



Beecher Bay started the process in 2000

We created a committee with various age groups including the Chief and Council for direction on what a Land Code could look like for us, using committee meetings, community meetings for members home and members away from home and with the aide of the LAB staff and legal advisors.

Our ratification process was clear, we understood that the full membership needed to be involved in this process but of course we are a small band, we were able to reach the majority of our membership to get them information through mail outs, having meetings at times when members away from home were able to attend .

We became operational August 1st, 2003

The challenges I believe was because of the time mentality, the being used to following the INAC governing style, for people to try think outside of the strict box that has been the lives of First Nation people for generations. The inherent distrust that the government bestowed upon us, in turn we bestowed upon each other in which we are still to this day trying to break that barrier.

Clear direction for your advisory committees, staff, without this there could be a power struggle where there should not be, in our case we had some of that, in which stalled us out for awhile, it makes it harder to move forward once that has taken place but it is achievable, taking mistakes and turning them into lessens learnt. Ensuring your staff is educated in management planning, budgeting, upgrading in software, technologies, etc. Giving your staff and committees the where with all for the betterment of your community.

How did the Land Code make us unique, we are creating a town in our community, (Spirit Bay) through the capability of managing our own lands, learning to understand that how managing and creating Laws to protect our lands, helped us to learn to think out of the box, look beyond just management, to be brave for our children and their future. We constantly trained our members for many different jobs, but because we are a very rural band, we have complications with transportation, so we are now creating a town in which our membership has the option to work, right now it may be in construction, but there are options for our membership to educate themselves in business ventures in our Town, we are creating a Tax base for the future, and which has lead into not only protecting our Land but our water too, by potentially having a spill response base on our lands. By thinking out of the box, with the assistance of our Treaty Table, we were able to move a boarder line out of a community which does not want development in their municipality into a community that does and we are a 3rd owner of those lands, and will receive taxation from both communities. Through these few endeavors, the Land Code has opened our eyes and minds to a bigger and brighter future for our community, there is no box any more.

