

## **Governance Pilot Project: Campbell River Indian Band**

The Campbell River Indian Band codified its core governance policies in a very concise document entitled *Chief and Council Policies and Procedures*. The Policies and Procedures note that Chief and Council are elected pursuant to Section 74 of the *Indian Act*, and exercise bylaw making powers as set out in the Act at Sections 81 and 83. They establish the basic rules governing Chief and Council activities as well as community meetings.

The *Policies and Procedures* specify the roles, duties and responsibilities of Council collectively, Chief and Councilors individually, and Portfolio Councilors. For example, the role of Council is stated as overseeing the financial management and administration of the Band, and to act honestly, impartially and in the best interest of the membership. Portfolio Councilors are to chair committees and are required to develop some specialized knowledge in their area of responsibility.

Basic rules to be followed in Band Council meetings and meetings of the membership are set out. Detailed provisions concerning the preparation and maintenance of Band Council meeting minutes are included. Membership meetings take place either in the form of an Annual General Meeting or a Special Membership Meeting. Financial reports on Band government programs and operations are to be provided at membership meetings, and the community has the opportunity to provide input and feedback.

Finally, conflict of interest rules and a code of ethics for Chief and Council are included. Situations where a conflict of interest does or does not exist are defined, and procedures to be followed are set out. The *Policies and Procedures* amendment provisions allow for annual review and periodic amendment. Amendments can be made by a quorum of Council through motion. An interesting feature of the amendment procedure is that these cannot be moved or voted on by a Councilor or by Council unless they have been in office for at least three months.

The *Campbell River Indian Band Chief and Council Policies and Procedures* may be of general interest to other First Nations because of their straightforward, precise codification of the basic rules for Band Council government.

Excerpted from *First Nations Governance Pilot Projects: Challenge and Innovation*. A Final Report Prepared for the National Centre for First Nations Governance by Carleton University Centre for Community Innovation. February 2005.