



**Tahltan**  
Band Council

# LAND CODE

*Dena nenn Sogga neh 'ine*

Working with a Committee of members, Tahltan Band is working to develop our Land Code

## WHY LAND CODE FOR TAHLTAN BAND?

### RESOURCES ON RESERVE

The Indian Act currently offers no mechanism to enforce any rules we create to protect our natural resources on reserve. In the past, Tahltan citizens have voiced concerns about wildlife harvesting and management — both on reserve and throughout Tahltan traditional territory. Protection and conservation of wildlife resources is critical to our culture, identity and way of life. While our Nation is working hard to protect wildlife throughout the territory, we must also consider how this resource is protected and managed on reserve. Implementing Land Code is an opportunity to protect our hunting and fishing sites located on Tahltan Band reserve lands through the development and enforcement of our own laws.

#### How Land Code Would Help:

- Land Code will enable Tahltan Band to create laws to limit access to reserve land to non-Tahltans for the purposes of hunting and fishing, and to make rules about how we allocate all our resources on reserve.
- It will allow us to protect fishing at places like Tahltan and hunting in areas like Sheslay to ensure that future generations have access to hunting and fishing at these significant sites.

### MASQUI FIRST NATION: DEVELOPING THEIR OWN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ASSESSMENT LAW

As a result of implementing their own Land Code in 2007, Masqui developed their own Environmental Protection and Assessment Law. By conducting their own environmental assessments Masqui is protecting Masqui Lands from significant environmental damage and making informed community-driven decisions about potential projects that could affect among many other things, wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries.



[tahltan.ca/landcode](http://tahltan.ca/landcode)



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# LAND CODE

## WHY LAND CODE FOR TAHLTAN BAND?

### CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES

The Indian Act currently offers no mechanism to any rules we create to protect these sites. In the past Tahltan heritage sites such as the Old Village have been disturbed by unauthorized activities. Significant cultural heritage sites on reserve, such as sites where our ancestors are buried, do not currently have a heritage designation and remain officially unprotected.

#### How Land Code Would Help:

- A Land Code, developed by the membership, will allow us to designate sites such as Old Tahltan Village as protected and enforce protection laws created pursuant to the Land Code.

### LHEIDLI T'ENNEH: PROTECTING THE FORT GEORGE CEMETERY

Under Land Code, Lheidli T'enneh designated an entire reserve located at the confluence of the Fraser and Nechako Rivers as a cultural/heritage to protect a historical burial ground for Lheidli T'enneh members. This designation protects the lands for continual use as a cemetery and a place to honour Lheidli ancestors, culture and traditions.

### BUSINESS

Currently, under the Indian Act the Band has to get permission from the Minister of Indigenous Affairs to allow for commercial development of reserve lands and even to sign a lease. This means that when a Tahltan Band member wants to start a business on reserve they face delays and federal government processes that individuals and off reserve businesses would not.

#### How Land Code Would Help:

- Simplifies processes for Tahltan Band members to start businesses on reserve.
- Businesses and investors are more likely to work with First Nations with Land Codes because it simplifies procedures and provides more certainty, leading to more successful local economies.
- Under Land Code, we would set the terms for land related transactions, business licensing, zoning supported by a community plan and enforceable bylaws.

### T'SOU-KE NATION: TIM HORTONS ON RESERVE

As a direct result of more favourable business conditions under Land Code, T'sou-ke Nation is expected to open a Tim Hortons in Spring 2017. This project between T'sou-ke, Tim Hortons, Esso, and On the Run Convenience and will provide T'Sou-ke with the ability to create on reserve wealth.

