

## **12 First Nations seeking to shed *Indian Act* reserve land administration, added to the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management*.**

West Kelowna, BC, November 19th, 2020/LAB/ - On behalf of the signatory First Nations to the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management (Framework Agreement)* the Lands Advisory Board (LAB), and Crown-Indigenous Relations (CIR) are proud to announce the expansion of the *Framework Agreement's* membership to include 12 additional First Nations from four provinces. These First Nations are:

- Popkum First Nation (B.C.)
- Xenigwet'in First Nations Government (B.C.)
- Doig River First Nation (B.C.)
- Esquimalt Nation (B.C.)
- Klahoose First Nation (B.C.)
- Snuneymuxw First Nation (B.C.)
- Peerless Trout First Nation (AB)
- Montreal Lake Cree Nation (SK)
- Mitaanjigamiing First Nation (ON)
- Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek (ON)
- Michipicoten First Nation (ON)
- Northwest Angle #33 First Nation (ON)

Celebrated as the newest signatories to the historic *Framework Agreement*, these First Nations will begin the process of working with their membership to develop and approve a land code that will replace the 44 lands management sections of the *Indian Act*, with their own governance authority. The LAB and its technical arm the First Nations Land Management Resource Centre has worked closely with Indigenous Services and Crown Indigenous relations Canada to pave the way for additional First Nations to take part in this ground-breaking, decolonization initiative, supporting First Nations to exercise their inherent right of self-governance.

### **Quotes:**

"The *Framework Agreement* has a 20 year track record of removing First Nations reserve lands from the colonial *Indian Act* lands system and rightfully returning governance of those reserve lands back into the hands of First Nations. Every First Nation has the inherent right to self-govern its own lands. On behalf of the Lands Advisory Board, and the *Framework Agreement* signatory First Nations, we welcome these new signatory communities and look forward to the prosperous future ahead of them. My great appreciation goes out to Ministers Bennett and Miller as well as their staff for working with us to welcome these 12 First Nations to the *Framework Agreement*."

Robert Louie, Lands Advisory Board Chairman

"Congratulations to the 12 First Nations communities from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario that are exercising their inherent self-governance over their lands and moving to implement their visions of self-determination. This achievement was made possible by the collaborative efforts of all involved and we look forward to our continued work alongside Indigenous communities on this shared path toward reconciliation."

Hon. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations

**Quick Facts:**

- [The Framework Agreement](#) was developed and negotiated by 13 First Nation Chiefs who were seeking to opt-out of the land management sections of the *Indian Act* to regain jurisdiction of their reserve lands and resources. The *Framework Agreement* made history when it was signed by these First Nation Chiefs and the Government of Canada on February 12, 1996.
- Canada ratified the *Framework Agreement* by giving Royal Assent to the *First Nations Land Management Act* on June 17, 1999.
- [Signatory First Nations](#) develop their land code in alignment with the *Framework Agreement* and hold a community vote to decide its approval.
- There are currently 99 First Nations who have approved their own land codes.
- 177 First Nations are signatory to the Framework Agreement and an additional 50 First Nations have expressed formal interest to become signatories.

**About the Framework Agreement:**

The [Framework Agreement](#) is a government-to-government agreement that supports participating First Nations to opt-out of the 44 lands-related sections of the *Indian Act* through the ratification of a community developed land code. The *Framework Agreement* was designed to recognize First Nations' inherent rights to govern their reserve lands.

**About the Lands Advisory Board:**

Under the *Framework Agreement*, the [Lands Advisory Board](#) (LAB) was established to assist First Nations in implementing their own land governance regimes. The LAB is the political body dedicated to supporting First Nations communities in their efforts to re-establish control over their lands, natural resources and environment. The LAB is determined by the Councils of participating First Nations who are operating under their community land codes.

**About the Resource Centre:**

The Resource Centre (RC) was created in 2001 by the LAB to discharge its technical responsibilities to First Nations as well as to undertake certain duties critical to the ongoing implementation of the Framework Agreement on First Nation Land management.

For more details about the LAB, the *Framework Agreement* and our history please visit our [website](#) or contact:

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