



Chippewas of RAMA First Nation

Friday, November-24-17

Dear Chippewas of Rama Members;

Aaniin Boozho,

The Chippewas of Rama First Nation, in recognition of our inherent right to govern our lands, is holding a Land Code vote in February 2018. If successful, the Chippewas of Rama First Nation Land Code will enable all of us together to create Land Laws to protect our environment, protect our lands as well as remove time consuming land use approvals for economic development by Indian Affairs.

Rama has been working on a Land Code for a number of years and brought it to the membership for a vote in 2013. Although the majority voted yes to the land code in 2013, the minimum number of votes was not reached for the vote to be successful. Since then, we have taken the time to revisit the land code and create summaries that are easier for all of us to understand. It is important that we make an informed decision on controlling our own lands and resources.

You will be asked to vote on Rama's *Individual Agreement with Canada* and the *Rama First Nation Land Code*. In the provided documents you will see that the Individual Agreement with Canada is unique to Rama First Nation and provides the mechanism to remove our lands out from under the Minister of Indian Affairs. As always, our reserve lands remain only in the hands of members and cannot be sold to non-members. Our reserve lands will continue to be protected for future generations. This has not changed. What will be different with Rama's Land Code is that our reserve lands can never be expropriated by Ontario and Chief and Council have voluntarily given up any right to band expropriation. Additionally, Canada is strictly limited on any expropriation of our reserve lands.

Please find enclosed the document information packages, voting information and a mail in ballot for the Chippewas of Rama First Nation Land Code vote scheduled for February 17, 2018. Please take the time to read these important documents. If you have any questions or concerns the contact information is included with the documents or you may contact any member of Chief and Council. We will be happy to answer your questions.

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Chief and Council