

**Applications Now Open for the Professional Lands Management Certification Program
(2026–2027 Intake)**

Dear Chiefs, Councillors, and Band Managers,

We are pleased to announce that applications are now open for the Professional Lands Management Certification Program (PLMCP). This fully funded training program, administered by the National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association (NALMA) and supported by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), offers an important opportunity for individuals from First Nations communities to build expertise in managing reserve lands and supporting sustainable development.

Through this program, participants will gain practical knowledge and skills that are essential for effective land management. Upon successful completion, graduates will receive a recognized certification in a high-demand field—helping to strengthen community capacity and create pathways to meaningful careers.

All First Nations with reserve lands operating under the *Indian Act* are eligible to apply, whether they currently participate in the Reserve Land and Environment Management Program (RLEMP) or not. Please note that RLEMP communities must ensure they employ a PLMCP-certified land manager or have someone attending the training to meet program requirements.

If your First Nation would like to submit an application for the PLMCP or learn more about RLEMP, we invite you to contact your ISC regional office or email rlemp@sac-isc.gc.ca. Additional details about the PLMCP and ISC regional office contacts are included in the annexes below.

We encourage you to share this opportunity widely within your community and look forward to supporting your efforts in land management.

Sincerely,



Leona Irons
Executive Director
National Aboriginal Lands Managers
Association



Manon Labelle
A/Director
Community Lands Development Directorate
Indigenous Services Canada

The official logo of the Government of Canada, featuring the word "Canada" in a serif font with a red maple leaf icon.

Attachments - ANNEX A: Professional Lands Management Certification Program

ANNEX B: Frequently Asked Questions

ANNEX C: ISC Regional Offices – Contact Information

ANNEX A: PROFESSIONAL LANDS MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Professional Lands Management Certification Program (PLMCP) is designed to help First Nations land managers strengthen their knowledge and skills through a structured two-level process. The goal of this program is to build capacity for effective land and environmental management under the *Indian Act*.

Upon successful completion of Level I: Post-Secondary Training and Level II: Technical Training, participants receive a Professional Lands Management Certificate from National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association (NALMA). This certification is recognized across Canada and demonstrates that a land manager meets professional standards, remains current in the field, and adheres to a code of ethics.

Level I: Post-secondary training

This level is offered in English by the University of Saskatchewan, Algoma University, and Vancouver Island University, and in French by the Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue. Depending on the institution, training may be delivered in person, online, or through a blended approach. These programs provide foundational knowledge in the legal and environmental aspects of reserve land management.

Participants receive recognition from the university upon completion. For details and registration deadlines, please visit the respective institution's website:

- **University of Saskatchewan – Kanawayihetaytan Askiy Program**
[<https://admissions.usask.ca/kanawayihetaytan-askiy.php>](https://admissions.usask.ca/kanawayihetaytan-askiy.php)
- **Algoma University – Aki and Environmental Stewardship Program**
<https://algomau.ca/academics/programs/geography-geology/professional-lands-management-certification-program-plmcp-level-1/>
- **Vancouver Island University – Professional Indigenous Lands Management Certificate**
<https://www.viu.ca/programs/arts-humanities-social-sciences/professional-indigenous-lands-management-certificate>
- **Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue – Microprogramme de 1^{er} cycle en gestion territoriale en contexte autochtone**
<https://www.uqat.ca/etudes/etudes-autochtones/microprogramme-1er-cycle-en-gestion-territoriale-en-contexte-autochtone/>

Level II: Technical Training

This level, delivered by NALMA, focuses on practical skills for day-to-day land management responsibilities. To complete Level II, participants must earn 18 credits, which include five compulsory technical courses and one elective course. Courses are delivered through a combination of in-person and online learning, with each course offered over a four-week period.

After completing both levels, participants earn a national certification as a land manager, recognized across Canada. Land managers participating in Reserve Land and Environment Management Program (RLEMP) must email their Level I and Level II certificates to their ISC regional land officer upon completion to confirm training status and ensure eligibility for full operational RLEMP funding.

Successful completion of Level I is highly recommended but not required before initiating Level II. Both levels must be completed to earn certification, and participants may choose to complete Level II before Level I or take both levels concurrently.

ANNEX B: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What steps are needed to apply for the Professional Lands Management Certification Program (PLMCP)?

First, the First Nation identifies an individual who will complete the PLMCP on its behalf. Once the individual has been selected, the First Nation contacts its Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) regional office or emails rlemp@sac-isc.gc.ca to express interest in the program. ISC then reviews the application based on funding availability and eligibility criteria (for example, the First Nation manages reserve lands under the *Indian Act*) and provides a decision to the First Nation.

How does a First Nation receive funds to cover the costs of PLMCP Level I training?

First Nations that manage their lands under the *Indian Act* are eligible for funding to cover the costs of PLMCP training through the Reserve Land and Environment Management Program (RLEMP). To receive funding for Level I training, the following steps must be completed:

- The applicant completes the registration process with their preferred post-secondary institution.
- The First Nation and/or applicant submits the following documentation to ISC at rlemp@sac-isc.gc.ca:
 - A Letter of Support from the First Nation confirming approval for the applicant to receive training on its behalf.
 - A Letter of Acceptance from the post-secondary institution.
- ISC confirms receipt of the documents and sends funding approval to the First Nation and/or applicant.
- Funding is transferred to the First Nation, which is responsible for paying invoices related to the training.

The costs of participation in PLMCP Level II – technical training are also eligible for funding; however, this funding is administered directly by the National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association (NALMA). For more information on the process and eligible expenses for Level II, please contact NALMA directly¹.

How much funding is available for the PLMCP Level I training, and what can it be used for?

For Level I post-secondary training offered in-person or online (such as Algoma University, University of Saskatchewan, and UQAT), the funding available is \$22,000. Eligible expenses include, but are not limited to:

- Registration fees
- Tuition
- Travel costs (mileage, airfare)
- Accommodations
- Meals
- Minor equipment needs (e.g., printer, tablet, or computer if not provided as part of training, additional internet and/or data costs)

¹ <https://nalma.ca/units/professional-development-unit>

For fully remote Level I post-secondary training (such as Vancouver Island University), the funding available is \$15,000, as travel, accommodations, and meals are not required.

Can a First Nation under RLEMP with an existing certified land manager apply for funding to train additional land managers through the PLMCP?

Yes. First Nations may require additional employees to be certified for reasons such as succession planning, workload demands, or staff turnover. While priority may be given to First Nations that have not previously received funding, ISC will make every effort to accommodate all requests.

What is Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)?

Land managers with significant career experience working in a land management role for a First Nation may be eligible to apply to NALMA for a PLAR. This process allows experienced land managers to receive PLMCP certification based on their prior knowledge and skills. Please contact NALMA directly to learn more about the PLAR process.

Additional information on the PLMCP and PLAR is available at: <https://nalma.ca/>.

ANNEX C: ISC REGIONAL OFFICES – CONTACT INFORMATION

ISC Atlantic Region

Krista MacDonald
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ISC Quebec Region

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ISC Manitoba Region

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ISC Saskatchewan Region

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