

“For many generations we were prevented from governing our own reserve lands and restricted to the confines of the *Indian Act*. The passing of our *Land Code* will allow us to take back control of our reserve lands and resources. It is a significant step towards self-governance and we look forward to the countless possibilities the *Land Code* will afford our community as we move forward.”

Chief Patricia Bernard
Madawaska Maliseet First Nation

78

The number of First Nations who have ratified their community land code ...

17 of these First Nations are from the Eastern region!

The New Year was met with great celebration and excitement for three First Nations in the Eastern Region, who became the first in their respective provinces to ratify their community land codes. The Abénakis de Wôlinak (Wolinak, QC), Miawpukek First Nation (Conne River, NFLD) and Madawaska Maliseet First Nation (Edmundson, NB) have welcomed 2018 by governing their lands under their own land laws, free from the encumbrances of 32 sections of the *Indian Act*.

During the past year, 11 First Nations have voted in favour of regaining governance over their reserve lands and resources, which puts these nations in the drivers seat to exercise their vision for sustainable lands management and protection of their culture and the environment.

The Lands Advisory Board and First Nations Land Management Resource Centre congratulate the following *Framework Agreement* signatory First Nations who voted YES in 2017:

- Mistawasis First Nation (SK) 01/16/17
- Wasausking First Nation (ON) 02/25/17
- Abénakis de Wôlinak (QC) 03/02/17
- Katzie First Nation (B.C.) 03/29/17
- Lake Cowichan First Nation (B.C.) 03/31/17
- Misipawistik Cree Nation (MB) 04/09/17
- Temagami First Nation (ON) 06/24/17
- Long Plain First Nation (MB) 08/13/17
- Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (MB) 08/25/17
- Miawpukek First Nation (NFLD) 09/29/17
- Madawaska Maliseet First Nation (NB) 11/02/17



CLICK TO VIEW
THE MIAWPUKEK FIRST NATION CELEBRATION AS THE COMMUNITY WELCOMES THEIR LAND CODE AND BIDS FAREWELL TO OVER 25% OF THE INDIAN ACT.



CLICK FOR ARTICLE
MISSISSAUGAS OF SCUGOG ISLAND FIRST NATION'S GREAT BLUE HERON CASINO TO UNDERGO HUGE EXPANSION. A NEW HOTEL, LIVE ENTERTAINMENT VENUE AND MORE IN THE WORKS!

Great Blue Heron Casino photo

SUCCESS STORIES

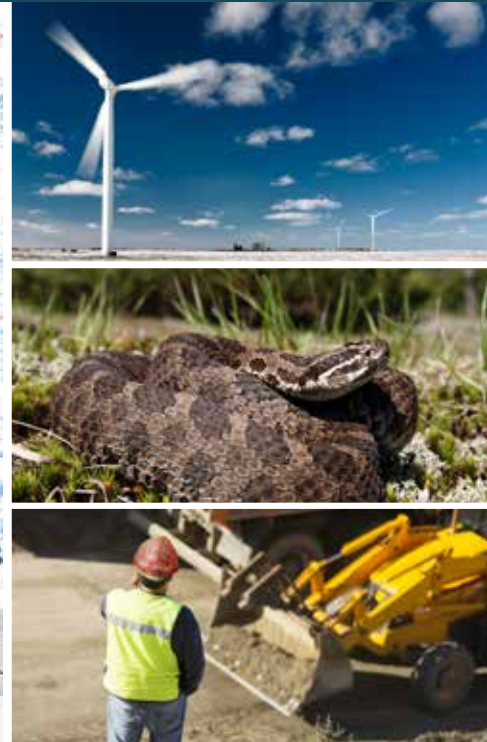
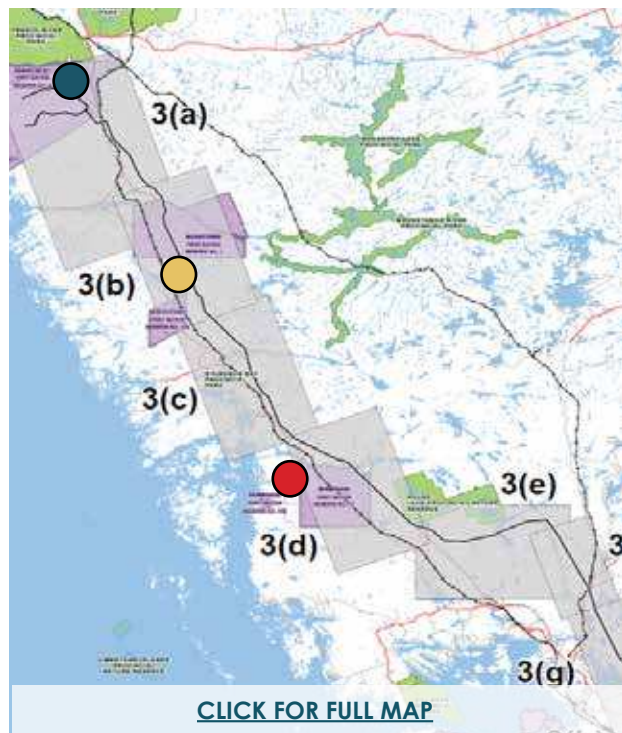
PROTECTIONS, PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRESS:

Three Ontario First Nations, Henvey Inlet, Magnetawan, and Shawanaga, are governing their lands under their own land codes and accelerating projects in economic development and environmental protection, while partnering together for the collective good of their communities.

Henvey Inlet First Nation
 Total Members: 854
 On-Reserve: 191/ Off-reserve: 663
 FA Signatory Status: Operational
 Vote date: Dec. 7/09
 Address: 295 Pickerel River Rd., Pickerel, ON
 website: www.hifn.ca

Magnetawan First Nation
 Total Members: 272
 On-Reserve: 77 / Off-reserve: 195
 FA Signatory Status: Operational
 Vote date: Jun. 20/15
 Address: 10 HWY 529, BRITT, ON
 website: www.magnetawanfirstnation.com

Shawanaga First Nation
 Total Members: 671
 On-Reserve: 182/ Off-reserve: 489
 FA Signatory Status: Operational
 Vote date: May 20/15
 Address: RR1, 2 VILLAGE ROAD, NOBEL, ON
 website: <http://shawanagafirstnation.ca/>



Progressive Economic Development

Henvey Inlet First Nation (HIFN), located on the Northeast shore of Georgina Bay, approximately three hours North of Toronto. HIFN lands encompass approximately 20,000 acres. Less than 500 of these acres are being used for HIFN largest economic development project, a 300-MegaWatt Wind Energy Farm. ¹ HIFN is full owner of the Nigig Power Corporation, which has partnered with a renewable energy company to develop the largest First Nation wind project in Canada!

Under the Land Code, HIFN is the permitting authority for Environmental Assessment (EA) which are required to assess effects from the construction of the project. A vast number of studies were conducted as a result including, Archeological, Hydrogeological, Species at Risk, Natural Heritage assessments etc.

HIFN Consultation Coordinator Ray Kagagins has stressed that their land code has been a key driver in determining the future development of the community.

"Having the ability and authority to manage our lands and resources permitted our First Nation to engage in economic development projects as a way to improve the livelihoods of our citizens."²

Ray Kagagins

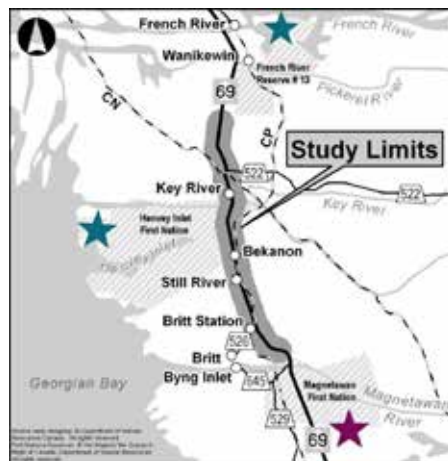
\$1 Billion has been invested into the project is expected to create substantial returns for the community as well as 500 local jobs³.

Land Code First Nations In Partnership

Under the protection of their respective Land Codes, Shawanaga First Nation, Magnetawan First Nation and Henvey Inlet First Nation Lands are some of the most protected lands in all of Canada.

the province and therefore the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) must approach and negotiate directly with each Land Code First Nation. If the First Nation is willing, the MTO may negotiate a voluntary land exchange, or other type of interest or licence, such as a lease or easement. The 3 First Nations have lands located along the Highway 69 corridor and have joined forces to seek a role for the remainder of the 80 kilometre span that is scheduled to be widened for the Highway 400 expansion.

The three First Nation are now in the driver's seat and have leveraged their jurisdiction to bolster their bargaining position. Shwe Miikaan Corporation is a for profit company wholly and jointly owned by Shawanaga First Nation, Magnetawan First Nation and Henvey Inlet First Nation. The company will be active in the construction of the widening of Highway 69 to four lanes for this north-south artery from Parry Sound to south of Sudbury.



successfully bid on the long term maintenance contract for the Highway after construction is complete. The potential for training, jobs, and related business creation is great. The highway expansion project is estimated at well over a billion dollars.⁴

Under the Land Codes, Henvey Inlet's Nigig Power Corporation⁵ was able to negotiate leases for the windfarm's transmission lines and obtain the environmental assessment permits from Shawanaga and Magnetawan at the speed of business without any government interference. The transmission line will see increased revenues and job creation for both First Nations and area municipalities.

Environmental Protection

While the number of economic development projects are on the rise in all three communities, the consideration of any environmental impacts resulting from the work, has been paramount.

Careful research, planning, and community engagement has been at the heart of creating an informed environmental plan around the various projects, that will mitigate the effects on the surrounding environment.

Magnetawan First Nation has placed great emphasis on their Species At Risk (SAR) programs, and have partnered with numerous Universities and Environmental organizations⁶ to ensure the preservation of the sensitive species and ecosystems within their territory.

Currently, Magnetawan holds an SAR permit to conduct research on endangered species such as the Blandings Turtle and Massasauga Rattlesnake, who share their land.

[More on Magnetawan's SAR program in our next issue: An Environmental Focus]

1) <http://henveyinletwind.com/files/4214/2603/7116/2015-Feb-HIW-Brochure-PIC-Pages.pdf>
 2) <http://anishinabeknews.ca/2016/01/27/magnetawan-henvey-inlet-and-shawanaga-team-up-to-form-construction-company/>
 3) <http://www.climateactionprogramme.org/news/major-onshore-wind-farm-in-ontario-wins-financial-backing>

4) <http://anishinabeknews.ca/2016/01/27/magnetawan-henvey-inlet-and-shawanaga-team-up-to-form-construction-company/>
 5) <https://www.parrysound.com/community-story/7589687-shawanaga-magnetawan-approves-wind-farm-transmission-line-though-lands/>
 6) <http://anishinabeknews.ca/2016/02/04/magnetawan-protects-species-at-risk-blandings-turtle/>

Tribunal rules downtown Edmundston is on Maliseet First Nation Land

[CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL CBC ARTICLE](#)

Sarah Petz / CBC News. (Excerpt from article published Nov. 30/2017)

Canada's Specific Claims tribunal said Wednesday that the Madawaska Maliseet First Nation's claim to the 3,900 acres, or more than 1,575 hectares, was valid. The band has been fighting for this recognition since 1996.

The independent tribunal, established in 2008, is a joint initiative of the federal government and Assembly of First Nations for resolving monetary claims made by First Nations more expeditiously.

Patricia Bernard, the band chief and legal counsel on the claim, said the land was taken away from the community unlawfully when the Madawaska reserve was created. She said the community is ecstatic to finally have its claim recognized.

"It has been a very long road of bumps and ups and downs," she said. "It was quite overwhelming."

The history of the claim dates back to 1787, when the surveyor general of New Brunswick set aside 3,900 acres for the Maliseet.



[CLICK HERE FOR AUDIO OF CBC INTERVIEW WITH PATRICIA BERNARD, MADAWASKA CHIEF AND LEGAL COUNSEL](#)

Article: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/land-claim-victory-madawaska-maliseet-first-nation-1.4426546>
 Audio: <http://www.cbc.ca/listen/shows/shift-nb/segment/14997310>

Federal funds announced to protect Conne River's marine ecosystem

The Telegram (Excerpt from article published Nov. 15/2017)

The funding will stabilize the area within the Miawpukek Reserve known as the McDonald's Family and Culture Area, on the banks of the Conne River.

The area has been severely eroded by extreme weather conditions and a lack of total ice cover in winter.

The work will help prevent sediment, tree roots and debris from previous development activities from falling into the water.

The project will benefit Atlantic salmon as the area is a known migration route for the species.

"This important project will not only stabilize and protect an important coastal shoreline adjacent to our salmon river, it will enable Mi'kmaq Alsumk Mowimsikik Koqoey Association and Miawpukek First Nation to develop key capacity in slope stabilization and environmental monitoring," Miawpukek First Nation Chief Mi'sel Joe said in a news release.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL TELEGRAM ARTICLE](#)



Article: <http://www.thetelegram.com/news/federal-funds-announced-to-protect-conne-rivers-marine-ecosystem-162007/>

Historical recognition for the Abénakis D'Odanak and Abénakis de Wôlinak



Parks Canada and the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada officially recognized the significance that the Abenaki peoples have played in the creation of Canada, by unveiling a trilingual memorial plaque at the St. Theresa's Little Chapel in Wôlinak.

The plaque commemorates the Odanak and Wolinak people for helping to enforce France's defenses against the invading British forces.

Odanak Chief Rick O'Bomsawin reiterated the importance of the plaque in that it not only clearly identifies the significance of their role in history, but also of the strength and persistence of the Abenaki peoples in their fight to protect their lands.

Chief Michel R. Bernard echoed the same sentiments, in that the recognition, solidifies his communities place in "the great history of First Nations and those of the founding peoples of Canada."

(This information can be found in the French article "Une reconnaissance historique pour les Abénakis" by Sebastien Lacroix, published in Le Courrier Sud. [Click here for the full article.](#))

[CLICK HERE FOR A SLIDE SHOW OF PHOTOS FROM THE ABÉNAKIS DE WÔLINAK](#)

Article: <https://www.lecourriersud.com/une-reconnaissance-historique-pour-les-abenakis/>

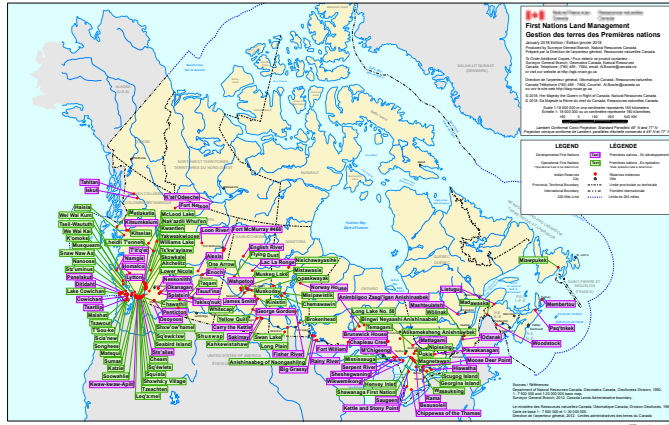
First Nation Lands Registry Workshop - Eastern Region (November 14, 15 and 16, 2017)

The First Nations Land Management Resource Centre (Resource Centre) hosted an information workshop on various topics of interest and provide training on the FNLRS system in an environment where participants networked with Resource Centre staff, advisors, presenters, Federal and Provincial counterparts, and other First Nations.

The Resource Centre, and guest presenters, provided information on the First Nation Land Registration, Matrimonial Real Property laws, updates on the *Framework Agreement* on First Nation Land Management amendments, Enforcement and Court Systems, on-going collaborative work with the province and Canada, Taxes on fee simple lands, fisheries, utility permits and Species at Risk.

To download the presentations and reference material from the session, please click below:

- [Part 1 of 2](#)
- [Part 2 of 2](#)



To see the geographic location of *Framework Agreement* First Nations Signatories across Canada, [CLICK](#) the map above.

GET TO KNOW THE EASTERN REGION:

OPERATIONAL

ONTARIO:

Anishnaabeg of Naongashiing
Atikameksheng Anishnawbek
Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek
Dokis
Georgina Island
Henvey Inlet
Long Lake #58
Magnetawan
Mississauga
Nipissing
Scugog Island
Shawanaga
Temagami
Wasauksing

QUEBEC:

Abenakis de Wolinak

NEW BRUNSWICK:

Madawaska Maliseet

NEWFOUNDLAND:

Miawpukek

DEVELOPMENTAL

ONTARIO:

Algonquins of Pikwakanagan
Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan
-Anishinaabek
Beausoleil
Big Grassy River
Brunswick House
Chapleau Cree
Chippewas of the Thames
Fort William
Hiawatha
Kettle & Stony Point
Mattagami
M'Chigeeng
Mnjikaning
Moose Deer Point
Rainy River
Saugeen
Serpent River
Sheshegwaning
Wikwemikong

QUEBEC:

Abenakis d'Odanak
Mashteuiatsh
Listujug Mi'gmaq

NEW BRUNSWICK:

Woodstock

NOVA SCOTIA:

Membertou
Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation

“Developing our own legislative framework at the First Nation level will allow Temagami First Nation to draft laws that address our community’s needs while maintaining our culture, traditions and ways of doing things.”

Chief Arnold Paul
Temagami First Nation

LANDS ADVISORY BOARD DIRECTORS:

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Chief Maureen Chapman
Grand Chief Joe Hall
Chief Gordon Planes
Leah George-Wilson

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Clifford Tawpisin Jr.
Chief Darcy Bear
Paul Chief

EASTERN REGION:

Chief Gerry Duquette
James Cada
Philip Goulais
Councillor William McCue
Chief Kelly LaRocca

Lands Advisory Board Directors Meetings and Presentations:

REGION:	DIRECTOR:	MEETING :	DATE:
B.C.	G. Planes	Thriving Nations	10/27-28/2017
East	P. Goulais	FNLN Workshop	11/13-16/2017
B.C.	J. Campbell	Tit'q'et Community Meeting	11/19/2017
B.C.	R. Louie	Links to Learning 2017	12/11-14/2017
B.C.	R. Louie	BCFN Firsca Working Group	12/19/2017
B.C.	R. Louie	Central Agencies Tour	01/22-23/2018
B.C.	R. Louie	Tahltan & Iskut Communities	02/18/2018
B.C.	L. George-Wilson	Tahltan & Iskut Communities	02/18/2018



Have you seen our NEW Corporate Brochure?

To learn more about the Lands Advisory Board, the First Nations Land Management Resource Centre, and all the support services that they provide to signatory communities of the *Framework Agreement*, please [follow this link](#), or visit www.labrc.com.

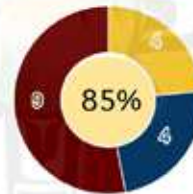
LAND CODE RATIFICATION

ACROSS CANADA

- 94 First Nations (FNs) have held a land code ratification vote.
- 78 FNs have PASSED their land code.
- 10 Votes did not meet the required voting threshold.
- 6 FNs declined their land code.



ACROSS THE EASTERN REGION



- 22 Eastern FNs have held a land code ratification vote.
- 17 FNs have PASSED their land code.
- 4 Votes did not meet the required voting threshold.
- 1 FN declined their land code.

Of the total 78 "YES" votes, 17 were from the Eastern Region. The Canada-wide approval average is 84%, with the Eastern approval percentage at 85%!

LABRC / January 28, 2018

Our next issue:

AN ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS



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