



LAND CODE OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSIDERATIONS

Factors 'Namgis members should consider as the Land Code process unfolds:

OPPORTUNITIES & BENEFITS:



OUR LAND CODE WOULD REPLACE NEARLY 1/3 OF THE INDIAN ACT. This means that all the lands management sections of the Indian Act will no longer apply and will be replaced by our own land laws and policies.



OUR COMMUNITY WILL HAVE LEGAL AUTHORITY OVER OUR RESERVE LANDS AND RESOURCES. This means that we will be the only law and decision makers on our reserves.



WE WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS (LIKE GRANTING A LEASE) WITHOUT NEEDING THE APPROVAL OF THE MINISTER OF INDIGENOUS AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA (INDIAN AFFAIRS). This means that business transactions can happen faster, and we can act on opportunities to build wealth in the community as they come and if we choose.



ALL 'NAMGIS MEMBERS WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LAW MAKING PROCESS. This means that everyone will have a say in how things are done on our reserve lands.



CHIEF AND COUNCIL WILL BE ACCOUNTABLE TO MEMBERS FOR HOW THEY COLLECT AND SPEND MONEY ON RESERVE LANDS. This means that the Council will need to report back on their financial decisions to the community not to the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.



OUR LAWS WILL PROTECT OUR PRECIOUS CULTURAL AND HERITAGE RESOURCES, SOME ARE 1000s OF YEAR OLD. This means that we can designate certain lands as protected, and ensure there is no disturbance or development on them.



OUR CODE WOULD BE FEDERAL LAW UNDER THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT. This means that the courts will have to enforce our laws.

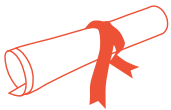


WE WOULD BE TAKING A STEP TO BECOMING SELF-GOVERNING. This means that we are building our capacity to govern ourselves in one area so that when the time comes to take on more we will be ready.

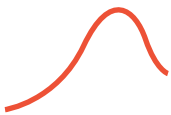
IS 'NAMGIS READY?



IMPLEMENTING A LAND CODE COULD BE EXPENSIVE. This means that even though we receive annual funding (approximately \$200,000 per year), we don't know at this time how much it will actually cost to develop our laws and policies that will be created after the Land Code takes effect.



IMPLEMENTING THE LAND CODE TAKES SKILL. This means that even though we will receive transitional funding (approximately \$150,000 for the first two year), people will need to be hired and trained to take on many different land management roles.



THERE WILL BE "KINKS" AS WE BUILD CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT OUR LAND CODE. This means that laws and policies are not developed overnight and there will be a major learning curve for staff and members.



OUR COMMUNITY WOULD BE TAKING FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL FUTURE DECISION MAKING ON THE RESERVES. This means we will be responsible for all environmental contamination that happen after the Land Code takes effect.



THERE IS NO GOING BACK TO THE INDIAN ACT. This means that Indian Affairs cannot be involved in the day-to-day management of our reserve lands and resources after the Land Code takes effect.

NEED MORE INFO?

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.NAMGIS.BC.CA/LANDCODE **EMAIL US:** LANDCODE@NAMGIS.BC.CA