

ABORIGINAL RIGHTS POSITION PAPER

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

INTRODUCTION TO ABORIGINAL RIGHTS POSITION PAPER

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ABORIGINAL RIGHTS POSITION PAPER IS TO OUTLINE OUR PEOPLES' BASIC POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THE ABORIGINAL RIGHTS QUESTION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

THE UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS CAME INTO EXISTENCE AFTER THE CHIEFS CAME TOGETHER IN 1969 TO ESTABLISH THE CHIEF'S ORGANIZATION. THE CHIEFS OF B.C. CAME TOGETHER PRIMARILY TO OPPOSE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S WHITE PAPER POLICY. IT WAS CLEAR THOUGH, THE OPPOSITION WAS TO EVOLVE INTO A CLEAR POSITION ON ABORIGINAL RIGHTS FOR INDIAN PEOPLE IN B.C. THE UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS SINCE THEN HAS BEEN WORKING TOWARD ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE SET DOWN BY OUR PEOPLE'S INDIAN GOVERNMENT (BAND COUNCIL) REPRESENTATIVES.

THE WORK DONE BY THE UBCIC HAS INVOLVED EXTENSIVE RESEARCH AND CONSULTATION WITH INDIAN PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA. WE HAVE, THROUGH OUR WORK, DEVELOPED A GREATER, IN-DEPTH UNDERSTANDING OF OUR PEOPLES' POSITION WITH RESPECT TO ABORIGINAL RIGHTS. WE FOUND, THROUGH THIS WORK, THAT OUR PEOPLE HAVE NO DESIRE, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES TO SEE OUR ABORIGINAL RIGHTS EXTINGUISHED. THEY, IN FACT, ARE ADAMANT THAT OUR ABORIGINAL RIGHTS BE RECOGNIZED, EXPANDED, ENHANCED AND DEVELOPED TO ITS' FULLEST POTENTIAL, ON OUR TERMS AND WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SECTION 91(24) OF THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT. NO SUM OF MONEY WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO EXTINGUISH OUR ABORIGINAL RIGHTS. THE WAY IN WHICH OUR PEOPLE ENVISION OUR ABORIGINAL RIGHTS BEING DEVELOPED AND ENHANCED IS THROUGH: A) THE EXPANSION OF OUR INDIAN RESERVE LAND BASE;

- B) THE EXPANSION OF OUR INDIAN RESOURCE BASE WHICH IS TO INCLUDE FINANCES BASED ON OUR NEEDS FOR ECONOMIC, EDUCATION, SOCIAL AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS AS IDENTIFIED BY OUR PEOPLE;
- C) THE EXPANSION OF THE JURISDICTION AND AUTHORITY OF OUR INDIAN GOVERNMENTS (BAND COUNCILS);
- THROUGH RECOGNITION THAT WE ARE THE ORIGINAL PEOPLE OF THIS LAND;
- E) THROUGH RECOGNITION THAT WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE OR DETERMINE OUR OWN TYPE OF AUTHORITY WE WISH TO EXERCISE BY OUR INDIAN GOVERNMENT;

THE FINAL RESULT OF ALL WORK HAS BEEN OUR PEOPLE DEFINING A CLEAR ABOR-IGINAL RIGHTS POSITION FOR THE UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS.

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Definition

of

Aboriginal Rights

ABORIGINAL RIGHTS MEANS THAT WE COLLECTIVELY,
AS INDIAN PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT WITHIN THE
FRAMEWORK OF THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION TO
GOVERN THROUGH OUR OWN UNIQUE FORMS OF INDIAN
GOVERNMENT (BAND COUNCILS) AN EXPANDED VERSION
OF OUR INDIAN RESERVE LANDS THAT HAS AN ADEQUATE
AMOUNT OF ASSOCIATED RESOURCES AND IS LARGE
ENOUGH TO PROVIDE FOR ALL THE ESSENTIAL NEEDS
OF ALL OUR PEOPLE, WHO HAVE BEEN DEFINED AS OUR
CITIZENS OR MEMBERS THROUGH OUR INDIAN GOVERNMENTS.

THE UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS HAS PREPARED THIS DOCUMENT AS THE ABORIGINAL RIGHTS POSITION PAPER FOR INDIAN PEOPLE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

THE ABORIGINAL RIGHTS POSITION PAPER HAS BEEN FORMED ENTIRELY ON THE NEED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF OUR RICH INDIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE. ON-GOING INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION IS THE UNDERLINING THEME OF THE ABORIGINAL RIGHTS POSITION PAPER.

THE ABORIGINAL RIGHTS POSITION PAPER HAS BEEN BASED UPON THE FUNDAMENTAL BELIEF THAT OUR ABORIGINAL RIGHTS ARE INHERENT RIGHTS THAT CAN IN NO WAY, BE EXTINGUISHED OR TERMINATED. IN EFFECT, THIS MEANS OUR ABORIGINAL RIGHTS CANNOT BE BOUGHT OR SOLD FOR A FIXED SUM OF MONEY REGARDLESS OF THE AMOUNT THAT MAY BE OFFERED BY GOVERNMENTS. THE ABORIGINAL RIGHTS POSITION PAPER HAS BEEN TOTALLY BASED UPON THE ON-GOING RECOGNITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR ABORIGINAL RIGHTS.

The aboriginal rights position paper essentially provides a framework
In which indian people can continue to exist as indian people in canada.
The indian entity that would evolve from recognition and implementation
of the aboriginal rights position paper would be unique in that we would
possess all the ingredients necessary to develop our indian identity
through self-determination. The effective implementation of the aboriginal rights position paper would mean resolving all the current political,
economic, educational, social, cultural, and spiritual problems that
plague our people today. As well, it would mean that other peoples of
canada, for the first time, would be provided the opportunity to enjoy
the full benefits of our rich, indian cultural heritage.

THE ABORIGINAL RIGHTS POSITION PAPER, ONCE DISCUSSED, DEBATED, REVISED AND ENDORSED BY THE CHIEFS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, WOULD BE THE POSITION NEGOTIATED WITH THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT. THE POSITION, ONCE NEGOTIATED, AGREED TO, AND EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENTED WOULD, IN ESSENCE, CONSTITUTE A JUST AND EQUITABLE RESOLUTION TO THE ABORIGINAL RIGHTS AND LAND QUESTION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA. WE WOULD FURTHER ADD,

THAT THIS ABORIGINAL RIGHTS POSITION PAPER IS NOT TO BE REGARDED AS A FINAL DEFINITIVE STATEMENT FOR AS TIME GOES BY, OTHER AREAS OF CONCERN MAY BECOME APPARENT TO OUR PEOPLE THAT WILL NEED TO BE INCLUDED.

THE UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS
IN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
TAKING ALL THE FOREGOING INTO CONSIDERATION,
DOES HEREBY PROCLAIM,
AS OUR ABORIGINAL RIGHTS POSITION, THAT:

ARTICLE I

WE ARE THE ORIGINAL PEOPLE OF THIS LAND AND HAVE THE ABSOLUTE RIGHTS TO SELF-DETERMINATION THROUGH OUR OWN UNIQUE FORMS OF INDIAN GOVERN-MENTS (BAND COUNCILS).

ARTICLE [[

OUR ABORIGINAL RIGHTS TO SELF-DETERMINATION, THROUGH OUR OWN UNIQUE FORMS OF INDIAN GOV-ERNMENTS ARE TO BE CONFIRMED, STRENGTHENED AND EXPANDED OR INCREASED, THROUGH SECTION 91 (24) OF THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT.

ARTICLE III

OUR INDIAN RESERVE LANDS ARE TO BE EXPANDED
TO A SIZE THAT IS LARGE ENOUGH TO PROVIDE
FOR THE ESSENTIAL NEEDS OF ALL OUR PEOPLE.

ARTICLE IV

ADEQUATE AMOUNTS OF LAND, WATER, FORESTRY, MINERALS, OILS, GAS, WILDLIFE, FISH AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES ARE TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO OUR INDIAN GOVERNMENTS ON A CONTINUING BASIS AND IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES TO ENSURE DOMESTIC, SOCIO-ECONOMIC SELFDETERMINATION FOR PEACE, ORDER AND GOOD GOVERNMENT OF INDIAN PEOPLE.

ARTICLE V

OUR INDIAN GOVERNMENTS OR LEGISLATURES ARE
TO HAVE EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION TO MAKE LAWS
IN RELATION TO MATTERS COMING WITHIN CLASSES
OF SUBJECTS, HEREAFTER REFERRED TO, WITHOUT
LIMITING THE SCOPE OF THE POSSIBLE SUBJECTS
TO BE UNDER THE JURISDICTION AND AUTHORITY
OF OUR INDIAN GOVERNMENTS (BAND COUNCILS)
INCLUDE:

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CONSTITUTION AND THE AMENDMENT, FROM TIME TO TIME, OF THE CONSTITUTION OF OUR INDIAN GOVERNMENTS.

- The National Indian Brotherhood has been invited to participate in Constitutional discussions in Ottawa.
- U.B.C.I.C. INDIAN GOVERNMENT PORTFOLIO is preparing an Aboriginal Rights Resource Booklet, part of which an outline of how to prepare a constitution will be included.

THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF REGULATIONS
PERTAINING TO WHO SHALL BE A CITIZEN OR MEMBER OF OUR
BANDS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

- U.B.C.I.C. has developed a position on Indian citizenship (membership) and presented it to the Federal Government.
- U.B.C.I.C. INDIAN GOVERNMENT PORTFOLIO has sent out to the Bands an outline of points to consider in developing an Indian Citizenship Position.
- Neskainlith Indian Band have developed a policy on Citizenship.

THE MANAGEMENT OF ALL INDIAN RESERVE LANDS, INCLUDING ALL OTHER INDIAN LANDS OR INDIAN RESOURCE AREAS THAT WILL, FROM TIME TO TIME, BE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

- St. Mary's Indian Band claims 2,500 acres of land in compensation for the eroded land resulting from dike construction by the railway.
- Musqueam Indian Band is taking on the Federal Government in a court case regarding Shaughnessy Golf Course.
- Deep Creek and Soda Creek Indian Bands were successful in getting back a small portion of an old road that the Department of Highways took over under the Order in Council 1036.
- The Songhees Indian Band has a By-Law to provide for the provision of mobile home parks or mobile home subdivisions on Indian land.
- St. Mary's Indian Band has a By-Law for the trespassing of railway operations on their reserve.

ALL WATERWAYS AND BODIES OF WATER ASSOCIATED OR DEFINED AS BEING ASSOCIATED WITH OUR INDIAN RESERVE LANDS, INCLUDING ANY FORM OF WATER RIGHTS THAT, FROM TIME TO TIME, WILL BE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

WAYS INDIAN PEOPLE ARE PRACTICING INDIAN GOVERNMENT:

 A number of Bands are beginning to research all waterways and bodies of water associated or defined as being associated with our Indian reserve lands.



Spotted Lake - a well-known Indian sacred spiritual lake located in the Okanagan area.

ALL AIR SPACE OVER AND ABOVE ALL INDIAN RESERVE LANDS, BODIES OF WATER AND INDIAN RESOURCE AREAS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

WAYS INDIAN PEOPLE ARE PRACTICING INDIAN GOVERNMENT:

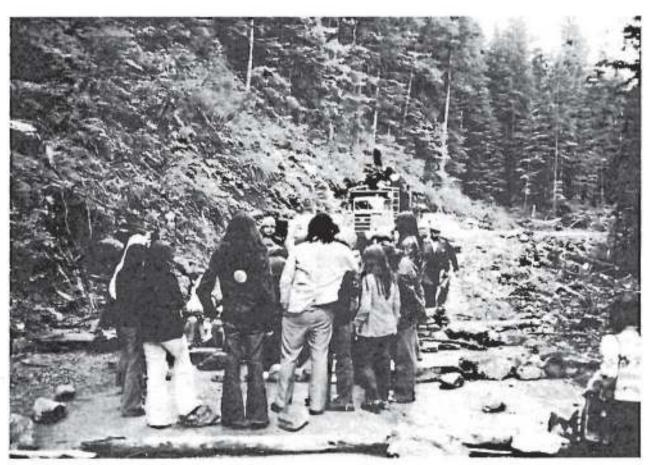
 A number of Bands are beginning to do research on all air space over and above all Indian reserve lands.

ALL FORESTS THAT ARE LOCATED ON INDIAN RESERVE LANDS INCLUDING ALL.

OTHER INDIAN FOREST RESOURCE RESERVES THAT WILL, FROM TIME TO TIME,

BE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

- Mount Currie Indian Band has given notice to Canadian Forest Products to stop logging on their reserve.
- A number of Bands are developing forestry resource management plans to ensure the forestry resource is not depleted because of poor management practises.



Our people attempting to control their forest resources on Indian Land.

ALL MINERAL RESOURCES LOCATED UNDER, AND WITHIN
BOUNDARIES OF ALL THOSE LAND, WATER AND RESOURCE AREAS
ESTABLISHED UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

WAYS INDIAN PEOPLE ARE PRACTICING INDIAN GOVERNMENT:

 A number of Bands are beginning to research all mineral resources located under and within boundaries of Indian reserve lands.

ALL OIL AND GAS RESOURCES LOCATED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF OUR INDIAN RESERVE LANDS, AND WITHIN ANY ADDITIONAL LANDS THAT FROM TIME TO TIME MAY BE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

WAYS INDIAN PEOPLE ARE PRACTICING INDIAN GOVERNMENT:

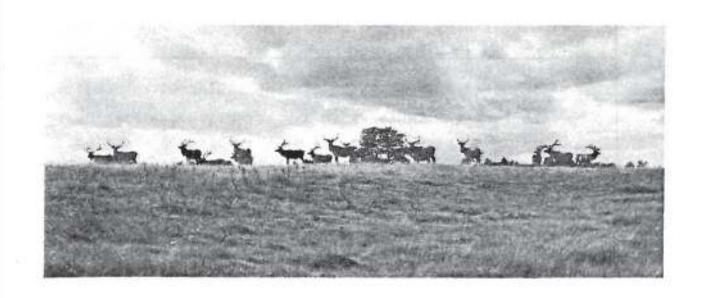
 A number of Bands are beginning to research all oil and gas resources located within the boundaries of their Indian reserve lands.

THE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT OF ALL MIGRATORY BIRDS THAT PASS THROUGH INDIAN RESERVE LANDS, INCLUDING THOSE INDIAN MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY RESERVES THAT WILL, FROM TIME TO TIME, BE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

WAYS INDIAN PEOPLE ARE PRACTICING INDIAN GOVERNMENT:

 A number of Bands are beginning to research the conservation management of all migratory birds that pass through Indian reserve lands.

ALL THE WILDLIFE RESOURCES CONTAINED WITHIN INDIAN RESERVE LANDS
AND ALL OTHER INDIAN WILDLIFE RESOURCE AREAS THAT WILL BE NEGOTIATED
AND AGREED TO BY FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL AND INDIAN GOVERNMENTS AS BEING
UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT.



- Francis Haines Case Judge affirms Indian right to hunt.
- Blueberry, Doig, Halfway, Fort Nelson, East Moberly and West Moberly Indian Bands have done extensive maps showing their hunting, trapping, fishing territories, camp-sites, berrypicking areas and gathering places.
 - St. Mary's, Columbia Lake, Lower Kootenay and Tobacco Plains Indian Bands are also mapping their hunting and trapping areas. These maps will be used, in part, to defend traditional territories against negative non-Indian development.
- A number of Bands are developing integrated resource management plans to ensure wildlife are not depleted or driven away because of poor management practices.

ALL FISH RESOURCES CONTAINED WITHIN THE WATERWAYS AND BODIES OF WATER THAT ARE ESTABLISHED AS BEING ASSOCIATED WITH OUR INDIAN RESERVE LANDS.

- The Squamish Indian Band has established a Fishing By-Law to provide for the preservation, protection and management of fish (on their reserve).
- The Nicola Indian Band Fish By-Law.
- The Lillooet Indian Fish By-Law for their district.
- Bradley Bob Case, Debolt Decision Judge Debolt affirms that Indian people have a legal right to fish under the condition that sound conservation management regulations are established by the Indian people.
- The Tahltan Tribal Council developed a By-Law which provides for the preservation, protection and management of fish within bodies of water that have been associated with Tahltan Indian Band.

THE GOOD CONSERVATION OF LAND, WATER AND RESOURCES ESTABLISHED UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

WAYS INDIAN PEOPLE ARE PRACTICING INDIAN GOVERNMENT:

 A number of bands are establishing integrated resource management plans to ensure lands, water, and other resources are utilized to their maximum potential.

THE PRODUCTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF ALL LANDS, WATER AND RESOURCE AREAS THAT HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL INDIANS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA AND OTHER CANADIANS.

- Nishga Indians have developed their own Forestry Management Policy.
- The Mowachaht Indian Band is in the process of establishing a Pollution By-Law which will set the permissable levels for all forms of pollution on the reserve, including air, water, and noise pollution.
- St. Mary's Indian Band claims 2,500 acres of land in compensation for the eroded land (result of dike construction by railway).
- The Lytton Indian Band has developed a By-Law to regulate the use of Recreational and off-highway vehicles on their reserve lands.

THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF THE ECONOMY THROUGH
THE DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF
REGULATIONS, ON SUCH MATTERS AS TRADE, COMMERCE, AND
THE INCORPORATION OF COMPANIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF
INDIAN GOVERNMENT OBJECTIVES.

WAYS INDIAN PEOPLE ARE PRACTICING INDIAN GOVERNMENT:

- Cowichan Indian Name Rights.
- Lytton Indian Band organizes summer camp.
- Bella-Bella Central Native Fisherman's Co-op.
- Campbell River Indian Boat Marina.
- Indian Mushroom Gatherers are organizing.
- Sumas Indian Band has evicted a company which has been manufacturing clay bricks on their land. The Band has control of the clay industry.
- The Neskainlith Indian Band has established a goal of self-sufficiency which has facilitated a planning process which involves: (1) examination of existing resources on reserve, their potential in terms of generating revenue to the band and employment opportunities for its citizens.

(2) examination of the economy of the surrounding area outside of the reserve for the purpose of determining potential, available economic ventures that can be engaged by the band.

THE GOOD AND PROPER EDUCATION OF ALL OUR PEOPLE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT OBJECTIVES.

WAYS INDIAN PEOPLE ARE PRACTICING INDIAN GOVERNMENT:

- Indian Lawyers: Six graduates in B.C.
- Band operated Schools: Bella Coola

Masset

Mt. Currie

Nitinaht

Shulus

- Bands with their own School Boards: Nishga

Saanich

Kispiox

- Port Alberni Alternate School
- The establishment of Youth Organizations by many of the Bands.



Mt. Currie Indian graduation ceremonies of their all-Indian controlled school.

THE MAINTENANCE OF SOCIAL ORDER WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT OBJECTIVES.

- The Stuart Trembleur Indian Band has a By-Law to provide for the observance of peace and good order within all the band land.
- The Lower Kootenay Indian Band has a By-Law to establish eviction of undesirables from the band land.
- The establishment of Youth Organizations by many of the Bands.

ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE PROPER HEALTH AND WELFARE OF OUR PEOPLE, INCLUDING THOSE NOT RESIDENT ON INDIAN RESERVE LANDS.

- Indian Para-medic Program.
- Alert Bay Indian Band charges doctor with negligence.
- Nishga Indian Club self-raised \$1,600 to pay for 'low aid glasses' for band members.
- Stalo Indian Housing Society.
- Mount Currie Indian Band members were successful in getting 12 mobile homes without ministerial guarantee.
- Indian Photographers and Artists have held an informal gathering in Kamloops, August 1979 to exchange ideas.



An Indian Doctor curing a young boy.

THE SOLEMNIZATION AND DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE WITHIN THE CHARTERED INSTITUTIONS OF TRADITIONAL INDIAN RELIGIONS.

WAYS INDIAN PEOPLE ARE PRACTICING INDIAN GOVERNMENT:

 A number of Bands are beginning to research traditional marriage ceremonies on their Indian reserves.

ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCE-MENT OF OUR CULTURE, INCLUDING SPIRITUAL AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT.

- Kwakiutl got back 160 of their potlatch artifacts, also opened Kwatiutl Indian Museum.
- A number of bands have developed cultural programs which include historical research, curriculum development and language courses.

THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF COMMUNICATING SYSTEMS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT OBJECTIVES.

- Indian Newsletter: Nicola Valley Newspaper, UBCIC Newsletter and numerous Band Newsletters.
- Spallumcheen Band forced a motel chain to remove an illegal advertising sign.
- UBCIC Fishing Bulletin
- Indian Radio Training Program

THE COLLECTION OF ALL FORMS OF TAXES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF OUR INDIAN RESERVE LANDS AND ON INDIAN PEOPLE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF CANADA.

WAYS INDIAN PEOPLE ARE PRACTICING INDIAN GOVERNMENT:

- The Cape Mudge Indian Band has a By-Law to allow taxing on the reserves.

THE IMPOSITION OF APPROPRIATE PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF ANY LAW OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT IN RELATION TO ANY MATTER COMING WITHIN ANY OF THE CLASSES OF SUBJECTS ENUMERATED IN THIS SESSION.

WAYS INDIAN PEOPLE ARE PRACTICING INDIAN GOVERNMENT:

 UBCIC successful in defeating the National Energy Boards Application that they could not be sued by UBCIC.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, INCLUDING THE CONSTITU-TIONS, MAINTENANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT COURTS.

WAYS INDIAN PEOPLE ARE PRACTICING INDIAN GOVERNMENT:

 Number of Bands are researching this area with the view in mind of establishing Indian Courts and policing service.

GENERALLY, ALL MATTERS OF A MERELY LOCAL OR PRIVATE NATURE ON INDIAN RESERVE LANDS, INCLUDING OTHER LANDS AND RESOURCE AREAS THAT WILL, FROM TIME TO TIME BE ESTABLISHED.

- The Gitlakdamix Indian Band has a By-Law to provide for the control, licensing of, and protection from domesticated animals.
- The Stoney Indian Band has a By-Law to provide for protection against and prevention of trespass by cattle and other domestic animals on Band Land.

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