

LUP National Workshop & Regional Session

April 9-10, 2024

2.3 Innovative Strategies – Notes

Topic #1 – Integrating Environmentally Sustainable Approaches into Land Use Planning

1. What are the main issues related to environmental sustainability in your First Nation, and what has been done to address them?
 - Septic systems
 - Fire – monitoring and protection (fire inspection & potential for wildfires) -> Emergency Management Plan, fire guards, vulnerable acres
 - Invasive species -> leafy spurge, response plans, education
 - Farm chemicals (run-off, poisoning animals) -> water protection
 - Landfill – need clean up, need new landfill with security – ISC remediation plan, recycling program/ learn how to reuse containers and recyclables/community standard
 - Agriculture – food security
 - Cumulative effects
 - Weather extremes
 - Water: supply/volume, infrastructure capacity, partnerships with other FNs/jurisdictions
 - Solid Waste: developing for future capacity, challenge of working with city/municipality
 - Internal land use activities (by community members) – members building on land without asking lands dept. about zoning, land use or enviro issues
 - CP land majority
 - No Authorization – stop work order
 - Enforcement – monitor, consultants
 - Contamination – burning copper
 - Legacy issues – buckshee agreements, landfill, no proper management/regulations
 - Over harvesting – education
 - Development – LUP
 - Upgrades to landfill
 - IT – disposal of electronics
 - Partnerships with universities
 - Soil degradation
 - Climate change – fires, shoreline erosion – drones to monitor
 - Illegal dumping – hired security

2. Are you aware of any emerging trends around environmental sustainability? How does environmental sustainability relate to community sustainability (e.g., economic, resource, social, health)?
 - Energy – resource, economic, social
 - Reduce energy/educate
 - Prescribed burning to mitigate fire risk
 - Partnering with local governments

- Land Base learning
 - Traditional medicine (seed bank)
 - Solar power
 - Collecting rainwater
 - Erosion – province monitors, we want FN to monitor and keep our own data
 - Circular economy and waste management (teaches not to waste and that everything is connected)
 - Guardianship programming, hired an emergency coordinator
3. How can LUPs be used to address environmental sustainability?
- Thorough laws
 - Controlling development – setbacks – no development on ESA
 - Usually covered by an Enviro plan – align with these plans
 - Balancing priorities to environmental protection
 - LUP identifies existing waterways, harvesting, and trapping locations
 - Economy booming (standards needed)
 - Using LUP to enforce off reserve development to protect water
 - Shows where activities can take place
 - Sets parameters (ie, septic)
 - Monitor (trapping)
 - Identify parcels of land that are high risk replanting areas

Topic #2 – Community Decision-Making

1. How are your First Nation decision-makers using your LUP or other community guidance documents and policies to guide their decisions? What happens if priorities change or if decision-makers do not follow First Nation guidelines or policies when making a decision?
- Accountability from member to council
 - Educating members
 - Keeping LUP front and centre
 - CCP for guidance
 - Land Code
 - Child family services to feed in
 - Strategic plan
 - Emergency Response Plan
 - Fire Smart
 - Constitution
 - Succession plan
 - Referrals – need to look at LUP to see if development is aligned with LUP
 - Elder’s Council – Terms of Reference, develop feedback loop – Elder Tribunal to address concerns with leadership
 - LUP used as a guiding document for the community – policy-driven to protect the interests of the community

- Development application includes a checklist on whether it complies with LUP – form taken to Chief and Council for decision
2. Are there any lessons-learned, best practices, or key take-aways that you want to share about getting from conflict to community decision-making? What tools and techniques have helped you in your First Nation's decision-making processes?
- Don't start development without laws and policies in place
 - Have guidance principles
 - Info session first
 - Transparency
 - Without engagement, projects don't work
 - Challenging to hear opinions without understanding the topic
 - Need to develop a communication plan
 - Communicate to portfolio holders
 - Need to trickle down to staff
 - Important to have a Traditional Territory Plan
 - Council of Nations agreements in place with the government
 - Need guidance document/manual to communicate process to developers
 - Need to have face to face with those interested in development
3. Do you have any ideas on how community decision-making can be achieved using different or unique practices / processes? Was there anything specific your First Nation did that worked well to support community decision-making?
- Ballot box
 - Putting info sheets at other events
 - Videos/podcasts
 - Polling/surveys
 - Communication process
 - Extend timelines – open window for communication
 - Sometimes people want their say from the beginning
 - 1 on 1
 - Community open house
 - Setting plans in place
 - Directors & different departments involved
 - Balance all the interests with LUP – identify to create the Framework to make laws for enforcement/approaches
 - Elders, community feast
 - Voting
 - Focus groups

Topic #3 – Land Use Implementation

1. What does Land Use Plan Implementation mean to you and your First Nation? What types of work or activities do you intend to undertake to implement your LUP?
 - Update and streamline policies & law from top down
 - Creating & implementing laws- zoning/housing/permitting/soil deposit/removal
 - Leadership to follow & support the document
 - Infrastructure development according to LUP zoning
 - Less authoritative
 - Grass roots approach
 - Committee in place (gather input)
 - Committee info session
 - House to house
 - Group visits (youth, elders)
 - Bingo/health sessions
 - Its slow – a lot of conversations
 - Need more procedures & tools
 - Implementation committee
 - Planning development away from risk
 - Food sovereignty
 - Environmental changes due to climate – impact on traditional food
 - Foster adaptation
 - Zoning – residential environmental
 - Community safety (street cam)
 - Long term care for elders
 - Guidance with community support – designate areas for use
 - Traditional Holding project – Land Use & Zoning law to support LUP
 - Permitting process
 - LUP Implementation drove other plans
 - Research/community input/council consultation/assessment/prioritize realistic goals/create draft/assign roles/inform everyone involved

2. In implementing your LUP, what successes and challenges have you experienced so far, or what successes and challenges to you anticipate experiencing?
 - Communication off reserve
 - Community website/app developed
 - Limitations – tech/time
 - Internal communication plan – talk with other departments
 - Time/capacity – summer students to help with admin
 - Online shared folder to document systems and share communication strategy with other departments
 - Living document – revisit every 5 years
 - Traditional dispute resolution – family driven (community involvement)
 - Interdepartmental communications (others referring projects back to lands)

- Policy only works if used/communicated
- When having a protected space – identify it clearly for community to know
- Youth involvement – giving tasks
- Elders involvement
- Challenges: CP land, private property
- Pandemic – unable to do meaningful communication – regain momentum

3. How will you know when and if your LUP has been successful? What are your metrics to measure the outcomes of the LUP?

- Transparency, open houses
- Open door policy
- Consistent updates to leadership/community/staff
- If/when it is being used to make decisions
- Health of the community
- Social harmony
- Quality of life
- Desire to come home
- Community-approved plan for how land will be used, developed and protected
- When Chief and Council, members refer to the LUP
- When membership are on board & processes are aligned and followed
- Fewer community complaints
- Government starts getting involved
- Approved! Ec Dev updating infrastructure, surveying of land
- Members seeing benefits of community
- Community involvement (buy in)
- Better data
- Increased economic value
- Improved infrastructure
- People enjoying the land as they should be
- Zoning in place

What could the RC do to support your First Nation with LUP Implementation?

- Give ideas/suggestions
- Networking to help counter silo'd fatigue
- Funding- advocate for additional funds
- Ask the community how they want to implement their LUP
- Have all required information on website
- Having RC on our side while dealing with government helps
- Look over RFP
- How to prioritize the application and begin?
- Communication strategies on Land Code, LUP, podcast, social media
- GIS training

- Succession training
- Supporting strategic priorities
- Shared resources
- Training sessions

Topic #4 – Resilience to Climate Change

1. How does your First Nation currently manage the effects of climate change? Do you see a difference between “climate change” and “environmental sustainability”?
 - They are not interchangeable – climate change will drive your plan for sustainability
 - Climate change is colonialism
 - First Nations led – not consultants
 - Climate change = adaptability
 - Environmental sustainability = resilience
 - Climate change affects our land & wildlife – need to be better prepared
 - Dealing with bank erosion due to hydro dam
 - Fire Smart program and Fire break to prevent forest fire damage
 - No ice this year – impact on fisheries
 - Water levels low – risk of forest fire
 - Shoreline stabilization – buffer strips
 - Tree planting, planting native species
 - Home energy retrofits
 - Climate change = monitoring
 - Environmental sustainability = planning
 - Being prepared when/if it happens

2. Do you have any emergency management plans or procedures? What would you like to have in place to support emergency management in your First Nation?
 - Our FN has hired Emergency management staff
 - Offer training
 - Climate change adaptation plan – shoreline restoration/flooding mitigation
 - More funding
 - Our Emergency Management is not under Lands – with Health or Infrastructure (this is difficult)
 - Emergency Management Plan is complete/being updated
 - Yes – approved
 - COVID plans
 - Fire Smart
 - Flood Plan – in study phase

3. What are some examples of processes, actions, or activities have helped or that you think could help your First Nation to be more resilient in responding to the impacts of climate change on your lands?

- Need to stay adaptable – support people to be adaptable
- Addressing the other impacts
- Use of Indigenous Scientific knowledge vs Western science
- Wetland restoration
- Weather stations
- Fire Smart coordinator
- More funds/additional staff
- Planting shoreline buffer strips
- Floodplain mapping
- Community garden/Farmers market