**INFORMATION TO THIRD PARTIES**

**With Interest in XX First Nation Land**

XX First Nation will be holding a Ratification Vote on (place date here)in order to determine if Registered Voters approve the XX First Nation Land Code and Individual Agreement.

A positive ratification will remove XX First Nation from the lands provisions of the Indian Act, and restore First Nation jurisdiction over the management, protection, development, conservation, possession, disposition and control of First Nation land. The Land Code will take effect on (place effective date here) if ratified, and any permit in First Nation land will continue in force in accordance with its terms and conditions, under the authority of XX First Nation rather than Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC).

For more information about the XX First Nation Land Code and the management of First Nation land, contact:

(Place contact person name, title, address, phone no. and website here)

**Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management**

**SUMMARY**

**A government-to-government agreement giving First Nations an option to manage their reserve lands outside the Indian Act.**

The *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management,* signed on February 12, 1996, is a government-to-government agreement between Canada and certain First Nations that allows First Nations to opt out of the lands provisions of the *Indian Act.* It sets out the principal components of a new land management process for reserve lands. It **is not** a treaty and does not affect treaty or other constitutional rights of the First Nations.

The *Framework Agreement* states that a First Nation exercises its land management option by drafting a **Land Code**, negotiating an **Individual Agreement,** and developing a **Community Ratification Process** to allow members, both on and off reserve, to ratify the documents. An independent Verifier selected jointly by the First Nation and Canada will confirm that the *Community Ratification Process* and *Land Code* are consistent with the *Framework Agreement.* First Nations will have all the legal status and powers needed to manage and govern their lands and resources, except for control over title or the power to sell it. Canada will enter into funding arrangements to insure that First Nations have the resources to develop and operate under their *Land Codes.* Preserving the quantity and quality of existing First Nation lands is a fundamental principle of the *Framework Agreement*. Canada

will remain liable for any act or omission that occurred before the *Land Code* comes into effect. First Nations can deal with disputes outside of the courts in relation to its lands and resources, or implementation of the *Framework Agreement*.

**First Nations Land Management Act (1999 c. 24)**

**SUMMARY**

**An Act providing for the ratification and bringing into effect of the Framework**

**Agreement on First Nation Land Management.**

This Act is the Federal law that was required for Canada to ratify the *Framework Agreement*,

and was given royal assent on June 7, 1999. It implements those clauses of the *Framework Agreement* that affect third parties, other federal laws, or those are considered important enough to be repeated in the legislation. It confirms that title to First Nation lands will not be affected by the Act and those lands will continue to be reserves and to be constitutionally protected. Canada will remain liable for actions taken before the *Land Code* takes effect. The Act cancels the land management provisions of the *Indian Act* for those First Nations that adopt a *Land Code*. The powers of a First Nation to manage its reserve lands and resources, receive and use land revenues, and its legal capacity for land purposes are included in the Act. *Land Codes* will have the effect of law and will be recognized by the courts. After adopting a *Land Code*, the First Nation will assume responsibility for its land management actions.

**XX First Nation Land Code**

**SUMMARY**

**A community-developed Law that provides for the bringing into effect of the**

**Framework Agreement on Land Management.**

The *XX First Nation Land Code* is the First Nation law that will ratify the

*Framework Agreement*, and will be **voted on by eligible members on (place date here)**. It confirms the collective interests and rights of members, and includes all XX First Nation reserve land, now and in the future. It is the enabling legislation that provides the framework for decision-making and law development needed to undertake true land management responsibilities. It states that members in assembly make and ratify all land laws, and outlines the community approval process. The *Land Code* sets out rules for accountability and ensures that our land will continue to be protected. It establishes a Lands Resource Board that will oversee land management responsibilities on behalf of all members, as well as a staff position to administer the *Land Code*. It clarifies the rights of members and non-members to First Nation land, and establishes a dispute resolution mechanism to deal with lands-related issues should they arise. It contains provision for enforcement of our laws within the provincial court system.