



ADDITIONS TO RESERVES

OVERVIEW

Beginning in 2010, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and Canada formed a Joint Working Group (JWG) mandated by AFN resolution to jointly reform the 2001 Additions to Reserve (ATR) policy. This work culminated in 2016 with the release of a new 2016 ATR policy.

The key changes in the new policy included the following:

- Clear policy language about adding lands to reserve
- Updated policy categories
- Removal of “contiguity” as a land selection requirement
- Streamlined process with a focus on joint work planning and project management

At the 2016 AFN Annual General Assembly (AGA) the Chiefs-in-Assembly passed AFN Resolution 17-2016, *Call on Canada to Update the Additions to Reserves Policy (ATR)*, urging Canada to work with the AFN to provide joint policy interpretation and implementation oversight. INAC accepted a 2016 AFN ATR proposal committing the parties to work together to achieve these outcomes.

The Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), the newly formed federal department responsible for ATR implementation, initially proved hesitant to engage with AFN on ATR policy interpretation and implementation oversight. In December 2017, ISC once again signaled a willingness to renew engagement and agreed to provide AFN with limited funding to engage with First Nations on ATR.

UPDATE

Canada has formed a National Advisory Committee on ATR tasked with informing policy implementation and developing tools and best practices to support First Nation communities engaged in the ATR process. The Advisory Committee includes a number of First Nation participants, including the AFN and the

National Aboriginal Land Managers Association (NALMA).

The AFN has been engaging with First Nations and First Nations Land Managers on the new ATR policy. This information will support AFN advocacy efforts at forums such as the National Advisory Committee on ATR.

NEXT STEPS

AFN has completed its current 2017-18 engagement work on ATR. This work included a national survey on the new ATR policy. The

results will be compiled and used to support AFN advocacy efforts in 2018-19.