



February 16, 2011

To: Persons Eligible for Enrolment under the Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement

**RE: THE MAA-NULTH FIRST NATIONS FINAL AGREEMENT
 AND YOUR PERSONAL WILLS AND ESTATES PLANNING**

The Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement (the “Treaty”) will be brought into force on April 1, 2011 (the “Effective Date”).

If you or a member of your family has an existing will, it may have been drafted and executed to comply with the applicable wills and estates provisions of the *Indian Act* and, therefore, may not be valid after the Effective Date.

The Treaty requires that the Government of Canada take reasonable steps to inform persons who may be eligible for enrolment under the Treaty that their wills may not be valid after the Effective Date. Therefore, we wish to provide you with the following information:

1. If you or a member of your family living on reserve has an existing will, you may wish to have that will reviewed to ensure that it is valid under provincial law (the *BC Wills Act*). As noted above, any wills that have been drafted and executed to comply with the applicable wills and estates provisions of the *Indian Act* may not be valid after March 31, 2011.
2. If you or a member of your family live on reserve and do not have an existing will, the *Indian Act* provisions determine who will inherit your property. After the Effective Date provincial law will apply (the *BC Estate Administration Act*).

As someone who may be impacted, you may wish to speak to an estates lawyer to review your will and ensure that it complies with provincial law. If you do not have an estates lawyer, the Canadian Bar Association offers a Lawyer Referral Service that enables members of the public to consult with a lawyer for up to 30 minutes for a fee of \$25. After the consultation, the fees to be charged are strictly between the lawyer and the client. The number to contact for this service is 604.687.3221 or 1.800.663.1919 or you can email lawyerreferral@bccba.org.