**First Nations Land Management**

Through First Nation Land Management (FNLM), First Nations gain control over their land, environment and resources by opting out of the 44 sections of the Indian Act related to land management. Under FNLM, First Nations develop their own laws to manage their reserve lands or lands set aside (LSA), including laws governing land designations, environmental protection and matrimonial real property. Lands set aside in Yukon became eligible for FNLM in December 2018.

First Nations can develop projects on their LSA or reserve land without approval from the Crown. These First Nations can use FNLM for cultural purposes or to respond to new business opportunities more quickly and efficiently than those whose reserve lands remain under the Indian Act.

There are now more than 160 First Nations that have opted into FNLM.  First Nations operating with their own land codes have been successful in taking advantage of greater economic development opportunities. Various studies show that First Nations with direct control over their lands and resources are making decisions at the speed of business and that economic development is much greater in comparison to those whose lands are administered by the Government under the Indian Act.

Some First Nations reported as much as a 40 per cent increase in new business overall by band members and a 45 per cent increase into different types of businesses, including supplier and spin-off businesses. These First Nations attracted approximately $53 million in internal investment and close to $100 million in external investment.

Employment opportunities have been generated for band members as well as thousands of jobs for non-members. This has significantly reduced dependence on social programs and pumped millions of dollars into local economies.

Budget 2018 provided $143.5 million over five years to expand FNLM for 50 new First Nation entrants.

For more information on First Nation Land Management or to express interest in opting-in, please visit the CIRNA at [www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca](http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca) or the FNLM Resource Centre at [www.labrc.com](http://www.labrc.com).