
Post- Federal Election Government Engagement

Background

A strategy is required for ensuring federal government awareness, support and momentum for:

- Replacement of the FNLMA
- Expansion of the Framework Agreement
- Facilitation of additional signatories
- Improvements to the fiscal relationship and
- Federal support for enforcement of laws

Considerations

Previous Central Agency, Ministerial, and Parliamentary visits conducted by representatives of the LAB were regarded as being successful towards the completion of the Framework Agreement and FNLMA amendments in 2018, as well as the 5-year Operational Funding and Treasury Board Authority renewal efforts in 2017.

Also, in 2017 key Central Agency staff were invited to attend several Operational First Nations on Vancouver Island to witness the effects of a land code. It was reported to the LAB and RC that this tour is still talked about as having been a positive experience for officials who are involved in the drafting of policy and briefing of ADMs, DMs and Ministers.

Engagement with the new government post-election would serve in part to remind Ministers and senior officials of innovations that the Board has already recommended (e.g. repeal of the FNLMA) but also provide an opportunity to discuss further changes. Although the substance of proposed innovations is likely to remain constant regardless of the shape of the new government, the outreach or communications strategy could evolve taking into account key themes or priorities which emerge this fall.

Recommendation

Regardless of the Political Party in office, the following is recommended:

1. LAB to send a letter to the Prime Minister and Key Cabinet members when appointed – Seeking support for Legislative and FA amendments and requesting to meet
2. Chairs of the LAB and RC accompanied by senior RC staff travel to Ottawa in November 2019 to meet with ADMs, DMs and Ministers of ISC, CIRNA, Finance, Public Safety, Treasury Board, Environment and Climate Change Canada as well as Justice.
3. In conjunction with ISC/CIRNA arrange for a tour of key Federal officials to Operational First Nations in BC, Prairies and East regions
4. RC to research the possibility of working with the First Nation Fiscal Institutions to provide additional political support
5. Monitor election campaign to identify potential new government priorities that may resonate with Board priorities