

(Pikangikum First Nation, 2006, p. 2).

Since the time of early European settlement in Canada, Aboriginal communities have struggled to assert their rights and title to lands that they once had unlimited access to. Recent legal proceedings have brought attention to this struggle and paved the way for consultation with, and accommodation of, Aboriginal groups during decision making procedures related to resource allocation and land management. Aboriginal communities are increasingly concerned about losing access and control over their traditional territories and their livelihoods due to increased outside interests on their land (Nuttall, 2008). Land use planning holds potential promise to address some of the main sources of concern for Aboriginal peoples related to land use including traditional ecological knowledge, past experiences with resource development activities, cultural preservation, and the lack of knowledge related to impacts of such activities on traditional lands (Stevenson, 1996; Natcher, 2001; Minkin, 2009). As a result, Aboriginal communities are developing community-based land use plans for their traditional lands in an effort to advance

traditional knowledge and cultural identities that are rooted in land based communities (Jojola, 2008). Unlike conventional planning practice, the integration of cultural knowledge with scientific methods when valuing lands and the environment is often equally considered within Aboriginal land use plans (Wolfe

recommendations and a final refined evaluation tool, as shown in List 1 at the end of this summary, were presented for use in future planning efforts. This research resulted in a framework that Aboriginal communities could use when developing land use plans in the future, or for planners and policy makers to use as a guide in developing culturally sensitive regional land use plans.

Results: Evaluation of Case Study Aboriginal Community-based Land Use Plans

The literature review and the thematic review of the five Aboriginal land use plans revealed a number of key values and issues regarding Aboriginal land use planning. Four main elements emerged including perpetual use of traditional territories, environmental stewardship, sustainable development, and cultural preservation. Two of the three case study plans addressed each of these issues very well, with one, the *Nisga'a Land Use Plan*, not explicitly explaining the connection between their land use decisions and these issues. *Keeping the Land* and the *Sahtu Land Use Plan* each explained these elements in relation to their

Recommendation 1: Aboriginal communities engaged in community-based land use planning should consider the evaluation criteria listed in List 1 to help guide their planning process during and after plan development in order to ensure the strongest plan possible is used.

Recommendation 2:

Recommendation 10

3. Are goals and objectives explicitly identified?	
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4. Does the plan include general goals, measurable objectives and action oriented recommendations?	
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