

## LNIB Enforcement Law

### Why We Need Laws

Laws are rules made by the government that forbid certain actions and are enforced by the courts. Laws apply to everyone equally. If you break a law, you may have to pay a fine, pay for the damage you have done, or go to jail.

Imagine the chaos – and the danger – if there were no laws. The strongest people would be in control and people would live in fear. Drivers could choose which side of the street to drive on and no one could stop them. Imagine trying to buy and sell goods if no one had to keep promises. Or trying to hold onto your personal property or even to keep yourself safe if there were no laws against robbery or assault.

Even in a well-ordered society, people disagree, and conflicts arise. The law provides a way to resolve disputes peacefully. If two people claim the same piece of property, rather than fight they turn to the law. The courts can decide who the real owner is and how to protect the owner's rights.

Laws help to ensure a safe and peaceful society. The Canadian legal system respects individual rights and ensures that our society is orderly. It applies the same law to everybody. This includes the police, governments and public officials. All of them must carry out their duties according to the law.

### LNIB Enforcement Law

Given the inherent right of LNIB to self-government and stewardship of our lands, and as enabled by the *Land Code*, the Lands Department recommended that the Chief and Council ratify the *LNIB Enforcement Law*. The Law was tabled at a duly convened meeting of Chief and Council on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 and a Public Hearing for final review of the law by the members occurred on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The law was ratified at a duly convened meeting of Chief and Council on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

The purpose of the *Enforcement Law* is to enable the fair, effective, and efficient enforcement of all LNIB laws. Enacting an overarching *Enforcement Law* rather than enforcement provisions in each individual law makes sense because of the robust suite of laws that LNIB is developing. This approach allows LNIB to avoid repetition, and possibly confusion, by repeating the same enforcement provisions in different laws. LNIB staff, members, residents and others interested in or affected by our laws must look only to one location for enforcement provisions.

The *Enforcement Law* enables Council to appoint a Justices of the Peace or an Adjudicator, sets out their authorities, and the circumstances under which they must refer matters to a Judge. The law designates Enforcement Officers and sets out their authorities also.

The *Enforcement Law* establishes the requirements for tickets including their form and content, the serving of tickets, payment of fines or disputing tickets, and the process for hearings of disputes. The law lays out a process for instances when a person fails to appear at a hearing or fails to respond to a ticket, including time extensions in certain circumstances and collections.

Schedules to the law list all LNIB laws to which the *Enforcement Law* applies, and establishes the applicable fines and penalties for offences.

For more information, please refer to the *Enforcement Law*. Any questions can be directed to the Director of Lands and Housing, Stephen Jimmie (stephen.jimmie@lnib.net). Copies of the Law are available on the LNIB website (<https://www.lnib.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023-09-19-LNIB-Enforcement-Law.pdf>) or in hard copy at the Lands office.