

SUMMARY OF BENEFITS TO FIRST NATIONS

What are the major benefits of the *Framework Agreement* to First Nations?

1. First real recognition of First Nation right to manage its reserve lands and resources
2. Removal of reserve lands from the management provisions of the *Indian Act*
3. Community control over First Nation land management and development
4. Inclusion of both off-reserve and on-reserve members in important decision and law making processes
5. Increased accountability to members of the First Nation
6. More efficient management of First Nation land
7. Recognition of First Nation legal capacity to acquire and hold property, to borrow, to contract, to expend and invest money, to be a party to legal proceedings, to exercise its powers and to perform its duties
8. Transfer by Canada of previous land revenues to First Nation
9. Recognition of the right to receive revenue from interests in First Nation land
10. Protection against arbitrary expropriation of First Nation land
11. Protection against loss of First Nation land through surrender for sale
12. Ability of First Nation to protect the environment
13. Ability of First Nation to address the current vacuum on rules related to land during marriage breakdown
14. Recognition of significant law-making powers respecting First Nation land
15. Removal of the need to obtain Ministerial approval for First Nation laws
16. Recognition in Canadian courts of First Nation laws
17. Recognition of right to create modern offences for breach of First Nation laws
18. Ability to appoint Justices of the Peace
19. Ability to create a local dispute resolution processes
20. Establishment of a legal registry system
21. Establishment of a First Nation run Lands Board to provide technical assistance to First Nations