

FIRST NATION

LAND GOVERNANCE REGISTRY

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Presented by

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 **LAB AGM2023**
www.labrc.com/lab-agm-2023/



BACKGROUND

- When the Framework Agreement was first developed, Canada unwilling to give up control of land records & registry
- Canada's land registry unreliable, poor customer service, ancient technology, access & privacy issues
- Many land code First Nations have built their own registries or backups to manage risks posed by Canada's registry
- AGM Resolutions from 2020 onward to explore a First Nation led land registry
- 2023 Special Chief's Meeting Resolution to build the Registry after federal Budget funding commitment
- Design & build, testing and pilots next 3 years – full transition in 5 years

THE FIRST NATION LAND GOVERNANCE REGISTRY

Service to First Nations

- built with input from senior lands managers of land code and self-government agreement FNs
- First Nation Focus Group reviews new product design
- even after launch, the focus on evolving needs of FN Land offices will continue

An Economic Development Tool

- accurate and more effective land registry will bolster confidence of developers, real estate officers, and lawyers
- reliable land registry lowers transaction costs
- current federal registry no fees – little value

Respect Lead Role of FN Land Offices

- control and approve electronic submissions to Registry
- connections to mapping, managing tax and debt collection

REGISTRY GOVERNANCE

INDEPENDENCE OF FIRST NATION LAND GOVERNANCE REGISTRY WILL BUILD OVER TIME:

Independence:

- Completely independent from Canada's registry
- BC Land Title and Survey Authority will not operate Registry (a tech and systems partner)
- Independence of Registrar

Partnership with Lands Advisory Board & Resource Centre:

- Lands Advisory Board - registry provisions of Framework Agreement and regulations
- Resource Centre receives federal funding – at least for first 3 years
- Resource Centre leads training on new registry

Potential Governance of Registry - Not For Profit Corporation:

- Federal Not for Profit requires “Member(s)” – rough equivalent to shareholders – and Directors
- Propose Finance Committee LAB directors as “Members”
- Propose land code First Nations vote for “Directors” – the Members appoint Directors guided by voting by First Nations
- LAB directors not eligible to be FNGLR directors

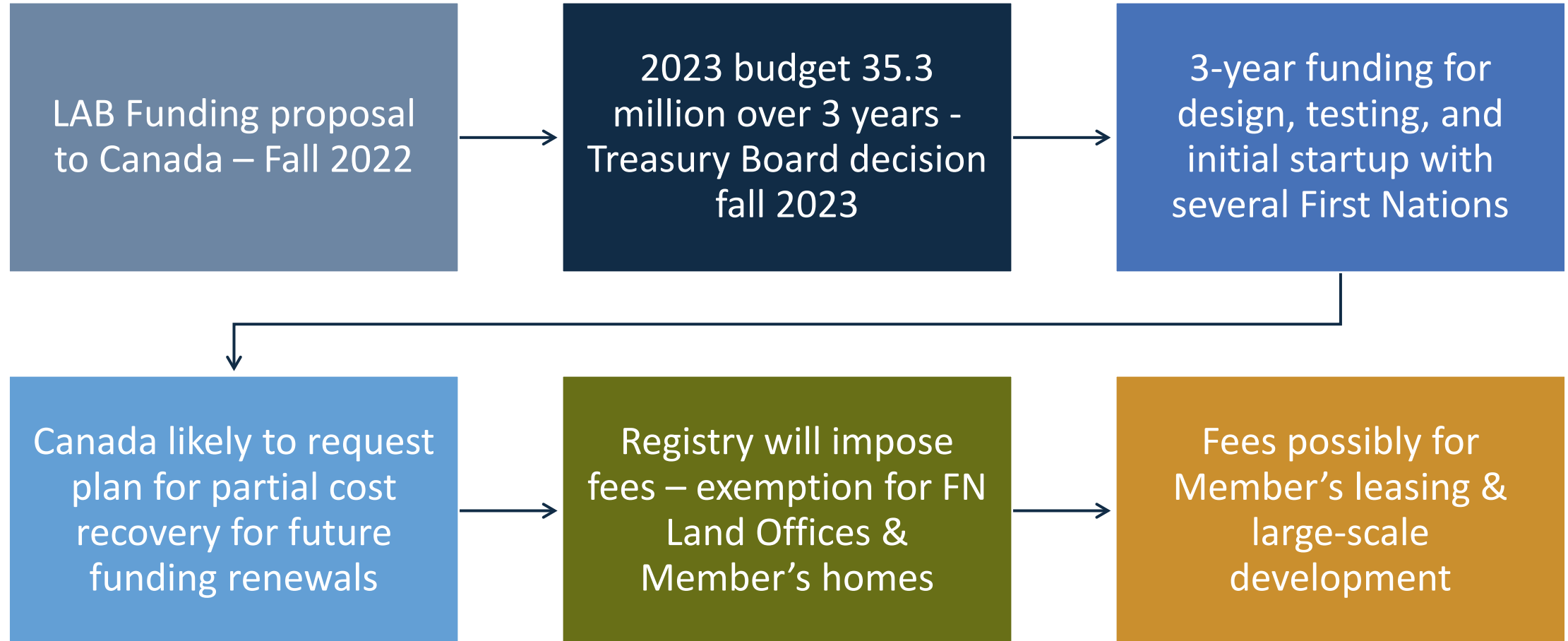
REGISTRY GOVERNANCE (continued)

INDEPENDENCE OF FIRST NATION LAND GOVERNANCE REGISTRY WILL BUILD OVER TIME:

Potential Requirements for FNGLR Directors:

- 3 First Nation individuals - East, Prairie, and BC director positions
- 1 First Nation individual - participating self-government agreement FNs
- Preference for experience with land registration, records management and privacy
- Member(s) of FNGLR may appoint one additional independent director with registry or real estate law expertise

FUNDING FALL 2023





NEXT STEPS (Operations)

- **Staffing priorities:** Registrar, COO, project manager
- **RC drafting Registry manual** and registry standards to assist FN Land Offices
- **Regulatory Working Group** to prepare regulations for adoption by Lands Advisory Board
- **Communications strategy** – raising awareness of new registry amongst other governments and registry users
- **First Nation Focus Group** – key role in design and testing of new registry tech and systems

NEXT STEPS

Sept/Oct 2023	Treasury Board decision on funding
2023- 2025	Initial design and testing of the new Registry ... if funding provided by Canada
2023- 2024	Staff interim or permanent Registrar and CEO – begin to staff key positions
2024- 2025	Final design stage – launch FN pilot transitions to new Registry
2025-2026	Additional transitions – close off reliance on the current federal registry

RESOLUTION:

In furtherance of the March 2023 Resolution authorizing the Lands Advisory Board (LAB) to build a First Nation led national land registry for land code and self-government agreement First Nations, the LAB is directed to:

Develop for consideration of Signatory First Nations the proposed governance structure for the FNGLR prior to the next LAB Annual General Meeting.

A photograph of a forest floor with mossy rocks and trees, overlaid with a dark blue semi-transparent rectangle.

Thank You
