

Indigenous Land Management Institute (ILMI)

STATUS REPORT

<http://ilmi.usask.ca/>

Mission: To address the applied research needs of Aboriginal communities in the area of land and resource management. Research activities address the expressed needs of Aboriginal leaders for relevant and practical information that can inform policy-making, support self-determined resource management objectives, and enhance their own land management practices.

Goals and objectives of the centre:

The **Objectives** of the Indigenous Land Management Institute are to:

- Bring the university's intellectual resources in teaching, research and outreach and engagement to bear in a coordinated way on indigenous land and resource issues;
- Collaborate with communities and governments in making informed policy and economic decisions by conducting the necessary applied research;
- Assist communities in realizing optimal productivity from their lands and resources;
- Provide a forum for dialogue between Aboriginal communities and stakeholders in both the public and private sector;
- Become a national and international leader in the study of indigenous land and resource issues.

Types of activities undertaken to achieve mandate:

The Indigenous Land Management Institute has been developed in a very intentional way. The Institute recognizes a need for independent research to inform decision-making. This research must be applicable in the development of policy, in strategic community and business planning, and needs to provide sound data on which decisions can be made. In order to ensure that the appropriate expertise is available, the Institute integrates expertise from several of the Colleges at the University of Saskatchewan including engineering, agriculture, business, law, geography, Native Studies and archaeology\anthropology. In addition to targeted and action oriented research, the Institute uses teaching as well as outreach and engagement activities to provide community members with the skills that they need in order to make informed decisions about their land base. Ultimately the intent is that as the Institute grows other

universities across Canada will become involved; thus capturing a broader range of professional expertise and building a wider network of university-community partnerships

Governance: The governance of the ILMI has been designed to reflect the plurality of views inherent within land and resource management process and to ensure the transparency of the Institute's research program. More pragmatically, it is essential to build external accountability where our partners and other stakeholders can share experiences, clarify problems, and set the Institute's research agenda. Perhaps the most important role of the Institute's governing bodies is to ensure that the research results are widely communicated, understood, and shared. If research results are restricted to a few individuals or interests groups, then the potential exists to create resistance from those who have been excluded from the research process. As such, well-structured dialogue involving researchers, government, industry and Aboriginal representatives is critical in facilitating the effective use of research and building trust among partners.

National Advisory Committee (NAC)

The NAC will help identify public policy issues most important to the work of the ILMI. NAC membership will include representatives with broad experience in private industry, public service, and academia. Specific responsibilities of the NAC include: providing advice to the Director regarding research issues of national importance and providing direction and input on a range of ILMI initiatives, especially those relating to knowledge transfer and networking. The NAC will meet once annually or as specific needs arise.

Research and Planning Committee (RPC)

The RPC will help identify key research priorities for the ILMI. Specific responsibilities of the RPC include: making recommendations to the Director and Management Team regarding the ILMI's annual research program; providing guidance for long-term plans and priorities for the research program; and establishing criteria for the selection of research projects. RPC membership will include representatives from Aboriginal communities and organizations, industry and government. The RPC will meet twice annually or as specific needs arise.

Management Team (M-TEAM)

Under the chairmanship of the Director, the M-Team provides day-to-day direction on the ILMI's research program. The M-Team is made up by the Director, Associate Director, and Research Chairs.