Iskut On-Reserve Land Code

Virtual Town Hall #7

April 15, 2026

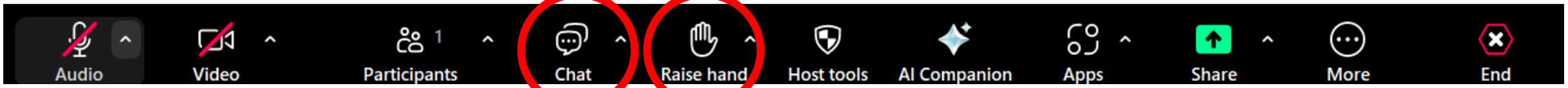
Welcome and Opening Remarks

Agenda

01	Zoom Housekeeping
02	Project Team Introductions
03	Purpose of Tonight’s Session
04	On-Reserve Land Code Overview
05	Individual Agreement Overview
06	Community Ratification Vote
07	Questions

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

Purpose of Tonight’s Session

Purpose of Tonight's Session

- Provide a full overview of the On-Reserve Land Code process
- Summarize key information shared so far
- Explain what happens next, including the May 13 and 14th vote
- Answer your questions

On-Reserve Land Code Process

Overview of On-Reserve 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 13 and 14, 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

What is the On-Reserve Land Code?

Current Decision-Making Process

- Right now, land-related decisions about Iskut's reserve lands are **governed by the Indian Act.**
- Nearly **all significant decisions**, such as passing bylaws, leasing land, or surrendering land, **require ministerial approval** by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).
  - **Any bylaws** developed by Band Councils **must be APPROVED** by ISC.

What is the On-Reserve Land Code?

- The On-Reserve Land Code is a membership-developed document that outlines how our Band will manage our reserve lands and resources.

- If adopted, the On-Reserve Land Code will:
  - Allow Iskut to **opt out of the 44 land management sections of the Indian Act**
  - Allow Iskut to **manage and control its own reserve lands** and natural resources, not the federal government
  - Become Iskut's main law for governing reserve lands

Did you know? *Over 100 First Nations across Canada have passed Land Codes.*

The On-Reserve Land Code…

IS

- ✅ Replaces land management sections of the *Indian Act,* giving Iskut full control over our on-reserve lands
- ✅ Allows for more access to funding for land-management
- ✅ Enables Iskut to make laws to protect our reserve lands and environment

IS NOT

- ❌ It is not a treaty or a land claim
- ❌ Does not impact Tahltan Rights and Title
- ❌ Does not impact Indian Status
- ❌ Does not impact personal taxation
- ❌ Does not apply to other programs and services (health, education, social assistance)

Which Lands does the Land Code apply to?

- **All current Iskut reserve lands:**
  - Kluachon Lake Indian Reserve No. 1
  - Iskut Indian Reserve No. 6
  - Stikine River Indian Reserve No. 7

- Any new lands added to reserve
- Any lands received through land exchanges
- Includes water, natural resources (like timber, gravel, minerals), and related rights.

How Land is Governed

- Under the Land Code, Council has the power to:
  - Make land laws
  - Approve leases and land interests
  - Protect the environment and heritage sites
  - Regulate development zoning, housing and businesses
  - Manage natural resources

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

Decision-Making Under the Land Code

- Iskut establishes:
  - A Lands Office (staff who manage daily land matters)
  - A Lands Committee (advises Council on land issues)

- A community vote is required for major decisions such as:
  - Land use plans (and major amendments to these plans)
  - Land exchanges
  - Long-term leases to non-members
  - Major changes to the Land Code
  - Expropriation

What is the Individual Agreement?

Individual Agreement

- The Individual Agreement is the legal agreement between Iskut First Nation and Canada that **enables the transfer of land management authority from Canada to Iskut**.

- The Individual Agreement:
  - Sets out the terms, responsibilities, and funding for Iskut to take over management of its reserve lands.
  - Works alongside the Land Code (the law) and the CRP (the voting process).

Transfer of Land Management

- **Once the Land Code comes into force:**
  - Iskut takes full control of land administration and decision-making.
  - Canada transfers its roles and responsibilities (except underlying title) to Iskut.
- **Iskut becomes responsible for:**
  - Managing land and resources
  - Collecting rents and revenues
  - Administering leases, permits, and interests

Community Ratification Vote

What will Members be voting on?

- Iskut Members will vote on the adoption of the On-Reserve Land Code.
- The ballot question asks:

Do you approve:

- *The **Iskut First Nation Land Code**; and*
- *The **Individual Agreement**?*

In summary:

Land Code = Law

The On-Reserve Land Code is the law that:

- Gives Iskut the legal authority and structure to manage, protect, develop and govern its reserve lands
- Governs the day-to-day land management

Individual Agreement = Transfer agreement with Canada

The Individual Agreement is the "implementation agreement" that:

- Transfers control of lands from Canada to Iskut
- Provides funding and financial transfers
- Confirms legal responsibilities and protections

Community Ratification Vote

- To bring the On-Reserve Land Code into effect, **members must vote "Yes" or "No" on whether to approve it**.
- Everyone who is 18 or older and a registered member can vote.
- The **majority of voters must vote "Yes**" for it to be adopted.

Voting Day Details

May 13 and **14**, 2026 from **8am – 8pm**

Voting methods:

- electronic (online, telephone or in-person at the polls)
- Polls will be held at Iskut Community Hall where the Electoral Officer will be available to assist voters

Questions?

Next Virtual Town Hall: Voting and What Happens After the Vote

Wednesday, April 29
from 7 – 8PM

Stay up to date:

- **In-person Community Meetings**
- **Land Code webpage:** iskut.org/on-reserve-land-code-2025-2026
- **Facebook**
- **Email updates**

Questions?

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Community Ratification Vote

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Vote in person or electronically