



## WHO IS THE FIRST NATIONS LAND MANAGEMENT RESOURCE CENTRE?

As 'Namgis moves through the process of developing a Land Code, we will receive ongoing technical support from the First Nations Land Management Resource Centre (the "Resource Centre"). The Resource Centre will be an important part of our team and we want to make sure that 'Namgis members understand the Resource Centre's role in the process.

### WHO IS THE RESOURCE CENTRE?

The Resource Centre was established by the Lands Advisory Board to support the technical and administrative responsibilities outlined in the *Framework Agreement*.

The Resource Centre assists First Nations who are signatories to the *Framework Agreement* on First Nations Land Management. This includes First Nations who are both developing a Land Code and those who have ratified and are in the process of implementing their Land Code.

### WHAT IS THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT?

The *Framework Agreement on First Nations Land Management* is an agreement that was developed in the early 1990s by a group of 14 First Nations Chiefs.

It was their goal to make it possible for First Nations to manage their reserve lands without interference from government.

The *Framework Agreement* makes it possible for First Nations to develop their own Land Code to replace the 33 sections of the Indian Act that relate to reserve land management.

### WHO IS THE LANDS ADVISORY BOARD?

The Lands Advisory Board (LAB) is established under the *Framework Agreement*. The LAB offers political support for First Nation in all stages of the process, and continues to advocate for improvements to the *Framework Agreement*. They also provide strategic direction to the Resource Centre to ensure that First Nations have access to the support they need to successfully implement their Land Codes.

The LAB is made up of 14 Directors and a Chair. The composition of the LAB is elected by the Councils of the First Nations who are implementing their Land Codes and considered to be Operational under the *Framework Agreement*.

## WHAT DOES THE RESOURCE CENTRE DO?

The Resource Centre has about 25 support technicians across Canada who are available to provide First Nations with technical support through the entire process of developing and implementing their Land Codes. Their services are completely free of cost, and support is given whenever a First Nation asks for it.

These can include:

- assisting the First Nation in developing and implementing its land code, laws, land management systems and environmental assessment and protection regimes
- developing model land codes, laws and land management systems
- developing model agreements for use between First Nations and other authorities and institutions (e.g. public utilities and private organizations)
- assisting with First Nation land registration

The Resource Centre continues to provide assistance to First Nations once they become "Operational" and start to implement their Land Code. This support includes area like:

- Financial planning
- Law Compliance
- Law Creation prioritization
- Instrument Development
- Policies and Procedures
- Registry set up/FNLRS Training
- Information Management
- Land Use Planning
- Dispute Resolution
- Communications and Public Relations
- Federal/Provincial/Municipal Relations
- Issue specific workshops
- Staff Mentoring

There is a team of support technicians available on Vancouver Island who will be assisting 'Namgis through the process of developing our Land Code. They can be reached at:

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