SUMMARY OF THE *FIRST NATION LAND MANAGEMENT ACT BILL C-49*

"An Act providing for the ratification and bringing into effect of the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management*"

Introduction

The *First Nation Land Management Act* (*FNLMA*) was required under the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management* (*Framework Agreement*) for two purposes:

1. to ratify the *Framework Agreement*, and
2. to implement those clauses of the *Framework Agreement* that affect third parties or other federal laws; or that are considered important enough to be repeated in the legislation.

The *FNLMA* is intended to be consistent with the *Framework Agreement* and to apply to the First Nations (FN) that are signatories to the *Framework Agreement* (set out in the schedule to the *FNLMA*). The *FNLMA* was previously introduced in Parliament on December 10, 1996, but the federal election that year prevented it from being enacted. The Bill was reintroduced as Bill C-49 in June of 1998. It was finally enacted and given royal assent on June 7, 1999.

Ratification

The *Framework Agreement* is the document that sets out the terms and conditions under which a FN can establish its own land management regime and remove its reserve lands from the Minister's control under the *Indian Act*. However, the *Framework Agreement* cannot come into force until it is ratified by both Canada and two FNs. Three FNs have already ratified the *Framework Agreement*, and Canada has fulfilled its obligation by enacting the *FNLMA*.