



## NOTICE OF PROPOSED LAW

TO: ?aqam Membership

DATE: September 17, 2015

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**TAKE NOTICE** that ?aqam is proposing amendments to the *St. Mary's Indian Band Land Code*.

### **?AQAM AMENDED LAND CODE**

#### **Background**

In April 2014, ?aqam Membership voted in favour of ratifying the *St. Mary's Indian Band Land Code* and Individual Agreement with Canada. The *Land Code* came into effect on July 1, 2014 and ?aqam has undertaken considerable work under Land Code in the last year. Working under the *St. Mary's Indian Band Land Code* has identified certain provisions within the *Land Code* that should be amended to more accurately reflect the Organization and the role of the Lands Department.

The most substantive proposed amendments include:

- Changing the name from the "St. Mary's Indian Band" to "?aqam" throughout the document;
- The addition of St. Mary's Indian Reserve No.1;
- The removal of the provisions granting Council the authority to make Regulations;
- Removal of all references to the St. Mary's Indian Band Register and replacement with the First Nations Land Register;
- Additional language and clarification around the Transfers on Death and Mental Incompetence provisions; and
- The ability for Council to make non-substantive amendments to the *Land Code* by Band Council Resolution.

#### **Request for Feedback From ?aqam Members**

?aqam is requesting that Members provide their written comments, concerns or suggestions about this proposed amendment to the law. **Comments must be received by November 4, 2015.** Please direct all comments to:

Julie Couse, Director of Lands and Natural Resources  
?aqam Administration  
7470 Mission Road  
Cranbrook, BC V1C 7E5  
Email: Jcouse@aqam.net

#### **Process for Enactment of the Law under s. 7, 9, 11 and 12 of the *St. Mary's Indian Band Land Code***

The Draft Amended Law was prepared and went to Council on September 15, 2015 for the First Reading. **The Draft Amended Law will be presented to Membership for the Second Reading on Wednesday October 7, 2015 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the St. Mary's Band Hall.** This Second reading is followed by a comment period available until November 4, 2015.

Once all comments from Members are received and reviewed, a final draft amended law will be prepared. The final draft amended law will then be presented to Council for the Third Reading (acceptance in principle). If Council accepts the final draft law in principle, a Meeting of Members will be scheduled. At the Meeting of Members, Members will be provided with the opportunity to vote on the final draft law by secret ballot.

**For further information on this process please see Sections 7, 9, 11 and 12 of the *St. Mary's Indian Band Land Code*, or contact the Lands and Resources office (see contact information above).**