



March 14, 2016

ATTENTION MEMBERS

Squamish Nation Chiefs and Council are now accepting applications for the Matrimonial Real Property (“MRP”) Committee

The Matrimonial Real Property Committee will be required to oversee the development of the Matrimonial Real Property Law, including consultation with Squamish members. The MRP Committee is composed of 7 members, appointed by Council as follows:

- (i) one elder,
- (ii) one married Squamish member who is ordinarily resident on any of the Squamish Nation reserves;
- (iii) four councilors, and;
- (iv) the Registry Department Head

To be eligible to be appointed as a committee member you must be an eligible voter and have experience in community engagement work and expertise or other considerations beneficial to the work of the MRP Committee. Chiefs and Council are seeking applications to fill the seats for one elder and one married Squamish member who lives on reserve

**Deadline for Application:
Friday, April 1, 2016
4:30pm**

Please submit cover letter and resume to:

Registry Department
Attention: Monica Jacobs
PO Box 86131
North Vancouver, BC V7L 4J5
Monica_jacobs@squamish.net
Fax: (604)980-6818



Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interest or Rights Act

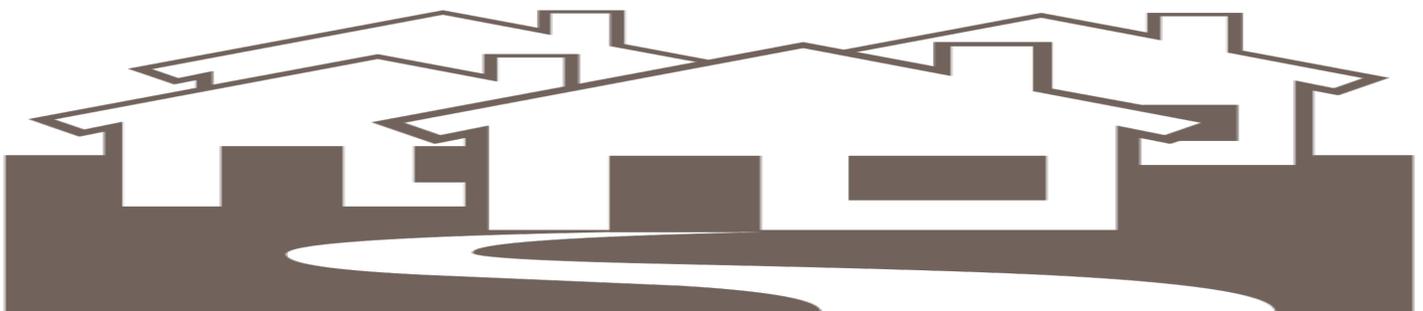
On December 16, 2014 the Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interest or Rights Act (the Act) came into force. The Act ensures that individuals living on reserve have similar protections and rights as other Canadians and establishes Provisional Federal Rules which will come fully into force later this year based on common elements of various provincial and territorial matrimonial real property regimes. The term “matrimonial real property” (MRP) refers to the house or land that a couple lives on or benefits from while they are married or in a common-law relationship. However, not all of the elements enjoyed by other Canadians are appropriate for application on reserve, due to the inalienability of reserve lands and the unique collective nature of land and housing on reserves.

Our Choice

Under the Act, First Nation communities may elect to establish its own laws to address matrimonial real property interests or rights on their reserve lands that are specific to their culture and traditions. A First Nation MRP law would have to be approved by a community ratification process to ensure that their law is in accordance with the community’s interests. Until a First Nation community develops and enacts its own matrimonial real property law under the Act the Provisional Federal Rules will apply.

Why do we refer to “Provisional Federal Rules”?

The term “provisional” is used to indicate that the rules in effect under the Act are only in effect until such time as a First Nation adopts its own MRP Law. If a First Nation does not adopt its own law, the “provisional rules” last indefinitely.



Benefits of an MRP Law

While the task of developing an MRP Law specific to an individual First Nation requires a considerable effort both in time and resources, there are many benefits that will accrue to the First Nation.

- Allows First Nations to exercise jurisdiction over land and family law matters.
- Protects/ensures the interests of children as a priority.
- Aids in resolving property disputes through community-based solutions (e.g., as a result of marital breakdown).
- Promotes fairness, rights and remedies, without discrimination on the basis of sex.
- Preserves and protects the well-being of all parties involved and helps to prevent further conflict from arising.
- Protects the human rights of members while balancing individual and collective rights.
- Complements the First Nation traditional laws, customs, practices, and policies.
- Complements dispute resolution mechanisms to assist couples in resolving disputes relating to family law matters.
- Clarifies the mechanism for the disposition of matrimonial real property on reserves following a marital breakdown.
- Ensures the safety of all First Nation members and residents

