LANDS MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

Department of Lands, Estates and Membership

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Honouring The Land

Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation invites you to join us in recognizing the living history of the land on which we are located and honouring our connection to it. We acknowledge the land as scared, carry the stories of our ancestors, and serving as the foundation upon which we build out future.

We honour those who came before us and those who now call this land home, ensuring its protection for generations to come. As stewards of Algonquin Territory, we continue to uphold our traditions while shaping policies that preserve the integrity of our lands.

Our Mission

Lands, Estate & Membership's mission is to sustain our connection to the land and grow the roots of diversity, wisdom, and productivity of Algonquin lands for the present and future generations.

Who we are & What we do

The Lands, Estates & Membership Department plays a vital role in overseeing land administration, urban planning, environmental sustainability, and policies that safeguard the interests of the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation.

Our department ensures that the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn Land Code, enacted in August 2019, is properly implemented - allowing us to independently govern our lands without relying on the Indian Act's outdated policies. We work closely with community members to develop land management strategies, conduct environmental assessments, and create policies that reflect the Nation's Values.

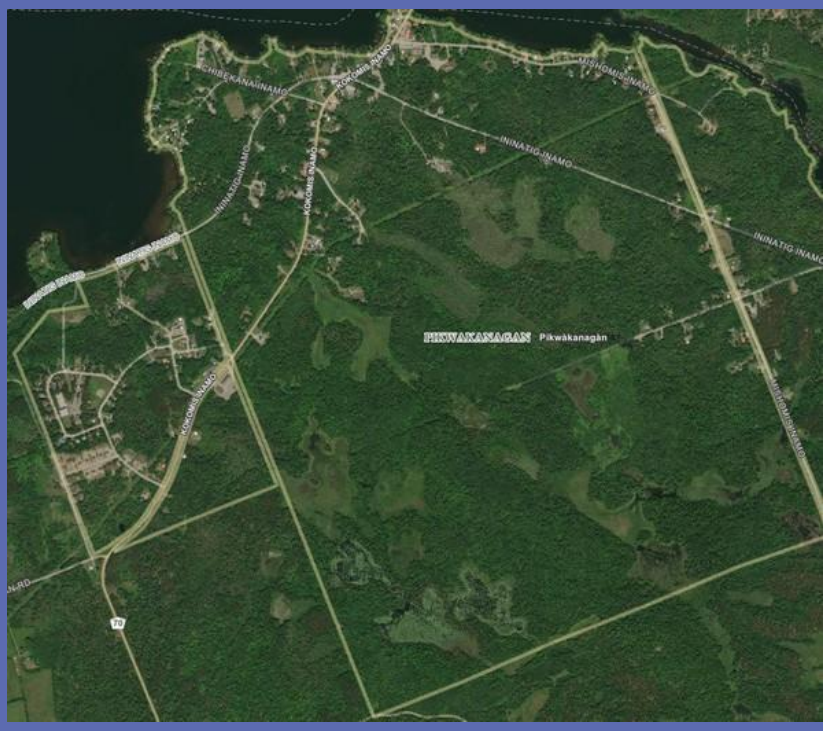
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Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation

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ANNUAL REPORT OVERVIEW

Following the Land Code, this report covers Pikwàkanagàn lands, financial updates to support strong governance.



The Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn Land Code, implemented in August 2019, is a monumental step towards self-governance. It allows the Nation to manage it's own lands independently-without relying on Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) or outdated provisions of the Indian Act.

The Annual report is an essential requirement under the Land Code, ensuring the Nation's land management remains transparent, accountable, and aligned with community needs.

How the Land Code Strengthens Our Governance

01

Decision-Making Power:

Before 2019, land-related decisions required approval from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), often causing delays in economic development, environmental protections, and land use planning. The Land Code empowers Pikwàkanagàn to make these decisions locally and efficiently.

Environmental Responsibility:

With full jurisdiction over Algonquin lands, the Nation can establish laws that reflect its traditional values-ensuring that conservation efforts and land stewardship remain rooted in Indigenous practices.

Membership & Land Allocation:

The Land Code ensures that policies around residency, status membership, and land allotments are decided by the Nation, prioritizing community interests.

Why does the Annual Report Matter?

The annual review, under the land code covers these core areas:

02

Annual Review of Lands:

Tracks all developments, transactions, and land-use updates within Pikwàkanagàn Territory. Provides insights into land leasing, community housing projects, and territorial expansion efforts.

Budget for Pikwàkanagàn Lands, Estates & Membership:

Breaks down financial allocations related to land administration, environmental programs, and infrastructure planning. Outlines expenses, revenues and future projections for sustainable development.

LAND USE PLAN



The push for Addition to Reserve (ATR) began as early as 1954, with longstanding requests to add the shoreline and road allowances to the reserve. The First Nation has been successful in acquiring four new land acquisitions which will be submitted for the Additions to Reserve Process.



Why does ATR Matter?

- Expands “reserve” lands to support community growth
- Strengthens territorial rights and cultural preservation
- Creates opportunities for housing, business, and environmental management

01 The Pikwàkanagàn *Land Use Plan* is a guiding document designed to ensure that our Nation's lands are effectively managed, protected, and developed in ways that honor our traditions, community vision, and environmental responsibility. It helps us plan for growth, preserve natural resources, and support future generations while aligning with governance under the *Land Code.*

02 It's important to understand that this *Land Use Plan* is not the *Land Claim*. The *Land Claim (Treaty)* involves the Algonquins of Ontario negotiating rights over 9 million acres within the Ottawa River and Mattawa River watersheds. In contrast, the *Land Use Plan* focuses solely on *Pikwàkanagàn Reserve lands,* ensuring responsible development through community voting and participation.

Why Membership Approval is Crucial

03 The *Land Use Plan* ensures that land usage reflects Pikwàkanagàn's vision and priorities, allowing for housing developments, commercial spaces, cultural sites and environmental conservation, But before it can be implemented, membership approval is required. The first vote on January 7, 2023 did not pass - not because of opposition to the plan, but because the required 10% voter threshold was missed by just 6 votes. In total, 203 members participated with 161 voting in favor (90.96%) and 16 voting against.

In accordance with our *Land Code*, the second vote requires only 5% voter participation. More engagement is strongly encouraged-your vote matters in shaping the development and future of Pikwàkanagàn lands.

BAND GOVERNANCE: STRENTHENING PIKWÀKANAGÀN'S SELF-GOVERNANCE



Current Leadership

Chief: Greg Sarazin
Councilors: From left Kevin Lamarr, Ryan Carle, (Chief Greg Sarazin) Merv Sarazin, Dale Benoit, Taylor Ozawanimke, Angelina Commanda

Term Length: Three Years per Election cycle – next Election scheduled for March 2029

LEGISLATIVE CHALLENGES
ADDRESSING THE FURTURE OF PIKWÀKANAGÀN

The Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation operate under a custom electoral system, ensuring that governance decisions reflect the needs and priorities of the community. The Nation exercises self-governance through the Pikwàkanagàn Land Code, which allows for independent management of lands, policies, and enforcement without reliance on the Indian Act. The Sections under Estates and Registration still fall under the Indian Act.

Pikwàkanagàn falls under federal environmental legislation, including the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (1999) and the Species at Risk Act (2002). In 2023, the Lands, Estate & Membership Department drafted an Environmental Management Plan to ensure environmental protection and mitigate the effects of the future development on fragile ecosystems.

Behind the Scenes:

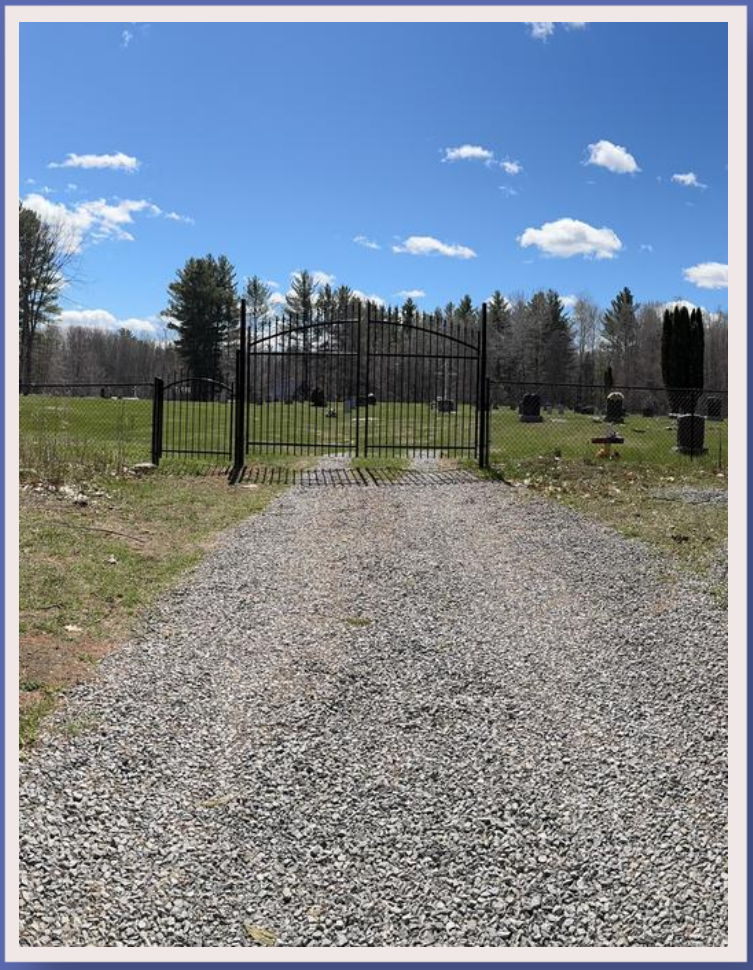
Work continues on reviewing and revising key laws to bring them under the *Land Code*, ensuring full enforcement authority over:

- Matrimonial Law
- Residency Law
- Animal Control Law
- Environmental Law
- Community Safety Policies

ATR Policy Overview:

- Established by the Government of Canada in 1972, updated in 2016.
- First Nations have the right to purchase land from a willing seller and convert it to reserve lands.
- ATR proposals require a Council Resolution (BCR) and undergo multiple approval steps, often taking months or years to finalize.
- Pikwàkanagàn continues to administer this process to secure additional reserve lands.

WILLS & ESTATES - HONORING OUR LOVED ONES





Burial Grounds & Columbarium

Pikwàkanagàn has completed the installation of the columbarium at Chibekamig to provide members and their spouses with a dignified resting place for cremated remains.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Columbarium structure installed (spring 2023)
- Memorial landscaping & bench installation completed (summer 2024)
- Surveying finalized - forms now available for Columbarium reservations. For those preferring a traditional burial, plots remain available within the designated area.

HONORING TRADITIONS: SHAPING PIKWÀKANAGÀN'S SACRED SPACES

Recent cemetery surveys reveal strong community support for Indigenous Algonquin representation in cemetery design. Responses emphasize the importance of cultural elements, traditional practices, and historical recognition.

Key Points:

- 83.33% of respondents consider Algonquin cultural practices extremely important.
- Repeated requests for a medicine wheel, canoe, four sacred medicines, and a commemorative plaque.
- Gathering spaces, natural landscaping, and educational signage were highly favored.
- Fencing remains debated - 60.87% support re-fencing, while 39.13% prefer open access.

Additionally, Pikwàkanagàn is working with *Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants* (TMHC inc.) to improve the mapping of our Lady Nativity cemetery, ensuring historical preservation and proper documentation of grave sites.

TMHC Inc. Will provide:

- Updating mapping data (maps & GIS shapefiles)
- Inventory of gravestones (map, spreadsheet, photos)
- Ground-penetrating radar (GPR) data to refine burial site records.

This data collection is underway and will be completed in phases, depending on burial topography.

WILLS & ESTATES

ADMINISTRATION

- Proper Estate planning helps you manage your land, property, and assets according to your wishes and protect your family and future generations.
- Pikwàkanagàn continues to host Wills & Estates workshops, offering members the opportunity to:
  - Meet with a lawyer to draft or amend their will.
  - Ask questions about estate planning

Important note:

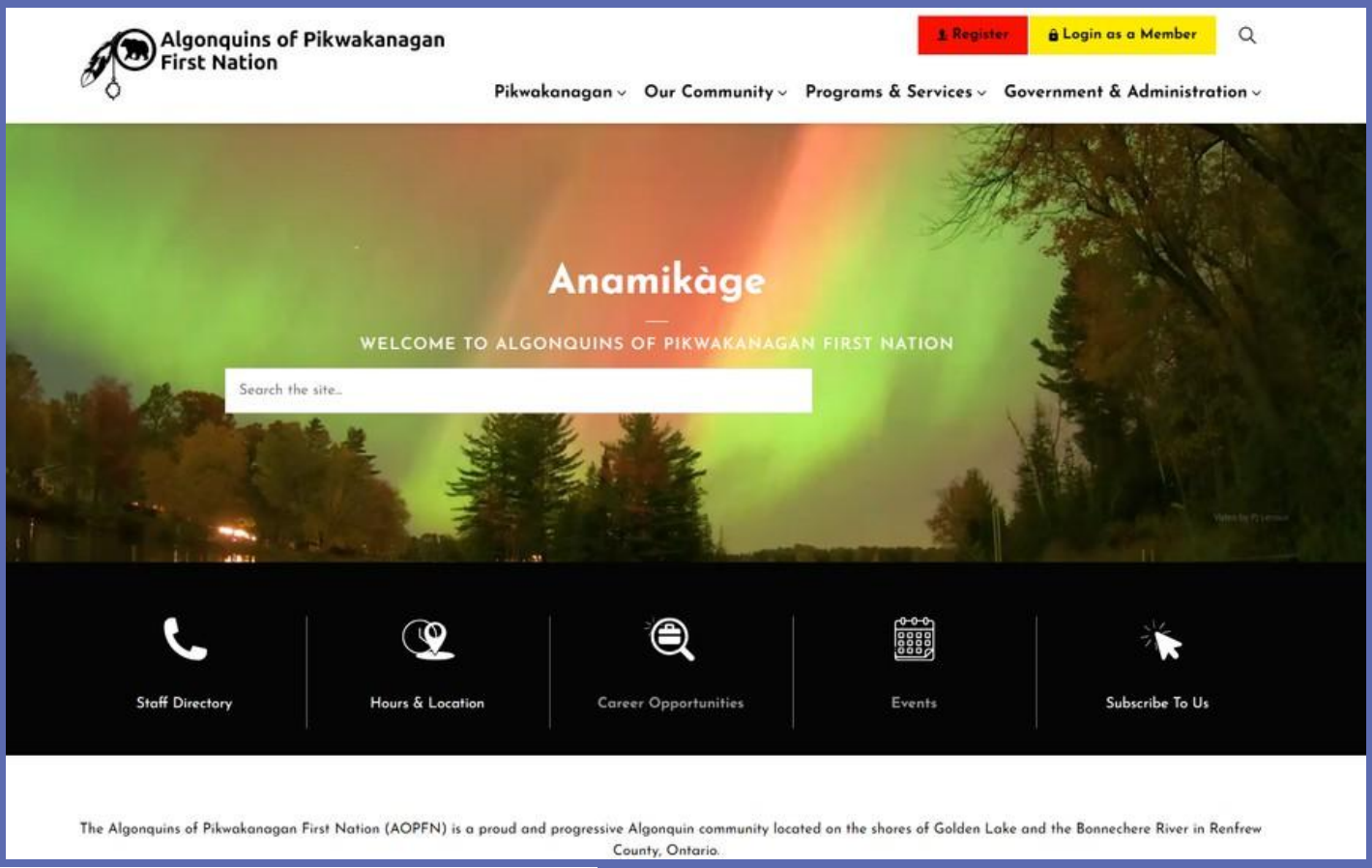
Without a will, estates remain under the Indian Act, meaning houses or land could be put to tender without direct family oversight. If there is a will and if there is land held by Certificate of Possession by the deceased, please contact the Lands Department for information on how to deal with the land.

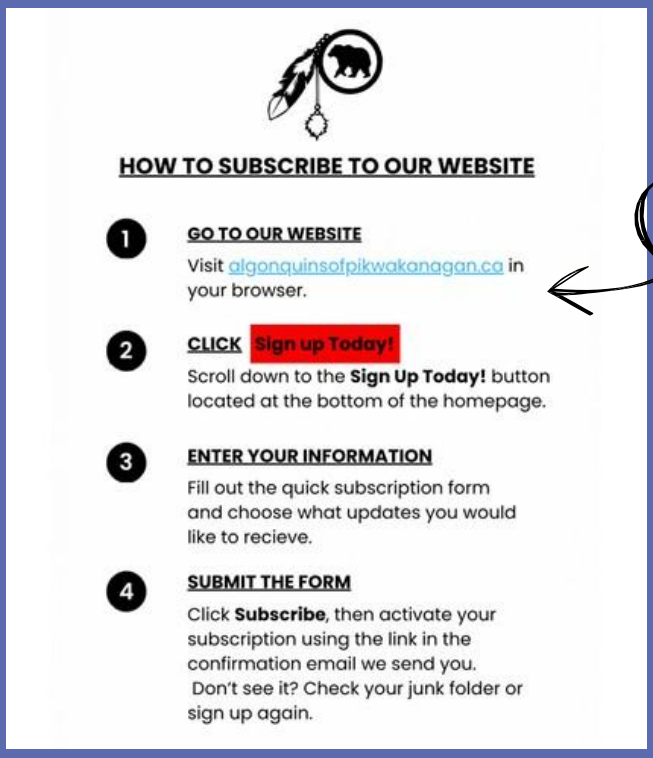
Land Ownership Structures:

- Joint Tenancy: If one Tenant passes, the surviving tenant automatically acquires the land. Must provide death certificate to the Lands Department
- Tenants-in-common: land is included in the estate and may be left in the will to another member or sold.

PIKWÀKANAGÀN NEWS & UPDATES

CHECK OUT OUR BRAND NEW WEBSITE!!





New Website, New Account!

If you were registered on our old site, please sign up again on this new platform. Thanks for joining us!

Explore our Land Code and Land Use Plan.
Scan the QR codes below to view the documents.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2025/2026

REVENUE (Source)	Current Year 2025/2026
FNLM	387,723.90
Bell Canada	5,445.00
Permits and PIL Fees	1,555.00
Deferral	$785,470.43
Total Revenue:	**1,180,194.33**
EXPENDITURES	**2025-2026**
SALARIES	**222,665.09**
BENEFITS	**37,079.33**
Materials and Supplies	11,834.77
Travel	25,375.07
Legal Services/ Fee	7,155.33
Program Development	810.42
Maintenance	9,600.99
Burial Grounds	75,082.00
Printing- Postage	25,634.94
Equipment cost	4,082.66
Survey	7,171.00
Honorariums	150
Animal Control & Shelter	15,557.14
Elections	79,039.31
Admin Fee	15,000.00
Total Expenditures	**536,238.05**
FISCAL SURPLUS/DEFICIT:	**643,956.28**

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