



First Nation National Land Registry (FNNLR) Update

Special Chiefs Meeting

April 18th, 2023
River Rock Resort, BC

What brought us to this point?

Canada initially unwilling to give up control of land records/registry

Canada's land registry unreliable - access & privacy issues

First Nations have built capacity & experience registering documents

Since 2020, AGM Resolutions to explore a First Nations led land registry

Why did the LAB start this?

August 27, 2020

Dear Operational First Nations,

We have been informed by our IT Communications that Citrix will be unavailable for external users while they perform work on the application.

You will receive additional instructions in the near future that will inform you about changes to the departmental login procedures for connecting to applications and the network.

While every effort is made to avoid disabling services, there are some that cannot be avoided. Thank you for your patience and I apologize for the inconvenience.

In the interim, urgent requests can be made to myself (Loretta Power (Brenda.power@canada.ca)) We will do our best to accommodate a high volume of requests may result in delays.

Glad to hear you are loving your job, that's awesome!! Working from home has its benefits for sure 😊

Very busy due to citrix and the system going down, what a nightmare this has been. There is no timeline for when citrix will be fixed this is a network issue and is out of our hands unfortunately. Its crazy because none of the FN's can log in so I am receiving tons of emails to initiate instruments and print and send abstracts, on top on my regular stuff, eeeek.

Ok, this is not something we can help with as it is account related. She'll have to call in to the Service Desk (1-866-795-6465) for the unlock. If she didn't just change her password recently, then she should probably request a password reset.

Sorry for the run-around but we're pretty much helpless here at ILRS Support when it comes to dealing with Citrix access issues. They won't give us the access rights to be able to fix these things ourselves. It all has to be done through Service Desk.

The Problem We Want to Fix

- A land registry is a cornerstone of economic development
- All other governments in Canada have a modern, reliable and trustworthy registry
- The current federal land registries are:
 - Obsolete
 - Poor standard of service
 - Major delays & outages
 - FN land registry capacity is increasing – Canada's capacity is declining

First Nation Land Governance Panel



One Arrow
Dwayne Gaudry



Membertou First Nation
Melissa MacDonald



Shuswap First Nation
Sierra Stump*



Tsleil-Waututh First Nation
Deidre Thomas



Opaskwayak Cree Nation
Lori Lathlin, Renee Cloud



Musqueam First Nation
Kim Guerin



Tzeachten First Nation
Deanna Honeyman*



Westbank First Nation
Lynn Vanderburg, Deborah Jones*



Nipissing First Nation
Cathy McLeod

*joining virtually

Land Governance Office quotes

RC Staff

Heather McIntyre - "It has been a source of constant frustration every time we needed to access it when working on First Nation Land. With the service outages with the privacy act issues, we often had to send in an email request to get copies of the registered instruments we needed which could take weeks and appraisals can be very time sensitive documents with tight timelines. Overall, from an appraisal perspective, I found the current Citrix environment and First Nations Land Register system slow, cumbersome to use, functional but not efficient, and not very intuitively designed."

Opaskwayak Cree Nation:

Renee Cloud - "FNLRS is unreliable, and I am kicked out within a couple of minutes. I use eRIP to get parcel info & map, but I can't print. I've gone through my tech people and still nothing. My background is computers, design and drafting, still hard to figure out. Something is up. What if I want a bigger map. Print screen gives you a tiny letter size view and is a long way around trying to print out the info. My wish list with the new registry is should be easy to learn and easy to use. If I'm searching for 21e block, I would love all the info in one place."

Whitecap Dakota Sioux Nation

Tracey Lafond - "There are so many issues with the FNLRS, where do I start. Having to hit okay for every answer, was a real pain, I hope you guys change that. Really slow, times out too often, can't get somewhere quickly. NR Can Pin numbers aren't accessible. We have to know the registry pin number, 12 digits long, if we make one mistake No Records Available. I don't use eRIP because you need exact spelling, or NO RECORDS FOUND!"

One Arrow

Dwayne Gaudry & Terry Prosper - "At first sending documents to Brenda Powers, PIN numbers couldn't be found. Just send them off to Ottawa so much easier. Dwayne, yeah, we were doing that, but LABRC called and asked why are you sending them into Brenda, Internet was so bad, we kept getting kicked out. We had to upgraded our internet, computers and cameras so we can do our jobs properly. Everyone has up-to-date equipment, now. Hate the 'CITRIX eRIP maps, we use Google Earth, but FNLRS does not recognize the NR Can Pins when we need to do a search, but we don't see Reg Pins on Canada Lands files. Yes, you can quote us!!!"

Land Governance Office quotes

Shuswap First Nation

Sierra Stump - "It is slow! We don't have access to the high-speed broadband. Can be choppy here and there. It is difficult sometimes that their site doesn't talk directly to the computer. To upload file, you must put it on a stick first. Saving a document to your computer is a big hassle as well. We make do. Clicking the pluses is annoying, after you type in the Reg Pin it should automatically fill in other info, like band, reserve and province. Lately my mouse hasn't been working on 'CITRIX, everything was off, and had to click off to the side to select it. Had to contact support. They said it was my computer. Hard to get help from the website."

Tzeachten First Nation

Crystal Thiessen – "FNLRS is a hit and miss as I use it daily. Some days, the daily OTP doesn't work other days it does. Over the years I have built a great relationship with Brenda Power, so when I do need an amendment, I send her an email and she makes the correction right away. I have been using the system almost daily for 5 years and in the last year my co-worker and myself did almost 1000 registrations.

We do find the system cumbersome to sign into, we often ask each other if someone is working in FNLRS if a quick look up is needed.

The process to retrieve information such as a parcel abstract has way too many screens. I do find on most days every time I "click" on a feature I get the timing hourglass (there is a lot of lag, and it is very slow)

?aq'am

Sarah Baines – "Very new to the system. There are unique notations in some of the reports, but I don't know if these are standard, or just how someone entered them. I don't always understand what the notes mean. Is there a way to have consistency in notations so they know how to understand and interpret them over time. Not a lot of experience with mapping. No accountability for the accuracy of the information, which makes me feel awkward. People ask for information, but disclaimers about accuracy bring up concerns. Would like to see those gotten rid of.

Land Governance Office quotes

Tsleil-Waututh First Nation

Jackie Nelson, Deidre Thomas & Dee-Anna - “We have issues with the 2-step authentication to log in and OTP does not work the first 4 times. Really random coding, my mouse on the PAR will not work right, the page disappears, you must tap on the task bar several times before it comes up. Limitations of online help and contact number is not clear. Biggest pain was on boarding people on to the FNLRS is very difficult, Deanna was blocked for 2 months.

We need permission to get the documents to download to our PC. It sucks that we must ask for our own data. Deanna must go through desktop or a light version to load the supporting documents. We needed the full version downloaded to our hard drive to load our support documents. When I try to pull permits from their archives, it’s so archaic, PDFs are not searchable.

The eRIP reflects the wrong interests, usually from a long time ago, incorrect data most of the time. We had to build a folder system that has the civic address and lot numbers that we use all the time. This holds all our information per parcel. We needed the field notes because we need the history on how the survey was done.

When I take like 2 minutes to answer a call CITRIX would kick me out then I must go through that 2 step log in, again. Now, I go to reception and tell them not to send calls to me because I’m registering today!”

Madawaska Maliseet First Nation

Karen McGill - Majority of the CPs in the FNLRS were old, any new ones they didn’t cancel the existing cp holders. I cleaned up the registry the best way I could, 10 % of active CPs nonexistent. Must be correct spelling, if not, no records found. Back in the day the most common names were Joseph or Mary, if I search Joseph Bernard, it is a real problem for us, 15 people. When the system went down, we had an irate member who wanted the transfer done right away. It took me awhile to find out that I could have just sent these off to Brenda to register!

Westbank First Nation

Lynn Vanderburg - Some time ago, Citrix would time out on me, it wouldn’t just time out it would flip to a different page, frustrating because I would have to start all over. Registering documents with FNLRS is frustrating, to begin with. I would like to be able to search by name other than legal description. Hopefully with the new system we have a good mapping feature where you don’t have to go into any other platforms. Customer service needs technical people who understand what the issues are when I call. I would like to see the new system have consistency, if you are registering one way, you better register the same way. We found when we wanted to register a unit, we had to register it in a different way. Have registry display it in a different title, we were doing that for 20 years, then NRCan came along and wanted it done in a different way, we had no idea they changed it. Communication and consistency is great!!

Why a First Nations Led National Land Registry?

First Nations should lead
on First Nation lands

Current Registry serves
Canada

Canada should not be
trusted to fix the growing
problem

Canada faces high staff
turnover & poor track
record on tech solutions

Why a First Nations Led National Land Registry?

A First Nation-led land registry would address many of the deficiencies of Canada's registry.

Respects self-government and specialized First Nation organizations

Responds to needs identified by leadership and First Nations lands staff

Responds to evolving First Nations approaches

Invest in a First Nation-led approach instead of the current federal land registry

Fixing Land Registry Problems is Expensive

Canada has not funded a real land registry

Current registry is essentially a national filing cabinet

Current registry under-funded, under-staffed

It is expensive to raise the quality of service

Territorial registries have fewer transactions, but have invested in modern registries

Moving Forward ... Funding

Funding proposal to Canada – Fall 2022

2023 budget announced 35.3 million over 3 years, starting fall 2023

Canada to complete a Memorandum to Cabinet & Treasury Board submission

Treasury Board will impose milestones & deliverables

Canada's funding is important – but the new Registry is First Nation driven

Moving Forward ... Operations

- Independent not-for-profit corporation - not run by the LAB or the BC LTSA
- Board of Directors responsible for oversight of the Registry, hiring the Registrar and CEO
- Proposal to Canada calls for:
 - 3 Directors elected by operational land code First Nations (BC, prairies, east)
 - 1 Director elected by participating First Nations under other self-government agreements
 - 3 independent Directors
- Registrar responsible for land registrations
- Proposal: interim Board of Directors selected at the 2023 AGM
- New Registry to transition 5 First Nations per month in the first two years ... transition of all Nations in years 3 and 4

Moving Forward ... Operations

Proposal to Canada: 22 staff, including the Registrar and CEO

BC LTSA: ongoing assistance, evolving registry practices and tech updates

New Registry to publish manuals and standards, RC lead responsibility for training

New Registry supported by an “Operations Implementation Committee” - RC, BC LTSA, NRCan (surveyors), ISC & CIRNA

ISC & CIRNA have no role in governance of the new Registry

Considerations ...

New Registry must respect leading role of First Nation Land Offices:

- control and approve submissions to the Registry
- notice of court orders
- collect overdue taxes or property transfer taxes
- continue to impose fees for service

New Registry could also charge fees for registrations

Explore whether Registry fees fund the Registry or fund First Nation Land Offices

Explore fees for federal and provincial registrations

Next Steps

Jul/Aug 2023	LAB Chiefs Regional Registry Sessions
Sep 2023	LAB AGM – elect interim Board of Directors
Fall 2023	Possible launch of the new Registry ... if funding provided by Canada
Fall 2023	Staff interim or permanent Registrar and CEO – begin to staff key positions
Winter 2024	Final design stage – launch FN pilot transitions to new Registry
2025-2026	Additional transitions – close off reliance on the current federal registry

Resolution: FIRST NATION NATIONAL LAND REGISTRY

VOTE BY CHIEFS/PROXY OF SIGNATORY FIRST NATIONS

1. That the Framework Agreement signatory First Nations approve the creation of an interest-based FNNLR which is governed by and accountable to Framework Agreement and Self-Governing First Nations and established in accordance with the Vision and Goals set out in the FNNLR Proposal of November 2021; and
2. That the LAB and RC are authorized, with the support of the LTSA, to continue to work with Canada following the federal budget announcement to fund the FNNLR in order to complete the Memorandum to Cabinet & Treasury Board submission and authorize the negotiation of any changes to the Framework Agreement and federal legislation required to give effect to the FNNLR; and
3. That the LAB and RC are authorized to continue to work with Framework Agreement and Self-Governing First Nations, as well as other First Nation organizations and stakeholders, to develop and refine the FNNLR and provide a report on progress to the Framework Agreement First Nations on or before the 2023 LAB Annual General Meeting.



Resolution: FIRST NATION NATIONAL LAND REGISTRY

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Yes, I approve



100%

No, I reject



Abstain



Thank You

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