

FIRST NATIONS TAX COMMISSION

# Growing First Nation Economies



building a secure future



First Nations have developed property taxation over the past 25 years and have expanded taxation revenues, moving beyond dependency to become sustainable communities that provide quality services.

**First Nations are moving  
jurisdiction forward**



## And creating prosperous communities.

The First Nations Tax Commission helps First Nation governments build and maintain fair and efficient property tax systems.

These First Nations are providing quality services and have grown their tax bases by encouraging economic development and implementing new tax powers.



*A First Nation success story*

## **2007** Penticton Indian Band (PIB)

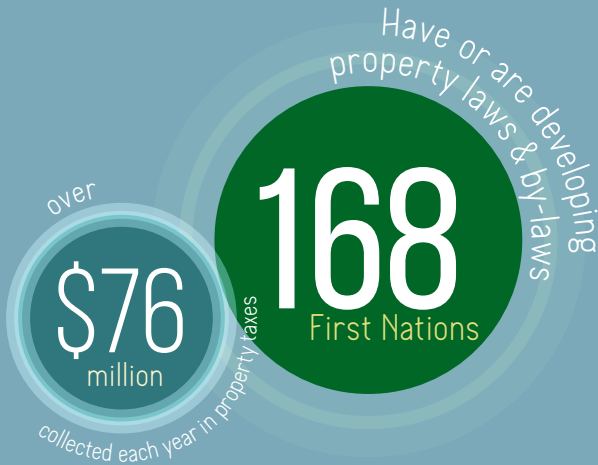
In 2007, the Penticton Indian Band (BC) began thinking about how property taxation could help their community achieve economic prosperity.

Carlene George, Property Taxation Officer for the Penticton Indian Band, and Tulo graduate, feels honoured to be a part of the First Nation Property Taxation field. “I want to help the Penticton Indian Band be the best it can be,” Carlene said. “Implementing property taxation benefits my community as a whole.”

Before PIB decided to exercise its jurisdiction, millions of dollars in property tax revenues from the band’s lands were being collected by other governments. With the independent revenue PIB generated through property taxation, the community is now able to provide basic services most municipalities take for granted, including public libraries and fire protection.

PIB is currently developing Skaha Hills, a residential-resort community on Penticton’s most desirable location that will feature retail facilities, a golf course and a vineyard, built to be the most energy efficient housing development in BC.

PIB will continue to grow and prosper with the support of property tax revenue, improving the quality of life for everyone.



Governments (federal, provincial, and local) use tax revenues to support their fiscal requirements, but there are a number of barriers First Nations have to overcome to collect these revenues.

The FNTC helps First Nations get beyond these barriers so they can expand their economies and revenues, rather than depending on government funding to meet the needs of their communities.

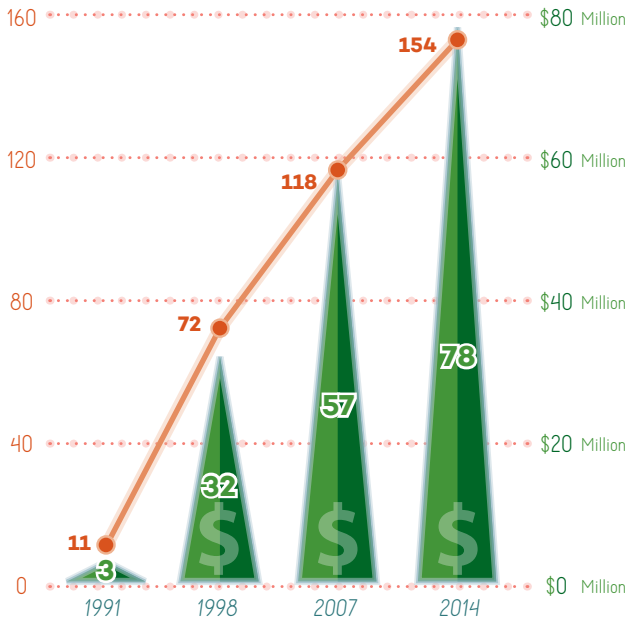
A First Nation builds its tax system by creating laws to exercise its jurisdiction. These laws reflect the First Nation's own decisions regarding taxation.

First Nations can lose out on millions of dollars in potential revenue by not implementing property tax systems.

The FNTC provides First Nations with the tools to create revenue opportunities afforded to other levels of governments by helping them create fair and transparent tax systems. This helps ensure that First Nations and their taxpayers receive the maximum benefits from their tax systems.

 *Number of First Nations with tax jurisdiction*

 *Total tax revenue raised annually (Millions)*



**FIRST NATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE  
TRANSFORMING THEIR ECONOMIES THROUGH  
IMPLEMENTING PROPERTY TAX SYSTEMS.**





# Why seek Private Investment?

**PUBLIC**

*makes up only*

**20%**

*of Canada's  
successful economies*

**PRIVATE**

*makes up*

**80%**

*of Canada's  
successful economies*

Jobs

Financial  
Independence

Quality  
Community Services

More Infrastructure

The creation of independent revenue provides security for our communities.



Our economies  
rely on development.

Prosperity  
grows out of  
economic strength.

*A First Nation success story*

## **2007** Loon River First Nation:

In 2007, Loon River First Nation (Alberta) was in dire need of a reliable water source and associated infrastructure. The community implemented property taxation that year to generate the revenue needed to assist in the delivery of these basic services.

In 2010, a house fire within the community demonstrated the unfortunate inadequacies of Loon River's fire protection services so council took immediate steps to improve fire protection through property taxation.

With support from taxpayers, Loon River built a fire hall, purchased a fire truck and trained seven firefighters. Since then, these essential services that other jurisdictions across the country take for granted played a critical role in saving homes, businesses, and other community infrastructure.

Loon River maintains a strong relationship with its taxpayers and plans to make tax dollars work for further community improvements.

[www.fntc.ca](http://www.fntc.ca)

**Let us help you get started.**

Toll Free 1-855-682-3682 Email [mail@fntc.ca](mailto:mail@fntc.ca)

*Subscribe to the Clearing the Path newsletter  
to see success stories nation-wide.*



**First Nations Tax Commission**  
**Commission de la fiscalité des premières nations**