copies of report with interviewees and contributing organizations
  - Post online by March 2024
- Monitor progress on implementing recommendations





**Find us at the ISC Tradeshow Booth!**

or

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# All Key Findings

## Community and Culture

1. Planning for the future use of land is an important intergenerational aspect of First Nations' community-building.

## Self-Determination

2. Self-determination is an inherent right for First Nations, and there are ways to support communities to exercise that right over their lands and natural resources.

Importance of Land

## Relationships

13. First Nations are developing a complex Land Management ecosystem by building relationships outside of ISC.  
14. ISC has opportunities to improve its relationships with First Nations communities.

## Reporting

15. There are opportunities to streamline and improve the utility of reports required by ISC for land management funding.

## Service Transfer

16. 'Service Transfer' speaks to a future where First Nations have the control they desire in managing their lands and natural resources.  
17. As the department moves toward service transfer, ISC has a continued role to play in land management.

Ways to Move Forward

Current Challenges

## Funding

3. There are disparities in funding access and distribution across and within RLEMP, FNLM and Land Use Planning that create differences in opportunities for First Nations to benefit from their lands and natural resources.  
4. Funding for FNLM is seen as efficient.  
5. Stable funding arrangements would better support long-term land use planning projects.  
6. Current RLEMP funding is inadequate to meet its objectives.  
7. The RLEMP funding formula does not reflect the land management reality of many First Nations.

## Capacity

8. An appropriately-compensated and dedicated Land Manager is vital to ensure First Nations' lands and natural resources are sustainably managed.  
9. First Nations and their non-Indigenous partners in the Lands sector could benefit from expanded training.

## Enforcement

10. Enforcement of First Nations' land codes and laws is a critical challenge.

## Climate Change

11. First Nations are not currently receiving adequate support to mitigate the serious impacts of climate change.

## COVID-19 Impacts

12. The COVID-19 pandemic made it challenging for many First Nations to achieve their land management priorities, despite modernization of service delivery.

