



Draft of Membertou Land Code Completed

On January 17, 2014 the Governance Committee completed its first draft of the Membertou Land Code. The Land Code is currently undergoing a legal review by Jeanie Lanine from Cedar Law. Once legal review is complete the draft will be shared with the Mi'kmaw translation committee to start translating the code. The Governance Committee will be seeking input from the community on the draft land code over the next several months.

During the week of January 20th, the Governance Committee and Ms. Lanine held a series of community engagement sessions in Membertou to get input from members on the development of Membertou's Land Code, Matrimonial Property Law and the Land Allotment Law. The sessions were well attended and productive discussions were held. Community input is ongoing with the next series of engagements scheduled for April 1-3rd, 2014 and then May 13th- 15th, 2014. The goal is to have the community ratification vote on the Membertou Land Code in November 2014.

Next Steps on Membertou Land Code now?

Chief and Council are looking for your input on the development of land codes and laws. The Membertou Land Code once developed and approved by the community as well as Chief and Council, will become the land law of Membertou. It will replace the land management provisions of the Indian Act.

What is land Governance?

Land governance includes day-to-day administration and the authority to make laws in respect of Membertou's reserve lands and resources.

Will the fiduciary relationship between the Crown and Membertou continue?

Yes, it will continue. However the Ministers responsibility and oversight in LANDS are fewer.



Membertou Seniors Centre: January 17, 2014. First Draft of Membertou Land Code Completed by Governance Committee Members.

Who is liable for damages related to Membertou lands?

Canada will remain liable and will compensate for losses suffered as a result of any act or omission BEFORE the land code comes into effect. Membertou is responsible for its decisions AFTER the land code takes effect.

Is the Indian Act still relevant to Membertou after we adopt the land code?

Yes, approximately 2/3 of the Indian Act will apply. Only the provisions dealing with land matters will not.

Will this agreement affect our treaties?

The Framework Agreement is not a treaty and does not affect treaty rights or other constitutional rights of the First Nations.

Does the Land Code need community approval?

Yes. The Land Code and Individual Agreement MUST be ratified by Membertou members.

FNLAB will host next National Meeting in September at Membertou

The First Nations Lands Advisory Board(FNLAB) will be hosting their next Annual General Meeting in Membertou from September 8-11th, 2014. Membertou community members will be given an opportunity to host and meet with other communities who now manage their lands under the Framework Agreement on First Nations Land Management.

Membertou Developing Matrimonial Real Property Law

In January, Membertou community members were given an opportunity to give input on and help develop a draft Membertou Matrimonial Real Property Law. The proposed law, once developed and ratified, would provide new ways to divide spousal interests in reserve land, upon marriage breakdown. The next opportunity to give input on law will be April 1, 2014, please check upcoming events.

Case Study -- Membertou Land Management

The *Managing Land, Governing for the Future: Finding the Path Forward* for Membertou research project was completed. The report is posted on the Membertou Governance website at www.maupeltutantsutekek.webs.com. Membertou will be distributing a hard copy of the report to each household which requests it prior to April 1st, 2014. It is a great report summarizing best practices of some other First Nations communities who are operating under their own land code and provides some recommendations from Membertou community members on how to move forward on land governance here in Membertou.

Membertou Engages Members on Citizenship/Membership

The Membertou Governance Committee organized engagement sessions on Membertou Citizenship/Membership which were held on February 24-25th. Dr. Pam Palmater was unable to make it; however, Cheryl Simon facilitated sessions with the Governance Committee and the Elders Advisory Committee. She also facilitated sessions with community members at both the community engagement session and the stop & chat sessions. Community members who attend have an opportunity to provide input on the elements of a code. A report on these sessions will be completed and shared on the Governance website at www.maupeltutantsutekek.webs.com.

Chief and Council are looking for your input on the development of the Membership/Citizenship code. The governance committee has scheduled further engagement session for March 17-18; April 14-15; and May 20-21. Please participate in this very important initiative. If you have any questions please contact Cheryl Knockwood, Governance Coordinator at cherylknockwood@membertou.ca or at 902-564-6466 ext. 2520.

Upcoming Events

March 27, 2014

Membertou Governance Committee
9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Membertou Heritage Park

April 1, 2014

Matrimonial Property Law
Stop & Chat: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Community Session: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
MTCC

April 2, 2014

Land Allotment Law
Stop & Chat: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Community Session: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
MTCC

April 3, 2014

Land Code
Stop & Chat: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Community Session: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
MTCC

April 12, 2014

3rd Annual Wikipaltimk Spring Gathering
Noon-Supper
Bingo Hall

April 14-15, 2014

Citizenship Engagement Session
MTCC

Please note above dates are subject to change, confirm details with Governance Coordinator prior to event.

“Kisitutesnu piley kelu’lk nstuita’suaq ta’n knijannaq ksite’ttaqq”

Video recorded training sessions available at: www.maupeltutantsutekek.webs.com

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