

Youth Presentation on Land Management

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What Does Land Mean to First Nations People

- First and foremost, land is our identity. It is who we are as people. There is a very spiritual attachment to land, air and water.
- Land is sustenance and provides us with food, water and medicine. If it is not protected by means of proper management techniques, there is a risk of it not providing those things for our future generations.
- Land is the basis of our culture. Our traditional territories are what made our people who we are, it represents the spirit of our ancestors and those who will occupy it after us.
- Land, apart from our fellow community members, is our greatest asset. Without it we would lose our sense of identity and potentially become lost. We must do all we can do ensure our land remains prosperous for future generations.



What is Land Management

As stewards of the land, we have a duty to ensure our lands and resources are being managed sustainably. Therefore, First Nation Land Departments must be held to the highest standards of ethics and professionalism. Land Managers are responsible for the sustainable management of our ancestral lands in the present to ensure they are prosperous for future generations.

Land Management includes, but is not limited to:

- Community Land Use Planning
- Leasing and Permitting
- Additions to Reserve
- Mapping
- Solid Waste Management
- Law and Bylaw Development
- Matrimonial Real Property
- Environmental Governance and Protection
- Climate Change Initiatives



Why is Land Management Important

- Land Management is important in many ways. It involves the past, present and future of a community's land base, and in some instances includes traditional territory as well.
- Many communities rely on resources from the land and water that must be sustained in order to continue their traditions and provide sustenance.
- Land Management is involved in the planning stages of any successful economic development project.
- Land Management works with all sectors of a First Nation and provides assistance on all projects that involve land.
- Good Land Management techniques provide communities with economic prosperity. i.e., Leasing and Permitting negotiations






Land Regimes First Nations Operate Under

Indian Act

First Nations that function under the Indian Act are subject to the provisions set out within it. There are strict rules that must be followed in order to make land management activities legitimate. There are 44 sections of the Indian Act that relate to Land Management. Ministerial Order must be granted in some circumstances, such as designations for leasing.



Reserve Land and Environment Management Program (RLEMP)

- RLEMP is a program created to give First Nations more authority over governing their land and environment. There are 3 levels to RLEMP:
 - Training and Development
 - First Nations are funded to train and certify 1 land manager through the Professional Land Management Training and Certification Program (PLMCP) and set up a lands office
 - First Nations gradually take on land management responsibilities in partnership with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)
 - Training and development is typically a 2 year process
 - Operational
 - Once a First Nation has a certified land manager, they progress to the operational level where they actively manage their reserve lands, natural resources and environment under the Indian Act
 - ISC no longer has the primary responsibility for land management instruments but retain the approval function
 - Delegated Authority 53/60
 - First Nations have additional lands management authority under [section 53](#) or [section 60](#) of the *Indian Act*
 - First Nations will take on the approval function for land management activities as outlined under their delegation
 - As First Nations progress through RLEMP, funding increases in recognition of the additional administrative responsibilities performed under the *Indian Act*. These administrative responsibilities include:
 - lands management such as leases or permits
 - environmental management such as environmental site assessments
 - natural resource management such as permits for natural resource extraction like fishing and logging
 - community-based land use planning such as zoning and designations
 - compliance management such as promotion, monitoring, and enforcement



First Nation Land Management Act (Sectoral Self Government)

- Entering into the First Nations Land Management Act enables First Nations to transition away from the application of the 44 sections of the Indian Act relating to land and environmental management. First Nations can then develop their own laws about land use, the environment and natural resources, and take advantage of cultural and economic development opportunities with their new land management authorities.
- Any First Nation with reserve lands within the meaning of section 91(24) of the Constitution Act of 1867 or with lands set aside in Yukon can opt-in.
- Once a First Nation has joined First Nations Land Management, it is able to receive 3 types of funding:
 1. developmental funding for developing a land code, entering into an individual agreement with Canada, and holding a ratification vote
 2. funding to facilitate the transition from the developmental phase to the operational phase
 3. ongoing operational funding for managing land, environment and natural resources
- Entering into FNLMA is a huge step for any First Nation, it means they are fully responsible for their land. The safety net of the Federal Government is removed and any land related issues moving forward fall solely in the hands of the First Nation.
- It is recommended First Nations use the land regimes as a stepping stone and work under RLEMP before becoming FNLMA or Sectoral Self Government.
- FNLMA is valuable to communities who do a lot of leasing, their land no longer needs to be designated and their leases are between themselves, representing the Crown, not the Minister. Therefore they are able to move at the speed of business.



Comprehensive Self Government

- Negotiated agreements put decision-making power into the hands of Indigenous governments who make their own choices about how to deliver programs and services to their communities. This can include making decisions about how to better protect their culture and language, educate their students, manage their own lands and develop new business partnerships that create jobs and other benefits for their citizens.
- Because communities have different goals, negotiations will not result in a single model of self-government. Arrangements take many forms based on the different historical, cultural, political and economic circumstances of the Indigenous governments, regions and communities involved. For example: Inuit land claim agreements have been signed in all 4 Inuit regions. These Inuit communities are pursuing their vision of self-determination under these agreements and in some cases through ongoing self-government negotiations. The Métis are also actively pursuing their own vision of self-determination through ongoing engagement with their citizens and through dialogue at Recognition of Rights and Self-Determination discussion tables with Canada.
- Self-government is part of the foundation for a renewed relationship and is a pathway to development and economic growth that generates benefits for Indigenous peoples.

National
Aboriginal
Lands
Managers
Association



Professional Land Management Certification Program (PLMCP)

- The Professional Land Management Certification Program (PLMCP) was developed in 2006 through a partnership between Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), the National Aboriginal Land Managers Association (NALMA) and other subject matter experts to provide accredited training for First Nation land managers.
- The program offers professional training to First Nations land managers so that they may strengthen their knowledge and skills through a 2 level process:
 - Level I: post-secondary training
 - Level II: technical training
- There are 4 post-secondary institutions with options for completing Level I of the PLMCP.
- Technical training in Level II of the PLMCP is delivered directly by NALMA. The goal of this program is to help First Nations build capacity to effectively manage their lands and environment under the Indian Act.



Post-secondary training

- Post-secondary training is available through:
 - The University of Saskatchewan delivers the Kanawayihetaytan Askiy program
 - Algoma University delivers the Aki and Environmental Stewardship program
 - The Vancouver Island University delivers the Professional Indigenous Lands Management Certificate
 - Universite du Quebec en Abitibi-Temiscamingue
- The training provides new land managers with the basic knowledge they need to manage the legal and environmental aspects of their reserve lands. Each program offers different courses but provides a foundation for learning in the field of lands management.
- The program can take up to 12 months to complete and requires both online and at-home study periods.
- Recognition of achievement is granted by the university upon completion of the program. Post-secondary training must be completed before technical training can begin.

Technical training

- The technical training is delivered by NALMA. This training gives new land managers practical, hands-on experience to manage the day-to-day legal and environmental obligations of lands management on reserve.
- To complete this training, a participant must finish:
- 5 compulsory technical courses through online delivery which will be conducted over a 6-week delivery timeframe and either:
 - additional full credit course through the designated post-secondary institution partner or
 - 2 enhanced specialized toolkit trainings
- A Level 2 Certificate of Achievement is granted by NALMA recognizing the successful completion of the technical training.
- After completing the post-secondary training and the technical training, graduates will earn the National Certification as a Land Manager recognizing expertise as a general practitioner in land management.
- Consult the National Aboriginal Land Managers Association your Regional Land Office for more information about the program.
- Funding from ISC covers costs such as:
 - tuition
 - travel
 - accommodations
 - other administrative fees
- Funding enquiries can be directed to the nearest regional office or by email to aadnc.rlmp.aandc@canada.ca.



A background image showing a group of business professionals in a meeting. They are gathered around a table, looking at documents and using mobile devices. The image is dimmed to allow text to be overlaid.

Discussion Period

This is a chance for Individuals to ask questions or discuss lands related topics from their respective communities.