



## XENI GWET'IN LAND CODE DEVELOPMENT: EXTERNAL SUPPORTS

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As Xeni Gwet'in 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 ensure that Xeni Gwet'in members understand the Resource Centre's role in the process.



### Who is the Resource Centre?

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

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

### 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 13 First Nations Chiefs.

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

*The Framework Agreement* makes it possible for First Nations to develop their own land code to replace the 44 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 Nations 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 comprised of 14 Directors and a Chair. The composition of the LAB is elected by the First Nations Councils who have established land codes and are considered to be Operational under the Framework Agreement.

## **What does the Resource Centre do?**

The Resource Centre has over 50 staff members located across Canada who are available to provide signatory First Nations with technical support through the entire process of developing and implementing their land codes. Their services are offered at no cost to the First Nation, and support is provided at the request of the First Nation. Support services 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**
- **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**
- **Policies and Procedures**
- **Registry set up/training/support**
- **Information Management**
- **Land Use Planning**
- **Dispute Resolution**
- **Communications and Public Relations**
- **Issue-specific workshops**
- **Staff Mentoring**

There is a team of Resource Centre support technicians available in BC who will be assisting Xeni Gwetin through the process of developing your Land Code. They can be reached at:

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