

First Nation Survey Authority

2025 LAB Leadership Briefing

Regional Pre LAB AGM Leadership Meeting

BC/FV Region - East Region - Prairie Region
River Rock Resort - Rama Resort - Dakota Dunes Resort

LAB Proposal

In response to systemic challenges, the Lands Advisory Board is proposing to establish a new First Nation Survey Authority (FNSA).

Modelled after successful provincial bodies like BC's LTSA, the FNSA would work in tandem with the First Nation Land Governance Registry (FNLGR) to create a modern, integrated, and First Nation-led land system.

Purpose of the FNSA

- First Nations-led authority to approve land surveys
- Applies to Land Code and participating Self-Governing First Nations
- Supports self-determination and land development
- Integrates with FNLGR

Why Change is Needed

- Current delays from Surveyor General approval
- Poor alignment with First Nation timelines
- Increased costs and legal confusion
- Based on successful models (e.g., BC LTSA)

Vision, Mission & Key Benefits

Vision: Trusted, Nation-led survey authority

Mission: Modernize approvals, build capacity, enable development

Benefits:

- Faster approvals for housing/leasing
- Aligned survey & registry data
- Cost savings (~3 FTE federal surveyors)
- First Nation-specific standards
- Capacity-building with Association of Canada Lands Surveyors (ACLS)

Governance & Legal Framework

- Operates independently under LAB oversight
- Shared infrastructure with FNLGR
- Legal authority through:
 - Amendments to FA / FAFNLMA
 - Changes to Canada Lands Surveys Act
- Plans still recorded in CLSR

Next Steps

1. Finalize legal and regulatory path
2. Identify pilot First Nations
3. Formalize ACLS and federal partnerships
4. Expand training and capacity building

Closing & Contact Info

"Survey systems should work for First Nations, not against them."

For more information or to discuss participation:

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