

*Annual Report  
2011 - 2012*



*LANDS ADVISORY BOARD*



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Dancer (on cover) by Sergei Bachlakov, dancer (pg. 4) by Doug James



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, CHIEF ROBERT LOUIE

Welcome to the 2011-2012 Lands Advisory Board (LAB) Annual Report. I am pleased to announce that we now have 37 First Nations ratify the *Framework Agreement on First Nations Land Management (Framework Agreement)*. Congratulations to the four new Communities for completing their process in 2011-2012:

Songhees and Nanoose First Nations (BC);  
Kahkewistahaw First Nation (SK); and  
Anishinaabeg of Naongashiing First Nation (ON).

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Grand Chief Joe Hall, President of the Sto:lo Nation in British Columbia, a newly elected member of the LAB. In addition, I would also like to congratulate three members of the LAB who were re-elected at the AGM – Councillor William McCue of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation in Ontario, Chief Austin Bear of the Muskoday First Nation in Saskatchewan, and Leah George-Wilson of the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation in British Columbia.

This past year has been one of the most successful in the history of the *Framework Agreement*. The focus of my annual report for 2011-2012 will be the opportunities we enjoyed presenting our message to various committees and audiences and how well our message was received.

On behalf of the LAB and the signatory First Nations to the *Framework Agreement*, I would like to thank Minister John Duncan and his officials for working so closely with us to achieve our success this year. We have developed a true partnership with Canada. This close working relationship is providing our people with the opportunity to make the first critical steps leading to self-sufficiency and self-determination.

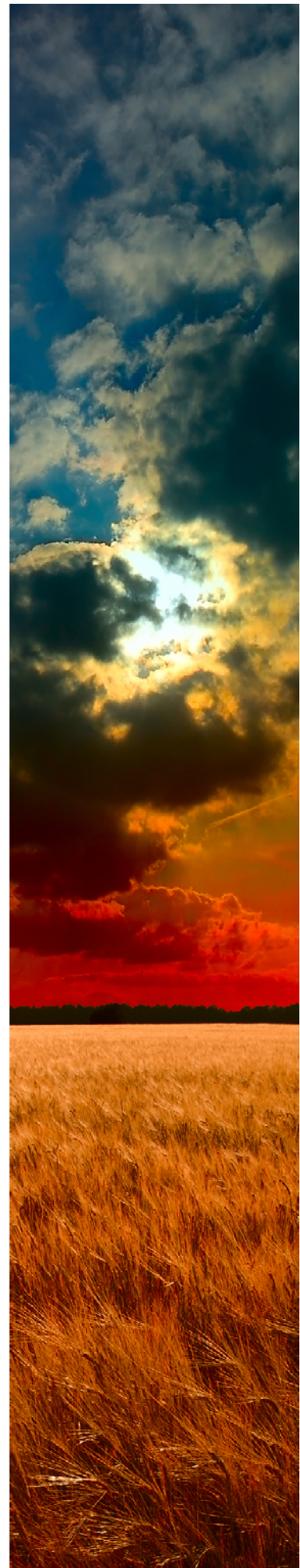
The culmination of our collective efforts was the announcement in January 2012 of 18 First Nations as new signatories to the *Framework Agreement*. I hope that other First Nations waiting to become new entrants soon will be provided this opportunity. Minister Duncan has indicated his commitment that more entrants may be added in 2012-2013.

I am very proud to state that all of the accomplishments by the *Framework Agreement* First Nations under their Land Codes have been possible while safeguarding the reserve status of our lands and retaining the protection of section 91(24) Constitutional jurisdiction. Reserve lands are protected from alienation. This is our responsibility, as stewards, to protect these reserve lands for the benefit of future generations.

In closing, please enjoy reading the highlights of our 2011-2012 accomplishments. The extensive details that I usually include in my Annual Report can be found on our website ([www.labrc.com](http://www.labrc.com)).

Sincerely,

Chief Robert Louie, O.O.C., L.L.B.





## 1. THE *FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT* ON FIRST NATIONS LAND MANAGEMENT IS HISTORIC

The *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management* is historic. First Nations governed over their lands before the Indian Act was imposed on them one hundred and twenty-five years ago. The purpose of the *Framework Agreement* is to enable the signatory First Nations to resume this jurisdiction. This was recognized by the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs when appearing before a Senate Committee in 1999:

*“The Framework Agreement and this legislation provide signatory First Nations a legitimate, organized and controlled means of taking back the authority to manage their lands and resources at the community level and pass laws regarding how their land is developed, conserved, protected, used and administered.”*

The *Framework Agreement* represents the first time in Canadian history that First Nations from across the country have come together as a group to develop, negotiate and sign a government-to-government arrangement with Canada. First Nations have an inherent right to manage their reserve lands and resources. The *Framework Agreement* is the first real recognition of this inherent right.

The *Framework Agreement* has been led from the beginning in 1992 by Chiefs and continues to be led by Chiefs today, twenty years later. These Chiefs are seeking an opportunity for their members to leave behind the paternalistic constraints of the thirty-four land administration sections of the Indian Act and assume governance over their reserve lands and resources under a Community-designed Land Code. Governance is the first crucial component of First Nations’ self-government and self-sufficiency.

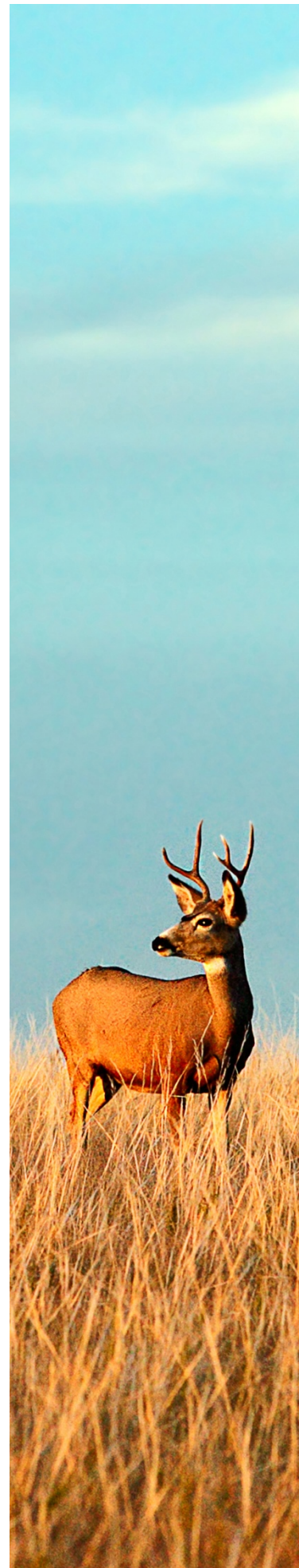
## 2. THE *FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT* IS UNIQUE

The *Framework Agreement* is also unique. After the February 1996 signing hosted by the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation in Ontario, the *Framework Agreement* next required ratification by both parties, Canada and each signatory First Nations. Canada ratified the *Framework Agreement* by passing the First Nations Land Management Act, “an Act providing for the ratification and bringing into effect” of the *Framework Agreement*. Royal assent was granted in June 1999.

Signatory First Nations each ratify the *Framework Agreement* by holding a vote to approve the Community’s Land Code and the Individual Agreement with Canada, which identifies the specifics of the transfer of control from Canada to the First Nation.

The uniqueness of the *Framework Agreement* is the fact that it is the primary document, which cannot be changed without the concurrence of the signatory parties. The parties have their own specific methods of ratifying the *Framework Agreement* and their methods must be consistent with the wording of the *Framework Agreement*. Neither party can unilaterally change the wording of the *Framework Agreement*.

When amendments are required, a similar process is followed. The Chiefs of the First Nations operating under their land codes, with assistance from their elected Lands Advisory Board, identify necessary changes. The Board then approaches the Minister with these changes and the technical details are completed.



The Chiefs then vote to officially approve these changes to the *Framework Agreement*. With the official approval of the Chiefs completed, the Minister presents to Parliament the necessary concurrent amendments to the First Nations Land Management Act.

In 2011-2012 the signatory First Nations and the Minister agreed on the amendments to the *Framework Agreement*, and accordingly to the First Nations Land Management Act. This is the fifth amendment procedure. Each time the parties are seeking to improve efficiency and simplify a First Nation's transition process from the Indian Act to the Community Land Code.

The uniqueness of the *Framework Agreement* was recognized by the Assembly of First Nations, under the National Chief Phil Fontaine, who supported our initiative with Canada. He explained:

*“What I found very encouraging about this very unique undertaking, unique because it was based on a government-to-government basis, was it spoke to our need to control our lands, our resources and it was really about creating opportunities for our communities...There was really no question about my support for this very important undertaking and it was something that we very strongly supported as a national political organization representing all First Nations in Canada.”*

The importance of the *Framework Agreement* was best summed up by the late Chief Joe Mathias of the Squamish Nation following Royal assent to the First Nations Land Management Act in June 1999. Chief Mathias was a respected and revered visionary, nationally and provincially; a hereditary Chief; a long-time proponent of Aboriginal rights, and a man who was widely recognized throughout Canada for dedicating much of his time and effort toward the goal of having our Aboriginal rights recognized. Chief Mathias stated that the *Framework Agreement*

*“... may be the single most historic accomplishment for First Nations this century, to have First Nations recognized as governments with their own law-making powers and control over their own lands.”*

### **3. EXPANSION OF INTEREST IN THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT**

During the twelve-year period 2000 to 2012, the growing number of First Nations requesting to become signatories to the *Framework Agreement* is exceptional. During this same period, the number of signatory First Nations that have ratified their land codes and their Individual Agreements with Canada is equally as exceptional.

When the *Framework Agreement* was signed by fourteen First Nations with Canada in February 1996, the parties agreed that at least three of the fourteen Communities would complete their ratification process before Canada would complete its ratification requirement with the passage of the First Nations Land Management Act. Royal assent was granted in June 1999; the ratification process for all signatories now began.

On January 1, 2000 – day one of the new millenium – the original three First Nations to ratify began operating under their own land codes and resumed jurisdiction over their reserve lands and resources, no longer held back by the paternalistic Indian Act. The millennium start date was chosen specifically by these Communities to honour their ancestors and mark an historic day in time when they regained control over their lands and resources.

The following four phases highlight significant moments in time for the evolution of the *Framework Agreement*:





- Phase I: February 1996 to January 2000

During this four-year period the groundwork for the resumption of First Nation jurisdiction over reserve lands and resources is completed:

- In February 1996 the group of 14 Chiefs sign the *Framework Agreement* with Canada to start the process;
- By the end of 1997-1998, 3 First Nations complete the developmental activities to ratify the *Framework Agreement*;
- In June 1999 Canada ratifies the *Framework Agreement* by granting Royal assent to the First Nations Land Management Act;
- On January 1, 2000, to start the new millennium, 3 First Nations become operational and resume control over their reserve lands and resources; and
- 12 new First Nations passed resolutions to be on the “waiting list” seeking future entry into the *Framework Agreement*.

- Phase II: April 2001 to March 2003

At the end of this short two-year period:

- 21 new First Nation signatories are added to the Framework Agreement;
- Agreement and become operational under their Land Codes; and
- 41 First Nations are on the “waiting list” to become entrants.

- Phase III: April 2003 to March 2008

By the end of this five-year period:

- 23 new First Nation signatories are added to the Framework Agreement;
- 16 additional First Nations become operational under their Land Codes; and
- 63 First Nations now are on the “waiting list” to become entrants.

- Phase IV: April 2008 to March 2012

By the end of this four-year period:

- 15 more signatory First Nations become operational under their Land Codes;
- 83 First Nations are on the “waiting list” to become entrants; and
- 18 new First Nations are approved from this “waiting list” to become signatories and begin the developmental process as of April 1, 2012.

In summary, during the twelve-year period from January 2000 to March 2012:

- 14 signatory First Nations have increased to 76;
- 3 operational Communities have increased to 37;
- the waiting list has expanded from 0 to 83; and
- the number of participating and interested First Nations in the Framework Agreement now represents 1 out of every 5 First Nations in Canada.

#### **4. THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT IS A SUCCESS STORY**

The *Framework Agreement* is a success story for a number of reasons. First, maintaining the integrity and quantum of reserve lands status is mandatory. Our reserve lands can never be surrendered, sold or diminished. Fee simple title is not permitted. Our reserve lands must be protected for the use and benefit of future generations.



Secondly, the *Framework Agreement* was developed and led by First Nations and continues to be led by First Nations. The Chiefs of these First Nations, throughout the twenty-year period since 1992, have displayed tenacity and determination; have provided unwavering leadership; and have been 100% committed to their vision of returning control of their reserve lands and resources back to their people. Total jurisdiction, decision-making and control must be with the Community, not with the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.

Third, we have increased accountability to our people and this is one of the tremendous benefits of our new land governance regime. As elected leaders we have the role and responsibility to answer to our members. The Indian Act doesn't specifically provide for this reporting; however our Land Codes do. Accountability is very important and reporting directly to constituents, and having laws in place that avoid conflicts of interest by elected leaders, are what the members themselves are demanding.

Fourth, we have a new relationship withal levels of government and this new relationship should not be underestimated. We have equal and true government-to-government footing with provincial governments, municipalities, and Canada. That's what our decision and law-making processes provide. We now are able to work with these levels of government and develop, for example, compatible environmental laws and regulations, as well as deal with all other issues of land governance.

Fifth, we are able to deal directly with business interests that can bring much needed economic development opportunities to our communities. We are finally able to function at the speed of business. We finally have the financing that we need. Banks and financial institutions across this country are looking to partner with First Nations under land codes because we have governance structures in place, rules and regulations that protect investors and their investments. There is security and comfort. Banks and investors are at the table because we have this direct jurisdiction and they have the comfort of knowing there is certainty to land interests, low land transaction costs, and that our laws are solid.

Sixth, we have finally “turned the tide” by generating an “in-migration” of what was at one time an “out-migration” of our youth. Our professionally trained people are returning home after graduating because there are now employment opportunities for them.

Without a doubt, the *Framework Agreement* is a tremendous economic development success story. The international consulting firm of KPMG recently conducted a study on the *Framework Agreement* costs and benefits to Canada. KPMG studied only 17 operational First Nations but the findings are remarkable:

- \$53 million investment from member-owned businesses;
- \$100 million investment from third parties businesses;
- More than 2,000 employment opportunities for band members;
- More than 10,000 employment opportunities for non-members pumping hundreds of millions of dollars into local economies;
- Administration costs per registered land transaction reduced to an average of \$500 by First Nations compared to Canada’s cost of more than \$2,500;
- Land transaction processing in days and weeks (at the speed of business), compared to Canada’s time of months and years; and
- Significant social assistance reductions (for example, one community went from 67% down to 5%).





This success was predicted from the very beginning in 1999 when Canada was passing the First Nations Land Management Act to ratify the *Framework Agreement*. The Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada stated:

*“This means that First Nations can undertake projects without having to turn to me for their approval. They will have the flexibility to move quickly when economic opportunities arrive or when partners approach them. In that way, they can get on with the task of creating jobs and encouraging economic growth in their Communities.”*

## **5. PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS STANDING COMMITTEE ON ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT**

In October 2011 a group of Chiefs and Lands Advisory Board Directors had the opportunity to address the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, chaired by Member of Parliament for Peace River, Mr. Chris Warkentin. We explained to the Committee why the *Framework Agreement* is so important to our people and why we have extreme pride in what we have accomplished collectively.

In turn, the Committee was very supportive with their comments:

*“It’s great to hear success stories, and some of them sound phenomenal. Everything from developing renewable energy fed into the grid, to other businesses. It’s fantastic. Every municipality in the country would like to move in the direction some of you are moving in. And you’re good examples.*

*“I congratulate all the first nations that have moved into the various steps...When I look at the map, it’s kind of stunning to see that most jurisdictions are picking up...”*

*“I support wholeheartedly what you’re trying to accomplish through this process... how can we accelerate the pace so they [other First Nations] have an opportunity to participate in this?”*

The Parliamentary Secretary to Minister Duncan, Mr. Greg Rickford, dealt with the issue of new signatory First Nations to the *Framework Agreement* and confirmed:

*“...new entrants are the thrust of a lot of the work that’s going to be done, in partnership with your organization...To that end we are looking at a significantly increased allocation over the next couple of years, as opposed to what it’s been historically”.*

During our session with the Committee, I also had the opportunity to comment on three other issues – capacity building, land modernization, and the waiting list First Nations.

On the topic of capacity building, I emphasized that more funding is required:

*“We need to train people to help us move the communities forward. We’ve provided, we believe, some of the best opportunities for training. We’ve put together curriculums. We’ve got online projects that are on hold. We have not been able to fully implement those. I need to stress that— it’s so important—we need governmental assistance. We appreciate what we have, don’t get me wrong. But it’s something that sometimes government overlooks. It is a necessary fact. We need that to help train our peoples to take on their roles and responsibilities. Quite frankly, with many First Nations in Canada, if training dollars could be put forward, I think we would have an even higher list of First Nations say they want to be involved. That’s just a matter of fact. It’s an oversight, we*





*believe, and it's something that hasn't been properly addressed. It needs to be addressed. We don't have those dollars. It is necessary."*

On the issue of "land modernization", I indicated that if it included "fee simple" then the *Framework Agreement* signatories would not be supportive:

*"If what's being looked at is a transfer from reserve lands to fee simple lands, the answer and response is no, that's not what this process is about. This process is about section 91.24, it's about the Constitution. It's about keeping that sphere of jurisdiction. We do not need to move into fee simple. My community at Westbank is one of the points that shows to the country that we do not need to transfer our lands into a fee simple basis. It works very well. We've got literally every bank that exists in Canada basically located on our lands. We have financing available; we have things like land title insurance... All of that is provided. As far as modernization is concerned, if it's fee simple, the answer is no."*

On the topic of adding the waiting list First Nations as signatories to the *Framework Agreement*, I encouraged Canada to invest:

*"If the government agreed ...with us to add further financial support and give the opportunity to First Nations on the waiting list, that is very much the essence of what's needed. I realize we are in tough times... All I can say is that by putting more dollars to this initiative, the opportunities that can be provided and the generation of income and jobs, the return on investment would be far more significant than what it might cost the government."*

## **6. PRESENTATIONS TO THE STANDING SENATE COMMITTEE ON ABORIGINAL PEOPLES**

In November 2011 some of the Lands Advisory Board Directors had the opportunity to address the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples, chaired by Senator Gerry St. Germain from British Columbia. The Committee's mandate is to examine legislation and matters relating to the Aboriginal peoples of Canada generally.

Again, we emphasized to this Committee why we are so proud of our collective efforts under the *Framework Agreement*. The Committee was very complementary of the *Framework Agreement*:

*"This is a great story. We do not always hear positive stories around this table in this committee, so this is great news "*

*"Even before we started tonight, my chief told me that this would be a feel good story and it has been. We have sat here for the last two years plus and there have been some tough nights, so, chief, I have tremendous respect for that... One of the tremendous benefits of this regime has been the increased accountability at the community level. If you have no accountability, it does not move. I really congratulate you for that. The word 'accountability' means so much in everyday life. You are definitely heading in that right direction. It is easier for the Senators to work with you when we have people who are accountable."*

*"The stories that you tell here are really quite amazing. I know that we – certainly I -- need to hear more of these stories. I can take these stories then when someone questions me about what we are doing here and that we do not know what is going on, I can point out to them that there are huge success stories out there. It is just amazing."*



I ended our presentation with two points. The first dealt with our amendments to the *Framework Agreement*, and to the First Nations Land Management Act; our intention to make the process even more efficient based on eleven years of experience; and the desire of receiving support from the Senators.

Second, I reminded the Senators that there currently is only funding in 2012-2013 to enable 15 new First Nations to become signatories to the Framework Agreement, even though there is a large waiting list of other First Nations. I also posed the question that since the return on investment in the Framework Agreement to the Canadian economy over the last decade has been significant, how significant would the contribution be if these other communities were added as new signatories?

Senator St. Germain closed the session with this gracious comment:

*“I would like to thank the panel. It was 15 years ago -- do you remember, Chief Louie and Chief Bear -- that I had the honour and privilege of working on the original Bill C-49 with you. You made promises then, and you have kept your promises. You said it would be an economic generator for the First Nations across the country, and it has happened.”*

## **7. PRESENTATION TO THE ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS – CANADA GATHERING**

I had the privilege, and indeed the honour, of addressing the esteemed participants of the Crown-First Nations Gathering in January 2012. This provided another opportunity to explain each of the factors which have made the *Framework Agreement* so successful. The theme of my presentation was:

- what is needed to support First Nations maximizing their economic development potential and other opportunities; and
- what could Canada contribute to make this a reality.

I again emphasized that governance jurisdiction by First Nations over their lands and resources is the key – the fundamental first step -- to success. In addition, this success definitely does not require First Nations to have to replace reserve status of their lands with fee simple title.

I also reiterated the statement that I had made to the Parliamentary Committees in October and November 2011. Federal funding is not a hand-out to the *Framework Agreement* First Nations, but rather an investment, which provides a significant return (estimated to be ten-fold) for the Canadian economy.

## **8. PARTNERSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS WITH MINISTER DUNCAN**

There have been a number of accomplishments this past year with the support of Minister Duncan and his officials. Together we were able to:

- sign a Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] to provide stability and certainty for the funding to the First Nations operating under their land codes;
- develop a fair and transparent method of prioritizing First Nations who wish to enter the Framework Agreement by jointly designing a First Nation self-assessment questionnaire;





- complete a series of amendments to the Framework Agreement and the First Nations Land Management Act;
- announce 18 First Nations as new signatories to the Framework Agreement effective April 1, 2012; and
- determine the specifics of how to best utilize the additional funding, up to \$20 million over two years, announced in Budgets 2011 and 2012 for the Framework Agreement.

The MOU is a very important document. It sets a sustainable funding formula for the next four-years for the developmental and operational phases of the *Framework Agreement*, as well as the transition phase from the *Indian Act* to the Community Land Code. This stabilization of the funding formula now paves the way for adding new entrants to the *Framework Agreement*.

With the MOU signed, and Budget 2011 having committed to reallocating up to \$20 million in funding over two years to enable new entrants to the *Framework Agreement*, Minister Duncan was able to announce 18 new signatories effective April 1, 2012:

*“The First Nations Land Management Regime has a proven track record of increasing economic development opportunities for First Nations. Together with First Nations organizations and communities, we are working to build a future in which First Nations are self-sufficient and prosperous, making their own decisions, managing their own affairs and making strong contributions to the country as a whole.”*

Following the very positive news contained in Budget 2012, the LAB issued a press release. I expressed our extreme pleasure that Canada continues to recognize the importance for First Nations re-assuming jurisdiction over their reserve lands and resources. Chief Austin Bear, Chair of the LAB’s Resource Centre Board, added his appreciation:

*“The budget announcement is another in a long list of accomplishments this past year with Minister Duncan in enhancing the implementation of the Framework Agreement. All of these accomplishments have clearly shown Canada’s dedicated support and enabled our Communities to achieve self-sufficiency and get started on significant economic development projects. Many of these projects involve millions of investment dollars, which are creating jobs for First Nation members and non-members and, in so doing, are providing huge dividends to help stimulate the overall Canadian economy.”*

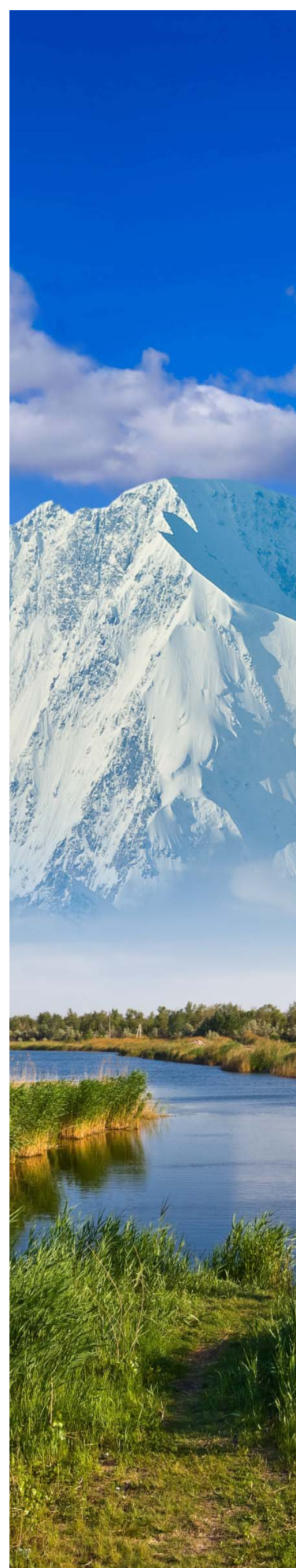
## 9. PRESENTATION TO THE WORLD INDIGENOUS BUSINESS FORUM

I was invited this past year to address the World Indigenous Business Forum in New York City and explain the success of our First Nation-led initiative. I was very pleased, and humbled, to take our message onto the world stage. I explained to the audience that there were key fundamental factors driving the success of the *Framework Agreement*.

First, jurisdiction over our reserve lands must be returned:

*“Indigenous Peoples must be given the opportunity to be decision-makers over their lands and resources and to be recognized as a governmental body. Once this happens, Indigenous Peoples will be much more likely to be successful.”*

Second, you must have partnership with the federal government to enable this resumption of jurisdiction. Fortunately, we do in Canada:



*"This is what Canada has done to offer hope to First Nation Peoples to get them on the road to self-sufficiency."*

Third, there must be First Nation leadership. Since 1992, the *Framework Agreement* has been developed and led by First Nations and continues to be led by First Nations twenty years later. The Chiefs have displayed tenacity, shown determination and been committed to their vision of returning control of their reserve lands and resources back to their people. Total jurisdiction, decision-making and control must be with the Community, not with Canada and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.

These qualities were noticed from the very beginning. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs stated to the House of Commons in 1999:

*"I want to say a few words in appreciation for the First Nation leaders ... who have negotiated the Framework Agreement and seen it through. They have my deepest respect and admiration. The First Nations' leaders had a goal and they did not waver in pursuing it. The leaders led this process. This is a First Nations' initiative driven by leadership, vision and commitment to their own people".*

I made a similar statement to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development at the signing ceremony in 2003 when the *Framework Agreement* was opened up to more entrants:

*"This is a land management initiative conceived by the Chiefs, developed by the Chiefs, negotiated with Canada by the Chiefs, and recognized by the Parliament of Canada. Clearly, this initiative is not a departmental program."*

This leadership was recognized by the Minister during the 2003 signing ceremony in his speech to the new entrants, his departmental officials, and the press:

*"I find two aspects of this Land Management Initiative especially pleasing. First, it's been a success for each of the First Nations that are operating under their land codes. And second, from the outset, it has been led and developed by Aboriginal leaders."*

## 10. CLOSING COMMENTS

I would like to close with comments by two of my LAB colleagues to the Parliamentary Committees this past year. Their words capture the larger picture of what we, as First Nation leaders, are striving to achieve.

Jody Wilson-Raybould, Vice-Chief in B.C. for the Assembly of First Nations, B.C LAB Director, and Councillor for the We Wai Kai First Nation in B.C. explained our concept of the "continuum" for the Committee:

*"My First Nation is embarking on and moving down a continuum of governance where we will have decision-making authority locally based upon our community priorities, our culture and our traditions. That is, built from the ground up, based upon what our community members say...Land management and jurisdictional authority over what happens on reserve land is one aspect of overall governance that our communities want to undertake in moving from the Indian Act to full self-determination. Our communities across the country are on various parts of the continuum and want to rebuild our nations. Fundamental to the land management initiative is that it supports individual*





*communities rebuilding however they want based upon their own priorities and moving down that continuum of governance and governance reform.*

*We look at governance and nation-building in terms of a holistic perspective, in that everything we're doing is interconnected, whether it be in land management, education, or water.*

*There is the question of how you, as parliamentarians, can move out of the way, supportively, of our first nations. We're seeking locally driven, nation-based communities with decision-making powers and jurisdiction over our lands, our education, our water, and our governance. How can we, in partnership, work with you parliamentarians to ensure that we are supportive of one another? How can we work together in our local communities? In looking at legislative reform, we want to ensure that when first nations are ready, willing, and able to move beyond the Indian Act, as we're doing in land management, the Government of Canada will step away and allow communities to do what they need to.*

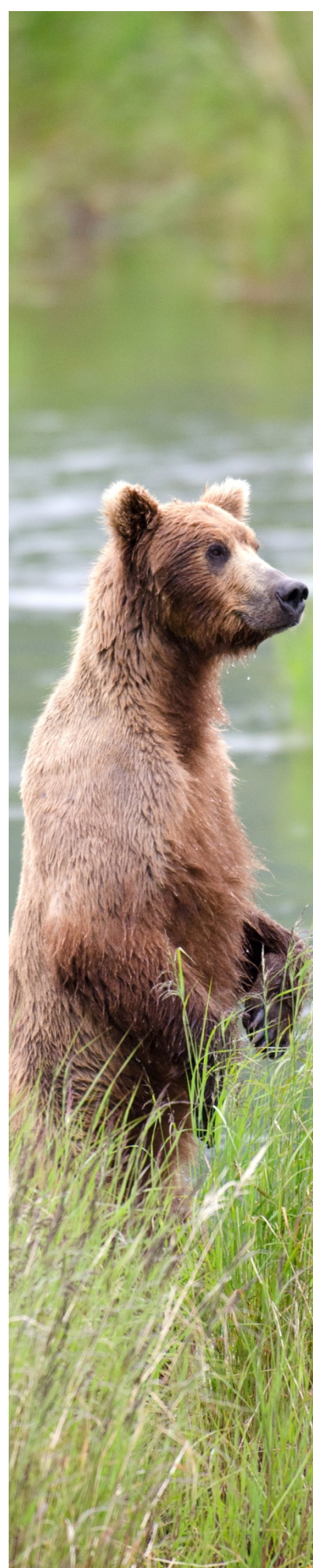
*For those first nations that aren't on board right now, I think one of the most powerful things for the land management initiative and other initiatives that are first-nations-led is to set examples or provide options for our first nations when they're ready, when their community has determined that this is a priority, so that they have the ability to move forward and nobody stands in the way of that community doing that. For those communities that aren't on board right now, by seeing what other communities are doing and seeing that those opportunities are available, that the door isn't closed when they're ready to do it, that it's open and the resources are there and provided to these communities in order to do so..."*

Chief Austin Bear, Chair of the LAB Finance Committee, Chair of the LAB Resource Centre Board and LAB Director for the Prairie Region summed up our ultimate goal:

*"In our community we generate programs and services from our efforts and our resources—for our elders, for our children, for our families, for our community—that would not otherwise exist. That is, in my opinion, the definition of and the benefits from a self-governing nation, where the elders are cared for, the children are looked after, the families' needs are met, and the community's needs are met. That is self-government, and that is fulfilling our obligations."*

## **11. 2011-2012 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

A summary of the 2011-2012 audited financial statements is attached as Appendix A. The full audited financial statements can be found on the LAB website ([www.labrc.com](http://www.labrc.com)) along with the statements from previous years.



## APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF THE 2011-2012 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



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### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Members of  
First Nation Land Management Resource Centre Inc.

The accompanying condensed financial statements, which comprise the condensed statement of financial position as at March 31, 2012, the condensed statement of financial activities and net asset for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial statements of First Nations Land Management Resource Centre Inc. for the year ended March 31, 2012. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements, in our report dated July 5, 2012.

The condensed financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. Reading the condensed financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of First Nations Land Management Resource Centre Inc.

#### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the condensed financial statements on the basis described in Note 1.

#### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the condensed financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements."

#### Opinion

In our opinion, the condensed financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of First Nations Land Management Resource Centre Inc. for the year ended March 31, 2012 are a fair summary of those financial statements, on the basis described in Note 1.

*BDO Canada LLP*

Chartered Accountants

Kelowna, British Columbia  
July 5, 2012

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**FIRST NATIONS LAND MANAGEMENT RESOURCE CENTRE INC.**  
**Condensed Statement of Financial Position as at March 31, 2012**

	2012	2011
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current	\$ 718,138	\$ 743,931
Capital assets	191,050	187,109
	<b>\$ 909,188</b>	<b>\$ 931,040</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
Current liabilities	\$ 734,925	\$ 739,465
Invested in capital assets	191,050	187,109
Net assets	(16,787)	4,466
	<b>\$ 909,188</b>	<b>\$ 931,040</b>

**Condensed Statement of Financial Activities and Net Assets Year Ended March 31, 2012**

Revenues	\$ 3,410,040	\$ 4,179,305
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Lands Advisory Board	373,440	637,732
Resource Centre	1,023,328	1,171,042
Intergovernmental Relations	210,404	463,304
LAB and RC support services to First Nations operating under a community land code	1,342,771	1,506,876
LAB and RC support services to Developmental First Nations preparing to ratify the Framework Agreement	428,862	618,023
LAB and RC support services to Pre-Developmental First Nations	52,488	98,104
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>3,431,293</b>	<b>4,495,081</b>
Excess of revenues over expenditures for the year	(21,253)	(315,776)
Net assets, beginning of year	4,466	320,242
Net assets, end of year	<b>\$ (16,787)</b>	<b>\$ 4,466</b>

Note 1:

Management is responsible for the preparation of summary financial statements. The summary presented includes only the summary of financial position and the summary statement of financial activities and summary statement of net assets. It does not include any other schedules, the significant accounting policies and notes to the financial statements. The summary of financial position and summary statement of financial activities and summary net assets are presented in the same detail as the audited financial statements except the note referencing has been removed.

Copies of the March 31, 2012 audited financial statements are available from First Nations Land Management Resource Centre Inc.



# LANDS ADVISORY BOARD

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