

LAND CODE DEVELOPMENT

On April 2017 the LMG signed a framework agreement with the Federal government. The agreement set in motion LMG's goal to set aside 32 sections of the Indian Act. These sections involve all aspects of land use and ownership on the Listuguj Reserve. The basis of the Framework Agreement requires LMG to pass its own land code which will replace the Indian Act in matters relating to Indian lands.

The land code will allow LMG to pass various land related laws; it will also give LMG the ability and authority to enforce all laws passed under the land code. It will be possible to establish a Court or tribunal to deal with any disputes or issues that may arise in the implementation of the land code.

LMG can pass laws under the land code which would include zoning and environmental laws to protect our drinking water. At the present there are no safe guards to protect our water supply. The protection of the well site should be paramount.

Under the land code we will maintain and develop a system for keeping our individual land holdings records secure and accessible to the Listuguj membership.

The issue of third party interests will also be addressed in the land code. Presently there are a number of companies that are utilizing Listuguj reserve lands without authorization from LMG. These companies include Roger's cable, telus and hydro; companies which can be considered as trespassers on the reserve. The Indian Act is too cumbersome to deal with this trespass and there is no remedy that LMG can use to effectively regularize the situation – meaning to get these companies to conform to the Indian Act. With the passing of a land code and the establishment of our court and the enforcement of our laws should alleviate this situation. Under the land code these companies will be compelled to sign agreements allowing them to operate on the reserve.

Under the Land Code LMG will never lose an acre of land because for every acre taken an acre has to be returned – the acreage of the reserve will never be diminished. It is also the land code that will prevent Municipal, Provincial and in some cases Federal governments from expropriating reserve lands.

The membership will have to approve the land code by referendum – sometime in the next year and a half. There will be engagement session to solicit the membership's views on what is required in our land code. This is one of the steps to self-government.