



PENELAKUT TRIBE TUMUHW (LAND) CODE IMPLEMENTATION

An Update from the Penelakut Tribe Tumuhw (Land) Annual General Meeting 2021



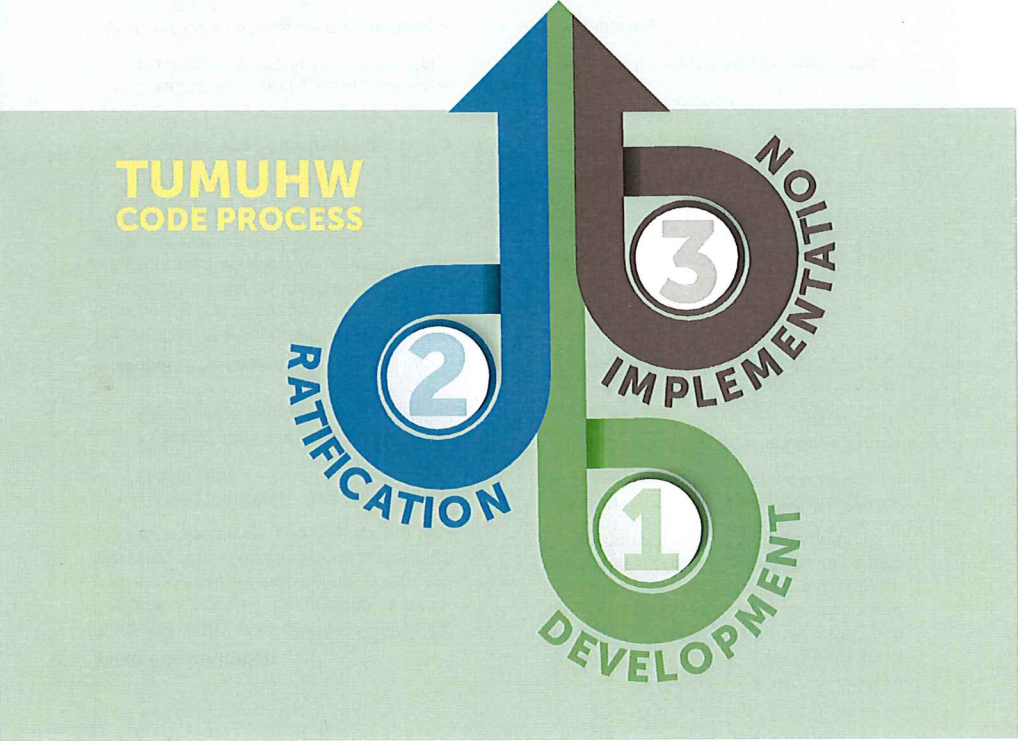
The Penelakut people plan and care for our lands based on Penelakut's distinct Indigenous laws. As outlined through our snuw'ey'ulth and oral history the Penelakut culture and our economic survival has been clearly tied to our relationship to our land and our resources, since time immemorial.

Penelakut peoples are immersed in the cyclical nature of our land and organized our trade, our living spaces, our hunting and gathering based upon these cycles. The cyclical nature of our land, our water and our resources affected us as we affected them. This relationship to our land is sacred in nature and difficult to define in a few words.

In February 2020, Penelakut Tribe passed the Tumuhw Code, and in doing so the Penelakut Tribe has taken control over the management of our lands and resources. As a result, we no longer need to involve the federal government in lands and resources decisions and in 2022 will be putting concerted effort into building up our Lands Department to administer the new governance structures created by the Penelakut Tribe Tumuhw Code. The graph below shows the steps we have taken to get here, and where we are now in implementation.

Tumuhw Code Development and Ratification

Penelakut Tribe became the 94th operational signatory to the Framework Agreement on First Nation and Land Management on December 18th, 2019. In doing so, we exercised our inherent rights and regained the legal jurisdiction to govern our lands and resources. The Tumuhw Code means that the federal government will no longer be involved in the day-to-day decisions of our reserve lands and resources.



Tumuhw Code Implementation

Work to implement the land code started right after the Tumuhw Code was signed. We were able to start up the Lands Department, complete a terms of reference for the Lands Advisory Committee and began the initial stages of selecting the representatives for the Committee.

Unfortunately, as with a lot of things, the COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the work of the Lands Department. Now in 2022, we are getting back to work and are very excited about what the next year has in store for our team and Penelakut Tribe as implementation of the Tumuhw Code continues.

Lands Advisory Committee

The Lands Advisory Committee will advise Council and staff on matters respecting the Land and the Land administration system, make recommendations as to Land Laws Resolutions and policies, will provide updates to Penelakut Members and will hold community meetings to discuss Land issues and oversee community input and approvals. In 2022 we are excited to do the following:

- Have Chief and Council approve the committee Terms of Reference
- Create an information binder for Committee members and Chief and Council
- Recruit Land Advisory Committee representatives
- Host the first Lands Advisory Committee meeting

We are indebted to the hard work of the Development Committee who has been part of the Tumuhw since the beginning and worked hard to create the Tumuhw Code, engage the community, and ratify the code.

Members of the Development Committee have agreed to stay on as we transition to the Lands Advisory Committee. Thank you for all you have done!

Jillian Harris, Matilda Gladys James, Kathleen Johnnie, Charlotte Jane Alcorn, Crystal Alcorn, Valerie Bob, Mary Alice George, Ricki (Pam) Jack, Melvin Jack Sr, Kenneth Thomas

Human Resources and Lands Department Staff Updates

The Lands Department is thrilled that Kellie Aleck has joined the team as the Lands Officer. Kellie was an important part of the Tumuhw Code Development Team and we are so happy that she has decided to join the implementation team.



Kellie has already completed a lot of the training needed on important land administration and information management systems, and this year she will be continuing that training and in conjunction with the Interim Band Manager and technical consultants will be setting up all the systems, an operating budget and a comprehensive workplan.

Acknowledging the extensive work needed to implement the Tumuhw Code and build a Lands Department that can serve all of Penelakut Tribes land governance needs into the future, the Lands Department has also hired technical experts to support key implementation projects or areas.

Lands Administration

A big part of the work of implementing the Tumuhw Code will be creating administrative tools like a lands registry policy and surveying policy. We have done some initial work on these things, and this year will be:

- Training Penelakut Tribe staff on the FNLRS; and
- Finalizing forms for member use, including application forms

Information Management

The Lands Department will be responsible for ensuring that information is easy to find, organized and that confidential information is safeguarded. As we work towards those goals, this year we will focus on:

- Completing an information management needs assessment;
- Creating and implementing a filing system;
- Creating an archiving system for moving lands documents to archive; and
- Creating an annual review and evaluation system

Members' Communications

Taking control of our lands management system means that Penelakut Members have more say in the way that lands are

managed. Members have the right to know about lands management activities and decisions and in some cases will be required to vote on those decisions. Good, consistent communications is a priority for the Lands Department and in 2022 we are going to:

- Submit regular Lands Department updates to the Penelakut newsletter;
- Hold at least one community information session (virtual or in person); and
- Finalize and share the Lands Department Strategic Workplan (2022-2024).

Lands Department Strategic Planning

We will create a strategic workplan to act as a roadmap for implementation in the years ahead. In addition to the priority areas listed above, it will also cover:

- Financial management,
- Lawmaking and enforcement,
- Dispute resolution,
- Natural resource management, and
- Mapping.

All of these areas are managed by the Tumuhw Code and the strategic workplan will identify key milestones for each of the categories the Lands Department will oversee.

Keep in Touch

We are so excited about the work of the Lands Department and hope you are too! We are committed to being accessible to all Penelakut Members and encourage you to stay up to date by visiting the Lands and Resources section of the Penelakut website.

If you have any questions at all, please reach out to Kellie at kellie.aleck@penelakut.ca or 250-246-2321.