

# Is Your Nation Ready for the Transitional Governance Program?

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All First Nations have the ability to improve their governance no matter where they sit on the path to self-determination. First Nations that have the most success with the Centre's workshops meet many of the following competencies.

## The People

- The people have a defined sense of who they are as a people, a nation and a clear idea of where they see their place in the world.
- The people feel that they receive information on the affairs of their community and the direction their leadership is going.
- There are regular community meetings on issues requiring citizen input and direction.
- There is an established communications system in the community using newsletters, postings, meetings, social media or a variety of methods.
- There are committees that include a wide range of citizen participation (elders, youth, special interests).
- Elders are involved in providing and supporting cultural direction.
- Efforts are made to include children in community activities and youth are included in the political vision of the nation.

## The Land

- The territory beyond the reserve is still used by citizens and the nation.
- Territorial jurisdiction is still being asserted and exercised.
- There is a clear collective understanding of the boundaries of the territory by its people.
- Exercise of jurisdiction over the territory by declaration, land and resource use policy, and negotiation.

## Laws & Jurisdiction

- Traditional laws/conventions are understood by the people, and are followed, respected and enforced.
- The nation has a declaration of governance and territory.

## Governing Systems

- There is consistent political leadership.
- There is consistent administrative leadership.
- Political and administrative leadership is clearly delineated.
- Terms are greater than the two years as regulated under the Indian Act (four years, staggered terms or traditional).
- Some services reflect the needs of the people and not the funders.
- Some services are supported by own source revenues.
- Some services are supported by the community's own legislation (ie. FNLMA, traditional)
- There have been successful efforts in assuming jurisdiction over programs previously administered by the Crown.

## Resources

- The First Nation consistently supports and invests in Human resources in leadership, administration and community.
- Natural resources are used in accordance with the traditional systems that sustain the people.
- Financial management is solid and accountable to the people it serves and to its funders.