

**COMMUNITY FUTURE LAND USE PLAN**

**RESIDENT QUESTIONNAIRE**

Indian Island First Nation (IIFN) is in the process of preparing a Community Future Land Use Plan to guide and manage the future development of the land and resources of IIFN. Although it is a physical Plan shown on a map, the Plan is based on research and consideration of the economy and environment, as well as the social and cultural wellbeing of the community. It aims to create a sustainable community which means a balance between the physical needs for the community growth and economic development, with protection of the natural environment and the enhancement of social and cultural aspects of the community. A bulletin was sent out to all residents in May 2016 which explained what a Community Land Use Plan is, how it is affected by climate change, and how the community and its residents can participate. It was sent to every home and it may also be reviewed on the Band website ([www.indianisland.ca](http://www.indianisland.ca)).

To this point, after much research, data collection and interviews, a Background Document including descriptive maps has been completed, dealing with the Band’s population, regional setting, economy, history and culture, land uses, community services and facilities, transportation, environment and climate change, water, sewer and drainage, and sustainable development as well as Band administration and finance. That document is available on the IIFN website and hard copies are available for review at the Band Office for anyone interested. This questionnaire has been prepared to allow residents to comment on points or issues raised in the Background Document. Council would appreciate your views so they can be considered in the setting of IIFN goals, objectives and policies for future development.

This questionnaire can be filled out on this printed copy and dropped off at the Band Office. Some Band staff members are also available to help anyone who needs assistance in filling out the questionnaire. Please respond by May 19 so your views and opinions can be included in the next stage, which is preparing the Community Future Land Use Plan itself.

You do not have to provide your name or address and the results will be anonymous. The results will be aggregated together so no individual could be identified.

Thank you for your valuable comments. A summary of the results of the questionnaire will be posted at the Band Office and printed copies will be available at the Band Office.

*April 2017*

1. **HOUSING/RESIDENTIAL**
2. Is there a need to have a group of units (say 4 to 6 units) to cater to Elders, or residents with disabilities, that need to have smaller units to look after and special features that cater to wheelchairs or walkers, including wide doorways, ramps, lower counters and tables, etc.?

□ Yes □ No

Comments:

1. **RETAIL SERVICE OR OFFICE USE**

One of the challenges of being a small community (104 people for IIFN) is that it is difficult to provide viable commercial businesses because of such a small existing market. When the community eventually grows to a more viable market size, what commercial uses do you think could be supported in IIFN? Please list those you feel are appropriate.

1. **INDUSTRIAL USE**

Industrial businesses provide employment for residents. At the present time, IIFN has one industry which has developed around oyster farming and the fishery, which is IIFN’s biggest employer. The Band Council is also investigating wind power as well as cranberry and blueberry farming as possible viable industries which could employ Band residents. Do you feel there are any others that might be considered? Please list these.

1. **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Although the Band is too small to be able to provide a full medical facility or school, the Band Council does provide a range of health and educational services from the Band Hall. Do you feel there are other services that are needed? Please specify.

1. **PROTECTIVE SERVICES**

Fire protection is provided through a contract with the Village of Rexton, police protection by the RCMP, ambulance service by Ambulance New Brunswick, and garbage collection through a private contract. The Council has an Emergency Measures Management Policy and is in the process of preparing a Community Emergency Preparedness Plan. Do you have comments on or suggestions for any of these protection services? Please specify.

1. **RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE (Let the children help with this one.)**

Recreation facilities include Wilder Barlow Memorial Park for young children, the ballfield and Pow Wow grounds (that need repair and beautification) and the trails with Barlow Trail and the path along the top of the seawall. Youth also participate in informal activities such as swimming, street hockey, skateboarding and organized leagues in nearby communities. The Council also has begun to add to the playground beside the Band office and has built a rink on the paved area beside the Community Centre for ice skating and hockey in the winter, and roller skating, roller blading and ball hockey in the summer. Are there any other recreation facilities or programs you would like to see offered within or near to IIFN? Please specify.

1. **TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS**

The streets in IIFN are in good condition and Council has applied for funding to provide further upgrading, such as repaving with asphalt of all streets within the next few years, as well as ongoing improvements with roadside ditch drainage and culverts. Do you have any other concerns with traffic or access? If yes, please specify.

1. **WATER AND DOMESTIC SEWER SERVICES**
2. All residents are served by individual wells. Past sampling indicates that water can be of variable quality including some that contain salt, minerals or are discolored.

Do you currently have any water quality problems that you are aware of? If yes, please describe the problem below.

1. Domestic sewage at IIFN is handled by individual septic tanks and tile field systems.

Do you currently experience any problems that you are aware of with your septic tank system? If so, please specify below.

1. **ENVIRONMENT**

Are there any environmental problems or issues that you feel should be addressed and, if so, what and where are they? Also, are there key natural areas that you feel should be preserved and protected from future development?

1. **CLIMATE CHANGE**

Climate change is and has been occurring at IIFN the same as it has all over the world. IIFN is particularly vulnerable to the potential effects of sea level rise and storm surges. Council has already taken proactive measures to protect IIFN with construction of the seawall, and has ongoing plans for seawall gates, pump stations and other drainage measures to prevent or minimize flooding and drainage issues inside the seawall. It also has plans and has made applications for further funding to protect homes and properties from future flooding and to repair those that have been subject to past flooding.

In addition to sea level rise and storm surges, provincial Environment officials expect high precipitation, more severe rain and snow storms, more severe wind storms, more extreme heat days, and generally greater variability and unpredictability in weather related events in the future.

With these things in mind, are there other measures you would suggest the Band Council consider as it prepares funding applications to deal with these potential impacts of climate change?

1. **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

For Aboriginal communities, the concept of treating the land and its resources with respect and protecting it for the benefit of our children and grandchildren has been applied for many generations. The goal of “sustainable development” is to achieve a balance between economic growth or physical development, environmental protection and social wellbeing so that our community can achieve the highest possible quality of life for its existing and future residents and maintain respect for Mother Earth.

Some of the principles of sustainable development are to: encourage more compact development to make our communities more efficient and convenient; encourage variety in housing choices; encourage safe walking and cycling to cut down on automobile use; reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our homes, business or automobiles; preserve open spaces, natural beauty and environmentally sensitive areas; and foster a community identity or spirit and nurture citizen or resident participation in community growth, activities and events.

Are there other measures you would suggest that Council consider or residents undertake to ensure the community grows and develops in a sustainable manner?

1. **GENERAL COMMENTS**
2. What are some things you like best about the IIFN Community?

1. What are some things you like least about the IIFN Community?

1. What do you believe should be the top priorities for IIFN over the next five (5) years?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUABLE COMMENTS!

A summary of the results of this questionnaire will be sent out to each resident and copies will also be available at the Band office.

Based on the feedback from the Land Use Plan Steering Committee and the comments on the questionnaire, the next step will be to prepare the Draft Community Future Land Use Plan which will be shown on maps but also with written goals, objectives and policies to guide the future growth and development of IIFN. When finished, copies of this report will be available at the Band Office. There will also be a public meeting Open House to present the Plan to residents and to receive any comments. The Draft Plan will then be revised, based on these comments, into a Final Community Land Use Plan with maps and policies to try to create the kind of community that Band Council and residents wish to see in the future.

