

Get to know The Land Code



What is a Land Code?

A Land Code is the basic land law the First Nation develops and approves to govern its reserve lands. It is drafted in accordance with the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management*.

First Nations often establish a Land Code Development Committee, made up of community members, to develop a land code to address things like:

- Rules and procedures for land possession, exchange, and use
- Financial accountability to members for land revenues (such as leases)
- The process for developing and approving the First Nation's land laws
- A dispute resolution process

Land Code Process - A First Nation-Driven project

First Nations develop their land code to reflect their unique laws, priorities, and traditions. All eligible members, on and off-reserve, can vote on the First Nation's Land Code and Individual Agreement. Nothing is finalized without community approval through formal ratification. The First Nation establishes a committee to develop the Land Code, hold community engagement sessions, create information-sharing tools, locate eligible voters, and develop the community voting process document.

Benefits of a Land Code

- Recognition of a First Nation's right to manage its lands and resources
- Removal of the management of reserve lands from 44 sections of the *Indian Act*
- Community control over First Nation land management and development
- Inclusion of on and off-reserve members in important decisions
- Increased transparency and accountability to members in all land matters
- Enhanced ability of the First Nation to protect its environment
- Ability to create a local dispute resolution process (and more)

► A Land Code Will Not:

- Affect additions to reserves or land claims
- Increase provincial or municipal jurisdiction
- Affect taxation or tax exemption
- Affect Treaty/Indigenous rights

of Established First Nation
Land Codes by Region

