



ANISHINABEK NATION

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Anishinabek Nation Chiefs

FROM: Joe Endanawas, Ratification Vote Manager (RVM)

DATE: June 30, 2021

Note: COVID-19 has presented major difficulties for some First Nations intent on facilitating a vote and it is acknowledged that this can delay or require adjustments to mitigate risks. Ratification supports continue to be available for all, to assist and guide through the preparation and facilitation of a vote. With careful consideration and planning, we have seen some First Nations successfully proceed with a vote during these unprecedented times.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Those First Nations who have passed a Band Council Resolution (BCR) or a letter of intent to run a ratification vote in their community are currently in the process of preparing for this vote, with supports and direction provided by the Ratification Vote Manager. All parties are encouraged to familiarize themselves with their responsibilities and with the critical path timeline.

BACKGROUND

The Anishinabek Nation and Canada have negotiated the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement. The Ratification Vote for the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement will focus on the time period of September 2021 to February 2022 for First and Second Votes. As events unfold, other vote periods beyond February 2022 may be entertained. The goal is to encourage First Nations to host a vote on the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement, when it suits their schedule.

(There is a timeline table that will show the breakdown of how the vote period is broken down into months, for both First and Second Votes. See attached Critical Path Timeline Sept 2021-Feb 2022)

Those First Nations who have submitted a Band Council Resolution (BCR) or letter of intent to run the vote, will be assisted by Ratification support staff who will help prepare First Nation Ratification Officers and their Deputy(ies) in carrying out their roles in their communities.

The Ratification Vote will run in accordance to the Ratification Process Protocol, guidelines agreed upon by the Anishinabek Nation and Canada that will support the facilitation of the ratification vote in First Nations.

CURRENT STATUS

As of June 30, we have two First Nation scheduled to run the vote, Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek will vote from August 1 to August 28 and Munsee-Delaware will vote from September 1 to September 30.

Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) for the ratification vote have been sent to these First Nations (as of June 30, 2021).

Supplemental material including job descriptions, key tasks, roles & responsibilities for First Nations and vote staff, as well as a critical path timeline have been shared with Chiefs and their administrators.

The support staff currently in place include:

Ratification Vote Manager, Ratification Committee members and a Ratification Committee Coordinator.

The Ratification Committee continues to meet weekly, and as required, and communicates with the Main Table as needed. The Ratification Committee members are: Rhonda Couchie (Anishinabek Nation) and Victoria Bird (Canada).

Guidelines have been developed by the Ratification Committee which supplement the Ratification Process Protocol.

An Appeal Board has been appointed by the Ratification Committee, consisting of three individuals.

The Electronic Voting contractor has been confirmed – *One Feather*

Training for First Nation Ratification Officers is scheduled to be ongoing as they come on board.

The Ratification Vote Manager is in regular communication with the Communications team, providing regular updates on the progress of the vote as well as answering vote specific questions.

The Communication team and Ratification Vote Manager work collaboratively in making the Anishinabek Nation aware of the vote process.

Information Sessions will be scheduled and facilitated by First Nation Ratification Officers prior to the Vote period. There may be collaborative efforts with First Nation Communications Coordinators.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

The Ratification Vote Manager or designate will continue to be in contact with First Nations to support them in preparations for the vote.

Training for First Nation Ratification Officers will be provided and sessions are scheduled on an ongoing basis, with refresher training to take place as needed.

The timeline identifies keys tasks and deadlines in order to fulfill the requirements of the Ratification Process Protocol, so it is important that the deadlines are met.

RATIONALE

Chiefs have identified their First Nation's interest in moving forward with the Ratification Vote. It is important that all parties understand their role and meet identified deadlines.

The Ratification Vote Manager will provide guidance/supports to First Nation Ratification Officers before, during and following the ratification vote.

NEXT STEPS/RECOMMENDATIONS/OPTIONS

1. If you have plans on running the vote this Fall, whether it is your First Vote or Second Vote, please contact our office as soon as possible. Melanie Miller, the Ratification Committee Coordinator, will be happy to assist you with your MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) for funding of the ratification vote, please do so as soon as possible. She can be reached at melanie.miller@anishinabek.ca.
2. Hire/appoint your First Nation Ratification Officer so that they can attend the training scheduled as needed. For cost effectiveness, we will try and schedule groups of First Nation Ratification Officers.
3. Familiarize yourself with the responsibilities of the First Nation and with the critical path timeline
4. Be supportive of the work your First Nation Ratification Officers will be doing in your community, the Ratification Vote Manager and other members whose role it is to help promote the successful facilitation of a vote in your community.
5. Feel free to contact the Ratification Vote Manager, Joe Endanawas for vote specific inquiries or supports. 705-497-9127 x2329 or joe.endanawas@anishinabek.ca