

**Introduction to  
First Nation Land Management (FNLM)  
and  
Reserve Land and Environment  
Management Program (RLEMP)**

**November 29, 2023**



Indigenous Services  
Canada

Services aux  
Autochtones Canada

Canada

# First Nation Land Management (FNLM) - History



Chief Robert Louie and Chief William McCue with Minister Ron Irwin signing the Framework Agreement, 1996

Source: The LABRC

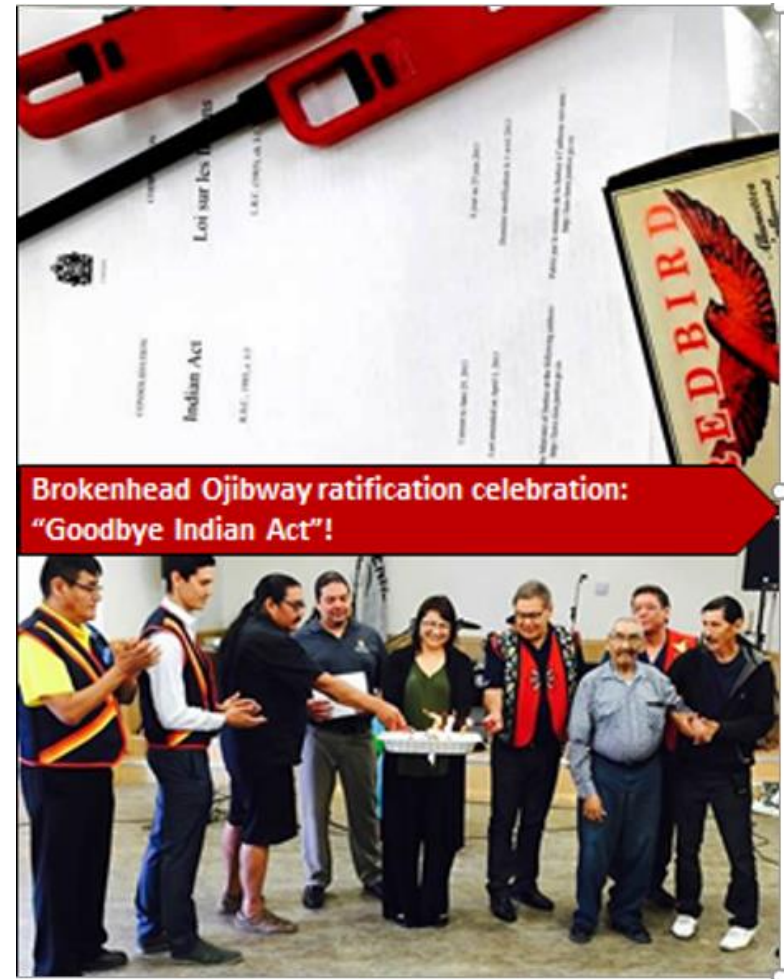
- In 1991, a group of First Nations Chiefs approached Canada with a proposal to enable First Nations to opt-out of 44 sections of the *Indian Act* related to land & environmental management
- Led to the signing of the **Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management** between Canada and 14 First Nations in 1996
- There are currently 159 active First Nation signatories to the Framework Agreement across Canada

# What is FNLM?

**First Nations-led initiative that shifts control over land administration from ISC to Nations**

Operational First Nations can:

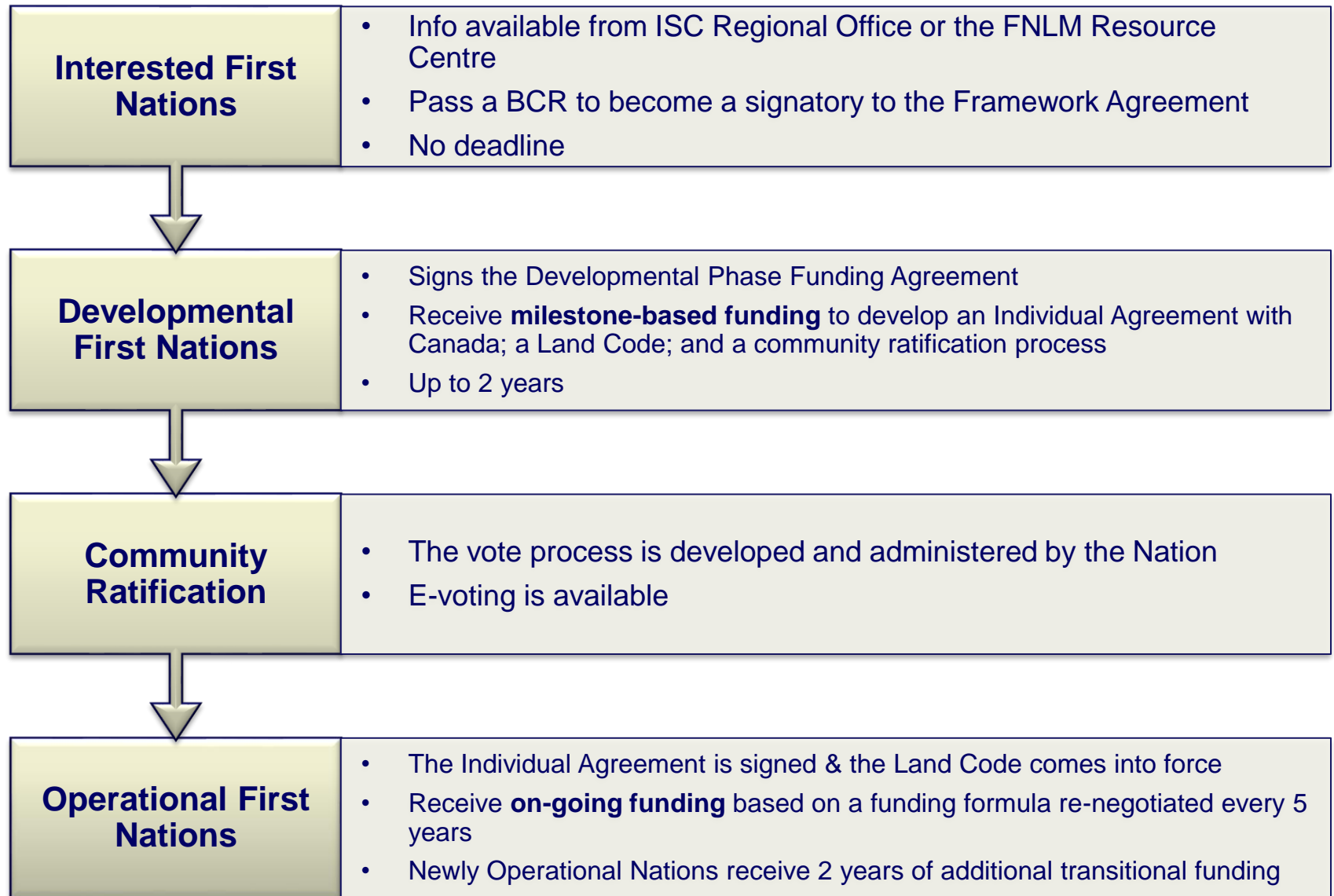
- Opt out of the 44 sections of the *Indian Act* related to land management (replaced with their own Land Code)
- Gain authority to establish their own land, resource and environment management laws & processes
- Exercise enforcement powers
- Collect rent revenues directly
- Operate at the speed of business



# Key Features of FNLM

- The lands remain reserve lands
- The existing *Indian Act* lands processes are no longer applicable. Nation can develop their own “designation” & permitting processes.
- Does not affect other ISC programs, grants or obligations (except RLEMP)
- Lands added to reserve can also fall under FNLM
- Nation can develop their own environmental review process or choose to retain the existing federal process
- Economic Development:
  - Studies found that operational Nations can approve economic development projects at a pace comparable to those off-reserve
  - FNLM contributes to job creation, higher incomes, and more investment on reserves
- FNLM is not:
  - x Termination of right and title
  - x Fee simple
  - x A government program

# FNLM: Main Stages



# Funding (2023-24)

**\*New funding levels coming soon**

## Developmental Funding



**\$164,500**  
over  
2 years



Individual Agreement



Land Code



Community Ratification Process

## Operational Funding

Canada



MOU over 5 years

Category	Funding (2023-2024)
1	<b>\$280,508</b>
2	<b>\$359,265</b>
3	<b>\$471,139</b>
4	<b>\$505,883</b>

## Transitional Funding

Canada



**\$150,000**  
over  
2 years



Training, land office setup



Environmental management



Law-making

# Who is under FNLM in AB?

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Woodland Cree (Operational Jan 2023)

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Fort McKay First Nation (Operational March 2023)

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Peerless Trout First Nation (Developmental)

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Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (Developmental)

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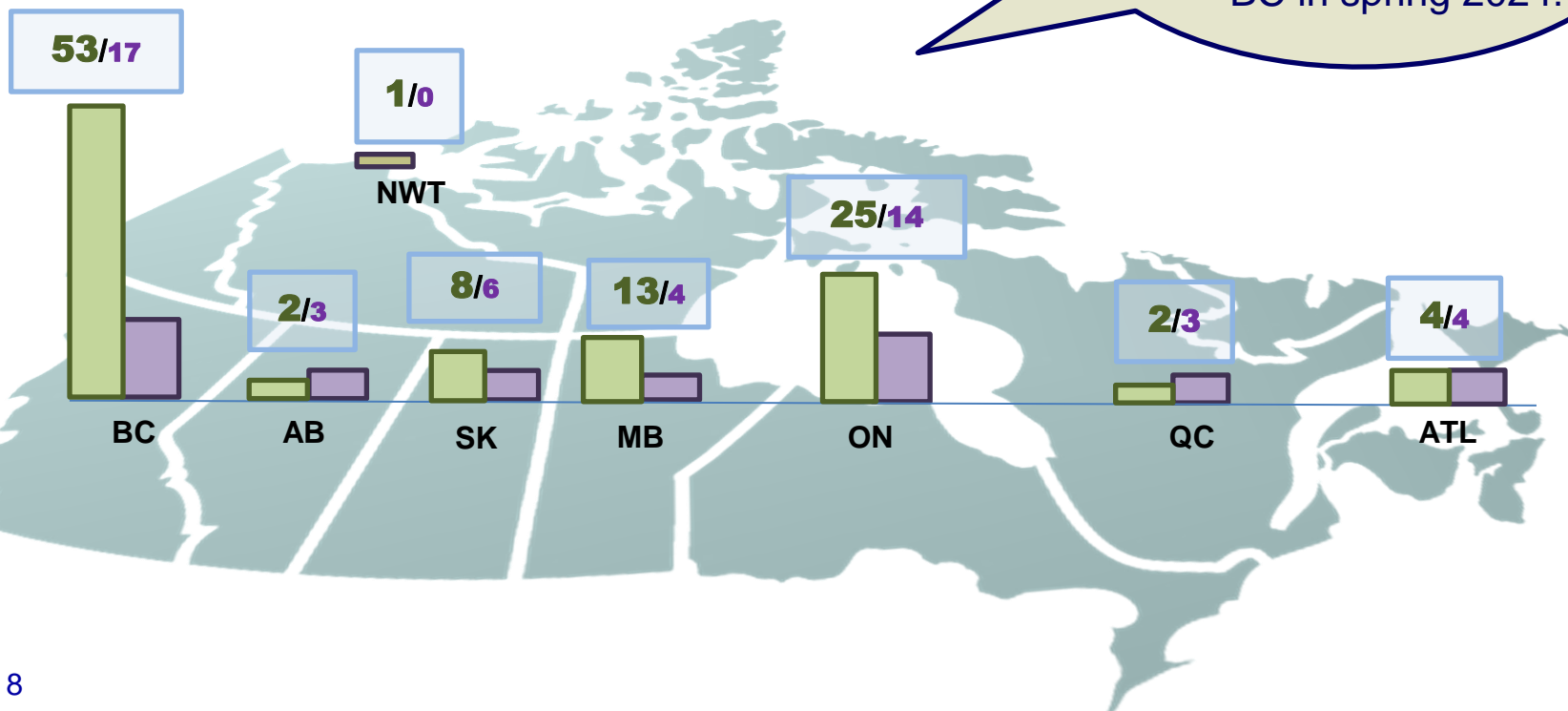
Driftpile Cree Nation (Anticipated Developmental)

# Distribution of FNLM Nations

Currently 159 active Nations

- **Operational FNLM Nations - 108**
- **Developmental FNLM Nations - 51**

The RC & ISC are planning a study tour of operational Nations in Saskatchewan & BC in spring 2024!





# Key FNLM Partners



- **Lands Advisory Board (LAB)** is a political body comprised of Chiefs from operational Nations
- **First Nations Land Management Resource Centre (RC)** is a co-facilitator of FNLM and the technical arm of the LAB



- **ISC Headquarters** is responsible for national policy coordination, financial management, and support
- **ISC Regional Offices** are co-facilitators of FNLM and the point of contact for many Nations
- **Natural Resources Canada** provides technical expertise in surveys and land descriptions for reserves

Typical Levels of Interaction	
LAB/RC	ISC
Chair of the Board	Minister
Chair of RC	Director General
Executive Director	Director
Technicians	Regional Staff



## **Alberta Region ISC Contacts**

Please contact us or the  
RC for participation in the  
2024 study tour!

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# Reserve Lands and Environment Management Program (RLEMP)

## What is RLEMP?

- Funding program for First Nations to establish or strengthen their lands department, and develop capacity in:
  - Lands Administration & Management
  - Community Land Use Planning
  - Environmental Management
  - Compliance with Policy and Legislation
- Can be a pre-cursor to FNLM (optional)

# RLEMP Objectives



Strengthen First Nation land management



Provide funding for Nation land managers to become certified, and establish or strengthen a lands department



Increase First Nation involvement in land and environmental activities on reserve, subject to the *Indian Act*



Increase capacity and FNLM readiness (optional)

# RLEMP Funding

Funding formula considers:

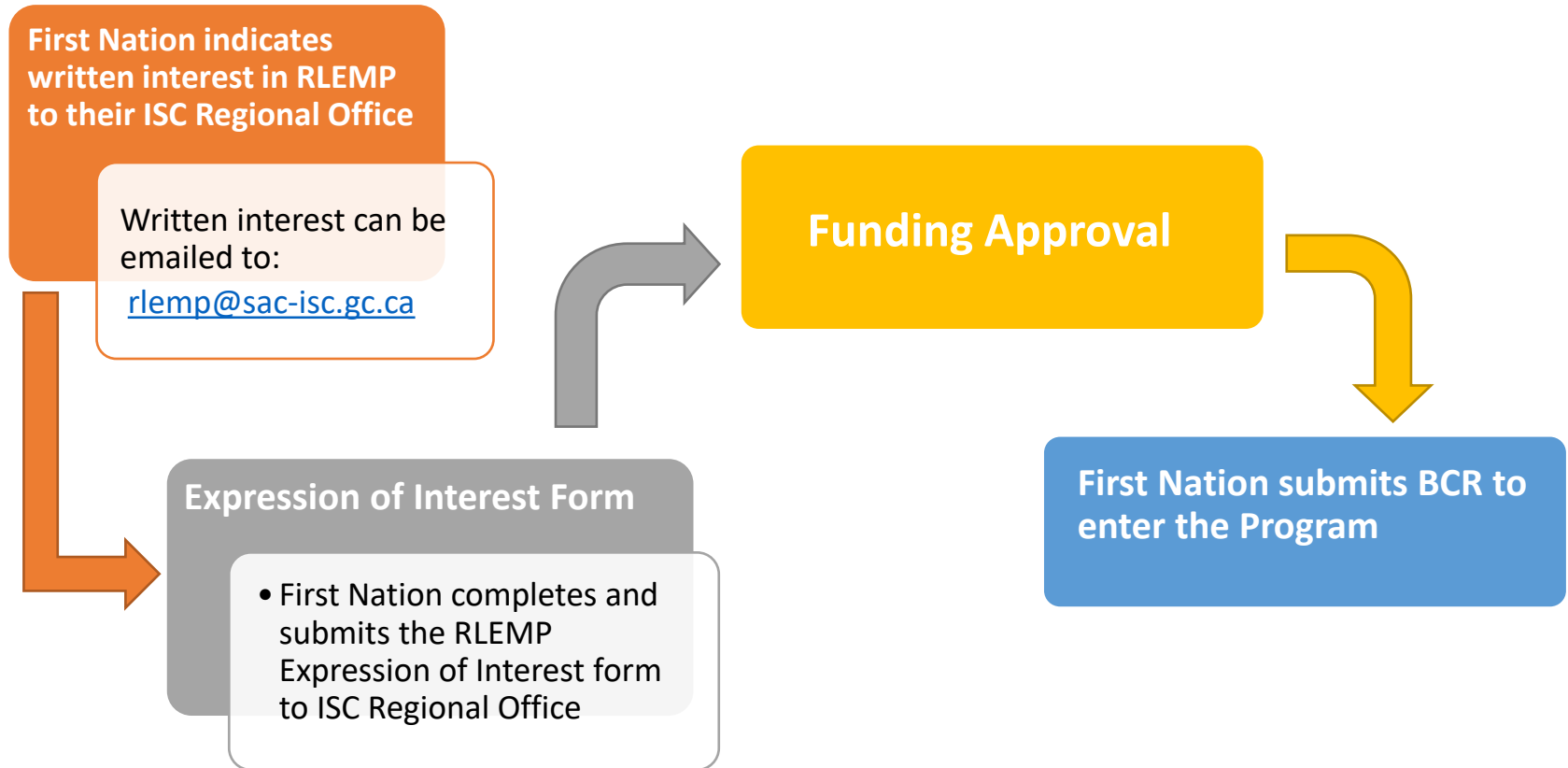
- Population and land base
- Type, volume and complexity of land and natural resource interests (*Indian Act* permits, leases etc.)
- Operational costs
- Environmental and compliance activities
- Level of responsibility
- Registered land and natural resource transactions

# Funding and RLEMP Levels

\*New funding levels coming soon



# RLEMP Intake Process



# ALBERTA RLEMP NATIONS

Alexander  
First Nation

Enoch Cree  
Nation

Frog Lake  
First Nation

O'Chiese First  
Nation

Blood Tribe

Piikani Nation

Siksika Nation

Tsuut'ina  
Nation

Bigstone Cree  
Nation



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