

LNIB LAND USE PLANNING

DECEMBER 4TH COMMUNITY MEETING: WHAT WE HEARD



OVERVIEW

The LNIB Land Use Plan will be used to help LNIB plan for the future use and development of our reserve lands. It is important that the LNIB members play an important role in the development of this plan. A community meeting was held on December 4, 2017 to get input from the members on the revisions to the Land Use Plan.

The purpose of the meeting was to get LNIB members thinking about how they would like to see the reserve lands used in the future. Members were asked not to focus on specific places or individual reserves. Instead, they were asked to think about specific uses for the reserve lands and particular uses.

Members were asked to think about:

1. What currently exists and needs to be kept and/or protected on LNIB reserve lands?
2. What is still needed and/or wanted on LNIB reserve lands?
3. What do the members want to see avoided in the future development of LNIB reserve lands?

These ideas were gathered together on sticky notes and organized by topics and themes. Everyone then had the opportunity to identify their priorities by placing dot stickers on things they felt were the most important.

There were a number of topics that received the most stickers and were identified as the top priorities of the group. Some time was taken to discuss why these were so important. In addition to those top priorities, the members identified some other important themes that should be considered in the update to the LNIB Land Use Plan.





TOP PRIORITIES

There was a set of clear priorities that emerged from the meeting with the community members. The top priorities included:

WATER PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT



There was a long discussion around the importance of ensuring the proper management of water resources for the LNIB community. This included a review of the importance of the proper management of water-related infrastructure on-reserve. The discussion also reviewed the critical need to mitigate and protect against any potentially negative impacts to water resources within the LNIB community. This was discussed as a way to contribute to the protection of the larger watershed and to ensure that the community has access to safe and high-quality drinking water. There was also an extensive discussion about how water is such a top priority because it is connected to everything else.

“You need the water to have the rest!” – LNIB Member at Dec 4 community meeting

ELDERS FACILITIES



Elders spaces and facilities were an important topic of conversation throughout the discussion at the meeting. The members who were present talked about the importance of ensuring that Elders had access to resources in order to age in place on LNIB lands. They suggested that these facilities may include community spaces and buildings addressing the specific needs of the Elders. They also talked about the establishment of housing that is specifically suitable to the needs of Elders.

NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION



Throughout the meeting, the members stressed the importance of protecting LNIB’s natural resources while considering the future development of the reserve lands. This includes avoiding developments on reserve that may result in any contamination or pollution either on LNIB reserve lands or to other resources in the territory.

The members identified that part of ensuring that resources are protected is ensuring that the necessary staff are hired and trained to provide oversight. They also identified that there must also be the appropriate systems and mechanisms in place to enforce the preservation and protection of LNIB’s natural resources.



FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



A number of the members at the meeting identified the importance of fish and wildlife to LNIB. They stressed the importance of pursuing land uses and development on LNIB reserve lands that will not have significant negative impacts on fish and wildlife habitat.

AGRICULTURE



The members who attended the community meeting identified that agriculture is an important part of the LNIB community. Not only is it critical for providing food to the members it is also a source of economic development opportunities for the community. It was clear that the members at the meeting hope to see attention paid to agriculture land uses in the updated Land Use Plan.

OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES

In addition to the priority areas that were identified, a number of other topics were discussed by the members. These issues will also be used to inform future engagement with the community for the revision to the LNIB Land Use Plan.

Some of the important issues that came up in the discussion included:

ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF ENERGY

A number of members present at the December 4th meeting expressed an interest in using LNIB reserve land to explore alternative forms of energy (e.g. wind, solar, etc.). There was discussion of this being a way to provide energy to LNIB members living on-reserve, as well as providing an economic opportunity for the community.

Note: there was recognition that not every form of alternative energy will be possible on LNIB reserve lands, and that it may take time to identify the best possible option for LNIB.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

There were a number of discussions around the importance of establishing a range of community infrastructure to ensure that all LNIB members have access to services on-reserve. A range of health care services were identified as being needed on-reserve for LNIB members of all ages. There were also a number of opportunities identified to specifically provide resources and spaces for children and young families.

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HISTORICAL SITES

The members also identified the importance and the need to protect historical buildings on LNIB reserve lands. This includes some of the old churches and other historic sites. This was identified by the members as being an important part of planning for the future development while acknowledging the past.

HOUSING

The topic of housing came up a few times throughout the meeting. A number of those in attendance identified the importance of ensuring there were areas of LNIB reserve lands set aside for future housing developments. There was also a discussion around the importance of ensuring that there is a variety of housing options available to suit the unique needs of LNIB members. They also talked about prioritizing private and band-owned homes over social housing (such as CMHC housing).

ENFORCEMENT

In addition to talking about land uses to prioritize in the update to the LNIB Land Use Plan, the members also identified the importance of ensuring there are policies in place to implement and enforce the Land Use Plan. This includes developing the necessary policies and bylaws to support the implementation of the plan. It also means ensuring that the right people have been trained and hired to support the enforcement of the plan and subsequent policies and bylaws.





NEXT STEPS

The information gathered from LNIB community members at the December 4th meeting has been reviewed by the project team and is currently being used to direct the next steps involved in updating the LNIB Land Use Plan. This includes the next steps in the community engagement, as well as in the review of technical data and reports.

The project team is currently designing further community engagement to reach out to even more LNIB members. This engagement will take place primarily through online channels such as the LNIB website and Facebook. These engagements will be used to get further input from the LNIB members to continue identifying land use priorities. It will also be used to get further information from members about some of the topics that have been raised so far in the process.

The input from the community members at the December 4th has also already been put to use in the review of the technical data and reports that are being used in the update to the LNIB Land Use Plan. This information has been very helpful to the project team as they start to develop preliminary recommendations that will be presented to the community for review.

It is important for the members to be involved in the process of updating the LNIB Land Use Plan. There will be many more opportunities for LNIB members to get involved. Watch the LNIB website and Follow the Lower Nicola Indian Band - LNIB Facebook page for more information on how to participate!