



ANISHINABEK NATION

AJIJAAK DODEM/CRANE CLAN RESTORATION OF JURISDICTION DEPARTMENT

BRIEFING NOTE SUPPORT FOR ADDITIONAL VOTING PERIOD FOR GOVERNANCE

TO: Anishinabek Nation Chiefs
FROM: Dave Shawana, Director, Restoration of Jurisdiction Department
RE: **SUPPORT FOR ADDITIONAL VOTING PERIOD FOR GOVERNANCE**
DATE: June 30, 2021

BACKGROUND:

In 2019/20 the ROJ Department supported the conclusion of the Governance negotiations process on behalf of the 39 Anishinabek First Nations. The *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement*, and the supporting *Fiscal Agreement* and *Implementation Plan*, were initialed off by the Parties on **August 23, 2019**, to signal the end of formal negotiations and the beginning of the ratification process.

The ROJ Department has been supporting Anishinabek First Nations in the approval of their Governance Agreement through coordinated First Nation community-based communications and ratification processes.

The 2020/21 fiscal year saw tremendous effects of the Global COVID-19 Pandemic on the implementation of the ROJ Department's workplan. Like many, the ROJ Department made strategic decisions for the continued efforts and support to Anishinabek First Nations in the approval of their Governance Agreements.

CURRENT STATUS:

Under the direction of the Chiefs Committee on Governance and support from the Commissioner on Governance, both agreed that due to the issues of the Pandemic and the effects that it had on Anishinabek First Nations and their citizens, the need for an additional voting period to ratify the Governance Agreement needed to be offered to Anishinabek First Nations.

The recommendation was discussed with Canada's Federal Negotiations Team, where Canada was agreeable to extending the opportunity for Anishinabek First Nations to

hold a vote on the Governance Agreement. The agreed to extension for First Nations to ratify the Governance Agreement would be between **September 2021 to February 2022**.

First Nations Support for Additional Voting Period:

1) Communications Support:

- a) Communications Funding: The ROJ Department will provide direct financial support to the First Nations to implement their community-based governance communications activities.
- b) Communications Technical Support: In addition, the ROJ will provide ongoing technical and strategic support from a Communications Technical Team. The support also includes training and access to communication products to support each of the hired First Nation Communications Coordinators within each of the First Nations.

In order to promote the safety of citizens, First Nations are encouraged to facilitate online engagement sessions through the use of the Zoom platforms.

2) Ratification Support:

- a) Ratification Funding: In support of the First Nations implementing their ratification activities, the ROJ Department will provide direct financial support.
- b) Ratification Technical Support: In addition, ratification technical support will be provided by the Ratification staff in the form of training and regular meetings to ensure First Nations vote staff are guided during the implementation of their governance ratification vote.

To ensure the safety of voting citizens, recommendations for on-line voting (One Feather) and mail-in options are recommended to the First Nations conducting the ratification vote.

3) Constitution Development Support:

Technical and legal support is also available to First Nations for any constitution needs.

NEXT STEPS:

- Anishinabek First Nation attending the Chiefs Forum on Governance, June 30, 2021, indicate their intention to run a ratification vote per the extension deadline;
- Seek Band Council Resolutions (BCRs) from Anishinabek First Nations identifying their intent to run the Governance Vote within the additional voting period. (See attached Draft BCR)

- Secure funding to First Nations to support communication and ratification workplans.
- Networking and support to First Nations in the areas of communications and ratification – training, technical and legal support.

