



ALDERVILLE FIRST NATION
LANDS DEPARTMENT
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN
2024-2027

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ALDERVILLE FIRST NATION LANDS DEPARTMENT STATEMENT:

Vision – To Honour, Protect, and Support Land Sovereignty for Today and Tomorrow.

Mission – To Inspire Action, Create Opportunity, and Promote Stewardship of the Lands and Waters for Future Generations.

Goals – Strengthen Community Voices, Uphold Land Sovereignty, and Protection of our Land

INTRODUCTION

This document will be used to establish the relationship between the Lands & Estate Department with the community of Alderville First Nation. This is a ‘living’ document and subject to further development.

Alderville First Nation Lands & Estate Department, much like many First Nation Lands’ Departments consists of complex initiatives that require long processes, implementation plans, ongoing funding initiatives, and most importantly, ongoing supportive community engagement needed to complete action and deliverables.

One of the biggest challenges within the Lands & Estate Department is effectively reaching out to our community as the “wheel keeps turning”. Due to the constant changes, the engagement plan has been set for a 3-year period 2024-2027 which allows the need for it to be reassessed in the future as action plans are changed or completed.

This report will be sub divided into 3 main components:

- 1. 2024-2027 Land Project Initiatives** – General knowledge of each
 - a. Land Code Operations
 - b. LUP - Land Use Planning
 - c. ATR – Additions to Reserve
 - d. ESA Phase II – Environmental Site Assessment
 - e. Cemetery Redesign
- 2. Required Membership Engagement** – Where and when Membership is required
- 3. Community Engagement Plan** – Overall planning Schedule

Unforeseen factors and variables that affect the initiatives of Alderville First Nation’s Lands & Estate Department or this Lands Community Engagement Plan will be addressed as they arise.

This Lands & Estates Community Engagement Plan does not include various projects happening in between the 5 mentioned in this report, or unforeseen items that may arise within the 3-year period.

2024 – 2027 LANDS PROJECT INITIATIVES

It is important to provide information about the Lands & Estates Department and all the land initiatives to avoid confusion or surprise within the community. A good starting point will be to communicate the following 5 major current developments happening now.

We will start with the first and largest component to the department currently:

1. LAND CODE OPERATIONS

(Reference Appendix A- *Part 3 Community Meetings & Approvals of the Land Code*)

The community has been given some opportunity to become familiar with the Land Code throughout the Land Code Development Phase ratified in March 2023. Although, this doesn't mean the Lands Department will stop being a support and resource for the community to learn more about the *Framework Agreement*, *First Nations Land Management Act*, or the *Alderville First Nation Land Code* itself.

The *Land Code* and its operations will be the largest initiative within the Land's Department for the next 3 years + due to our operational start-up obligations which includes building a Land Governance Office from the ground up, identifying the needs of the community, budgeting the revenues and expenditures of our transition and operations, and giving on-going updates to membership.

The largest piece of the Land Code Initiative within the next 2 years will be the fundamentals of transition:

(AFN receives \$100,000 annual for 2 years for transitional expenditures, and \$341,905 annual for operational expenditures – set to increase)

Here are the transitional objectives being worked on currently within the Lands & Estates Department, Lands Advisory Committee, and Chief and Council:

- **Land Law Making**
 - Community engagement – survey to assist in identifying law priorities
 - Development of policy and procedures
 - Review existing laws
 - Law drafting
- **Setting Up Lands Governance Office**
 - Financial management
 - Organizational structure development
 - Administration, branding, reporting
 - Timeline for transitional and operational budgeting
- **Enforcement**
 - Conduct needs assessment for current enforcement needs
 - Creation of a *Dispute Resolution Panel*
 - Exploration of partnership options
 - Report outlining enforcement needs and assessment

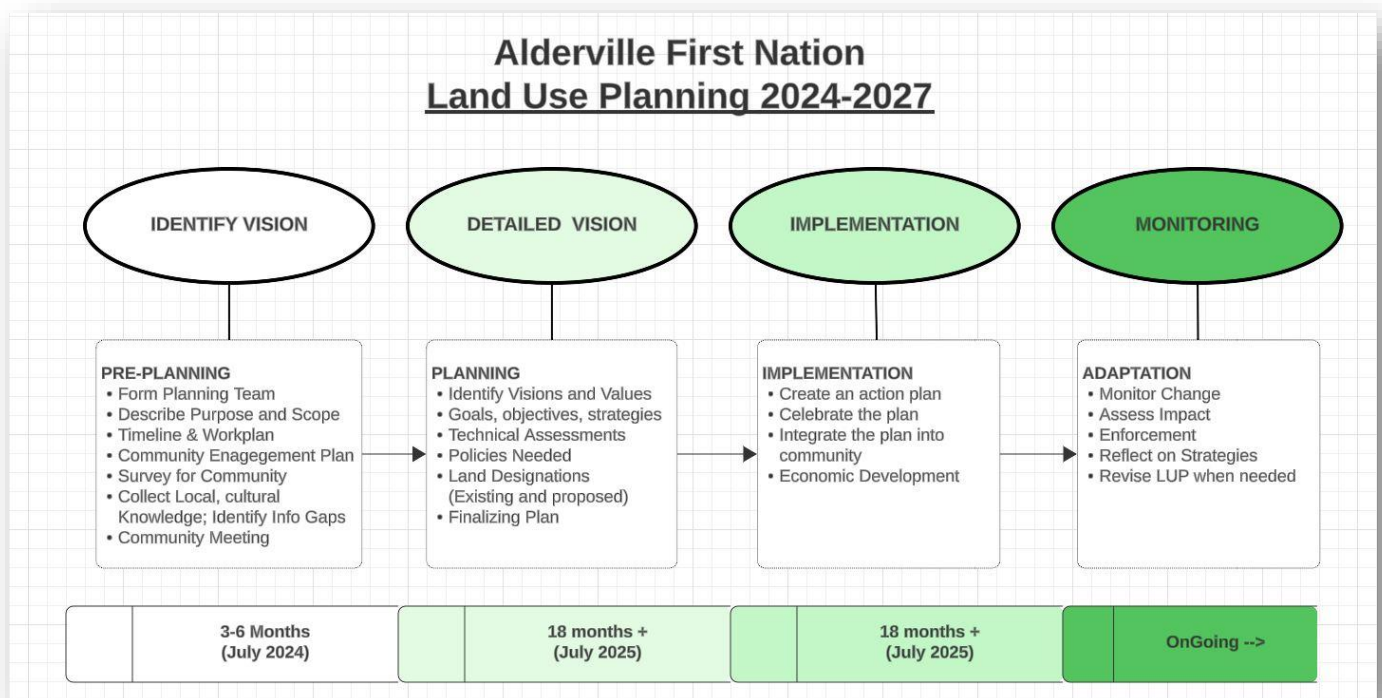
2. LAND USE PLANNING (LUP)

The Lands & Estates Department applied for funding of \$125,000 in Fall 2023 for activities associated with the development of a Land Use Plan. The application was approved, and the Land Use Funding Agreement has been signed in December 2023.

Land Use Planning is the process of planning a systematic and orderly allocation of land, community resources, facilities, and services to maintain or improve conditions for economic and social environments for membership and the community.

The LUP will go hand in hand with the Land Code Initiatives in determining the needs of the community.

The basic comprehensive planning process is below:



*LUP Timeline created by Oralie George via LucidChart.com

Land use planning is not mandatory with the Land Code but as Alderville First Nation is undergoing large transitions while operating under the Land Code, it is in our best interest to have a LUP in place.

The LUP will be governed by Alderville First Nation and will allow for zoning, by-law creations to help regulate land use planning and development.

Here are a few areas where the LUP will be most beneficial for Alderville First Nation:

- Ensures the existing land uses
- Will assist, locate, and safeguard environment such as wetlands, forests, natural features
- Will identify and guarantee heritage sites
- Will promote sustainable land development moving forward

This process will help Alderville First Nation determine the most appropriate land uses for an area, responsible designation for future uses, to encourage our next generations, and allow us to efficiently develop and preserve the land.

3. ATR – ADDITIONS TO RESERVE

- An Addition to Reserve (ATR), is a parcel of land added to the existing land of a First Nation or creates a new reserve.
- The *Additions to Reserve (ATR) Policy* is the process for adding the land to reserve.

The Chief and Council and the Lands & Estates Department are responsible for the process of adding land to reserve for which we have hired Ginny Pearce, a specialized lands consultant who handles our ATR applications and deliverables.

The ATR process is a long one, and every ATR is unique to its own, but all ATR processes contain many challenges resulting in costly delays for First Nations. Since 2015, only 22 ATRs have been approved in Ontario and much of that is due to the inconsistent internal processes working with ISC (Canada). Bottom line, Canada isn't treating First Nations as a "government-to-government" relationship in which they should be.

The ATR process includes Surveying, Environmental Site Assessments (ESA), Third Party Interests (TPIs), Substantial correspondence and wait times, Title Reviews, Ministerial Order (MO) reviews, Department of Justice (DOJ) Reviews, Indigenous Service Canada (ISC) Reviews, Canadian Headquarters (HQ) Reviews.

Please Note: Until the ATR process is complete, these lands are considered 'Fee Simple' land, which also means Alderville First Nation owns the property and we may still do what we want on these lands, but it is not considered within reserve boundary in which case some of our indigenous rights can't be exercised, for example, we still must pay land taxes on these lands. Lands may remain fee simple, or they can be put into the ATR process which can take years and sometimes over a decade to complete. A common trade off First Nations face is whether to endure the cost of paying property land tax vs. the cost and time it takes to do an ATR.

Here are Alderville First Nations recent ATR's; all at different stages of the ATR process:

**Please see Appendix B – AFN ATR Map*

	“Given” Name	Acres	Location	Status
1	Blaker	23.67	Behind Roseneath Public School	Fee Simple
2	Halsey	55	South of 2 nd Line, East Highway 45 – Farmland	Fee Simple
3	Mayko	20.98	In between Highway 45 and 1 st Line- Farmland	Fee Simple
5	Sheppard Farm	170	North and South of Dunnette Lodge Rd. (Severed into Spa, Solar Farm & South Sheppard ATR)	Fee Simple (South Shepp Completed ATR)
6	Moosewoods/ Haliburton	1564	TBD - Survey work currently being done.	Fee Simple
7	Buckhorn	540	1588 County Rd. 36, Bobcaygeon	Fee Simple
8	Stevenson	12	Triangle between 1 st Line Rd. and Highway 45	Fee Simple
9	Smoke House	1.11	Highway 45, across from Cenotaph	Fee Simple
10	Keene Camp	2.28	On Rice Lake, South of Keene, East of Hiawatha	Fee Simple

The ATR Redesign Project is to gather feedback from Chief and Council, AFN Staff, Knowledge Keepers, the Lands Advisory Committee, and the AFN Community to collect feedback and suggestions in which will be put in an in-depth report prepared by Alderville First Nation.

(Alderville First Nation, the Lands & Estate Department, and the Land's Consultant Ginny Pearce are dedicated and expecting to complete the report for submission by July 2024 – Please See Appendix B – Additions to Reserve ATR Redesign)



Visit www.aldervillelandcode.ca to read more on the ATR process!
ATR redesign Presentation can be found in the Resources page!

4. ESA PHASE II – ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENTS

ESA stands for Environmental Site Assessment. As part of the developmental phase of Alderville First Nation's Land Code, a large ESA undertaking was required.

An ESA is a beneficial analysis to understand and evaluate potential environmental impacts. An ESA is usually a mandatory requirement to purchase new land for our ATRs to ensure issues don't exist before purchase, to carry out major projects to avoid costly surprises down the road, and in this case, Alderville is to carry out an ESA for their newly ratified Land Code.

Dillon Consulting has been chosen via RFP (Request for Proposal) process to carry out Phase II, they possess the professional knowledge in engineering, planning, and environmental Science and have identified Alderville First Nation's environmental concerns in which case get tested in Phase II. Phase II is currently in operation and should be complete by March 2024.

ESA Phases of Environmental Assessment:

Phase I – Preliminary Site Assessment

Phase II – Sub-Surface Contamination

Phase III – Remediation and monitoring

Phase IV – Closure

*A report will be given and presented to the community when the ESA is complete.

It is unknown at this time if Alderville First Nation will be proceeding to Phase III.

5. CEMETERY REDESIGN

The Alderville First Nation Cemetery is in desperate need of redesign in terms of grave site identification, mapping, gridding, and new design concepts that complements our traditions, culture, and most importantly respect for our families who are passed on to the spirit world.

Alderville First Nation hired J.D. Barnes Surveying who is currently in the planning stages of gridding and numbering the plots around what's existing in the cemetery already. Once this is complete, we can have a better visual to implement a new development and a structured process on handling burial requests.

**Please See Appendix C- JD Barnes Alderville Grid Plan*

Policy building will be drafted for review in terms of handling the processes of burial requests and Cemetery etiquette in the Alderville First Nation Cemetery.

In addition, Global GPR (Ground Penetrating Radar) will be surveying the 'Old Cemetery' which is the block closest to the road. This is also the part in the cemetery that is a cause of concern when it comes to locating and identifying unmarked graves.

GPR Technology provides reliable, nondestructive testing, underground locating, and subsurface imaging to identify unmarked grave sites and find evidence for future use. As it stands now, the 'Old Cemetery' has become very challenging to dig in for the Alderville First Nation Public Works, and to reserve for the Alderville Lands & Estates Department. This non-invasive survey will be able to let us know where it is safe to place future burials for any remaining reservations in this block.

A ceremonial gathering and smudge will be held by the Lands & Estates Department prior to this work being done to show respect to our loved ones and all our ancestors.

REQUIRED MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

Essentially, Alderville First Nation Membership is needed for every aspect of land operations.

Now that a brief overview has been provided of our main 2024-2027 land initiatives, engaging the Membership in a variety of ways will not only encourage support and acceptance, but will be the source of solid suggestions. Engaging the Members directly fosters a strong sense of ownership. If Membership provides input, and they see that their input is reflected in the way the land is used, they are more apt to co-operate in the implementation of plans and projects where required.

Please read the following breaks of each project where you may engage in the Alderville First Nation Land's Initiatives:

So...Where does Membership come in?

LAND CODE OPERATIONS

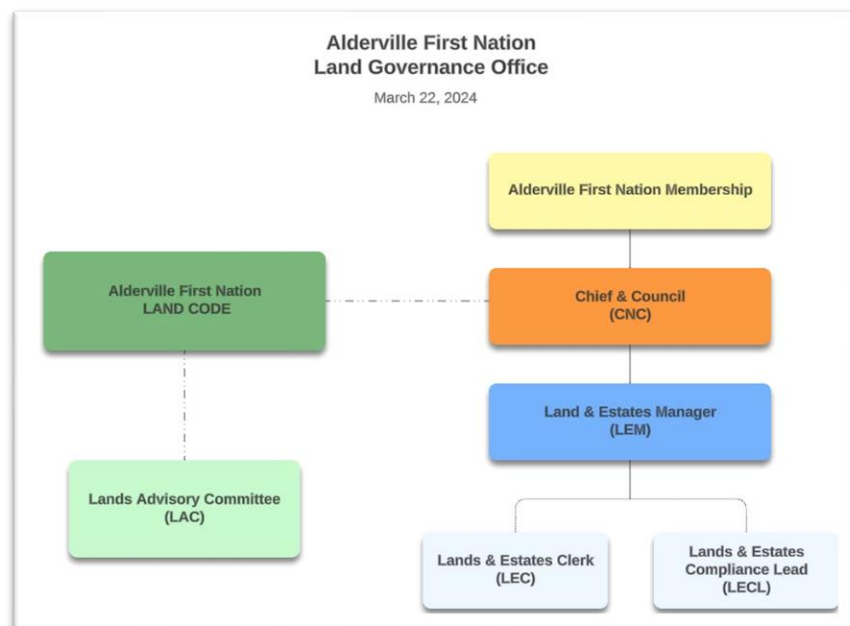
(Please see Appendix A – Community Meetings & Approvals)

As part of *Land Code* operational duties, a Land Governance Office needs to be established to establish staff positions, responsibilities, delegations, and scope of how management under *Land Code* will be carried out.

Alderville First Nation Membership is on top of this ladder as the *Land Code* is to be directly influenced by the Membership and their needs. The membership should expect ongoing requests from their Lands Department for review, approval, and attendance on correspondence between the Lands Department, Land Advisory Committee and the Chief and Council in the following ongoing forms of engagement:

1. Member/Community Meetings
2. Surveys/Questionnaires
3. Draft Evaluations

Please see the following organizational chart before further explanation:



**Land Code* Organizational Structure created by Oralie George

ANNUAL LAND FEST! (Saturday May 11th, 2024, 11:00am – 4:00pm)

Despite on-going engagement throughout the operations of the *Land Code*, every year close to **May 1st** will host a large Open-House for the AFN community, Membership, and surrounding regions who show interest in Alderville First Nation lands as memorial of the date we became an operational under our own Land Code.

This annual event will also host annual review processes and support revisions where needed, as well as celebrate our successful ratification vote. This info session will provide information on Land Use Planning and other Land's initiatives as well.

In addition, there will be lots to do for the whole family including jumpy castles, planting, craft vendors to support our local artisans, games, prizes and fun interactive activities that assist the Lands & Estate Department initiatives!

LAND CODE – LANDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE LOGO CONTEST

There will be a logo contest available and chosen and unveiled at the first Annual May 11th Open House.

Deadline for submissions were March 31st, 2024.

LAND USE PLANNING (IN EARLY PRE-PLANNING PHASE)

There will be 3 levels of engagement that work with the Alderville First Nation community with solicit input welcome throughout the span of the Land Use Planning.

1. **Elders** – Elders have a life's worth of knowledge, who know the land and its historical uses, who have respect for the community. Elder feedback is critical. Elders will be engaged through small clan/family meetings.
 - a. *Call for Elder Engagement will be advertised in the Newsletter*
2. **Youth** – It's important to involve young members as they are our future leaders and will be living on the decisions made today. –
 - a. *Call for Youth Engagement will be advertised in the Newsletter*
3. **Community Meetings** – Open to all Membership, first information will be held at the annual May 1st open house or via zoom. Initiated with a survey.

Overall, there will be a community vote to have the Land Use Plan endorsed prior to implementation. Community Vote expected by Fall 2025 and be implemented within 2026. (Dates expected to be more defined as planning commences)

The Land Use Planning and Land Code Action Items will often 'piggyback' on each other in terms of Community Engagement.

ATR AND ESA PHASE II

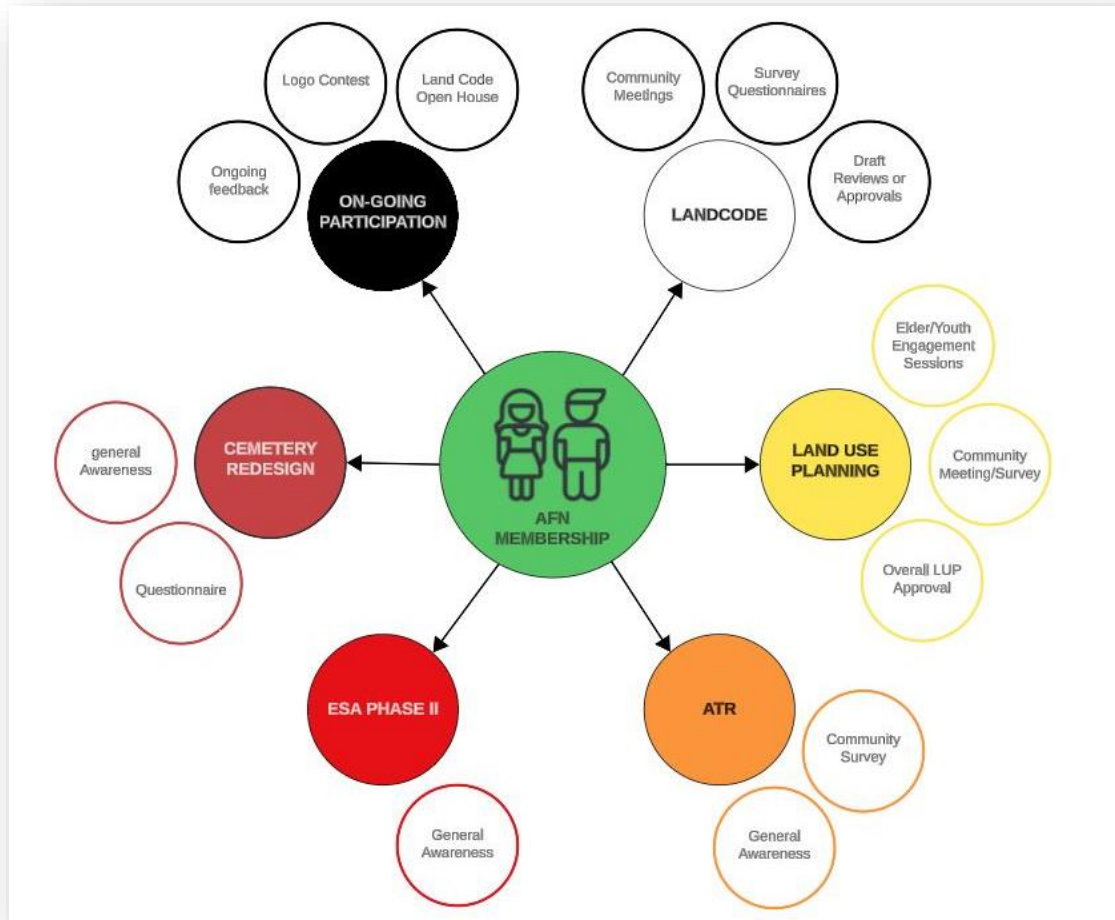
Limited community engagement is needed for these 2 land initiatives but it's very important for the community and Membership to be aware of these internal processes.

There was a Survey posted in the March 2024 newsletter to partake in the ATR Redesign Survey. All participants will be entered into a draw to win a \$50.00 gift certificate.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

A community Engagement Plan will describe the community's vision and policies on how lands are to be thought out, so no member feels left out. Creating a community engagement plan involved developing strategies to involve a community in a meaningful way.

The action log flow chart below demonstrates the engagement that the Lands Department are aiming to receive from Membership and the AFN Community:



*Log created by Oralie George

It is time to set clearer objectives to build a relationship with the community on each specific initiative, please see the schedule created below to help you follow along with the upcoming Lands Initiatives in 2024:

Alderville First Nation Lands & Estates – Community Engagement Schedule:
(Used as a guideline only, schedule is subject to change)

	Description Community Action	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
LAND CODE	Community Meetings												
	Annual Land Fest												
	Needs Assessment (LUP Combined)												
	AFN Law Making Procedure Approval												
	Dispute Resolution Procedure Approval												
	Unforseen Laws - Drafts												
	Logo Contest												
LAND USE PLANNING	Elder Engagements with Survey												
	Youth Engagements Begin with Survey												
	Community Engagements with Survey												
	Live Community Zoom Meeting - Results												
	LUP Community Endorsement- Approval												
ATR REDESIGN	Community Membership Survey												
	General Awareness												
ESA PHASE II	General Awareness												
CEMETERY REDESIGN	Questionnaire												
	General Awareness												
ON GOING PARTICIPATION	Logo Contest												
	Land Fest												
	Quote Contest (Potential)												
	Ongoing Feedback and Suggestions												

*Schedule created by Oralie George

CONCLUSION

As a reminder, this document is to be treated as a 'live' document that provides basic guidelines for Alderville First Nation Membership. Community engagement must be conducted in a manner that is respectful of all partners and mindful of their need to benefit from collaboration.

The purpose of this document is to provide early concepts, a tone, and approach to developing a strategy to engage Alderville First Nation Membership with its Lands & Estate Department. This is the beginning of a process, and it will take time to articulate anticipated outcomes.

Aside from the 5 focused Land Initiatives outlined in this community engagement document, there are several other projects still in progress with the Lands & Estate Department such as direct Membership inquiries, FNLRs data entry, wills & estates, environmental management, surveying, researching, administration etc.

Successful community engagement requires patience, flexibility, and a genuine commitment to listening and responding to the needs of the community. There is still room in this community engagement plan for further development as needed.

In summary, please see the following alternative engagement methods used throughout the continuance of AFNs land initiatives:

- Alderville First Nation Newsletter
- Online Survey & Questionnaire (Links will be provided when they arise)
- Community Meetings
- Virtual Meetings
- Updates on www.aldervillelandcode.ca
- Posters
- Community Workshops
- Community Art Contests
- Engagement HQ or ARC GIS Survey123– Polls, Survey, Community Mapping Tool (Opportunity for community members pin areas of concern, heritage sites, stories and add photos to a map)
- Mail Outs
- FAQ Sheets

You may contact the Lands & Estate Manager at the following if you have any questions:

Oralie George
Lands & Estate Manager
11696 2nd Line Road
Roseneath, ON
K0K 2X0

905-352-2011
orgeorge@alderville.ca

APPENDIX A – PART 3 COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND APPROVALS – OF THE ALDERVILLE FIRST NATION LAND CODE

Alderville First Nation Draft Land Code

November 30, 2022

PART 3 COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND APPROVALS

10. Participation of Members

Participation of Members

10.1 Every Member is entitled to participate in the meeting of Members.

11. Participation of Eligible Voters

Participation of Eligible Voters

11.1 Every Eligible Voter is entitled to participate in community approvals.

12. Meeting of Members and Community Approval Procedure

Notice of Meeting

12.1 Council shall give written notice of the meeting of Members and any matter requiring community approval at a meeting of Members, and include in the notice:

- (a) the date, time and place of the meeting;
- (b) a brief description of the matter to be discussed;
- (c) a brief description of any matter that requires community approval; and
- (d) other information and material that Council considers appropriate.

Manner of Notice

12.2 The notice shall be given to the Members before the meeting or vote, by:

- (a) posting the notice in public places;
- (b) providing the notice to Members and taking reasonable steps to locate and inform Members who reside on and off-reserve;
- (c) posting the notice online; and
- (d) additional methods Council considers appropriate.

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JANUARY 2, 2023

Permission of Council

- 12.3 A Person, other than a Member, authorized by Council may attend a meeting of Members.

No Quorum

- 12.4 No quorum or minimum level of participation is required at a meeting of Members.

Informed Decision

- 12.5 Council may schedule more than one meeting of Members as may be necessary to ensure that Members are well informed before making a decision on a proposed Land Law or Land-related matter.

13. Community Meetings of Members

Community Meetings

- 13.1 Council shall call a meeting of Members prior to enacting a Land Law for the following matters:
- (a) a community plan or subdivision plan;
 - (b) a creation, development, or protection of a Heritage Site ;
 - (c) environmental assessment and protection;
 - (d) the transfer and assignment of Interests and Licences in Alderville First Nation Land;
 - (e) family homes and matrimonial interests on Alderville First Nation Land;
 - (f) payments of fees or rents for Alderville First Nation Land;
 - (g) community acquisition; and
 - (h) any other matter that Council, by Resolution, declares to be subject to this section.

14. Community Approval

Community Approval

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14.1 Community approval shall be obtained for the following:

- (a) any Land Use Plan;
- (b) any new grant or disposition of an Interest or Licence in any Alderville First Nation Land exceeding a term of thirty five (35) years, inclusive of renewals and extensions;
- (c) Alderville First Nation grant or disposition of any non-renewable Natural Resources on any Alderville First Nation Land;
- (d) any removal or alteration of a Heritage Site;
- (e) any voluntary exchange of Alderville First Nation Land under section 17; and
- (f) any other matter, Land Law or class of law that Council, by Resolution, declares to be subject to this section.

Utility Permits Excepted

- 14.2 Community approval is not required for an easement, right of way or Licence granted by Council for utilities, including telecommunications, water, electricity, natural gas, sewer services and ancillary services.

Method of Voting

- 14.3 Community approval shall be obtained by one or more of the following methods:

- (a) establishing polling locations;
- (b) show of hands;
- (c) mail-in ballot;
- (d) alternative voting methods, such as electronic and telephone voting; or
- (e) any other method outlined in voting policies.

Approval by Majority

- 14.4 A matter shall be considered approved if a majority of fifty percent plus one (50%+1) of participating Eligible Voters cast a vote in favour of the matter.

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Increased Threshold

14.5 Despite section 14.4, Council may, by Resolution prior to a vote, do either or both of the following:

- (a) establish a percentage of Eligible Voters who must participate in the vote in order for the result to be binding;
- (b) require that a percentage greater than fifty percent (50%) of participating Eligible Voters must approve the matter in order to obtain community approval.

15. Ratification Votes

Community Approval by Ratification vote

15.1 Community approval by ratification vote shall be obtained for an amendment to this *Land Code*.

Exceptions

15.2 A community approval by ratification vote is not required for:

- (a) an amendment to the description of Land of this *Land Code*;
- (b) revisions to this *Land Code* made pursuant to section 45; and
- (c) an amendment to, or renewal of, the Individual Agreement.

Ratification Process

15.3 Any ratification vote required under this *Land Code* may be conducted in a similar manner as the *Alderville First Nation Community Ratification Process*, which was used to ratify this *Land Code*.

Approval by Majority

15.4 A matter shall be considered approved if a majority of fifty percent plus one (50%+1) of participating Eligible Voters cast a vote in favour of the matter.

Increased Threshold

15.5 Despite section 15.4, Council may, by Resolution prior to a ratification vote, do either or both of the following:

- (a) establish a percentage of Eligible Voters who must participate in the vote in order for the result to be binding;

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- (b) require that a percentage greater than fifty percent (50%) of participating Eligible Voters must approve the matter in order to obtain community approval.

Policies

15.6 For greater certainty, Council may make Land Laws or policies respecting:

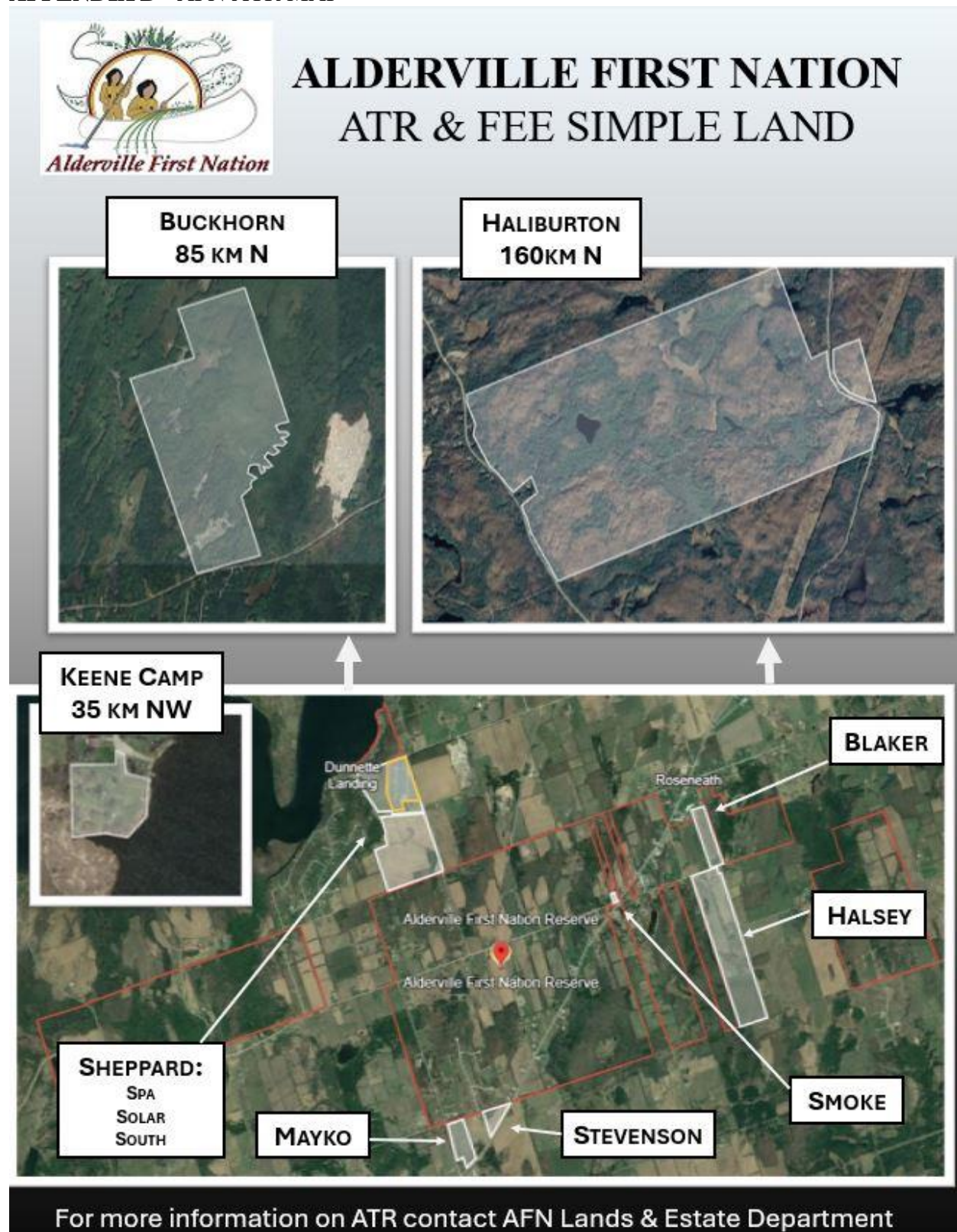
- (a) meetings of Members;
- (b) community consultations;
- (c) community approvals;
- (d) ratification votes; and
- (e) any other matter, that Council, by Resolution, declares to be subject to Part 3 of this *Land Code*.

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APPENDIX B – AFN ATR MAP



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