



SEMÁ:TH LANDS

Summary of Proposed Amendments to *Soil Law* (March 28, 2025)

WHAT IS THE SOIL LAW?

The *Soil Law* protects the environment on Semá:th Reserve lands. It regulates the removal, dumping and transportation of soil and makes sure there are no contamination issues.

WHY ARE THERE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS?

The amendments are to clarify the adoption of provincial standards and the soil standards for non-residential parcels of land. New wording for section 2.3 confirms that Semá:th is still the decision-maker on Semá:th lands and that adopting provincial standards does not give the Province any authority.

The proposed amendment to section 6.1(b) deals with the fact that the current standards only allow for Residential quality fill. This protects our Reserve lands against contaminated soil. However, it also creates challenges for Semá:th projects on lands that are not intended for residential use.

For example, the lands on the south side of the Highway are well suited to commercial use. The amendments allow for fill that meets provincial standards for Commercial fill or for the classification for the receiving site. This is for Lots 79-82 or other lots designated by Council.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Full copies of the proposed amendments are posted at the Lands Office and on the Sumas First Nation website at www.sumasfirstnation.com. We welcome any questions about the draft law and any input on how to improve it. Please contact Jennette Pierre at Jennette.Pierre@sumasfirstnation.com

There are 21 days for you to provide comments to the Semá:th Lands Office. After that, the amendments will be in force once passed by Chief and Council.

DISCLAIMER

Disclaimer: This summary is to explain the draft amendments in plain English. However, the summary has no legal status. The draft amended law itself is the authoritative version.