

Overview - A Transformative Year of Progress

2024–2025 marked a historic year for First Nation land governance. The First Nation Land Governance Registry (FNLGR) formally transitioned from a strategic vision to an incorporated, First Nation-led institution, legally established on March 31, 2025, under the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act*. With governance structures, staffing, and technical systems now in place, the Registry is positioned to deliver national services that reflect and uphold First Nations' jurisdiction over their lands.

Strengthening First Nation Governance

FNLGR's inaugural Board of Directors was appointed through a regionally representative election:

- **West Region:** Hayden Guilderson (Tzeachten First Nation – Ch'iyáqtel)
- **Prairies:** Heidi Cook (Misipawistik Cree Nation)
- **East:** Joan McLeod-Shabogesic (Nipissing Nation)
- **Self-Governing First Nations:** Evelyn Lube (Westbank First Nation)

Hayden Guilderson was appointed Board Chair. The Board is supported by the Lands Advisory Board (LAB) Finance Committee and operationally led by CEO and Registrar **Angie Derrickson**. These structures reflect First Nation control, transparency, and accountability in the delivery of land registry services.

Operational Foundations

Recruitment advanced significantly, with key hires including a Policy Analyst, Senior Project Managers, and an HR Generalist. A competitive process led to the selection of BOOM InterTribal to lead branding and communications. KPMG was engaged to complete an economic benefit analysis and to support the development of a five-year budget and Cabinet submission planned for mid-2025.

Building Legal and Technical Capacity

The foundation for national operations was reinforced through:

- Finalized agreements with LABRC and LTSA (MSA/SOW)
- Execution of a secure Information Sharing Agreement with Indigenous Services Canada
- Drafting of regulatory amendments to support the new Registry, including considerations for Quebec's civil law system

Data Migration and Technology Build

Transition from the federal First Nations Land Registry System (FNLRS) to FNLGR's platform progressed steadily. Key achievements included:

- Secure data migration toolkit and privacy protocols
- Automated validation processes
- Integration of Surveyor General Branch (SGB) geospatial data using ESRI collaboration tools

These efforts ensure that First Nations have access to real-time, accurate mapping and land information.

System Releases and Features

Releases 4 through 6 introduced major functionality:

- Support for 20 land instrument types
- Public portal and legal interfaces
- Electronic submission and approval workflows
- Map-based search and parcel data tools
- Reserve and parcel abstract reporting
- Administrative tools for indexing and reserve management
- System development was guided by First Nation input, testing, and technical collaboration.

Nation-to-Nation Engagement

FNLGR hosted national Open Houses in Richmond, Calgary, and Toronto, engaging over 260 participants from across sectors. Sessions focused on privacy, governance, and system demonstrations. Ongoing bi-weekly coordination with ISC, CIRNAC, and SGB has ensured transparency and alignment across federal and First Nation partners. Encourage ongoing involvement through the First Nation Focus Group for ongoing update and testing FNLGR also maintained a visible presence at key national forums including LAB AGM, CCLTO, FNLTW7, and BCL2L.

Financial Overview – 2024/2025 Year-End Summary

As of the end of the 2024/2025 fiscal year, total expenditures reached just over \$5.0 million. Spending was primarily directed toward foundational activities such as system build, governance structures, regulatory design, and national stakeholder engagement.

With a budget of \$8.86 million approved for the upcoming fiscal year, we are well-positioned to advance operational and transitional activities in Year 3, the final year of the current Contribution Funding Agreement.

A combined surplus of approximately \$10.8 million remains available. We are currently working to secure approval for carry-forward of these funds and necessary adjustments, while also preparing a new Treasury Board submission to support sustainable operations over the next five years.

Next Steps: 2025–2026

FNLGR's priorities include:

- Final system launch and onboarding of pilot First Nations
- Long-term funding strategy through Cabinet
- Expanding team capacity to meet national demand
- Launching national training and awareness campaigns

Closing

FNLGR is delivering on the vision of a modern, accountable, and culturally grounded registry that supports First Nations in fully exercising jurisdiction over their lands. This is governance in action—designed by and for First Nations.

For more information on FNLGR or to request a demonstration on the build to date, please contact:

- Angie Derrickson, FNLGR Registrar/CEO
- Andrew Beynon, RC Director of Land Code Governance