

FAQ

Still have questions? To provide a better understanding of what a Land Code will mean, we have a compiled of some of the most common questions our members might have—a longer list will also be made available on our webpage at www.metlakatla.ca/mfn_government/lands

Q: Is this part of aboriginal self government?

A: Yes, this is one component of self government & deals only with Metlakatla lands & resources.

Q: Can Metlakatla generate its own revenues?

A: Yes. Revenues can be generated by leasing & granting rights & licenses in Metlakatla land. Metlakatla can also develop its own land directly & generate profit.

Q: How will accountability to the Members be ensured?

A: Land Code provisions are to be reported annually to members on land management activities.

Q: How will the environment be protected?

A: Metlakatla will have the power to make environmental laws.

Q: Are Metlakatla members involved in developing a Land Code?

A: Yes. A lands committee has been formed and keeps the community involved. When the Code begins to take shape, drafts are given to Members for comments. Community meetings and surveying will also take place.

How can you be involved?

To ensure member involvement, we have formed the Metlakatla Lands Advisory Committee to help develop a draft of our Land Code. When the Code begins to take shape, community meetings will be held with members to develop policy, and drafts will be given to members for comments. The final version of the Land Code will be put to a vote by our membership.

Interested in contributing to the development of the Land Code? What land laws do you think will benefit our people? Let us know!

**For more information
please contact:**

A Metlakatla Lands Advisory Committee
Member or the Director of Lands
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**Ayaawgm, Adaawgm,
Na yuubm**

**Our Laws, Our Stories,
Our Territory**



**Metlakatla
Lands
Department**

Building our Land Code

What is a Land Code?

1

The Land Code initiative is about resuming and exercising control over our reserve land and resources. Land management involves day-to-day administration of Metlakatla lands & resources and the right to make laws in respect to those lands & resources.

A Metlakatla Land Code will ensure we can make timely decisions related to:

- Environmental Protection
- Land Use and Occupancy regulations or Law-Making
- Business Licenses
- Developmental Leases

If Metlakatla members vote on and approve the land code, Metlakatla Governing Council will be able to make laws in respect to the development, conservation, protection, management, use and possession of our land.

Metlakatla members will also be asked to vote on an Individual Agreement alongside the Land Code. This Agreement is essentially a contract between the Federal Government and Metlakatla for the transfer of lands to our jurisdiction.

Why do we want this?

2

Our own Land Code will get us out from under the watch of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada in relation to Land Management. This will bring us closer to being self-governing, and prepare us for after the signing of our treaty, as the Land Code could eventually apply to treaty lands.

Self Governance over our Lands

Where will it apply?

4

The Metlakatla Land Code will apply to Metlakatla's reserve lands. Metlakatla has nine reserves: Tsimpsean (Metlakatla), Wilnaskancaud (Grassy Bay), Tugwell Island, Avery Island, Rushton Island, Squaderee, Edye Pass, Tuck Inlet, and Shoowahtlans.

How do we start?

3

Metlakatla is one of many First Nations in BC to sign onto the Framework Agreement on First Nations Land Management. If we ratify the agreement, it would transfer authority and management of reserve lands from the Federal government to our own control, and removes us from roughly 25% of the Indian Act.

We have hired a Lands Director, and set up a Lands Advisory Committee. The next steps for the Lands Department and Lands Advisory Committee are to...

- Engage the membership about what you would like to see in a Land Code;
- Create our own Land Code;
- Prepare an Individual Transfer Agreement with Canada;
- Draft a community ratification process; and,
- Conduct a membership vote on both the Land Code and the Individual Agreement with Canada.

The Metlakatla Lands Advisory Committee has just begun to meet to discuss development of the Code—and the final vote by Metlakatla members isn't until Spring of 2016. The final decision on the Land Code is up to the Metlakatla people, not Chief and Council. Nothing will be finalized without membership approval. All members 18 and older are eligible to vote.