
TITLE:	Improving the Additions to Reserves Policy
SUBJECT:	Additions to Reserve / Specific Claims
MOVED BY:	Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Tim Manuel, Upper Nicola Indian Band, BC
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The federal government's policy on Additions to Reserves (ATR) contains many barriers to the addition or creation of reserves which frustrate the resolution of claims and impede First Nation economic and social development.
- B. The Government of Canada has acknowledged the need to change the ATR policy to make it more effective and less restrictive.
- C. The Political Agreement of November 2007 between the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and the Government of Canada makes specific provision for a review of policies and practises related to ATR.
- D. Pursuant to the Political Agreement of November 2007, representatives of the AFN and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) have begun to meet to scope out issues related to revising the ATR policy.
- E. These discussions between the AFN and INAC have identified a range of issues that will need to be addressed in order to fulfil the commitments contained in the Political Agreement, and to reform the ATR policy.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Mandate to AFN to continue discussions with INAC to implement the Political Agreement of November 2007 and, in particular, work towards obtaining positive changes to the ATR policy on issues that would include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a. The development of a new category of ATR that will apply to First Nations who receive cash awards from the Specific Claims Tribunal;
 - b. A renovation of the existing ATR policy and "Chapter 10" of the INAC Lands Manual to make this process more transparent and improve the ability of First Nations to obtain additions to reserve and/or to create new reserves;
 - c. Consideration of the situation faced by landless Bands and those without, but seeking, band status;
 - d. Advance other measures that arise that could improve the ATR policy and/or process.
 - e. Establish a list of priorities based on settlement agreements and adequate resource requirements.
 - f. The purchase of lands directly to settle claims where Canada acknowledges that the land in question has never been surrendered by the First Nation, and that this be done outside of the ATR process.
2. Call on the AFN to report back to the Chiefs-in-Assembly as progress is made.

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