KISPIOX LAND CODE

UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS

What is a Land Code?

A Land Code is a community-approved law that allows Kispiox to take responsibility for managing its reserve lands instead of having land management decisions made under the federal *Indian Act*.

The Land Code would establish the rules, processes and responsibilities for how Kispiox lands are managed, protected and developed.

In simple terms:

A Land Code puts land management decisions in Kispiox's hands.

How would a Land Code benefit Kispiox?

- **Greater Control** - Kispiox would make its own decisions about how community lands are used, developed, and protected.
- **Faster Decisions** - Land management decisions could be made locally, without relying on long federal approval processes.
- **Land Protection** - Kispiox could establish its own rules for protecting land, water, cultural sites and other important areas.
- **Support Economic Opportunities** - A clear local land management system can make it easier to pursue leases, housing, businesses, infrastructure and other economic opportunities.
- **Community Participation** - Kispiox members would have a greater role in shaping how lands are managed and how major land decisions are made.

KISPIOX LAND CODE

TAKING CONTROL OF OUR LANDS

Things to Consider...

A Land Code means greater control over our lands, but it also means greater responsibility. If Kispiox approves a Land Code, we will need the people, resources and policies in place to manage our lands in a way that reflects our own values and priorities.

What is the process?

The Land Code process is about learning, gathering information, and hearing from Kispiox membership, staff, and leadership, about how our lands should be managed. A Land Code is then developed based on Kispiox input, priorities and values. The proposed Land Code is brought to the community for a vote. If approved, Kispiox will take on greater control of its own lands.

Key Steps in the Land Code process:

1. Vision
2. Learn and Explore
3. Gather Information
4. Engage the Community
5. Draft the Land Code
6. Review and Finalize
7. Community Vote
8. Implement (if approved)

KISPIOX LAND CODE

TAKING CONTROL OF OUR LANDS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Land Code?
A Land Code is a community-approved law that allows Kispiox to manage its own reserve lands instead of managing them primarily under the land provisions of the Indian Act.

Why is Kispiox considering a Land Code?
A Land Code would give Kispiox greater control over decisions about our lands. It would allow the community to create land management rules and processes that reflect Kispiox priorities.

What would change if Kispiox adopts a Land Code?
Kispiox would take on greater responsibility for managing its lands. Many land management decisions that are currently handled or approved by the federal government would instead be managed through Kispiox's own laws, policies and processes.

What would stay the same?
A Land Code would not change Kispiox's reserve boundaries or change the status of federal reserve lands. It does not impact Title and Rights, Rights to Traditional Territories, or Status.

Will the Land Code affect membership interests such as Certificates of Possession?
A Land Code would establish local rules for land management, but existing interests and rights remain unchanged and will not be impacted under a Land Code

Will Kispiox be able to make its own leasing decisions?
Yes. One of the key benefits of a Land Code is greater local control over leasing and other land interests.

Will the Land Code allow Kispiox to protect important lands?
Yes. A Land Code can include rules and processes for protecting environmental, cultural and other important areas.

Will a Land Code create more economic opportunities?
It can. Having a clear local land management system may make it easier to plan and support housing, infrastructure, businesses, leases and other economic opportunities.

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TAKING CONTROL OF OUR LANDS

FAQ's continued...

Does a Land Code mean the federal government has no involvement?
Kispiox would have greater control over day-to-day land management, but the community would still operate within Canadian law and the broader First Nations Land Management framework.

Who develops the Land Code?
The Land Code is developed for Kispiox through a community-driven process. Kispiox staff, leadership, members, technical advisors and legal advisors can contribute to its development. The process also involves working with the First Nations Land Management Resource Centre and other federal partners.

Will Kispiox members have a say?
Yes. Community participation is an important part of developing a Land Code. Members will have opportunities to learn about the process, provide input and review the proposed Land Code before it goes to a community vote.

What happens if the community votes NO?
If the proposed Land Code does not receive the required approval, Kispiox would not move forward with implementing it at that time.

What happens if the community votes YES?
If approved, Kispiox would move forward with implementing the Land Code and establishing its local land management system.

How long does the Land Code process take?
The timeline depends on the community and the amount of work required. Developing a Land Code involves research, mapping, environmental information, community engagement, drafting, review and preparation for the vote.

Where can I learn more?
The Kispiox Lands Department will provide information and opportunities for members to ask questions and participate throughout the process.

WANT MORE INFO?
Email us:
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