



Lands Advisory Board

Chairman, Robert Louie [4:06]

Long term I see that First Nations throughout Canada all have to be self governing. I see a time where the Department of Indian Affairs may exist as a Department but they won't be in that decision making capacity. I see the long-term being that First Nations must manage their own affairs and must do so under their own government authority. So I see this as the impetus that will help meet that challenge. It's coming very very quickly very very fast, further the story is heard the more First Nations interests will want to be part of this process and actually being the decision makers over their reserve lands.

There is tremendous success stories from one end of Canada to the other and it's only building but to get to that level the First Nation has to have governance authority in place and that's why I see the majority in time yet not all First Nations in Canada will need that level of governance authority so that people have confidence to invest on their lands. The power with the land code allows for First Nations to pass their own environmental laws and that's just one example, that's very powerful because only governments can do that. If we compare ourselves with many other municipalities or Government of Canada or any of the provinces or countries around the world I think you're going to see First Nations are much more knowledgeable based on the customs in the history of our peoples from one end of Canada through the other then other communities and I think that is something that's being embodied in the in the lawmaking capacity and that's something that other Canadian should really think about and take seriously as well.

When we look at way lands are being managed, forestry lands, how waters are being protected, I think we've got some tremendous success stories. In renewable energy alone we have many of the First Nations are seriously working ahead to advance the technology in renewable energy and I think through the First Nations are in fact leading the way. Governments are sitting up and taking notice too that others outside governments are taking this process very very seriously and are in fact seeing that First Nations can lead the way in these types of activities.

Once you have the power of governance and once you understand that process then jobs, economic opportunities I think can naturally flow, that's what we're seeing right now and that's a change in times. So the public are seeing the First Nations not as the beggars on the streets but as real contributors to the overall Canadian society to the economic benefit that this nation needs and we're part of that our growing. Our communities that are part of this process in Vancouver Island right across Canada right through to Newfoundland have different types of land codes, similar as far as the overall objectives but different in how their exercised how policies are developed that's important for any government. We have tried to assist at the First Nations Resource Center by having a training programs, having courses provided that will assist some of the communities that need that assistance. Over the past few years we have really accelerated on the growth and the demand of First Nation Land Management it's evidence that what we're doing is working and it's evidence that the success stories are reaching out to the First Nations and I think that is why the demand is growing and the need is there. First Nations want to be self governing for the most part and that demand is only going to continue to grow with as the months and years go by.

Framework Agreement Background

Introduction Videos



[First Nation Land Management Resource Centre](#)

Chair, Austin Bear [3:33]

My mother said that when she was young, you would go out at night and you would hear the drum so people would go there with the drum and sing but they had to hide in the shadows of night and then said after a while even the drum went away. At night time the drum stopped and now we have sweats, there's language in the school being taught, the elders have their own place, for each season we have a feast at the school with the children. The Buffalo were gone for generations from our land, I said that we are bring grandfather back and we brought grandfather Buffalo back on our lands and they're there where they should be. We have our fire ceremonies, people are engaged in traditional healing, people are engaged in sundances. I believe the inspiration for that, I attribute to the people passing and accepting the framework agreement and passing our land code and truly recognized that we are a sovereign nation we have jurisdiction over our land and resource. And why I say it is significant, our immediate goal and our efforts was concentrated on the jurisdiction over our lands and resources just challenging the administrative of provisions of the Indian Act that controlled our reserve land and resource is that was the primary goal at going back to the number of years I'm talking about because the First Nations across turtle island and most countries with indigenous people our lands are the most important that's what makes us who we are. Looking at what the impacts may be, I am not certain that I ever dreamed that the success would be this great. It is truly inspiring, it is truly remarkable, the intricacy and complicity of the framework agreement, land codes and the developments of First Nations has gone far beyond my expectations. When you look back over the years I think First Nations as we continue develop and rebuild our nations I think First Nations are gonna be the catalyst of this country of Canada and not only in the economy but I think even more so in the environmental concerns and not only Canada, global concerns about the environment and if we learn and listen From the teachings of the old people, gift of mother earth and our place on mother earth was a gift from the creator and that is what the law that were bound by.