

Press Release

August 19, 2011

Through an historical vote, Nanoose First Nation (Snaw'Naw'As) approves its Land Code to enable the Community to now govern its reserve lands and resources

Nanoose First Nation, Vancouver Island, B. C. (August 19, 2011) -

On August 8 and 9, 2011 the Members of Nanoose First Nation cast their ballots to ratify their Land Code. By a majority of 90% of ballots cast, the Community gave a clear message to the Government of Canada that they were opting-out of parts of the *Indian Act* and reassuming authority and decision-making over their reserve lands and resources.

Nanoose is the 35th First Nation to ratify the *Framework Agreement on First Nations Land Management*.

Chief Robert Louie, Chair of the Lands Advisory Board stated: "This is truly an historical event for Nanoose First Nation. Through this unique government-to-government *Framework Agreement*, jurisdiction over Nanoose First Nation reserve lands and resources has been returned to the Community under their own Land Code. Nanoose First Nation governance over their lands and resources will now reflect the unique needs and traditions of the Community, provide sound environmental protection, and accelerate progress in areas such as economic development."

Chief David Bob of Nanoose First Nation was asked why his First Nation wished to reassume control and remove decision-making from the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and his officials. He answered: "In one word, economic development. It frees us up to follow through on economic development in order for our First Nation to become independent. It starts us on that road."

In 2010-2011 numerous success stories of *Framework Agreement* First Nations were reported in various media throughout Canada. Tsleil-Waututh's TWN Wind Power Inc. has become a distributor of 5kW and 50kW community-based wind turbines and Takaya Tours is a leader in the Aboriginal cultural tourism industry. Lands management opportunities leading to healthier communities as industry leader Mike Holmes "Building Homes and Building Skills" partners with Atikameksheng Anishnawbek. The Chippewas of Georgina Island established the Pukwis Community Wind Park, a 20 Megawatt (MW) wind park joint venture. Nipissing First Nation opened a new federally regulated fish processing plant. Henvey Inlet First Nation's Nigig Power Corporation was awarded a Feed-In Tariff contract from the Ontario Power Authority for a 300 Megawatt (MW) wind farm project. The commercial development of Eagle Landing on the Squiala First Nations reserve land, including many big box stores, has greatly contributed to the decline in the unemployment rate for the city of Chilliwack from a peak of 12.9 per cent in 2009 to 5.3 per cent as reported in January 2011. The social and economic benefit of these projects to the First Nations and surrounding communities, as well as to Canada as a whole, is well documented. These First Nations and many others have embraced the

opportunities provided by the *Framework Agreement*, under their individual Land Codes, and are creating active, exciting, and more prosperous futures for their communities as a result.

Nanoose First Nation is situated on Eastern/Central Vancouver Island in British Columbia. Nanoose First Nation is a Coast Salish tribe. The land base is 53.4 hectares and there are 270 members. For more information please visit: www.nanoose.org

For more information on the *Framework Agreement* and success stories please visit: www.labrc.com

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