

Lac Seul First Nation Land Code

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LAC SEUL FIRST NATION LAND CODE

Preamble

Whereas the Lac Seul First Nation has a profound relationship with the Land that is rooted in respect for the spiritual value of the Earth and the gifts of the Creator and has a deep desire to preserve their relationship with the land and the sacred spiritual sites and the significance of those sites;

And Whereas, since time immemorial, the Anishinaabeg of Lac Seul First Nation lived and sustained themselves in a vast traditional land use area that extended far beyond the surveyed boundary of the reserve identified by Canada and, as a result, Lac Seul First Nation asserts that its interests – cultural, legal and moral – in the lands of the Treaty 3 territory are not restricted to the boundaries of the reserve determined by Canada.

And Whereas Lac Seul First Nation recognizes the ongoing land loss from the flooding that continues to impact the membership's hunting, fishing, and harvesting activities past, present and future;

And Whereas thirteen First Nations and Canada concluded a government-to-government *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management* on February 12, 1996;

And Whereas the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management* provides the option to First Nations of withdrawing their reserve land from the land management provisions of the *Indian Act* in order to exercise control over their land and resources for the use and benefit of their Members;

And Whereas Canada ratified its commitment to the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management* with the enactment of the *First Nations Land Management Act*, S.C. 1999, c.24;

And Whereas under the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management*, Canada recognizes that First Nations have a unique connection to and constitutionally protected interest in their lands, including decision-making, governance, jurisdiction, legal traditions, and fiscal relations associated with those lands;

And Whereas under the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management*, Canada has committed to implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in a manner consistent with the Canadian Constitution;

And Whereas Lac Seul First Nation became a signatory on April 3, 2019 to the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management*, as Lac Seul First Nation wishes to govern its land and resources under the *Lac Seul First Nation Land Code*, rather than having its land and resources managed on its behalf under the *Indian Act*;

And Whereas the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management* acknowledges the special relationship between Lac Seul First Nation and Canada will continue;

And Whereas the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management* is ratified by Lac Seul First Nation through community approval of the *Lac Seul First Nation Land Code*;

**NOW THEREFORE, THIS *LAND CODE* IS HEREBY ENACTED AS THE
FUNDAMENTAL LAND LAW OF THE LAC SEUL FIRST NATION.**

PART 1 PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Definitions

Clarification

- 1.1 Any words or terms used in this *Land Code* which are defined in the *Framework Agreement* shall have the same meaning as in the *Framework Agreement*, unless the context otherwise requires.

Definitions

- 1.2 The following definitions apply in this *Land Code*:

“Canada” means His Majesty the King in Right of Canada;

“Common-Law Partnership” means the relationship between two (2) persons who are cohabiting in a conjugal relationship;

“Community Land” means any Lac Seul First Nation Land in which all Members have a common interest;

“Council” means the Chief and Council of the Lac Seul First Nation or any successor elected government of the Lac Seul First Nation;

“Eligible Voter” means, for the purpose of voting in respect of Land matters under this *Land Code*, a Member who has attained eighteen (18) years of age on or before the day of the vote;

“Extended Family”, in respect of a person, means the person’s grandparent, uncle, aunt, first degree cousin, grandchild, and/or any other relation or relationship that Council may add by law;

“First Nation Lands Register” means the register established pursuant to clause 51 of the *Framework Agreement* and regulated by the *First Nations Land Registry Regulations* or any successor land register that may be established to replace the First Nation Lands Register;

“*Framework Agreement*” means the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management*, entered into between Canada and the signatory First Nations on

February 12, 1996, and amended to include Lac Seul First Nation on April 3, 2019;

“Immediate Relatives”, in respect of a person, means the person’s parent, sister, brother, child, and Spouse;

“Individual Agreement” means the Individual Agreement providing for the specifics of the transfer of administration made between Lac Seul First Nation and Canada in accordance with the *Framework Agreement*;

“Interest”, in relation to First Nation Land, means any Interest, right or estate of any nature in or to that Land, including a certificate of possession, certificate of entitlement, lease, easement, right of way, servitude, or profit à prendre, but does not include title to that Land;

“Land” or “Lac Seul First Nation Land” means any reserve Land that is subject to this *Land Code*;

“Lands Committee” means the Lands Committee established under part 6 of this *Land Code*;

“License” in relation to Lac Seul First Nation Land, means any right of use or occupation of that Land, other than an Interest in the Land;

“Member” means a person whose name appears or is entitled to appear on the Lac Seul First Nation Band Membership List;

“Lac Seul First Nation” means the Lac Seul First Nation and its Members;

“Spouse” means a person who is married to another, whether by a traditional, religious or civil ceremony, and includes a Spouse by Common-Law Partnership.

2. Interpretation

Interpretation

2.1 In this *Land Code*:

- (a) the *Land Code* shall be interpreted in a fair, large and liberal manner;

- (b) the word “shall” signifies an obligation that, unless this *Land Code* provides to the contrary, must be carried out as soon as practicable after this *Land Code* comes into effect or the event that gives rise to the obligation;
- (c) unless it is otherwise clear from the context, the use of the word “including” means “including, but not limited to”, and the use of the word “includes” means “includes, but is not limited to”;
- (d) titles and headings have been inserted in the *Land Code* for convenience of reference only, and are not interpretive aids;
- (e) unless it is otherwise clear from the context, the use of the masculine includes the feminine, and the use of the feminine includes the masculine;
- (f) unless otherwise clear from the context, whenever the singular is used, it will include the plural, and the use of the plural includes the singular;
- (g) all references to a time period of days means consecutive days and not business days;
- (h) where the time limited for the doing of an act expires or falls on a Saturday or Sunday, or a First Nation, federal or provincial holiday, the act may be done on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or holiday;
- (i) where the time limited for the doing of an act in the Lac Seul First Nation administration building falls on a day when the office is not open, the act may be done on the next day that the office is open;
- (j) where there is a reference to a number of days or a number of days between two events, in calculating that number of days, the days on which the events happen are excluded; and
- (k) the principles set out in the Preamble to this *Land Code* may be used to interpret this *Land Code*.

Culture and traditions

- 2.2 The structures, organizations and procedures established by or under this *Land Code* shall be interpreted in accordance with the culture, traditions and customs of the Lac Seul First Nation.

Language

- 2.3 The language of the Lac Seul First Nation may be used to clarify the meaning of any provision in this *Land Code*.

Consistency with *Framework Agreement*

- 2.4 If there is an inconsistency or conflict between this *Land Code* and the *Framework Agreement*, the *Framework Agreement* will prevail to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict.

Paramountcy

- 2.5 If there is an inconsistency or conflict between this *Land Code* and any other enactment of the Lac Seul First Nation, including a by-law enacted under section 81 of the *Indian Act*, this *Land Code* prevails to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict.

Rights not Affected

- 2.6 This *Land Code* does not change:
- (a) any Aboriginal, Treaty, inherent rights or other rights or freedoms that pertain now or in the future to the Lac Seul First Nation or its Members; or
 - (b) the fiduciary relationship between Canada and Lac Seul First Nation and its Members; or
 - (c) the by-law powers of Council pursuant to the *Indian Act*.

Lands and Interests Affected

- 2.7 A reference to Land in this *Land Code* includes all the Interests and rights, as well as the resources that belong to that Land to the extent these are under the jurisdiction of Canada and are part of that Land, and includes:
- (a) the water, beds underlying water, riparian rights, and renewable and non-renewable natural resources in and of that Land;

- (b) all the Interests and Licenses granted by Canada listed in the Individual Agreement; and
- (c) all the Interests and Licenses granted by Lac Seul First Nation after this *Land Code* comes into effect.

Eligible Reserve Land

- 2.8 Only Land that is a reserve of the Lac Seul First Nation is eligible to be governed by Lac Seul First Nation as Land under this *Land Code*.

3. Authority to Govern

Origin of authority

- 3.1 The traditional teachings of the Lac Seul First Nation speak of the obligation of the people of the Lac Seul First Nation to care for and respect the Land and the magnificent wonders of Nature created on the Land. By enacting this *Land Code*, the Lac Seul First Nation is reclaiming this special responsibility.

Flow of authority

- 3.2 The authority of the Lac Seul First Nation to govern its Land and resources flows from the Creator to the people of the Lac Seul First Nation, and from the people to Council according to the culture, traditions, customs and laws of the Lac Seul First Nation.

4. Purpose

Purpose

- 4.1 The purpose of this Land Code is to establish the principles, rules and administrative structures that govern Lac Seul First Nation Land. It outlines how the Lac Seul First Nation will exercise its authority over the Land in accordance with the *Framework Agreement*.

5. Description of Lac Seul First Nation Land

Lac Seul First Nation Land

- 5.1 The Lac Seul First Nation Land that is subject to this *Land Code* is the Land described in Appendix "A" of this *Land Code* and any other reserve

Lands or Interests of the Lac Seul First Nation that are made subject to this *Land Code* by resolution or ministerial order.

Addition to Lac Seul First Nation Land

- 5.2 In accordance with any request made by the Lac Seul First Nation, the Minister may, by order, set apart as a reserve, for the use and benefit of the Lac Seul First Nation, any lands the title to which is vested in Canada, and provide in the order that the lands are First Nation Land.

Application of Land Code

- 5.3 Before the lands are transferred to Canada by the Lac Seul First Nation or a third party for the purpose of being set apart as a reserve, or before the lands are set apart as a reserve, the Lac Seul First Nation may, in accordance with its *Land Code*:

- (a) grant interests or land rights in and licenses in relation to the lands, and
- (b) enact zoning or other laws within the scope of the *Framework Agreement* in relation to the lands;

that will come into force only if and when the lands become Lac Seul First Nation Land.

Amendment to the Description of Land

- 5.4 As of the date of any resolution or ministerial order adding land to Lac Seul First Nation Land, the description of the Lac Seul First Nation Land in the *Land Code* will be deemed to be amended to add the description of the Lac Seul First Nation Land set out in the resolution or order.

Additional Lands

- 5.5 Council shall hold a meeting of Members prior to the amendment of the description of Lac Seul First Nation Land subject to this *Land Code*.

PART 2 FIRST NATION LEGISLATION

6. Law-Making Powers

Council may make Land laws

6.1 Council may, in accordance with this *Land Code*, make Land laws respecting:

- (a) the development, conservation, protection, management, use and possession of Lac Seul First Nation Land;
- (b) Interests and Licenses in relation to Lac Seul First Nation Land; and
- (c) any matter necessary or ancillary to the making of Land laws in relation to the Lac Seul First Nation Land.

Examples of Land laws

6.2 For greater certainty, Council may make Land laws including:

- (a) regulation, control and prohibition of zoning, Land use, subdivision control and Land development;
- (b) the creation, regulation and prohibition of Interests and Licenses in relation to Lac Seul First Nation Land;
- (c) environmental assessment and protection;
- (d) provision of local services in relation to Lac Seul First Nation Land and the imposition of equitable user charges;
- (e) enforcement of Land laws; and
- (f) provision of services for the resolution, outside the courts, of disputes in relation to Lac Seul First Nation Land.

Regulatory Instruments

- 6.3 For greater certainty, in addition to Land laws, Council may make other regulatory instruments, including rules, regulations, standards, codes and policies.

7. Law-Making Procedure

Introduction of Land laws

- 7.1 A proposed Land law may be introduced at a duly convened meeting of Council by:

- (a) the Chief;
- (b) a Councillor; or
- (c) the representative of the Lands Committee, or other body or authority composed of Members, that may be authorized by Council to do so.

Rationalization of Proposed Land law

- 7.2 Any proponent shall submit a written explanation of the reason for the proposed Land law.

Lands Committee Review

- 7.3 Council shall refer a proposed Land law to the Lands Committee for review and comment, unless the Lands Committee is the proponent.

Procedure upon receipt of Proposed Land law

- 7.4 Upon receipt of a proposed Land law, Council may:

- (a) table the proposed Land law for further review or for enactment;
- (b) request that the proponent provide further information or attend before a future meeting of Council to speak to the proposed Land law;
- (c) undertake or direct the preparation of a draft Land law concerning matters raised in the proposed Land law, for consideration by Council; or

- (d) reject the proposed Land law.

Tabling and posting
of proposed Land laws

7.5 Before a proposed Land law may be enacted, Council shall:

- (a) table the proposed Land law at a duly convened meeting of Council;
- (b) post it in public places and publish it online;
- (c) deposit the proposed Land law with the Lands Committee;
- (d) review comments and recommendations, provided by the Lands Committee; and
- (e) take any other steps to give notice of the proposed Land law that Council may consider appropriate.

Urgent matters

7.6 Council may enact a Land law without the usual preliminary steps if it believes that the law is urgently needed for public health and safety, or to protect Lac Seul First Nation Land and its Members. However, this Land law will expire one hundred and twenty (120) days after its enactment unless it is re-enacted following the required preliminary procedures.

Approval of Land law

7.7 Subject to this *Land Code*, a Land law is approved by a quorum of Council at a duly convened meeting of Council open to the Members.

Certification of Land laws

7.8 The original copy of any approved Land law or resolution concerning Lac Seul First Nation Land shall be signed by a quorum of Council.

Land laws taking effect

7.9 A Land law enacted by Council takes effect on the date of its enactment or such later date as specified in the Land law.

8. Publication of Land Code and Land Laws

Publication

- 8.1 All Land laws, this *Land Code*, and any enacted amendments to the *Land Code*, shall be published:
- (a) in the minutes of the Council meeting at which it was enacted;
 - (b) by posting a copy of the *Land Code* and Land law, as soon as practicable after enactment, in a location within the administrative office of Lac Seul First Nation accessible to all Members;
 - (c) by posting a copy of the *Land Code* and Land law online; and
 - (d) by any additional method as Council may consider appropriate.

Registry of Land laws

- 8.2 Council shall maintain a register at the administrative offices of the Lac Seul First Nation. This register will contain the Land Code, all Land laws, and resolutions, including those that have been repealed or are no longer in effect.

Copies for any Person

- 8.3 Any person may obtain a copy of the *Land Code*, a Land law or resolution.

9. Enforcement of Land Laws

Enforceability of Land laws

- 9.1 To enforce its *Land Code* and its Land laws, Lac Seul First Nation shall have the power to:
- (a) establish offences that are punishable on summary conviction;
 - (b) provide for fines, imprisonment, restitution, community services, and alternate means for achieving compliance;
 - (c) establish comprehensive enforcement procedures consistent with federal and provincial law, including inspections,

searches, seizures and compulsory sampling, testing and the production of information; and

- (d) provide for the collection of non-tax debts, fees or charges owed to Lac Seul First Nation using taxation collection remedies made under Lac Seul First Nation taxation laws, if the First Nation has enacted taxation laws or by-laws under another act of Parliament.

Agreement for Recovery of Fines

- 9.2 Lac Seul First Nation may enter into agreements with other governments or government agencies to collect any fines, debts, fees or other penalties imposed by its *Land Code* or First Nation laws.

Prosecuting Offences

- 9.3 For the purpose of prosecuting offences, Lac Seul First Nation may:
 - (a) retain its own prosecutor;
 - (b) enter into an agreement with the province to arrange for a provincial prosecutor; and
 - (c) make laws with respect to the appointment and authority of justices of the peace.

PART 3 COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND APPROVALS

10. Participation of Members

Participation of Members

10.1 Every Member is entitled to participate in the meeting of Members.

11. Participation of Eligible Voters

Participation of Eligible Voters

11.1 Every Eligible Voter is entitled to participate in community approvals.

12. Meeting of Members and Community Approval Procedure

Notice of meeting

12.1 Council shall give written notice of the meeting of Members and any matter requiring community approval at a meeting of Members, and include in the notice:

- (a) the date, time and place of the meeting;
- (b) a brief description of the matter to be discussed;
- (c) a brief description of any matter that requires community approval; and
- (d) other information and material that Council considers appropriate.

Manner of notice

12.2 The notice shall be given to the Members before the meeting or vote, by:

- (a) posting the notice in public places;
- (b) providing the notice to Members and taking reasonable steps to locate and inform Members who reside on and off-reserve;
- (c) posting the notice online; and

- (d) additional methods Council considers appropriate.

Permission of Council

- 12.3 A person, other than a Member, authorized by Council may attend a meeting of Members.

Informed Decision

- 12.4 Council may schedule more than one meeting of Members as may be necessary to ensure that Members are well informed before making a decision on a proposed Land law or Land matter.

13. Community Meetings of Members

Community Meetings

- 13.1 Council shall call a meeting of Members prior to:

- (a) enacting a Land law respecting a community plan or subdivision plan;
- (b) making a decision concerning any development affecting a heritage site or an environmentally sensitive property;
- (c) enacting a Land law respecting environmental assessment and protection;
- (d) enacting a Land law respecting the transfer and assignment of rights and Interests in Lac Seul First Nation Land;
- (e) enacting a Land law respecting family homes and matrimonial interests on Lac Seul First Nation Land;
- (f) enacting a Land law respecting the rate and criteria for the payment of fees or rent for Lac Seul First Nation Land;
- (g) enacting a Land law respecting the rights and procedures on community expropriation; and
- (h) respecting any other matter, Land law or class of law that Council, by Resolution, declares to be subject to this section.

No Quorum

- 13.2 No quorum or minimum level of participation is required at a meeting of Members.

14. Community Approval

Community approval

- 14.1 Community approval shall be obtained for the following:
- (a) any master Land use plan;
 - (b) any new grant or disposition of an Interest or Licence in any Lac Seul First Nation Land exceeding a term of thirty five (35) years;
 - (c) any renewal of a grant or disposition of an Interest or Licence in any Lac Seul First Nation Land that extends the original term beyond thirty five (35) years;
 - (d) any grant or disposition of any non-renewable natural resources on any Lac Seul First Nation Land exceeding a term of five (5) years;
 - (e) any deletion of a heritage site;
 - (f) any voluntary exchange of Lac Seul First Nation Land; and
 - (g) any other matter, Land law or class of law that Council, by resolution, declares to be subject to this section.

Utility Permits Excepted

- 14.2 Community approval is not required for an easement, right of way or permit granted by Council for utilities, including telecommunications, water, electricity, natural gas, sewer services and ancillary services.

Method of Voting

- 14.3 Community approval shall be obtained by one or more of the following methods:
- (a) establishing polling locations;

- (b) show of hands;
- (c) mail-in ballot;
- (d) alternative voting methods, such as electronic and telephone voting; or
- (e) any other method outlined in voting policies.

Approval by Majority

14.4 A matter shall be considered approved if a majority of fifty percent plus one (50%+1) of participating Eligible Voters cast a vote in favor of the matter.

Increased threshold

14.5 Despite 14.4, Council may, by resolution prior to a vote, do either or both of the following:

- (a) establish a percentage of Eligible Voters who must participate in the vote in order for the result to be binding;
- (b) require that a percentage greater than fifty percent (50%) of participating Eligible Voters must approve the matter in order to obtain community approval.

15. Ratification Votes

**Community Approval
by Ratification vote**

15.1 Community approval by ratification vote shall be obtained for an amendment to this *Land Code*.

Exceptions

15.2 A community approval by ratification vote is not required for:

- (a) an amendment to the description of Land of this *Land Code*;
- (b) revisions to this *Land Code* made pursuant to section 41; and
- (c) an amendment to, or renewal of, the Individual Agreement.

Ratification process

- 15.3 Any ratification vote required under this *Land Code* may be conducted in a similar manner as the *Lac Seul First Nation Community Ratification Process*, which was used to ratify this *Land Code*.

Approval by Majority

- 15.4 A matter shall be considered approved if a majority of fifty percent plus one (50%+1) of participating Eligible Voters cast a vote in favor of the matter.

Increased threshold

- 15.5 Despite 15.4, Council may, by resolution prior to a vote, do either or both of the following:
- (a) establish a percentage of Eligible Voters who must participate in the vote in order for the result to be binding;
 - (b) require that a percentage greater than fifty percent (50%) of participating Eligible Voters must approve the matter in order to obtain community approval.

Policies Consultation, Approval
and Ratification

- 15.6 For greater certainty, Council may make Land laws or policies respecting:
- (a) meetings of Members;
 - (b) community consultations;
 - (c) community approvals;
 - (d) ratification votes; and
 - (e) any other matter, that Council, by resolution, declares to be subject to part 3 of this *Land Code*.

PART 4

PROTECTION OF LAND

16. Expropriation

Acquisition by Mutual Agreement

- 16.1 The Lac Seul First Nation may expropriate an Interest or License in Lac Seul First Nation Land, provided that it has made a good faith effort to acquire, by mutual agreement, the Interest or License.

Rights and Interests that may be expropriated

- 16.2 An Interest or License in Lac Seul First Nation Land, or in any building or other structure on that Land, may only be expropriated by Lac Seul First Nation in accordance with the *Framework Agreement* and any Land law enacted for the purpose of establishing the rights and procedures for community expropriations.

Community purposes

- 16.3 A community expropriation shall only be made for necessary community works or other Lac Seul First Nation purposes, including a fire hall, sewage or water treatment facility, community center, public works, utilities, roads, schools, daycare facility, hospitals, health-care facility, and retirement home.

Expropriation Land laws

- 16.4 Before proceeding to make any community expropriations in accordance with this *Land Code* and the *Framework Agreement*, Council shall enact a Land law respecting the rights and procedures for community expropriations, including provisions respecting:
- (a) the taking of possession of the Interest or License;
 - (b) transfer of the Interest or License;
 - (c) notice of expropriation and service of the notice of expropriation;
 - (d) entitlement to compensation;
 - (e) determination of the amount of compensation; and

- (f) the method of payment of compensation.

Public report

- 16.5 Before Lac Seul First Nation expropriates an Interest or License, it shall make a public report on the reasons justifying the expropriation.

Member notification

- 16.6 In the case of an expropriation of a Member's Interest in Lac Seul First Nation Land, the affected Member or Members shall receive notification of the expropriation within a reasonable time prior to the release of the public report.

Rights that may not
be expropriated

- 16.7 In accordance with clause 17.6 the *Framework Agreement*, an Interest of Canada or the province in Lac Seul First Nation Land is not subject to expropriation by the Lac Seul First Nation.

Compensation for
rights and Interests

- 16.8 Lac Seul First Nation shall, in accordance with its Land laws and the *Framework Agreement*:
- (a) serve reasonable notice of the expropriation on each affected holder of the Interest or License to be expropriated; and
 - (b) pay fair and reasonable compensation to the holders of the Interest or License being expropriated.

Compensation calculations

- 16.9 In accordance with clause 17.4 the *Framework Agreement*, Lac Seul First Nation shall calculate the total value of the compensation under this section based on the heads of the compensation set out in the *Expropriation Act* (Canada).

Market value

- 16.10 The "market value" of an expropriated Interest or License is equal to the amount that would have been paid for the Interest or License if it had been sold by a willing seller to a willing buyer under no duress.

Neutral evaluation to Resolve Disputes

16.11 Disputes regarding the Lac Seul First Nation's right to expropriate will be resolved through neutral evaluation, following the procedures outlined in Part IX of the Framework Agreement. The neutral evaluator will apply the sixty (60) day period specified in the Framework Agreement as appropriate to the circumstances.

Arbitration to resolve
Disputes

16.12 The resolution of the following disputes shall be determined by arbitration, in the same manner as provided in part IX of the *Framework Agreement*:

- (a) disputes concerning the right of a holder of an expropriated Interest or License to compensation; and
- (b) disputes concerning the amount of the compensation.

17. Voluntary Exchange of Lac Seul First Nation Land

Conditions for a land
exchange

17.1 The Lac Seul First Nation may agree with another party to exchange a parcel of Lac Seul First Nation Land for a parcel of land from that other party in accordance with this *Land Code* and the *Framework Agreement*.

No effect

17.2 A land exchange is of no effect unless it receives community approval in accordance with this *Land Code* and with clause 14.2 of the *Framework Agreement*.

Land to be received

- 17.3 No land exchange may occur unless the land to be received in the exchange meets the following conditions:
- (a) it shall be equal to or greater than the area of the Lac Seul First Nation Land to be exchanged;
 - (b) it shall be at least comparable to the appraised value of the Lac Seul First Nation Land; and

- (c) it shall become a reserve and Lac Seul First Nation Land subject to this *Land Code*.

Negotiators

- 17.4 The person who will have authority to negotiate a land exchange agreement on behalf of the Lac Seul First Nation shall be designated by resolution.

Additional land

- 17.5 The Lac Seul First Nation may negotiate to receive other compensation, such as money or other additional parcels of land, in addition to the parcel which is intended to become a reserve. Such other parcels of land may be held by the Lac Seul First Nation in fee simple or some other manner.

Federal Consent

- 17.6 Before the Lac Seul First Nation concludes a land exchange agreement, it shall receive a written statement from Canada clearly stating that Canada:
 - (a) consents to set apart as a reserve the land to be received in exchange, as of the date of the land exchange or such later date as Council may specify; and
 - (b) consents to the manner and form of the exchange as set out in the exchange agreement.

Community notice

- 17.7 Once negotiations on the land exchange agreement are concluded, Council shall provide the following information to Eligible Voters before the vote:
 - (a) a description of the Lac Seul First Nation Land to be exchanged;
 - (b) a description of the land to be received in the exchange;
 - (c) a description of any other compensation to be exchanged;
 - (d) a report of a certified land appraiser setting out that the conditions for the land to be received in the exchange have been met;

- (e) a copy or summary of the exchange agreement; and
- (f) a copy of Canada's consent.

Process of land
exchange

17.8 The land exchange agreement shall provide that:

- (a) the other party to the exchange must transfer to Canada the title to the land which is to be set apart as a reserve;
- (b) Council must pass a resolution authorizing Canada to transfer title to the Lac Seul First Nation Land being exchanged, in accordance with the exchange agreement;
- (c) a copy of the instruments transferring title to the relevant parcels of land must be registered in the First Nation Lands Register; and
- (d) the land to be set apart as a reserve has been subject to an environmental audit, and clearance or remediation as necessary, or that Council is satisfied that adequate provisions have been made for such clearance or remediation at no cost to Lac Seul First Nation, and with full indemnification to Lac Seul First Nation.

PART 5 ACCOUNTABILITY

18. Conflict of Interest or Appearance of Conflict of Interest

Application of rules

18.1 The conflict of interest rules in this *Land Code* apply to the following persons:

- (a) each member of Council who is dealing with any matter before Council that is related to Lac Seul First Nation Land;
- (b) each person who is an employee of the Lac Seul First Nation dealing with any matter that is related to Lac Seul First Nation Land;
- (c) each member of the Dispute Resolution Panel; and
- (d) each person who is a member of a board, committee or other body of the Lac Seul First Nation dealing with any matter that is related to Lac Seul First Nation Land.

Duty to report and abstain

18.2 If there is any actual or apparent financial, familial or personal conflict of interest in the matter being dealt with, the person:

- (a) shall disclose the interest to Council, or the board, committee or other body as the case may be;
- (b) shall not take part in any deliberations on that matter or vote on that matter; and
- (c) shall remove themselves from the proceedings.

Apparent conflict of interest

18.3 A person is considered to have an apparent conflict of interest if a reasonably informed individual could believe that the person's ability to make decisions or deliberations on a matter has been influenced by their own private interests or those of an Immediate Relative.

Inability to act

- 18.4 If the board, committee or other body is unable to act due to a conflict of interest, the matter shall be referred to Council.

Meeting of Members

- 18.5 If Council is unable to vote on a matter due to a conflict of interest, Council may refer a matter, a proposed Land law or resolution to a community meeting of Members.

Specific Conflict situations

- 18.6 No Immediate Relatives and not more than two (2) members from the same Extended Family shall be concurrent members of an appointed board, committee or other body dealing with any matter that is related to Lac Seul First Nation Land. Council or any other elected board, committee or body is exempt from this rule.

Disputes

- 18.7 The Panel has the jurisdiction to hear and decide on any matter concerning a conflict of interest.

Other laws

- 18.8 For greater certainty, Council may develop a policy or enact laws to further implement this section.

19. Financial Management

Application

- 19.1 This section applies only to financial matters relating to Lac Seul First Nation Land and natural resources.

Financial policies

- 19.2 Council may, in accordance with this *Land Code*, develop, adapt or adopt financial management laws or policies, including:
- (a) regulating the receipt, management and expenditure of moneys, including transfer payments, all capital and revenue moneys received from Canada, all Land revenue, and moneys received from a grant or disposition of any Interest or License in relation to Lac Seul First Nation Land and natural resources;

- (b) managing financial records and accounts;
- (c) preparing financial statements and audits;
- (d) preparing and implementing budgets and annual presentation of budgets;
- (e) determining the general investment strategy;
- (f) contract notes, loans and other indebtedness;
- (g) establishing fees, fines, charges and levies; and
- (h) establishing and maintaining a recordkeeping system that ensures confidentiality, security of records and document retention.

Administrative structure

19.3 Council shall establish the administrative structure:

- (a) to implement all financial policies and procedures;
- (b) to oversee the day to day operational responsibilities for managing moneys related to Lac Seul First Nation Land and natural resources;
- (c) to ensure the accuracy of the accounting records;
- (d) to reconcile, review and approve bank statements;
- (e) to present the annual budgets to Members;
- (f) to present annually an audit of the financial statements to the Members; and
- (g) to prepare the annual report to Members.

20. Annual Report

Publish annual report

20.1 Council, on behalf of the Lac Seul First Nation, shall publish an annual report on Land matters.

Contents

20.2 The annual report shall include:

- (a) an annual review of Lac Seul First Nation Land and natural resources management;
- (b) annual budget;
- (c) a copy and explanation of the audit as it applies to Lac Seul First Nation Land and natural resources; and
- (d) any other matter as determined by Council or Lands Committee.

21. Access to Information

Access

21.1 Any person may, during normal business hours at the main administrative office of the Lac Seul First Nation, have reasonable access to:

- (a) the register of Land laws;
- (b) the auditor's report; and
- (c) the annual report on Land and natural resources.

Copies for Members

21.2 Any Member may obtain a copy of the auditor's report or annual report.

Access to records

21.3 Any person authorized by Council may inspect the financial records of Lac Seul First Nation related to Lac Seul First Nation Land.

PART 6

LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION

22. Land Staff

Administration

- 22.1 Council may delegate administrative authority to staff to carry out functions necessary for day-to-day administrative operations of Land and natural resources.

23. Lands Committee

Lands Committee
established

- 23.1 The Lands Committee is hereby established for the following purposes:

- (a) assist Council with the development of the Land administration system;
- (b) advise Council and its staff on matters respecting Lac Seul First Nation Land;
- (c) recommend Land laws, resolutions, policies and practices respecting Lac Seul First Nation Land to Council;
- (d) consult with Members and non-Members on Lac Seul First Nation Land issues, and to make recommendations on the resolution of those issues to Council;
- (e) oversee community meetings of Members, community approvals and ratification votes; and
- (f) perform such other duties as may be delegated or assigned by resolution or Land law under this *Land Code*.

Process to
Implement Land laws

- 23.2 The Lands Committee shall, within a reasonable time after this *Land Code* takes effect, recommend to Council a community process to develop and implement Land laws.

Internal procedures

- 23.3 The Lands Committee may establish rules for the procedure at its meetings and generally for the conduct of its affairs, not inconsistent with those established by Council.

24. Implementation of the Lands Committee

First Lands Committee

- 24.1 Immediately upon the coming into effect of this *Land Code*, Council shall select a Lands Committee to serve for a term of up to three (3) years until a policy governing the Lands Committee comes into force.

Policy Governing Successors to
the First Lands Committee

- 24.2 As soon as possible after the coming into force of this *Land Code*, Council, in consultation with the Lands Committee, shall develop a policy for the selection, election, or appointment of Eligible Voters to serve on the Lands Committee, and dealing with such matters as number of members, composition, eligibility, Chair and Deputy Chair, functions of the Chair, term of office, remuneration, conditions of service, termination, vacancies arising during term and such other matters as Council deems appropriate to the operation of the Lands Committee.

PART 7 INTERESTS AND LICENCES IN LAND

25. Revenue from Land and Natural Resources

Determination of
fees and rent

- 25.1 The Lands Committee shall, subject to the approval of Council, establish the process and recommend any Land laws, rules and policies for determining:
- (a) the fees and rent for Interests and Licenses in Lac Seul First Nation Land;
 - (b) the fees for services provided in relation to any Lac Seul First Nation Land; and
 - (c) the fees and royalties to be paid for the taking of natural resources from Lac Seul First Nation Land.

26. Registration of Interests and Licenses

Enforcement of
Interest and Licenses

- 26.1 An Interest or License in Lac Seul First Nation Land created or granted after this *Land Code* takes effect is not enforceable unless it is registered in the First Nation Lands Register.

Registration of
Consent or approval

- 26.2 An instrument granting an Interest or License in Lac Seul First Nation Land that requires the consent of Council, or community approval, shall include a form of certificate indicating that the applicable consent or approval has been obtained.

Duty to deposit

- 26.3 A copy of the following instruments shall be deposited in the First Nation Lands Register:
- (a) any grant of an Interest or License in Lac Seul First Nation Land;

- (b) any transfer or assignment of an Interest or License in Lac Seul First Nation Land;
- (c) every Land use plan, subdivision plan or resource use plan;
- (d) every Land law: and
- (e) this *Land Code* and any amendment to this *Land Code*.

27. Limits on Interests and Licenses

All dispositions in writing

- 27.1 An Interest or License in Lac Seul First Nation Land may only be created, granted, disposed of, assigned or transferred by a written document made in accordance with this *Land Code* and any relevant Land law.

Standards

- 27.2 Council may establish mandatory standards, criteria and forms for Interests and Licenses in Lac Seul First Nation Land.

Improper Transactions void

- 27.3 A deed, lease, contract, instrument, document or agreement of any kind, whether written or oral, by which the Lac Seul First Nation, a Member or any other person purports to grant, dispose of, transfer or assign an Interest or License in Lac Seul First Nation Land after the date this *Land Code* takes effect is void if it contravenes this *Land Code*.

28. Existing Interests

Continuation of existing Interests and Licenses

- 28.1 Any Interest or License in Lac Seul First Nation Land that existed when this *Land Code* takes effect will, subject to this *Land Code*, continue in force in accordance with its terms and conditions.

Voluntary amendment or replacement of
existing Interests and Licenses

- 28.2 For greater certainty, the terms of a designation or surrender made under the *Indian Act* do not restrict the ability of the Lac Seul First Nation and third parties, a Member or non-Member, by agreement, to modify an Interest or License or to have the Interest or License replaced by a new Interest or License issued under this *Land Code*.

Replacing the role of the Minister

- 28.3 Immediately upon the coming into force of this *Land Code*, Canada transfers to Lac Seul First Nation all the rights and obligations of Canada as grantor in respect of existing Interests and Licenses in or in relation to Lac Seul First Nation Land.

Unregistered Interests

- 28.4 A policy shall be established as soon as practical after the coming into force of the *Land Code* to accommodate unregistered Interests.

29. New Interests and Licenses

Authority to make
Dispositions

- 29.1 Council may, on behalf of Lac Seul First Nation, grant:
- (a) Interests and Licenses in Lac Seul First Nation Land, including member allocations, leases, permits, easements and rights-of-way; and
 - (b) Licenses to take natural resources from Lac Seul First Nation Land, including cutting timber or removing minerals, stone, sand, gravel, clay, soil or other substances.

Conditional grant

- 29.2 The grant of an Interest or License may be made subject to the satisfaction of written conditions.

Role of the Lands
Committee

- 29.3 The Lands Committee shall advise Council on the granting of Interests or Licenses and may be authorized to act as a delegate of Council under this section.

30. Interests of Non-Members

Grants to non-Members

- 30.1 A transfer or other disposition of all or any part of an Interest or License in Lac Seul First Nation Land to a person who is not a Member shall not be effective unless and until it is confirmed by a resolution of Council.

31. Existing Interests

Application

- 31.1 Any interest or license in Lac Seul First Nation land that existed when this *Land Code* takes effect will, subject to this *Land Code*, continue in force in accordance with its terms and conditions.

32. Allocation of Land to Members

Policies and procedures for allocation of Land

- 32.1 Subject to the provisions of this *Land Code*, Council in consultation with the Lands Committee shall establish Land laws, policies and procedures for the allocation of Land to Members.

Allocation

- 32.2 Council may, in accordance with this Land Code, allocate Land to Members.
- 32.3 No community approval is required for the allocation of lots to members.

No Certificates of Possession to be issued

- 32.4 The Council will not issue a Certificate of Possession to any person.

No allocation of Land to non-Members

- 32.5 A person who is not a Member is not entitled to be allocated Land or to hold a permanent Interest in Lac Seul First Nation Land.

33. Transfer and Assignment of Interests

Transfer of Member Interest

- 33.1 A Member may transfer or assign an Interest in Lac Seul First Nation Land to another Member without community approval or the consent of Council.

Consent of Council

- 33.2 There shall be no transfer or assignment of an interest in Lac Seul First Nation Land without the written consent of Council, except for:
- (a) transfers between Members;
 - (b) transfers that occur by operation of law, including transfers of estate by testamentary disposition; and
 - (c) transfers in accordance with any family homes and matrimonial interests Land laws.

34. Limits on Mortgages and Seizures

Protections

- 34.1 In accordance with the *Framework Agreement*, the following provisions of the *Indian Act*, as amended from time to time, continue to apply to the Lac Seul First Nation Land:
- (a) section 29;
 - (b) section 87;
 - (c) Sub-section 89(1); and
 - (d) Sub-section 89(2).

Mortgage of Allocated Land

- 34.2 The Interest of a Member in First Nation Land may be subject to a mortgage or charge, but only to a Member or, the Lac Seul First Nation with the express written consent of Council.

Mortgages of leasehold Interests with consent

- 34.3 A leasehold Interest may be subject to charge or mortgage, but only with the express written consent of Council.

Time limit

- 34.4 The term of any charge or mortgage of a leasehold Interest shall not exceed the term of the lease.

Default in mortgage

- 34.5 In the event of default in the terms of a charge or mortgage of a leasehold Interest, the leasehold Interest is not subject to possession by the chargee or mortgagee, foreclosure, power of sale or any other form of execution or seizure, unless:

- (a) the charge or mortgage received the written consent of Council;
- (b) the charge or mortgage was registered in the First Nation Lands Register; and
- (c) a reasonable opportunity to redeem the charge or mortgage is given to Council on behalf of Lac Seul First Nation.

Power of redemption

- 34.6 Subject to prior redemption by the lessee or Member, Council may redeem the charge or mortgage from the charger or mortgagor in possession and shall thereupon acquire all the rights and Interests of the charger or mortgagor and of the lessee or Member for all purposes after the date of the redemption.

Waiver of redemption

- 34.7 Council may waive its right to redemption for any charge or mortgage of a leasehold Interest or License.

35. Residency and Access Rights

Rights Subject to Restrictions

- 35.1 A right to reside on or access Lac Seul First Nation Land is subject to applicable restrictions in Lac Seul First Nation laws, including bylaws and Land laws.

Right of residence

35.1 Subject to section 35.1, the following persons have a right to reside on Lac Seul First Nation Land:

- (a) Members and their Spouses and children;
- (b) Members with a registered Interest in Lac Seul First Nation Land;
- (c) any invitee of a Member referred to in clause (a) or 0;
- (d) lessees and permittees, in accordance with the provisions of the granting instrument; and
- (e) a person authorized in writing by Council, Lands Committee or by a Land law.

Right of Access

35.2 Subject to section 35.1, the following persons have a right of access to Lac Seul First Nation Land:

- (a) a lessee and his or her invitees;
- (b) a person granted a right of access under a permit;
- (c) Lac Seul First Nation Members and their Spouses and children and his or her invitees;
- (d) a person who is authorized by a government body or any other public body, established by or under an enactment of the Lac Seul First Nation, Parliament or the province to establish, operate or administer a public service, to construct or operate a public institution or to conduct a technical survey provided that the person received written authorization from Council; or
- (e) a person authorized in writing by Council or Lands Committee or by a Land law.

Public access

35.3 Any person may have access to Lac Seul First Nation Land for any social or business purposes, if:

- (a) the person does not trespass on occupied Land and does not interfere with any Interest in Land;
- (b) the person complies with all applicable laws; and
- (c) no resolution has been enacted barring that person.

Use of Roads

35.4 Any person may have the right of access to Lac Seul First Nation public roads, subject to this *Land Code* and Land laws.

Trespass

35.5 Any person, who resides on, enters or remains on Lac Seul First Nation Land, other than in accordance with a residence or access right under this *Land Code*, is guilty of an offence.

Civil remedies

35.6 All civil remedies for trespass are preserved.

36. Transfers on Death

Indian Act application

36.1 Subject to any Land laws on family homes and matrimonial interests, until Lac Seul First Nation exercises jurisdiction in relation to wills and estates, the provision of the *Indian Act* dealing with wills and estates shall continue to apply with respect to Interests in Lac Seul First Nation Land.

Registration of transfer

36.2 A person who receives an Interest in Lac Seul First Nation Land by testamentary disposition or succession in accordance with a written decision of the Minister, or his or her designate, pursuant to the *Indian Act*, is entitled to have that Interest registered in the First Nation Lands Register.

Disposition of Interest

36.3 If no provision has been made by the deceased Member of the disposition of the Interest to another Member, the following rules apply:

- (a) the Minister or his or her delegate may make application to Council requesting that an instrument evidencing lawful possession or occupation of Lac Seul First Nation Land be issued; or
- (b) a certificate for an Interest or other instrument may be issued in accordance with procedures established by Council, or application of the Minister or his or her delegate, if the beneficiary or purchaser is a Member of the Lac Seul First Nation.

37. Family Homes and Matrimonial Interests Land Law

Development of rules
and procedures

- 37.1 Council has the power to enact Land laws that apply during a conjugal relationship, when that relationship breaks down or on the death of a Spouse, respecting:
- (a) the use, occupancy and possession of family homes on Lac Seul First Nation Land;
 - (b) the division of the value of any Interests held by Spouses in or to structures and lands on Lac Seul First Nation Land: and
 - (c) the period of cohabitation in a conjugal relationship to qualify as a Common–Law Partnership.

Enactment of rules
and procedures

- 37.2 The rules and procedures contained in family homes and matrimonial Interests Land laws shall be developed by the Lands Committee in consultation with the Members.

Additional Provisions

- 37.3 Family homes and matrimonial Interests Land Laws may include:
- (a) provisions for administering those laws;
 - (b) despite subsection 89 (1) of the *Indian Act*, provisions for enforcing, on Lac Seul First Nation Land, an order of a court

or a decision made, or an agreement reached under those laws; and

(c) procedures for amendment and repeal of those laws.

Notice of Land Laws

37.4 Council will provide, to the provincial Attorney General, notice of its intent to make family homes and matrimonial Interests Land laws and, upon enactment, provide a copy of those laws to the Attorney General.

PART 8 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

38. Process

Dispute Resolution Process

- 38.1 Council will adopt or establish a process for the resolution of disputes in respect of any matters related to Land.

PART 9 OTHER MATTERS

39. Liability

Liability Coverage Laws

- 39.1 Council may enact laws providing for limits on liability, defenses and immunities to any person or entity in respect of any act or omission occurring in the exercise of a power or the performance of a duty under this *Land Code* or under a Land law.

Liability Limitations

- 39.2 The limits on liability, defenses and immunities in a Land law shall be no greater than those that would apply to a person or entity performing a similar duty under the laws of the province.

Extent of coverage

- 39.3 Council shall arrange, maintain and pay insurance coverage for its officers and employees engaged in carrying out any matter related to Lac Seul First Nation Land to indemnify them against personal liability arising from the performance of those duties and determine the extent of the insurance coverage.

40. Offences

Application of the Criminal Code

- 40.1 Unless a different procedure is specified by a Land law, the summary conviction procedures outlined in Part XXVII of the Criminal Code, as amended from time to time, apply to offenses under this Land Code or under any Land law.

Fines & Remedies

- 40.2 Unless specified by a Land law, individuals who commit an offense under this Land Code may face a fine of up to \$5000 or other penalties/remedies established by custom restorative justice procedures. Offenses related to Lac Seul First Nation environmental protection laws may carry penalties in line with Canadian environmental laws.

41. Revisions to *Land Code*

Revisions

- 47.1 A ratification vote is not required for revisions made to this *Land Code* that do not change the substance of this *Land Code*. Council may, from time to time, arrange and revise this *Land Code*. Revisions include:
- (a) an amendment of the description of Lac Seul First Nation Land subject to this *Land Code*;
 - (b) a reference in this *Land Code* to a clause in another act or document that was amended and resulted in clause renumbering;
 - (c) a reference in this *Land Code* to an Act or parts thereof that have expired, have been repealed or suspended;
 - (d) changes in this *Land Code* as are required to reconcile seeming inconsistencies with other acts;
 - (e) minor improvements in the language as may be required to bring out more clearly the intention of the Lac Seul First Nation without changing the substance of this *Land Code*; and
 - (f) correct editing, grammatical or typographical errors.

42. Commencement

Preconditions

- 42.1 This *Land Code* shall take effect if the community approves this *Land Code* and the Individual Agreement with Canada and this *Land Code* has been certified by the verifier pursuant to the *Framework Agreement*.

Commencement date

- 42.2 This *Land Code* shall take effect on the first day of the month following the certification of this *Land Code* by the verifier.

APPENDIX “A”

Description of the Lac Seul First Nation Land

Lac Seul Indian Reserve No. 28

Land Description of the extent of reserve lands that will be subject to the land code of the Lac Seul First Nation under the Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management.

All those lands within the Province of Ontario, Canada, more particularly described as follows:

At Lac Seul Indian Reserve No. 28, as shown on a Land Management Transfer Plan recorded in the Canada Lands Surveys Records as number 112228 CLSR ON, containing 27,966 hectares (69,105 acres) more or less.