



WE WAI KAI NATION MATRIMONIAL REAL PROPERTY LAW

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WE WAI KAI NATION MATRIMONIAL REAL PROPERTY LAW

WHEREAS the We Wai Kai Nation has an inherent right to self-government which emanates from the culture, language and land of our people, and which is recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* and Article 4 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

WHEREAS the We Wai Kai Nation, as an aspect of our inherent right of self-government, has the jurisdiction to address real property issues on its reserve lands, including the distribution of matrimonial real property upon the breakdown of marriage and common law relationships, and this inherent right has not been extinguished;

WHEREAS the We Wai Kai Nation has taken control of its reserve lands and resources pursuant to the Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management (the “Framework Agreement”), and has enacted the *We Wai Kai Nation Land Code*, which came into force and effect on December 7, 2009;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Framework Agreement, the We Wai Kai Nation agreed to enact rules and procedures, applicable on the breakdown of a Relationship, to the use, occupancy and possession of We Wai Kai Lands, and the division of interests in that land;

WHEREAS the We Wai Kai Nation intends to honour its undertaking to provide rights and remedies, without discrimination on the basis of sex or gender, with respect to spouses who have or claim interests in We Wai Kai Lands upon the breakdown of their marriage, and taking into consideration the best interests of their children;

WHEREAS Spouses who are not Citizens cannot hold any permanent legal interest in We Wai Kai Lands;

AND WHEREAS it is essential to the health and survival of the We Wai Kai Nation that we maintain our community and existing lands, and that Citizens be able to live in the We Wai Kai community if they wish to do so,

NOW THEREFORE the We Wai Kai Nation hereby enacts the following Law:

PART I - INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION

1.0 Short Title

1.1 This Law may be cited as the *We Wai Kai Nation Matrimonial Real Property Law*.

2.0 Interpretation

2.1 In this Law, the following definitions apply:

“Child” means a child born in or out of wedlock, a child adopted in accordance with provincial law, a child over whom a person has custody or guardianship, or a child adopted in accordance with the custom of the Likwiltch people, and includes

- (a) a person under the age of 19,
- (b) a person who is an adult under 25 but is still in school full-time, and
- (c) a person who is an adult but is financially dependent on the parent due to a disability;

“Citizen” means a citizen of the We Wai Kai Nation in accordance with the *We Wai Kai Nation Citizenship Code*;

“Common Law Spouse” means a person who has lived with another in a marriage-like relationship for a period of not less than two consecutive years but is not married to the other person;

“Council” means the Chief and Council of the We Wai Kai Nation, elected in accordance with the *We Wai Kai Nation Election Code*;

“Court” means the Supreme Court of British Columbia;

“Designated Judge” means a justice of the peace or judge who is authorized under the *Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act* and has the same authority as granted to a designated judge under that Act;

“Domestic Contract” means a written agreement made between two persons

- (a) in contemplation of their Marriage to each other,
- (b) before they became, or during the time they are, Spouses, or
- (c) who are living Separate and Apart,

in which the persons agree on their respective rights and obligations with respect to the possession or division of a right or Interest;

“Extended Family Member” means a grandparent or other family member, who plays a primary role in the Child’s upbringing;

“Interest” means any Right of Occupancy or Leasehold in We Wai Kai Nation Lands, registered in the We Wai Kai Lands Register, held by either or both Spouses under the Land Code, but does not include rental agreements for We Wai Kai Nation property and, for greater certainty, where there is a Matrimonial Home affixed to We Wai Kai Nation

Lands that is the subject of the Interest, the Interest includes both the land and the Matrimonial Home;

“Land Code” means the *We Wai Kai Nation Land Code* which came into force and effect on December 7, 2009;

“Marriage” or “Married” means the lawful union of two persons to the exclusion of all others, whether by a religious, civil or Aboriginal customary ceremony;

“Matrimonial Home” means an affixed dwelling located on We Wai Kai Lands that is ordinarily used for a family purpose, and which is owned by one or both Spouses;

“Matrimonial Real Property” means an Interest that is held by one or both Spouses, and is ordinarily used by one or both Spouses or a Child of the Spouses for a family purpose, and includes but is not limited to the Matrimonial Home;

“Order” means an Order made by a Court or Designated Judge under this Law;

“Relationship” means the period during which two persons are Married or are Common Law Spouses;

“Right of Occupancy” means an Interest in We Wai Kai Lands granting a Citizen lawful possession of a part of We Wai Lands under Part III of the Land Code;

“Separate and Apart” means circumstances under which the Relationship has broken down and the Spouses are living separate and apart with no intent to reconcile and, for the purposes of this Law, Spouses may live separate and apart in the same residence if the above conditions exist; and

“Spouse” means a person who is Married to another person or is a Common Law Spouse.

2.2 Except as otherwise provided, words and expressions used in this Law have the same meaning as in the Land Code.

2.3 In this Law, the following rules of interpretation apply:

- (a) words in the singular include the plural, and words in the plural include the singular;
- (b) if a word or expression is defined, other parts of speech and grammatical forms of the same word or expressions have corresponding meanings;
- (c) the expression “shall” is to be construed as imperative, and the expression “may” is to be construed as permissive;
- (d) unless the context indicates otherwise, “including” means “including, but not limited to”, and “includes” means “includes, but not limited to”; and

(e) a reference to an enactment includes any amendment or replacement of it and every regulation made under it.

- 2.4 For greater certainty, the definitions of “Spouse” and “Marriage” or “Married” include
- (a) in the case of a person asserting a right under this Law, a void or voidable marriage entered into by that person in good faith; and
 - (b) Relationships entered into before this Law came into force and effect.

2.5 Unless otherwise specified, a reference to an enactment is to an enactment of the Government of Canada.

3.0 Purpose

- 3.1 The purpose of this Law is to establish rules and a mechanism for determining
- (a) the division of Matrimonial Real Property; and
 - (b) possession of the Matrimonial Home,
- on the breakdown of a Relationship.

4.0 Application

- 4.1 This Law applies to Interests, and determination of possession of the Matrimonial Home and Matrimonial Real Property, whether such Interests were acquired before or after this Law came into force and effect.
- 4.2 For greater certainty, this Law applies only to We Wai Kai Lands and not to the remainder of We Wai Kai Nation traditional territory.
- 4.3 The right of a Spouse to an Interest, including any right of possession of the Matrimonial Home or other Matrimonial Real Property, shall be determined in accordance with this Law, where at least one Spouse is a Citizen.
- 4.4 Subject to section 4.5, a Spouse cannot commence legal proceedings under this Law after the death of the other Spouse, and the rights of the first Spouse in relation to an Interest or a Matrimonial Home shall instead be determined by the applicable law governing the estate of the deceased Spouse.
- 4.5 Notwithstanding section 4.4, where one Spouse dies, the other Spouse may continue any legal proceedings under this Law which were started before the death of that Spouse.
- 4.6 Nothing in this Law limits the application of federal or provincial laws respecting the division of personal property, real property outside of We Wai Kai Lands, spousal

support, child support and divorce, except that if such laws deal expressly or implicitly with Interests, this Law shall prevail to the extent of any conflict.

5.0 Guiding Principles

5.1 Subject to this Law, the following general principles apply with respect to the use and possession of the Matrimonial Home, and with respect to the division of Matrimonial Real Property, on the breakdown of a Relationship:

- (a) Spouses have the right to make their own agreement as to the disposition of Interests; and
- (b) Spouses have the right to have access to a Court to deal with all of their Matrimonial Real Property rights, entitlements and obligations.

PART II - DOMESTIC CONTRACTS

6.0 Domestic Contracts

6.1 Subject to this Law, a provision in a Domestic Contract that reflects the agreement of the Spouses with respect to an Interest, including a Matrimonial Home or a Matrimonial Real Property, is valid, binding, and enforceable, whether or not the Spouses entered into the Domestic Contract before or after this Law came into force and effect.

6.2 If a Domestic Contract purports to transfer a full or partial Interest, it shall be consistent with this Law and registered in the We Wai Kai Lands Register before any such transfer can take place.

6.3 A Domestic Contract may provide an Interest or grant rights to a Matrimonial Home to a Spouse or Child who is not a Citizen, but such Interest and such rights shall not in any case be greater than a life estate measured by the life of the individual intended to enjoy it and, for greater certainty, any provision in a Domestic Contract creating, or intended to create, any greater interest than a life estate in respect of a non-Citizen is void and unenforceable.

6.4 Subject to this Law, the Court may, on application by a Spouse, set aside a Domestic Contract or any provision in a Domestic Contract concerning an Interest or a Matrimonial Home upon making a determination that:

- (a) a Spouse failed to disclose to the other Spouse any material information in respect of his or her assets, Interests, or Matrimonial Real Property;
- (b) the Domestic Contract or provision is unconscionable or was entered into under duress or on the basis of undue influence or fraud; or
- (c) any other common law requirement for a legal and binding contract has been breached or has not been met.

- 6.5 A provision of a Domestic Contract that is void or voidable is severable from the other provisions of the Domestic Contract.

PART III - REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS

7.0 Registration of Notice

- 7.1 A Spouse may submit to the Lands Department for registration in the We Wai Kai Lands Register notice of the existence and location of a Domestic Contract respecting Matrimonial Real Property.

8.0 Registration of Matrimonial Real Property

- 8.1 A Spouse may submit to the Lands Department for registration in the We Wai Kai Lands Register notice that an Interest is Matrimonial Real Property.
- 8.2 If an application under section 8.1 is in the prescribed form and is accompanied by an affidavit signed by the Spouse attesting that the Interest is Matrimonial Real Property, the Lands Department shall register the notice.

9.0 Registration of Orders

- 9.1 If the Court makes an Order under this Law for the transfer of an Interest, the Spouse who benefits from the Order shall provide a copy of the Order to the Lands Department, for registration in the We Wai Kai Lands Register.
- 9.2 Subject to section 9.3, an Order that is not registered in the We Wai Kai Lands Register is not enforceable.
- 9.3 An emergency Order made under article 15.0 is enforceable regardless of whether it has been registered in the We Wai Kai Lands Register.

PART IV – SALE, DISPOSAL, ENCUMBRANCE OF REGISTERED INTERESTS

10.0 Restriction on Sale, Disposal or Encumbrance of Registered Interests

- 10.1 Where a notice or Order has been registered in the We Wai Kai Lands Register in accordance with Part III, no Spouse shall sell, dispose of or encumber Matrimonial Real Property unless
- (a) the other Spouse consents to the transaction;
 - (b) the other Spouse joins in the instrument of disposal or encumbrance;
 - (c) the other Spouse has released all rights in respect of the Matrimonial Real Property

- by Domestic Contract;
 - (d) an Order has authorized the transaction; or
 - (e) an Order has released the Matrimonial Real Property from the application of this article.
- 10.2 If a Spouse sells, disposes of or encumbers Matrimonial Real Property in contravention of section 10.1, the Court may, on application by the other Spouse, set aside the disposal or encumbrance.
- 10.3 Section 10.2 does not apply where the person holding the disposition or encumbrance at the time of the application to the Court acquired the disposition or encumbrance for value, in good faith and without notice at the time of acquiring or making an agreement to acquire the disposition or encumbrance, that the Interest was Matrimonial Real Property.
- 10.4 Where a person proceeds to realize upon an encumbrance or execution against Matrimonial Real Property, the Spouse who has a right of possession under this Law has the same right of redemption or relief against forfeiture as the other Spouse and is entitled to the same notice respecting the claim and its enforcement or realization.

PART V – MEDIATION

11.0 Mediation Encouraged

- 11.1 Upon the breakdown of a Relationship, the We Wai Kai Nation encourages Spouses to seek mediation in respect of the division of Matrimonial Real Property and possession of the Matrimonial Home, where Spouses do not have, or are not able to negotiate and enter into, a Domestic Contract,

PART VI - COURT

12.0 Access to Court

- 12.1 Spouses who are unable to resolve their differences regarding any matter addressed in this Law may apply to the Court for a resolution of their dispute.
- 12.2 Former Spouses may apply to a Court under this Part for the purpose of enforcing rights or obligations under a Domestic Contract or Order, so long as they commence their application
- (a) within one year of the date of living Separate and Apart; or
 - (b) later if the Court grants leave, on the grounds that exceptional circumstances justify the late application.

12.3 Extended Family Members may make applications to the Court for exclusive possession of the Matrimonial Home in order to allow a Child to remain in the Matrimonial Home, where the Extended Family Member considers such application to be in the best interests of the Child.

13.0 Orders Respecting Matrimonial Real Property

13.1 Subject to this Law, each Spouse should be entitled to an equal share of the Matrimonial Real Property as a tenant in common, or in the case of a non-Citizen Spouse, an equal share of the value of the Matrimonial Real Property.

13.2 For greater certainty, only Citizens are entitled to hold a Right of Occupancy or charge against a Right of Occupancy.

13.3 The Court may, on application by a Spouse, make any determination concerning Matrimonial Real Property, including:

- (a) a declaration as to whether the Interest at issue is in fact Matrimonial Real Property;
- (b) a declaration as to the ownership of any Interest or Matrimonial Real Property;
- (c) an Order of exclusive possession of Matrimonial Real Property other than the Matrimonial Home;
- (d) if a Spouse is a Citizen, an Order that Matrimonial Real Property be transferred to that Spouse exclusively;
- (e) an Order that a right or interest in Matrimonial Real Property be subject to a lease by one Spouse to the other Spouse for a term of years, or be subject to a life interest in favour of a Spouse, on such terms and conditions as the Court deems just in all the circumstances;
- (f) an Order that a Spouse pay compensation to the other Spouse where Matrimonial Real Property has been disposed of, or for the purpose of adjusting the division of Matrimonial Real Property;
- (g) an Order that the interest in Matrimonial Real Property of either or both Spouses be transferred to, or placed in trust for, a Child;
- (h) an Order that a right or interest in Matrimonial Real Property held by one or both Spouses be partitioned or sold and, if sold, that payment be made to either or both Spouses in specified proportions or amounts;
- (i) an Order that a Citizen Spouse make a compensatory payment to the non-Citizen Spouse in recognition of the fact that the non-Citizen Spouse cannot hold a Right of Occupancy or charge against a Right of Occupancy;
- (j) an Order that restrains either Spouse from disposing of or transferring their interest in any Matrimonial Real Property, either legally or beneficially, pending the trial of the action;
- (k) authorization of a sale, disposition or encumbrance of the Matrimonial Real Property, if the Court finds that the Spouse whose consent is required

- (i) cannot be found or is not available,
 - (ii) is not capable of giving or withholding consent, or
 - (iii) is unreasonably withholding consent;
 - (l) any appropriate and equitable Order where one Spouse has intentionally, recklessly, or fraudulently depleted Matrimonial Real Property, including any Order the Court deems necessary to stop or restrict the depletion of Matrimonial Real Property;
 - (m) any Order the Court deems appropriate based on the individual circumstances of the case before it; and
 - (n) any Order the Court deems necessary, reasonable or ancillary to give effect to the Court's determination.
- 13.4 Notwithstanding section 13.1, in making an Order under section 13.3 the Court may divide Matrimonial Real Property in unequal shares or adjust required payments if the Court deems that equal division would be unfair and inequitable after taking into consideration the following, as applicable:
- (a) the need to support any affected Child;
 - (b) the terms of a Domestic Contract;
 - (c) whether the Matrimonial Real Property was acquired during the Relationship;
 - (d) whether the Matrimonial Real Property was received by one Spouse by way of gift or inheritance;
 - (e) the date when the Matrimonial Real Property was acquired or disposed of;
 - (f) the duration of the Relationship;
 - (g) the length of time the Spouses have lived Separate and Apart;
 - (h) whether one Spouse has exclusive possession of the Matrimonial Home by agreement or Order;
 - (i) the needs of each Spouse to become or remain economically independent;
 - (j) direct or indirect financial and other contributions of each Spouse toward the acquisition, upkeep, or improvement of the Matrimonial Real Property, including through child-rearing responsibilities;
 - (k) the extent to which the financial means and earning capacity of each Spouse have been affected by the responsibilities and other circumstances of the Relationship;
 - (l) any previous distribution of property between the spouses by gift or agreement or pursuant to an order of any court;
 - (m) any dissipation or reduction in value of the Matrimonial Real Property caused by a Spouse;
 - (n) any benefit received or receivable by the surviving Spouse as a result of the death of the other Spouse;
 - (o) any relevant Order or award that the Court is making or has previously made for the Spouses pursuant to applicable provincial or federal law;
 - (p) an Order for payment by one or both Spouses of any outstanding loans incurred against the Matrimonial Home; and
 - (q) any other factor which the Court deems relevant to an equitable division of the

Matrimonial Real Property.

14.0 Orders Respecting the Matrimonial Home

- 14.1 Subject to this Law, both Spouses have an equal right to possess the Matrimonial Home.
- 14.2 The right of a Child to use and occupy the Matrimonial Home
- (a) is paramount over the right of a Spouse to use and possess the Matrimonial Home; and
 - (b) continues until
 - (i) the Court makes an Order;
 - (ii) other arrangements have been made in the best interests and welfare of the Child; or
 - (iii) the person is no longer a Child.
- 14.3 For greater certainty, regardless of whether there is a Domestic Contract, where a Child is involved, possession of the Matrimonial Home shall be determined in accordance with this Law.
- 14.4 In determining the best interests and welfare of a Child, the Court shall consider
- (a) the possible disruptive effects on the Child of a move to other accommodation; and
 - (b) the Child's views and preferences, if they can reasonably be ascertained.
- 14.5 The Court may, on application by a Spouse or Extended Family Member, make any determination concerning the Matrimonial Home, including:
- (a) a declaration as to whether or not the Interest at issue is a Matrimonial Home;
 - (b) an Order for exclusive possession of the Matrimonial Home, up to and including
 - (i) a Right of Occupancy if the Spouse is a Citizen, and
 - (ii) a life estate if the Spouse is a non-Citizen;
 - (c) an Order that a Spouse or other person preserve and deliver up the Matrimonial Home and its contents to a Spouse, a Child, or an Extended Family Member;
 - (d) an Order that a Spouse or other person not disturb the occupants of the Matrimonial Home;
 - (e) an Order that all or part of the contents of the Matrimonial Home remain in or be removed from the Matrimonial Home;
 - (f) an Order that a Spouse pay for all or part of the repair and maintenance of the Matrimonial Home and other related liabilities, or make periodic payments to the other Spouse for these purposes;
 - (g) any Order the Court deems appropriate based on the individual circumstances of the case before it; and
 - (h) any Order the Court deems necessary, reasonable or ancillary to give effect to the Court's determination.

- 14.6 Notwithstanding section 14.1, in considering an application under section 14.5 the Court shall take into consideration the following, as applicable:
- (a) the best interests and welfare of any Children and their paramount right to use, enjoy and occupy the family home;
 - (b) any existing Orders under this Law and any existing support orders;
 - (c) the financial position and medical condition of the Spouses;
 - (d) subject to section 14.3, the provisions of any Domestic Contract;
 - (e) the availability of other suitable and affordable accommodation;
 - (f) any risk of violence or harm to a Spouse, Child or other person occupying the Matrimonial Home;
 - (g) the length of time each Spouse has resided in the Matrimonial Home;
 - (h) whether any third party holds a right to or interest in the Matrimonial Home;
 - (i) the interests of any elderly person, or person with a disability, who habitually resides in the Matrimonial Home, if one of the Spouses is that person's caregiver;
 - (j) the collective rights of We Wai Kai and any financial interest of We Wai Kai in the family home; and
 - (k) any other relevant factors.
- 14.7 In considering an application for exclusive possession of the Matrimonial Home under paragraph 14.5(b) and the principles at section 14.2, the Court shall be guided by the following:
- (a) the custodial parent or the Extended Family Member providing primary care for the Child should have exclusive possession of the Matrimonial Home during the time the Child resides with the parent or Extended Family Member, provided that observance of this principle is consistent with the best interests of the Child; and
 - (b) where both parents share custody of a Child, the Spouse with whom the Child principally resides shall be favoured in determining exclusive possession,
- 14.8 In making a determination under section 14.7, the Court may take into consideration whether one or more of the Children are non-Citizens, and may, as a result, make an appropriate Order, notwithstanding section 14.2.
- 14.9 For greater certainty, exclusive occupation extends to the portion of any land that is contiguous to the Matrimonial Home and that is necessary for the use and enjoyment of the Matrimonial Home.

15.0 Emergency Orders

- 15.1 Notwithstanding anything in this Law, the Court or a Designated Judge may, on application by a Spouse or Extended Family Member, without notice to any other party, make an emergency order for exclusive possession of the Matrimonial Home in favour of that Spouse or Extended Family Member, for up to 90 days, whether or not the

applicant is a Citizen and whether or not a Child is involved, if the Court or Designated Judge determines that:

- (a) family violence has occurred;
- (b) there is an immediate danger to the applicant or a Child; and
- (c) the Order is required without delay because of the urgency or seriousness of the situation to ensure the immediate protection of the applicant or a Child who resides in the Matrimonial Home.

15.2 An Order under section 15.1 shall include a provision directing a peace officer to enforce any provision of the Order if requested to do so by the applicant, and may include any or all of the following:

- (a) a provision requiring a person to vacate the Matrimonial Home and prohibiting them from returning to the Matrimonial Home or approaching within a prescribed distance of the Matrimonial Home for the duration of the Order;
- (b) a direction to a peace officer to remove any person named in the Order from the Matrimonial Home or from any area within a prescribed distance of the Matrimonial Home;
- (c) a direction to a peace officer to escort and supervise the person required to vacate the Matrimonial Home so that person may attend the Matrimonial Home for the removal of personal belongings; and
- (d) any other provision that the Court deems necessary for the immediate protection of any person who is at risk.

15.3 An Order made under this article shall be served on the party against whom the order is made as soon as reasonably possible.

15.4 A person against whom an Order is made under this article is bound by the Order on receiving notice of it.

15.5 Any person who obtains an Order under this article shall, as soon as reasonably possible, submit a copy to the Lands Department for registration in the We Wai Kai Lands Register.

15.6 For greater certainty, an Order made under this article does not

- (a) change who holds a right or interest in or to the Matrimonial Home; or
- (b) prevent an executor of a will or an administrator of an estate from transferring such an interest or right to a named beneficiary under the will or to a beneficiary on intestacy subject to the Order.

16.0 Court Orders

- 16.1 Any person, in whose favour or against whom an Order is made under this Law, including an Order made by a Designated Judge, may apply to the Court to have the Order confirmed, varied or revoked within the time determined by the Court or, if no time limit is stipulated, at any point while the Order remains in force.
- 16.2 Any person who obtains an Order under this Law shall submit a copy to the Lands Department for registration in the We Wai Kai Lands Register.
- 16.3 An appeal from an Order does not operate as a stay or suspend the operation of an Order unless the appeal body orders otherwise.

PART VI – General Provisions

17.0 Severability

- 17.1 If any provision in this Law is for any reason held invalid by a decision of a Court, the invalid provision shall, wherever possible, be severed from and not affect the remaining provisions of this Law.

PART VII - OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

18.0 Enforcement

- 18.1 Any person who fails to comply with an Order commits an offence.
- 18.2 A peace officer may arrest without warrant any person the peace officer believes, on reasonable and probable grounds, to have contravened an Order for exclusive possession of the Matrimonial Home or Matrimonial Real Property.
- 18.3 An Order, certified by a proper officer of the Court that made the Order, is proof of the Order in enforcement of this Law.
- 18.4 A peace officer shall, on the request of an applicant
- (a) serve notice of an Order or decision upon any person;
 - (b) accompany the applicant or any specified person or take any other action to enforce an Order for exclusive possession of the Matrimonial Home or Matrimonial Real Property; and
 - (c) take any such actions as may be directed by the Court or Designated Judge.

19.0 Penalty

- 19.1 A person convicted of an offence under this Law is liable, on summary conviction, to
- (a) a fine of up to \$5000;
 - (b) imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months; or
 - (c) both.
- 19.2 A fine payable under this article shall be remitted to We Wai Kai by the Court, after reasonable Court costs have been deducted.

PART VIII – ENACTMENT AND AMENDMENTS

20.0 Enactment

- 20.1 This Law shall be enacted in accordance with article 31 of the Land Code.
- 20.2 This Law comes into force on the date it is approved by the Citizens at a Special General Meeting or by Referendum.
- 20.3 This Law shall be made available to the Citizens by means the Council considers to be appropriate.

21.0 Amendments

- 21.1 This Law may be amended in accordance with article 33 of the Land Code.
- 21.2 Notwithstanding section 21.1, the Council may, by resolution, approve non-substantive amendments to this Law.