

TREATY AND ABORIGINAL LAND STEWARDS ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA

INFORMATION PACKAGE



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1. INTRODUCTION

Members of the Treaty and Aboriginal Lands Stewards Association of Alberta (TALSAA) are front line First Nation land managers faced with the significant responsibility and challenge of ensuring the utilization and development of their limited First Nation lands and natural resources are accomplished in an orderly and sustainable manner and in accordance with traditional values and beliefs, current and future community needs, best management practices, applicable legislation and funding programs, among others. To adequately address these significant and multi-disciplinary responsibilities, First Nation land managers must have the appropriate knowledge and diverse capacity combined with access to effective management resources, methods and technology that are continuously improving and commonly unavailable due to financial or other limitations.

To assist First Nation land managers in addressing their broad ranging responsibilities with limited technical and financial resources, TALSAA was conceived by several interested and concerned First Nation land managers in Alberta with common objectives, issues and challenges. As a result, members of TALSAA are dedicated to collectively assisting each other as Alberta First Nation land managers, to ensure the best interests of their First Nation communities are adequately addressed and sustained in the areas of land and natural resource management, for current and future generations. This commitment and dedication will also facilitate a positive new development in enhancing the working relationship of various levels of government, including federal, tribal and provincial agencies, to assist in meeting their fiduciary obligations, specific to the utilization and development of First Nations lands and natural resources, that encompass a dual responsibility—one of the Crown and one of the First Nation.

The Treaty & Aboriginal Land Stewards Association of Alberta (TALSAA) is a non-political organization consisting of First Nations land managers responsible for the administration and management of First Nation lands and natural resources located in the province of Alberta. The main objectives of TALSAA are to advocate and facilitate on-going professional development and capacity building with Alberta First Nation land managers and to enhance existing networking and communications with relevant government and non-government agencies, to assist in improving and sustaining responsible management of First Nations lands and natural resources in Alberta. TALSAA is also the official Alberta regional affiliate of the National Aboriginal Land Managers Association (NALMA) of Canada, whose objectives mirror those of TALSAA.

2. TALSAA BACKGROUND

TALSAA was initially conceived by interested Alberta First Nation land managers representing Treaty 6, 7 and 8 that identified a need for the establishment of an organization to address common issues relevant to First Nation lands in Alberta's First Nation Communities. TALSAA has replaced their predecessor, the Alberta Aboriginal Lands Association (AALA) that was established in 2000 to address similar issues. In the transition from AALA to TALSAA, the original nine (9) First Nation members have continued their networking and communications and have also continued their affiliation with the Board of Directors of the National Aboriginal Land Managers Association (NALMA). The current members of TALSAA include the following First Nations:

Treaty #6
Alexander
Enoch Cree

Treaty #7
Blood Tribe – Kainai
Piikani
Siksika
Tsuu Tina

Treaty #8
Bigstone Cree
Woodland Cree
Swan River

As the objectives of TALSAA are focused ultimately on the sustainability of First Nation lands, natural resources and Communities in Alberta that are within the jurisdiction and interest of the Federal Crown, the short and long term work plan of TALSAA includes the development and implementation of initiatives concurrent with various Canadian Government Department portfolios, policies and business line items, mainly with the Department of Indian & Northern Affairs (INAC). As a result, the efforts of TALSAA in pursuit of their mission, also provides an opportunity to assist INAC and other Federal Government Departments with the delivery of programs, initiatives and communications, as they relate to Alberta First Nations and TALSAA.

With TALSAA and its predecessor AALA, the main factor limiting progress of the Association, has been the procurement of sufficient funding to establish and maintain annual operations. As TALSAA members are First Nation land managers with full time responsibilities, it has been a challenge to find additional time and resources to address TALSAA operations and objectives. However, the current members of TALSAA are optimistic and committed to overcoming this challenge in order that the objectives of the Association can be achieved. An interim arrangement has been made with TALSAA members and the NALMA Head Office to provide administrative and office support in order that TALSAA business and operations continue, until sufficient funding is secured to support a Regional office with administrative staff. To assist TALSAA in ensuring annual operations are adequately funded, interested Government and Non-Government agencies will be solicited to support the initiatives and day-to-day operations of TALSAA.

3. TALSAA MANDATE SUMMARY

3.1 Mission Statement

“As stewards of our Traditional and Reserve Lands in Alberta, utilizing First Nation’s values, traditions and beliefs, we will promote sustainable development and effective practices through the enhancement of professional development and technical expertise in the area of land and natural resource management.”

3.2 Vision

“The Treaty and Aboriginal Land Stewards Association of Alberta (TALSAA) will be a nationally affiliated and recognized organization that supports and promotes best practices in sustainable land use and resource development for all Alberta First Nations.”

3.3 Values

- Continuing traditional Aboriginal land use and stewardship beliefs and practices;
- Integrating “Western Science” and technology in the management and development of First Nation lands;
- Practicing and promoting sustainability of First Nation lands and natural resources;
- Promoting quality education, professional development and relevant capacity building with First Nation land managers in Alberta;
- Sustainable economic development

3.4 Non Political Organization

TALSAA is a non-political organization and operates as a technical land management advisory agency to assist First Nations land managers in the province of Alberta. TALSAA does not provide political consultation on land related issues.

3.5 Membership

Membership with TALSAA is open to all First Nations land managers with Reserve Lands in the province of Alberta. To become a member of TALSAA, a Band Council Resolution (BCR) is required from the Chief and Council of the appropriate First Nation.

Associate membership is open to agencies with an interest in responsible and sustainable management of First Nation lands in Alberta. Associate members do not have voting privileges, but can be involved in planning and implementation of relevant initiatives.

3.6 Objectives

In order to ensure sustainable management and development of First Nation lands and natural resources, it is imperative that interested agencies communicate and connect to ensure progress and improvements are achieved.

With this in mind, TALSAA has set out the following short and long term objectives:

1) Establishment and Self-Sufficient Funding Strategy

- TALSAA will continue to evolve and progress as an organization and will adapt to current and future trends and practices as they relate to sustainable management and development of First Nation Lands.
- TALSAA will become a legally incorporated agency within the province of Alberta and will operate as such on an annual basis, with the establishment of a Regional Office and the hiring of Administrative Support staff.
- TALSAA will secure annual funding to support the on-going operations of the Association through proposals and presentations to Government and Non-Government Organizations affiliated with the Energy (Oil and Gas), Utility (Electricity-Water & Wind) and Natural Resource (Mining, Forestry, Agriculture, Wildlife & Water Resources) industries.

2) Networking & Partnerships

- TALSAA will communicate and network with appropriate Government (Tribal, Federal & Provincial) and Non-Government agencies with an interest in sustainable management and development of First Nations Lands in Alberta, to engage in the development of on-going partnerships, initiatives and dialogue.
- As the objectives of TALSAA are focused on improving the management and development of First Nation lands in Alberta that are within the jurisdiction and interest of the Federal Crown, it is anticipated that the Alberta Regional Office of the Department of Indian & Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) will become a main partner to support and utilize the services of TALSAA to communicate with First Nation land managers on an annual basis.
- TALSAA will accommodate the INAC Alberta Regional office in providing a forum for the exchange of relevant information as it relates to First Nation land managers, programs and services on an annual basis.

3) Professional Development

- TALSAA will be a vehicle for First Nation land managers in Alberta to access capacity building initiatives, including professional development and technical training to enhance the skills and expertise of those Land Managers on an annual basis.

4) Recruitment/Promotion

- TALSAA will host an Annual Regional Gathering to invite interested First Nation Land Managers and Government and Non-Government Organizations to participate in a conference focused on relevant land management issues, with an annual theme. TALSAA will use this opportunity to promote the Association, recruit interested members, invite keynote speakers and acknowledge achievements of excellence in various areas of sustainable and innovative land and natural resource utilization, management and administration.

TREATY & ABORIGINAL LAND STEWARDS ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA (TALSAA)

C/o Lands Department, Enoch Cree Nation, Box 149, Enoch, AB T7X 3Y3
Telephone # (780) 470-4505 Fax # (780) 470-3380



HOW YOU CAN JOIN TALSAA

Joining TALSAA is simple! Once interest has been expressed by a First Nation, a First Nation Council Resolution (or Band Council Resolution) will be signed by your Chief and Council.

There is not currently an annual membership fee. This is subject to change. A First Nation can opt of TALSAA at any time; however, if an annual membership fee is in place, the membership fee is non-refundable.

Once a BCR is provided, you are now officially a member of TALSAA. You will be notified of all meeting dates, and training dates.

Pending funding, TALSAA's meetings take place two to three times a year, and usually coincide with scheduled training session.

TALSAA sponsors travel and accommodation costs for its members to attend meetings and training sessions.

Questions and BCR's can be directed to:

Elliot Fox, Chair
TALSAA
PO Box 470
Standoff, AB T8R 1S3
403-737-8151 P / 403-737-8183 F
efox@btlands.com

You can also send the BCR to:

Julia Taylor, Project Manager
NALMA, 1024 Mississauga Street
Curve Lake, ON K0L 1R0
Toll Free Phone: (877)234-9813
Telephone: (705)657-7660
Fax: (705)657-7177
jtaylor@nalma.ca
NALMA Website: www.nalma.ca

SAMPLE BAND COUNCIL RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Council of _____ Nation recognizes Treaty and Aboriginal Lands Stewards Association of Alberta as an association of First Nation Lands Representatives,

AND

WHEREAS, the Treaty and Aboriginal Lands Stewards Association of Alberta (TALSAA) has been formed to provide a framework for the exchange of information and technical resources in the area of First Nation Lands Management.

The Council of _____ Nation resolves to become a voting member of the Aboriginal Lands Association and will commit a minimum of one representative, exercising one vote on behalf of the _____ Nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there is not currently an annual membership fee for participating in the Treaty and Aboriginal Lands Stewards Association of Alberta Manitoba Uske activities. This is subject to change.