

## Press Release

October 21, 2011

### CHIEFS AND AANDC MINISTER SIGN HISTORIC AGREEMENT TO IMPROVE FUNDING



Shown in the photo are: From left, Dr. R. Graham Powell (Resource Centre), Chief Robert Louie, Andrew Beynon (AANDC), Minister Duncan and Chief Austin Bear.

**OTTAWA, ONTARIO (October 21, 2011)** –At the Lands Advisory Board’s (LAB) Annual General Meeting, LAB Directors and Chiefs from the current signatories to the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Lands Management (Framework Agreement)* voted to approve a new funding formula.

Chief Robert Louie, Chair of the LAB and Chief Austin Bear, Chair of the First Nations Land Management Resource Center Inc. (Resource Centre) were pleased to welcome the Honourable John Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development for the formal signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) bringing into effect the new funding formula.

“We have reclaimed our jurisdiction over our lands and resources through the *Framework Agreement*. We are recognized as governmental bodies with real law-making, land management and enforcement authority,” said Chief Robert Louie, Chair of the LAB. “We have demonstrated that we can positively impact the quality of life for our members and residents, and we have a positive economic impact that reaches well beyond reserve boundaries. Canada is investing in First Nations and in turn First Nations are providing a huge return on that investment.”

“We have always known what we could accomplish, within a short period of just over 10 years, the results are indisputable,” said Chief Austin Bear, Chair of the Resource Centre. “We are pleased that the *Framework Agreement* will be available to additional First Nations. Any First Nation, if it wishes, should have the opportunity to exercise their inherent right to self government. The LAB and the Resource Centre are committed to assisting any and all First Nations in achieving this end.”

Canada has indicated that they intend maximize their approved funding obligations to implement the *Framework Agreement*. By allocating the maximum annual spending authority, the current operational First Nations will now receive improved funding

For more information on the *Framework Agreement* please visit: [www.labrc.com](http://www.labrc.com)

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