

Land Titles Initiative

January 2022



Since 2017, the Land Titles Initiative has helped 259 community members achieve clear title to their land. Clear title allows landowners to access mortgages and home improvement loans and enables land to be passed on to future generations.

In April 2021, the Land Titles Clarification Act was changed to help residents of the communities served by the Land Titles Initiative gain clear title to their land faster by:

- making the Land Titles Initiative a permanent program, demonstrating government's commitment to righting historical wrongs
- putting in place new supports to help with competing land claims

The changes also allow for the development of regulations that will provide more details on how the processes within the Land Titles Initiative work and help set clear expectations for people who want to make a claim under the Act.

Before proceeding with these regulations, we want your feedback on some of the key elements:

- how government gives community notice when we are issuing certificates of claim
- how communities can be added to the Act and the Land Titles Initiatives
- how land claims are made and what information is needed to file a claim

The Land Titles Clarification Act can be found at:

nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/legc/statutes/land%20titles%20clarification.pdf

More information on the Land Titles Initiative can be found at:

novascotia.ca/land-titles/

A Community Consultation will be held:

January 17, 2022 – 6 p.m. via MS Teams

Please provide written feedback to LTCAregs@novascotia.ca by January 17, 2022.

To register for a Community Consultation session, please email LTCAregs@novascotia.ca or phone 902-424-5381 or toll-free 1-833-424-6100

ENGAGEMENT ON REGULATIONS

A. How does government give communities notice when filing a certificate of claim?

- The Act requires that government give notice when we file a certificate of claim by putting an announcement in the newspaper.
- In the regulations, we are proposing that government also be required to:
 - a. Send registered mail to landowners with land that is next to the parcel in question
 - b. Send registered mail to anyone, other than the applicant, who has been identified as having an interest in the land
 - c. Post a notice in a public building in the community
 - d. Use electronic media

B. How are communities added to the Act and Initiative?

- The Act amendments make it possible for communities to be added to the Act and potentially included in the LTI.
- We are proposing to clarify in the regulations that:
 - a. Only African Nova Scotian communities can be added
 - b. When an application is received, the community that is the subject of the application must be engaged, as well as the Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs.
- We will be engaging African Nova Scotian communities across the province in the coming months about the possibility of being added to the LTI. At this time, we are only looking for feedback on whether or not the regulations are clear on the process to be used.

C. How are land claims made and what information is needed to make a claim?

- The Act includes a list of documents that are required or may be required to submit a claim for land.
- We are proposing that the regulations further clarify:
 - a. When sworn statements are required and who they need to be from
 - b. What information is required about the property in question, for example, how it has been or is being used, how long it has been used and/or occupied, and supporting documents such as wills, deeds and tax receipts.