Iskut On-Reserve Land Code

Virtual Town Hall #4

Land Laws, Meetings and Votes

March 4, 2026

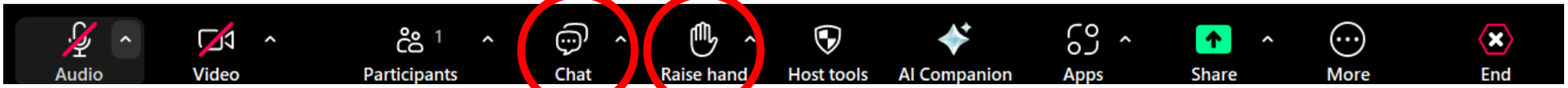
Welcome and Opening Remarks

Agenda

01	Zoom Housekeeping
02	Project Team Introductions
03	Recap of Previous Town Halls
04	Part V: Iskut Legislation
05	Part VI: Lands Meetings and Votes
06	Q&A
07	Closing Remarks

Zoom Housekeeping

Use the **Raise hand** function to unmute / ask a question out loud



Use the **Chat** function to ask questions during the presentation

Project Team Introductions

Recap of Town Hall #3

Purpose of the Town Halls

- Share **bi-weekly updates** with members about the On-Reserve Land Code process
- Present **sections of the Land Code** to help members better understand the document
- Provide members with an **opportunity to ask questions** to the project team
- Ensure members feel confident and **well-informed on voting day**

Communications to Date

- Website views: **103 views** between February 18 and March 4
- Virtual Town Hall #1: Introduction to Land Code
  - 19 attendees
- Virtual Town Hall #2: Introduction to Land Code – Continued
  - 21 attendees
- Virtual Town Hall #3: How Lands Will Be Managed and Administered
  - 13 attendees

On-Reserve Land Code Overview

A Land Code enables a First Nation to opt out of the **44 land management sections of the *Indian Act***, gaining greater control over how reserve lands are managed.

- The On-Reserve Land Code applies to all **current** and **future Iskut reserve lands**.
- With a Land Code in place:
  - Our Band will make our own **land-related decisions**, not the federal government.
  - Our members will help **guide how on-reserve lands are used and protected**.
  - Our **cultural values** will shape the rules that govern our on-reserve lands.

Visit Iskut's Land Code webpage for more information about which *Indian Act* sections the Land Code will replace

Overview of Land Code Process

Establish Land Code Development Coordinator
Spring 2025

Draft Land Code Available for Community Review
January 2026

In-person Community Meetings
Spring 2026

Community Vote
May 2026

Project Kickoff

Drafting the Land Code

Community Engagement on Draft Land Code

Ratification Vote

Establish Land Code Committee
Spring 2025

Review and Update 2017 Land Code
Summer/Fall 2025

Virtual Town Hall Meetings
January – April 2026

Legal Review of Land Code
Spring 2026

Virtual Town Hall #3 Recap

Land and Natural Resources Administration

- The Lands Office is the **day-to-day administrative hub** for land management
- **The Lands Committee is a group appointed by Council to:**
  - Provide guidance, advice and recommendations
  - Represent community perspectives on land issues
  - Assist with administration of reserve lands

Iskut must decide which administration model we want to proceed with:

- **One body:** One committee responsible for all administration
- **Two bodies:** A Lands office and a Lands Committee

What is included in the Draft On-Reserve Land Code?

Iskut's Draft On-Reserve Land Code has been reviewed and updated since 2017. The Draft Land Code has 13 sections.

- Part I Fundamental Rights
- Part II Definitions and Interpretations
- Part III Lands
- Part IV Land and Natural Resources Administration
- **Part V Iskut Legislation**
- **Part VI Lands Meetings and Votes**
- Part VII Protection of Lands
- Part VIII Conflicts of Interest
- Part IX Financial Management
- Part X Interests and Licences in Land
- Part XI Residency and Access
- Part XII Dispute Resolution
- Part XIII Other Matters

What today's session will cover

Draft On-Reserve Land Code

Part V: Iskut Legislation

Law-Making Powers

- Under the On-Reserve Land Code, **Council has the power to make laws** that are permitted under the Framework Agreement
- This includes:
  - Regulating development
  - Conservation
  - Protection
  - Management
  - Use and possession of Lands and Interests

Law-making power granted by the Land Code is what allows Iskut to **fully replace the lands management sections of the *Indian Act***, giving Iskut the **authority to make our own land-related decisions.**

Law-Making Powers

- Some of the laws our community can create with the Land Code include:

Protection of archaeological and cultural resources

Hunting, fishing, management, and protection of fish, wildlife, and their habitat on Iskut Band Lands

Community standards (including noise, fires, unsightly premises, etc.) and land use and development

Environmental assessment and protection

Law-Making Procedures

**Some laws require community approval through a vote before they can be enacted*

Emergency Land Laws

- Council may immediately pass an **emergency Land Law** without the full consultation process if it is deemed **necessary to protect public health, safety, Lands, or Members**.
- An emergency Land Law can last up to 120 days, and can be renewed once up for an additional 120 days if needed.

Draft On-Reserve Land Code

Part VI: Lands Meetings and Votes

Lands Meetings

- A meeting with Members may be held to share information and to gather input. A meeting is required before Council makes decisions about significant land matters, including:
    - A community plan or subdivision
    - Member Only Interests
    - Matrimonial real property
    - Transferring or assigning land rights or Interests
    - Setting land fees or rent
    - Expropriation
    - Environmental protection and assessments
- Members will receive notice of Lands Meetings and a Vote through notices posted at the Band Office, online, mail, and email.

Lands Votes

- The following laws and initiatives will require community approval before they can come into effect:
  - Adoption of (or any major amendments to) a **Land Use Plan**
  - **Expropriation**
  - **Voluntary land exchanges**
  - **Major amendments** to the Land Code
  - Some decisions around approving **Interests or Licences**
  - Decisions where Council has a **conflict of interest**

Questions?

Next Virtual Town Hall:

Wednesday, March 18
from 7 – 8PM

Protection of the Land and Resources

Stay up to date:

- **Bi-weekly Virtual Town Halls**
- **In-person Community Meetings** (dates TBD)
  - Fort St John
  - Kamloops
  - Prince George
  - Smithers
  - Terrace
  - Iskut and Dease Lake
- **Land Code webpage:** iskut.org/on-reserve-land-code-2025-2026
- **Facebook**
- **Email updates**

Questions?

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