

First Nation governments enacting Matrimonial Real Property Laws pursuant to the *Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Real Interest or Rights Act* (FHRMIRA) are encouraged to apply by submitting a Proposal AND a supporting BAND COUNCIL RESOLUTION to:

Becky Wolfe
Special Projects Officer
705-657-9992

bwolfe@coemrp.ca
or
mrpfund@coemrp.ca

- to obtain information about project criteria and eligibility
- to obtain assistance in developing your proposal
- to obtain a copy of the proposal template in Word format and other relevant resources

The application template can be found online at:

<https://www.coemrp.ca/mrp-funding/>

PLEASE NOTE: There is no set deadline. Complete proposals will be considered in the order that they are received and projects must be completed by March 31.



The Centre of Excellence for Matrimonial Real Property (COEMRP)
c/o National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association (NALMA)
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Curve Lake, ON K0L 1R0
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COEMRP Special Pilot Project Funding

The Centre of Excellence for Matrimonial Real Property (**COEMRP**) is pleased to announce a Pilot Project to provide financial support for First Nations Matrimonial Real Property Law-Making Pursuant to the *Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act* (FHRMIRA)





Six Categories of Special Project Funding

Category # 1: Increasing Community Members Awareness of the Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act (the Act) as it relates to their community and Discussions on the Option to Enact a Community-specific Law

This funding will provide support to those communities who wish to engage their community members in building the awareness and understanding of the Act. This engagement process is needed to prompt initial community members' discussions which may increase the incentive in moving forward in addressing the First Nation's MRP needs. The eligible activities could include holding community meetings, development and distribution of various communiques specific to the First Nation, accessing professional expertise, hiring of community consultation worker for the community members' engagement process, development of survey questionnaires to be distributed to the community members, and media activities. First Nations are invited to submit a proposal for funding up to \$25,000 to increase awareness and understanding of the legal implications and opportunities under the Act.

Category # 2: Funding for Development of Laws - Legal Fees and Consultation with the Community

First Nations who are in the process of developing their community-specific Matrimonial Real Property law could submit a proposal for funds up to \$25,000 to assist with the costs for legal fees or for the consultation and development of their community-specific laws.

Category # 3: Funding for Ratification Vote

*First Nations who have developed their community specific MRP law but have not yet held their community ratification vote would be invited to submit a proposal for funds up to \$25,000 for the purpose of conducting a ratification vote. First Nations who have held a failed MRP law ratification vote are eligible and encouraged to submit a proposal for funding to hold an **additional** ratification vote.*

Category # 4: Operational Considerations - Internal Capacity and Procedural Development

Once the new MRP law is in effect, an implementation and enforcement strategy will be needed to be put in place. There will be administrative procedures, guidelines, and filing systems required to support the new law when applications are submitted. Procedures will be needed to define the handling of the applications dealing with such items as document flow & physical file management including security and confidentiality, case management and communication obligations. Policy and procedures for court cases will need to be developed to address the requirement when representation by the First Nation is necessary. Once these procedures are defined, staff should be trained to follow them with an emphasis on privacy of the applicant. First Nations are invited to submit a proposal for funding up to \$25,000 for operational considerations.

Category # 5: Increase Availability and Awareness of Community-Specific Laws

This project will provide support to communities who have enacted their own community specific MRP laws to increase availability and awareness of their MRP Law, as set out in the Act. Activities eligible under this proposal could include publishing their laws on their website, the development of flyers or pamphlets for community members, or any activities increasing awareness and understanding of the law within First Nation communities. First Nations would be invited to submit a proposal for funds up to \$25,000 to increase availability and awareness of their community-specific law.

Category # 6: Operational Considerations under the Provisional Federal Rules

First Nations who choose to remain under the Provisional Federal Rules and decide not to enact a community-specific law under FHRMIRA will need to put in place administrative policies, procedures and systems to address applications filed in the courts. Policies and procedures will need to be developed to address the requirement when representation by the First Nation is necessary in the courts. Policies and procedures will be needed to address case management, communications and document flow/physical file management including security/confidentiality. An emphasis on ensuring confidentiality and impartial treatment is paramount. First Nations are invited to submit a proposal for funding up to \$25,000 for operational considerations under the Provisional Federal Rules.

Special Pilot Project Funding

Six Categories of financial support for First Nations Matrimonial Real Property Law-Making Pursuant to the *Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act (FHRMIRA)*