

# Environmental Management Planning with First Nations

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# Overview

- ▶ First Nations Community Environmental Management Plans (EMPs)
- ▶ Katzie First Nation EMP development
- ▶ Challenges and opportunities

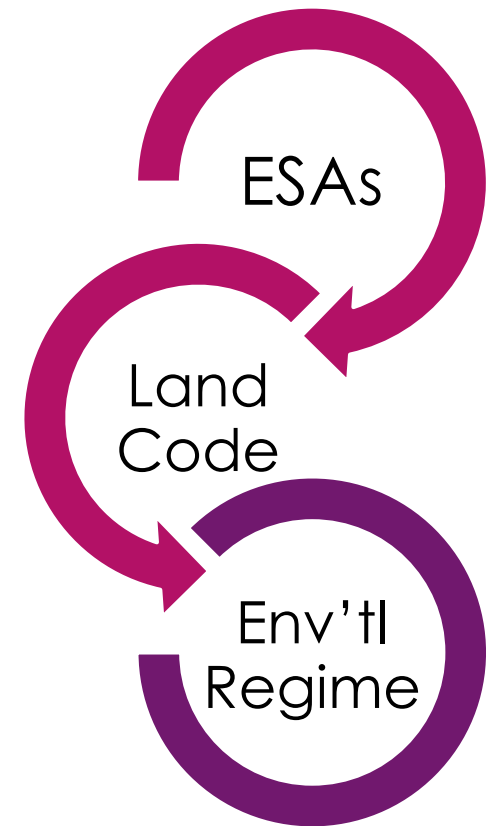
# What is a First Nation Community EMP?

- ▶ A manual to help a First Nation community manage existing environmental issues, as well as activities that have the potential to negatively impact the environment on reserve lands to prevent future issues



# First Nations Land Management Regime

- ▶ Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management (1996) + *First Nations Land Management Act* (1999)
- ▶ Opt out of 32 land management provisions of the *Indian Act*
- ▶ Transfer of land administration and governance + associated liabilities
- ▶ Establishment of Land Code
- ▶ Development of Environmental Protection Regime





# Framework Agreement

- ▶ 153 First Nation signatories
- ▶ 81 currently operating under Land Code



# General EMP Development Process



# First Nations Environmental Laws

- ▶ Regulatory gap
- ▶ Environmental protection regime implemented through laws

## **MATSQUI FIRST NATION ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT LAW**

### **WHEREAS:**

The Matsqui First Nation, also known as the Matsqui Indian Band, ("Matsqui"), has an inherent right to self-government which emanates from its people, culture, language, and land and which is recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;

## **SHXWHÁ:Y VILLAGE**

### **SUBDIVISION, DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICING LAW**

MARCH, 2015

## **SKOWKALE FIRST NATION**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LAW**

AUGUST, 2017

## **SEMA:TH**

### **SOIL DEPOSIT, REMOVAL AND TRANSPORT LAW, 2015**

May 20, 2015

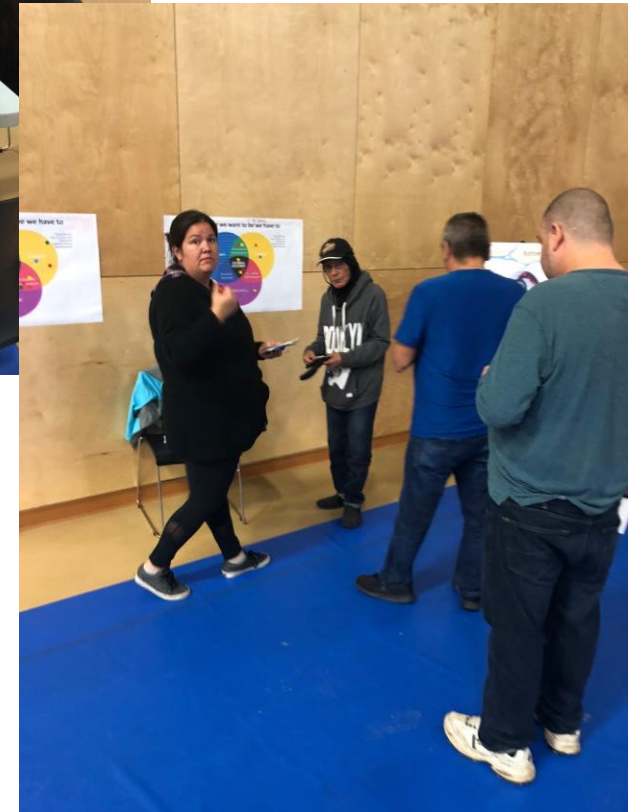


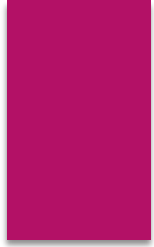
# Katzie First Nation EMP Development



# About Katzie First Nation

- ▶ 5 reserves
- ▶ IR1 Pitt Meadows/Maple Ridge, IR 2 Township of Langely, IR 3 Barnston Island Surrey/Metro Vancouver IR 4 Pitt Lake IR 5 Pitt Meadows/Maple Ridge
- ▶ Operating under Land Code since December 1, 2017.







# EMP Development Approach

- ▶ Informed by those who know best – The People
  - Site visits with staff and community members
  - Key interviews with KFN members (Elders/Youth/Staff)
  - Community engagement activities
  - Lands Committee meetings
  - Leadership meetings
- ▶ External technical inputs
- ▶ Collaborative development of action items and strategies



# Where are we at in process?



**Partnership**



**Research  
& Review**



**Issues &  
Priorities**



**Planning  
Options**



**Draft Plan**



**Final Plan**



**Approval**



# Issues, Priorities & Potential Strategies

Concerns	EMP Priority Area(s)	Potential Strategy Example
Dumping of soils and fills with potential for contamination	Soils and fill	Soil & Fill Deposit & Transfer Law
Potential impacts during land development activities	Land development	Subdivision, Servicing and Development Law to establish permitting process with an environmental assessment component
Degradation of the Katzie Slough and Yorkson Creek	Surface water, fisheries resources, wildlife & species at risk	Work with external partners and funders to identify opportunities for habitat restoration projects
Impacts on cultural heritage resources	Cultural resources	Subdivision, Servicing and Development Law to establish permitting process with archaeological considerations
Flooding and loss of land due to river bank erosion	Land development	Apply for federal climate change adaption planning and infrastructure funding to address dyke and erosion issues

# Key Challenges & Opportunities

# Filling the Regulatory Gap

- ▶ Set the stage during the EMP development process
- ▶ Don't need to start from scratch – look at what other First Nations are doing

# Capacity Gaps

- ▶ Utilize available external capacity – LABRC, trusted consultants
- ▶ Our Role (Lands Staff) – maximize the capacity we have
- ▶ Work with and learn from other First Nation communities
- ▶ Tap into external funding opportunities – to support hiring staff and other projects





# Compliance & Enforcement

- ▶ Community knowledge sharing and outreach
- ▶ Opportunities for resource pooling and sharing, and partnerships
- ▶ LABRC as a resource to support communities

# Supporting Our Leaders

Developing land governance through land code supports our leaders:

- ▶ In their efforts to protect rights and title
- ▶ Create a self sustaining governance
- ▶ Promoting sustainable development

