



Ts'kw'aylaxw FN Limestone Quarry Example

Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation (FN) transitioned to the [Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management](#) on May 1, 2004, becoming only the fifth FN in British Columbia, and the 14th in Canada, to assume responsibility under the *Framework Agreement* for the management of its reserve lands.

In 2005, the Ts'kw'aylaxw FN (Pavilion Indian Band) signed new leases that will permit Graymont Western Canada Inc. to continue its limestone mining and processing operation on Ts'kw'aylaxw Indian reserves until 2045, replacing the previous arrangement that had been negotiated under the *Indian Act*. More than 50% of the eligible Ts'kw'aylaxw members attended a vote on April 3, 2005 to ratify the new leases, which were approved by a substantial majority.

Graymont has operated its limestone quarry and processing plant on Ts'kw'aylaxw lands since 1974. The mine is located in Marble Canyon on Highway 99 between Lillooet and Cache Creek.

The Ts'kw'aylaxw FN became the first community under a [Land Code](#) (LC) to negotiate a lease on reserve lands with a mining company. Under the terms of the agreement, the community has secured employment and new revenue in the future while forging a new working relationship with Graymont Western Canada Ltd., which had been strained under the old *Indian Act* lease.

Following a lengthy negotiating process, a stronger relationship now exists between Graymont and the Ts'kw'aylaxw leadership. Garry Kehler, Vice President and General Counsel for Graymont, said that, "Graymont has always been a significant contributor to the Ts'kw'aylaxw community and under the new leases and related agreements it will increase its assistance to the Ts'kw'aylaxw people in building their capacity for the future through education and training." ...

Operated on Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation Lands, the Pavilion plant has an annual lime production capacity of 235,000 tonnes and, through company payroll, royalties, and rent, injects \$2 million into the community economy every year. Twenty-seven of the thirty-five full time employees working at the site are Indigenous. Graymont quarries the limestone from the site, then converts the resource to lime at the plant and is sold in western Canada and Alaska, primarily for use in processing operations at mines, pulp mills and refineries.

Stuart Wolfe, Chief Executive Officer of Graymont said, "The new leases will make it possible for Graymont to continue to invest in its quarry and plant operations. Graymont is planning to invest in improvements at the site that will make our operation more modern and efficient and minimize the impact the operation has on the surrounding community and the environment."



The 2005 Agreement in Principle between Graymont Western Canada Inc. and Ts'kw'aylaxw FN is available by clicking this link: [ACR Aboriginal Programs Project Program Template – Agreement in Principle with First Nations](#).

A press release from Graymont regarding the updated lease agreement is available by clicking this link: GRAYMONT NEWS - [Ts'kw'aylaxw Grant Long Term Leases for Graymont Limestone Quarry and Processing Plant](#).