

Get to know The Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management



What is the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management*?

In the late 1980s, a group of First Nations Chiefs concluded that the *Indian Act* did not provide an adequate statutory basis for First Nations to govern their lands, and there needed to be recognition and legal capacity for First Nations to exercise their inherent rights to govern their reserve lands and natural resources. For years, these Chiefs focused on developing a government-to-government arrangement with Canada to recognize these inherent rights. Their efforts culminated in the creation of the ***Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management*** (Framework Agreement).

The Framework Agreement was signed by 13 First Nations and Canada, in a historic ceremony, on February 12, 1996. It is the only time in Canada's history that a group of First Nations joined together to design, negotiate and sign a government-to-government arrangement with the Federal Government to recognize and resume their inherent right to be self-governing. Currently, 213 First Nations are signatories to the Framework Agreement.

The Purpose of the Framework Agreement

The Framework Agreement was developed to enable First Nations to resume control over their reserve lands, natural resources and environment for the use and benefit of their members without Government interference by replacing the land provisions of the *Indian Act* with First Nation-made laws.

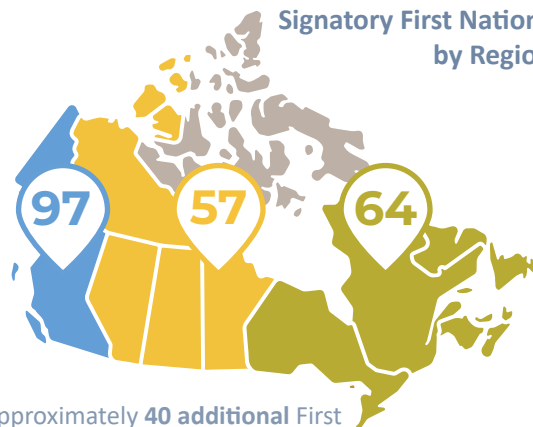
The Framework Agreement - A Viable Option

The *Framework Agreement* has a proven track record. To date, 124 First Nations (nearly 20% of all First Nation communities) have opted out of the colonial *Indian Act* lands system for the Framework Agreement. Signatory First Nations have utilized the Framework Agreement to strengthen environmental protection and facilitate increased economic opportunities through modern governance systems, lawmaking, policies, and timely decision-making.

► The Framework Agreement replaces 44 lands-related sections of the *Indian Act* with First Nations laws through a community-developed and approved land code.

Once the First Nation land code is enacted, the First Nation governs its reserve lands, natural resources and environment according to its cultural values and priorities.

Framework Agreement
Signatory First Nations
by Region



Approximately 40 additional First Nations have expressed interest in joining the Framework Agreement.