

NOTICE TO MEMBERSHIP

Are you changing your Band membership in the near future?

Do you have a lawful possession of reserve land (i.e. Certificate of Possession or other evidence of title) with your current First Nation?

IF SO: Read this important information about the operation of Section 25 of the *Indian Act*.

25(1) "An Indian who ceases to be entitled to reside on a reserve may, within six months or such further period as the Minister may direct, transfer to the band or another member of the band the right to possession of any lands in the reserve of which he was lawfully in possession."

25(2) "Where an Indian does not dispose of his right of possession in accordance with Subsection (1), the right to possession of the land reverts to the band, subject to the payment to the Indian who was lawfully in possession of the land, from the funds of the band, of such compensation for permanent improvements as the Minister may determine."

If you are changing Band membership and are affected by Section 25 of the *Indian Act*, you need to complete a Transfer form (Transfer of Land in an Indian Reserve), and submit the transfer to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) within 6 months of changing your membership. You will also need to provide the documentation required under the *Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act*.

All necessary forms can be obtained in the following ways:

- Online at: <https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100034806/1100100034808>
- Upon request to: aadnc.bclandregistry.aandc@canada.ca
- Telephone to: 1-800-665-9320 and ask for an Individual Land Holdings Specialist

Any extension to the 6-month period, as noted in Section 25(2), needs to be requested in writing prior to the end of the 6-month period. A lawful possession which is not transferred within the 6-month period will revert to the Band.

For further information about the operation of Section 25 of the *Indian Act* contact ISC and ask to speak with an Individual Land Holdings Specialist at BC Regional Office.

Toll free: 1-800-665-9320 or email aadnc.bclandregistry.aandc@canada.ca