



ACFN
DENE LANDS AND RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT (DLRM)

Q & A Part 1

What is the Framework Agreement?

- The Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management is a government-to-government agreement.
- It is an initiative to opt out of the land management sections of the Indian Act and take over responsibility for the management and control of reserve lands and resources.
- The Framework Agreement sets out the principal components of the land management process.

What is Land Management?

- Land management involves day-to-day administration of lands & resources and the right to make laws in respect of those lands & resources.

Is the ACFN Land Code a part of First Nation self governance?

- Yes, this is one component of self government and deals only with ACFN lands and resources. Matters related to other topics like elections, governance, taxation, and education are still governed by the Indian Act.

Will ACFN's Land Code or the Framework Agreement affect our Treaty?

- No, neither the Framework Agreement or the Land Code is a treaty and will not affect treaty rights or other constitutional rights of the Nation.

Is there any continuing Federal responsibility for ACFN reserve lands?

- Yes, Canada will still continue to hold title to ACFN Lands. ACFN reserve lands remain a federal responsibility under section 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867., however, Canada will no longer have management authority over the land.

Who is liable for damages related to ACFN reserve lands?

- Canada will remain liable and will indemnify ACFN for losses suffered as a result of any act or omission BEFORE the Land Code comes into effect. ACFN is responsible for its own land AFTER the Land Code takes effect.

Is the Indian Act still relevant to ACFN if the Land Code is adopted?

- Yes, approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Indian Act still apply. Only provisions dealing with land matters will not apply.



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Q & A Part 2

Are ACFN Members involved in developing the ACFN Land Code?

- Yes, ACFN has a Land Code Development Committee made up of six ACFN Members. Additionally, community engagement events, on and off reserve, are planned to gather feedback from ACFN Membership.

Are off-reserve Members involved?

- Yes, ALL Members, who are eligible voters, on and off reserve, can vote on the ACFN Land Code.

Does the Land Code need Membership approval?

- YES! ACFN can only resume control over their reserve lands with a “YES” vote by the Nation.

What lands are governed by the Land Code?

- Only ACFN reserve land.

Are ACFN's traditional territories governed by the Land Code?

- No, the ACFN Land Code only governs ACFN reserves.

Can ACFN make laws with the Land Code?

- Yes, ACFN will have the power to make laws regarding development, conservation, protections, management, use and possession of ACFN reserve lands and resources.

What powers will ACFN have with a Land Code?

- ACFN will have all the powers of an owner in relation to its land, except control over title or power to sell. ACFN will be able to lease or develop their land and resources without needing approval from Canada.

How will the environment be protected?

- ACFN will have the power to make environmental laws that deal with environmental assessment and protection.

Will ACFN lands be protected under the Framework Agreement?

- Yes. If the Land Code is adopted, ACFN reserve lands cannot be sold or surrendered for sale. ACFN reserve lands will be immune from any Provincial or Municipal expropriation.



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Q & A Part 3

Are other First Nations involved?

- Yes, there are over 100 First Nations in Canada that have enacted a Land Code.

What is the process of developing a Land Code?

- ACFN's Land Code Development Committee has completed the first draft of the Land Code, now, the draft must be reviewed and approved by the Council and the community. Once the review is completed and approved, Canada drafts the Individual Agreement and ACFN drafts the Community Ratification Process. When the final Land Code draft and the Individual Agreement are completed, ACFN members can vote "YES" or "NO" if they want to adopt the Land Code.

What is the Individual Agreement?

- The Individual Agreement is a document that is negotiated by Canada and ACFN to deal with matters such as lands to be managed, specifics of the transfer, and the funding to be provided.

Is funding available to operate under a Land Code?

- Yes, Canada provides operational funding to manage land, to make, administer & enforce laws, and to administer an environmental assessment & management process.

When is the ACFN Land Code vote?

- There is not an official vote date, however, a vote is projected to happen in late 2026.

Where can I see the ACFN Land Code draft?

- The ACFN Land Code draft and ACFN Land Code Summary will be made available at community engagements and ACFN's Land Code Webpage.

Does the Land Code affect Treaty Rights or Inherent Rights?

- No, the ACFN Land Code only allows ACFN to opt out of the land and resources related sections of the Indian Act. All Treaty Rights and Inherent Rights are not affected.

Does the Land Code affect taxation or tax exemption?

- No, the ACFN Land Code only allows ACFN to govern its own lands without needing Federal approval.