



## HOW WILL LAND CODE HELP 'NAMGIS?



Currently, whenever 'Namgis wants to make a decision about how to manage our reserve lands and resources, we must present our decision as a request to Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). INAC has the final say on what happens to our Lands.

### HOW WOULD LAND CODE HELP?

- Land Code would return the decision-making powers on our reserve lands to 'Namgis. It is up to 'Namgis to decide exactly how these decisions are made. Generally, decision-making under a Land Code has a combination of Chief & Council, a Lands Management Advisory Committee (made up of 'Namgis members) and member votes for lands management decisions.
- Under a Land Code, INAC has no say in our decision-making.



Without a Land Code, 'Namgis must get INAC approval in order to lease our reserve lands. This can cause 'Namgis to miss important business opportunities because of delays and uncertainty. INAC currently controls reserve leases and it is a long and complicated process to get permission from INAC to lease OUR land!

### HOW WOULD LAND CODE HELP?

- Allows 'Namgis to move at the speed of business! Rather than asking for permission from INAC, we can make the decisions for ourselves.
- It would simplify the process for 'Namgis members to start businesses on reserve.



The *Indian Act* currently offers no way for 'Namgis to protect our on-reserve cultural heritage sites. Significant cultural heritage sites on reserve, such as village sites, do not currently have a heritage designation and remain officially unprotected.

### HOW WOULD LAND CODE HELP?

- A Land Code, developed by the membership, will allow us to designate archaeological sites as protected and enforce protection laws created pursuant to the Land Code.

## WHAT ARE OTHER FIRST NATIONS DOING WITH THEIR LAND CODES?

A number of First Nations have adopted Land Codes to address similar aspects of reserve lands and resource management. Lheidli T'enneh and We Wai Kai are two First Nations that have used their Land Code to drive important initiatives in their communities:

### **LHEIDLI T'ENNEH: CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION AT THE FORT GEORGE CEMETERY**

The Lheidli T'enneh Nation of Prince George, B.C., passed their Land Code in the Fall of 2000. Under Land Code, Lheidli T'enneh designated an entire reserve located at the confluence of the Fraser and Nechako Rivers as a cultural/heritage site to protect the Fort George Cemetery for Lheidli T'enneh members. This designation protects the lands for continual use as a cemetery and a place to honour Lheidli ancestors, culture and traditions. Without Land Code, this protection would not have been possible.

### **WE WAI KAI: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

We Wai Kai Nation on Quadra Island and in nearby Campbell River, B.C., passed their Land Code in the Fall of 2009 and they haven't looked back. Prior to their Land Code being passed, approximately 90% of community members were involved in fisheries as their main source of income. We Wai Kai utilized Land Code to jumpstart economic development and create a variety of jobs available to community members. Land Code allows the Nation to operate independently of the government which means they can move at the speed of business and not have 3+ year waits to get approval for land leases on reserve.

Since Land Code has passed, the community has experienced a boom in economic development opportunities such as:

- Tsa-Kwa-luten Lodge on Quadra Island
- We Wai Kai Campground
- Quinsam Crossing Shell Station & Liquor Store
- Partnership with a local restaurant
- 40 Acres of commercial leasable land available on reserve
- Aquaculture developments through the We Wai Kai Seafood Corporation
- Expansion of We Wai Kai Forestry Limited

## NEED MORE INFO?

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:** [WWW.NAMGIS.BC.CA/LANDCODE](http://WWW.NAMGIS.BC.CA/LANDCODE) **EMAIL US:** [LANDCODE@NAMGIS.BC.CA](mailto:LANDCODE@NAMGIS.BC.CA)