



Kitsumkalum Land Management Committee

MARCH 2018

Welcome to the March issue of the Land Management Committee Newsletter. As part of our mission we are looking for ways to communicate more effectively with our community members. We hope you'll take a minute to read our updates and let us know what you think.

In February 2018, Land Management Committee members Jeanette Spalding and Wayne Bolton attended the Framework Agreement on First Nations Land Readiness Conference in Toronto. The event was held for communities that are either interested in developing, or already developing self-governance over their own lands and resources. Our Land Management Committee, is currently in the process of developing a Kitsumkalum Land Code. We thought it essential that some of our members attend the event to hear the perspectives and experiences of other First Nations.

Here is Jeanette's account of the conference:

Framework Agreement on First Nations Land Readiness Conference
February 27 – 28, 2018

Hosts: National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association First Nations Land Management Resource Centre Inc

Location: Territory of the Mississauga New Credit First Nation Airport Delta by Marriot Hotel

In the audience were approximately 280 representatives from 207 nations across Canada that are currently involved in the management of their own reserve lands, their level of experience ranged from expressed interest to full operation under their own land code.

A panel of speakers that held the floor for the majority of the two days came from communities where they are in the operational phase of land management and have been, as far back as 19 years. The operational phase comes after developing a Land Code and succeeding with a community vote to implement the agreement.

Panel of Speakers:

Edith Spence, Opaskwayak (MB) AKA The Pass – Cree
Joan Mcleod, Nipissing (ON) – Iroquois?
Deanna Honeyman, Tzeachten (BC) - Stó:lō Keith Sayers,
Mississauga (ON) – Ojibwe Randy Restoule, Dokis (ON) – Ojibwe?
Dean Bear, Muskoday (SK) – Cree & Saulteaux
Katharina Troitteir, Wolinak (QB) – Algonquian Jeremiah
Spence, Nisichawayasihk (MB) – Cree

Across Canada, 94 First Nations held a Land Code ratification vote, 79 had success and passed their Land Code, 45 of which are in BC. There are 62 First Nations that have signed the Framework Agreement and are in the developmental phase, 20 communities are in BC.

Day one covered the early stages of expressed interest in entering into the Framework agreement to the point where the



community voted to accept the agreement or not to accept. This stage entails employing a land manager to develop the office and initiate the Land Code and Land Use Plan through engagement with the community. Also, the manager will be responsible to form a group, such as a committee, to work through this phase and deliver the documents to the community for a vote.

Moving into Day Two, the panel of Land Managers discussed the steps taken transitioning into the operational phase. An important task required to get things off the ground is assembling an administration to ensure activities adhere to the First Nations Land Management Act. Some of the challenges identified were locating off reserve members and gathering membership together.

A common theme that emerged from the stories shared by the panel members was that governing their own reserve lands outside of the control of INAC was the best effort spent in reviving their community and working toward becoming a self governing nation.

As for the vote in the community from which each panel member represented, there was one successful vote at first attempt and one where membership took to the polls 14 times before agreeing to their Land Management Agreement. Communities ranged in size from approximately 200 to 5000.

Important activities when implementing the land code include developing Policies, creating Laws and Regulations. It's also important to consider a succession plan to ensure an ongoing part of business to embed this department into their administration. It will be a permanent form of governance that must be kept in motion.

Adopting the Framework agreement and tailoring it to fit each unique community has proven to be an exercise that has engrossed First Nations in governing themselves. There was great satisfaction expressed by those in the operational phase, when they spoke of taking the bureaucracy of Indian Affairs out of the picture and assuming responsibility within to make decisions that affect the community. This offered a stronger chance of leading to a successful and prosperous nation. The Lands office employees expressed many times throughout the conference, they are driven by holding themselves accountable to the community and not to INAC.





Did You Know?

A Land Code doesn't come into affect without approval from membership. All Kitsumkalum members who are 18 years or older whether living on or off reserve, have the right to vote on the Land Code.

Edith Spence
Opaskwayak (MB) AKA The Pass
<http://opaskwayakcreenation.ca>

Land Code Coming into force: August 1,
2002 -Treaty #5, 1876

Joan Mcleod
Nipissing (ON)
<http://www.nfn.ca/land.php>

Land Code Coming into force: July 1, 2003
Robinson Huron Treaty, 1850
<https://youtu.be/qfnc9NnMSFQ>

Deanna Honeyman
Tzeachten (BC)
<http://www.tzeachten.ca/>

Land Code Coming into force: August 21, 2008
– Stage 4 Negotiating AIP, 2018
https://youtu.be/yz9KVYqdC_U

Keith Sayers
Mississauga (ON)
<https://www.mississaugi.com/lands--natural-resources.html>

Land Code Coming into force: August 1, 2009
– Treaty #19, 1818

Randy Restoule
Dokis (ON)
<https://sites.google.com/site/dokislandcode/framework-agreement>
<https://youtu.be/yhvY2700N5w>

Land Code Coming into force: 2014
Robinson Huron Treaty 1850

Dean Bear
Muskoday (SK) AKA John Smith
<https://muskodayfn.ca/>

Land Code Coming into force: January 1,
2000
– Treaty 6, 1876

<https://muskodayfn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/2015-01-22-PRES-Community-Meeting-2.pdf>

Katharina Troitteir
Wolinak (QB)
<https://cawolinak.com/>

Land Code Coming into force: 2017
– Treaty 71?

https://cawolinak.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Mikwoba%C3%Aft_Versionfinale_D%C3%A9cembre-2016.pdf

Jeremiah Spence
Nisichawayasihk (MB)
<http://www.ncncre.com/ncn/>

Land Code Coming into force: August 25, 2017
– Treaty 5 - 1875
<https://vimeo.com/229848649>

CONTACT US

Follow our progress and watch for your opportunity to provide feedback on the Kitsumkalum webpage!

T: 250.635.5000 ext. 107 E: land.planner@kitsumkalum.bc.ca