

Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement Ratification Booklet



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NGO DWE WAANGIZID ANISHINAABE **One Anishinaabe Family**

Debenjiged giisaan anishinaaben akiing giibi dgwon gaadeni mndoo waadiziwin.
(Creator placed the anishinaabe on the earth along with the gift of spirituality.)

**Shkode, nibi, aki, noodin, giibi dgosdoonan wii naagdownemang
maanpii shkagmigaang.**
(Here on mother earth, there were gifts given to the Anishinaabe to look after, fire, water, earth and wind.)

**Debenjiged gii miinaan gechtwaa wendaagog Anishinaaben waa naagdoonjin
ninda niizhwaaswi kino maadwinan:**
(The Creator also gave the Anishinaabe seven sacred gifts to guide them. They are:)

**Zaagidwin, Debwewin, Mnaadendmowin, Nbwaakaawin, Dbaadendiziwin,
Gwekwaadziwin miinwa Aakedhewin.**
(Love, Truth, Respect, Wisdom, Humility, Honesty and Bravery.)

Debenjiged kiimiingona dedbinwe wi naagdowendiwin.
(Creator gave us sovereignty to govern ourselves.)

**Ka mnaadendanaa gaabi zhiwebag miinwaa nango megwaa ezhwebag,
miinwa geyaabi waa ni zhiwebag.**
(We respect and honour the past, present and future.)

*Preamble to the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin (Anishinabek Nation Constitution)
Adopted by the Anishinabek Grand Council - June 6, 2012*

ANISHINABEK NATION RATIFICATION VOTE OVERVIEW

HOW WAS THE RATIFICATION VOTE PROCESS DEVELOPED?

- The ratification vote process was negotiated by the Anishinabek Nation and Canada as set out in Chapter 15 of the proposed *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement*.
- A Ratification Process Protocol was negotiated and jointly developed by the Anishinabek Nation and Canada “the Parties”.

WHAT IS THE RATIFICATION PROCESS PROTOCOL?

- The Ratification Process Protocol is a set of guidelines that will support the First Nations that are running a Ratification Vote.
- The Ratification Vote Manager will oversee the Ratification Vote and ensure the Ratification Process Protocol is implemented by First Nations that are running a vote.
- Each First Nation Ratification Officer and Deputy Ratification Officer will run the vote in accordance with the proposed *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement* and the Ratification Process Protocol.
- **Precautions/measures will be in place that are in compliance with COVID-19 public health directives.**

WHO WILL RUN THE RATIFICATION VOTE ON THE FIRST NATION?

- Each First Nation will hire or appoint a First Nation Ratification Officer who will oversee the vote in their community.
- The First Nation Ratification Officer may appoint a Deputy (or two) to assist them.
- The Ratification Vote Manager will assist and train the First Nation Ratification Officer .

WHEN IS THE RATIFICATION VOTE PERIOD?

- Please contact your First Nation Ratification Officer for details specific to your First Nation

WHO CAN VOTE?

- Eligible Voters are citizens of a First Nation running a Ratification Vote who are 18 years of age or older by the end of the Voting Period .
- Citizens are encouraged to speak to the First Nation membership clerk to ensure they are on the eligible voters list.
- Eligible Voters can only vote once.
- There are three (3) voting options:
 - Mail-in Ballot (if applicable)
 - In-person (if applicable)
 - Electronic vote (if applicable)

Precautions/measures will be in place that are in compliance with COVID-19 public health directives.

HOW DO I GET INFORMATION ABOUT THE VOTE?

- Contact your First Nation Ratification Officer for a Ratification Vote Information Package
- Attend the Information Session in your First Nation
- Visit the governance website: governancevote.ca
- Call the Toll-Free Hotline: 1-833-297-9850
- Visit the official Anishinabek Nation social media

HOW DO I CAST A MAIL-IN BALLOT?

- Your First Nation Ratification Officer will send out Mail-in Ballots (if applicable) to off-reserve voters in Canada.
- Any Eligible voter can request a Mail-in Ballot.

HOW DO I CAST AN ELECTRONIC BALLOT?

- You will log in to the electronic voting website <https://onefeather.ca/nations/anishinabek> or link (if applicable) provided by your First Nation Ratification Officer (FNRO) and receive instructions on how to vote.
- Have your 10-digit Status Card Number (Registry Number), Date of Birth and personal e-mail ready.

HOW DO I CAST AN IN-PERSON BALLOT?

- In-person voting (if applicable) will occur within the last week of the vote period as determined by each First Nation. For details, check your First Nation's Notice of Vote or contact your First Nation Ratification Officer.
- Attend a polling station in your First Nation.
- An Eligible Voter can only vote once.

WHEN WILL THE VOTE RESULTS BE AVAILABLE?

- Immediately after the closing of the polls, the votes will be tabulated and the unofficial results will be posted by the First Nation Ratification Officer where the Notice of Vote was posted.
- Official results will be released after the appeal period.

IS THERE A VOTING THRESHOLD FOR THE FIRST NATION VOTE?

- Chapter 15 of the proposed *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement* sets out a threshold for ratification of the Agreement:
 - 25% plus one (1) of Eligible Voters in your First Nation must vote "Yes".
 - There must be more "Yes" votes than "No" votes.

Example:

If a First Nation has 100 Eligible Voters their threshold = 26.
So at least 26 of their Eligible Voters must vote YES.

In order to ratify, the threshold must be met AND there must be more YES votes than NO votes.

Where the minimum of 25% plus 1 is not achieved but a majority of those who voted, voted "YES", the First Nation may call a **second vote** within a timeframe agreed to by the Parties:

a) where there are more "YES" votes than "NO" votes in the second vote, the First Nation is deemed to have ratified the Agreement; and

b) the Ratification Process Protocol will apply to the second vote with necessary modifications as agreed to by the Parties.

IS THERE AN APPEAL PROCESS FOR THE RATIFICATION VOTE?

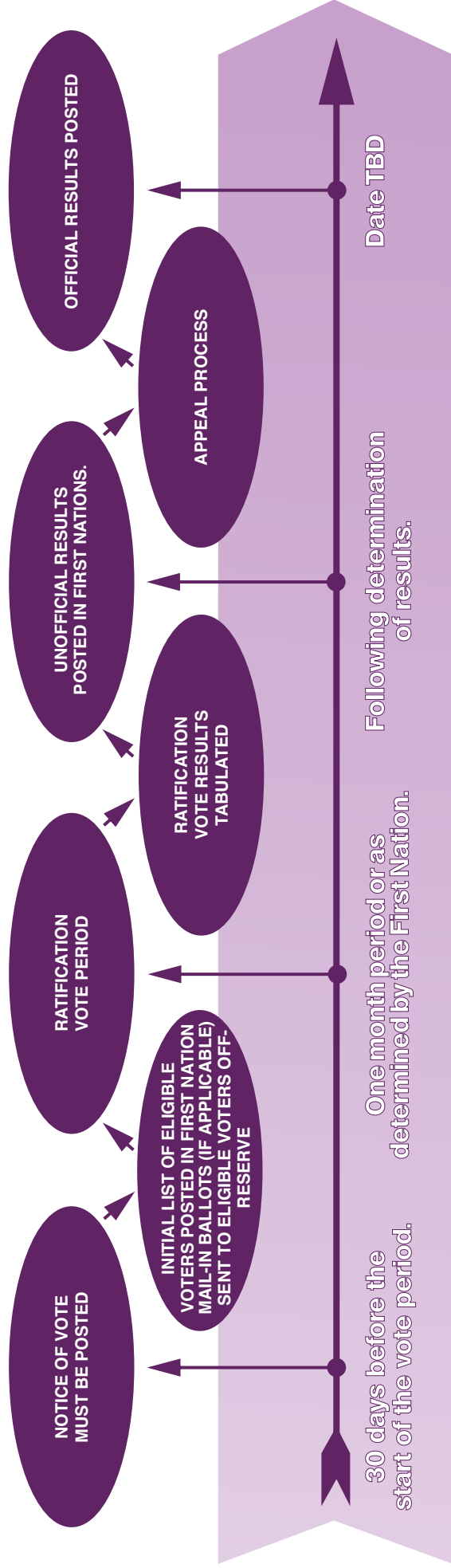
- An Eligible Voter of a First Nation may file an objection in writing to the Appeal Board within 10 days of the end date of the Voting Period.
- The Eligible Voter must have reasonable grounds to file an objection (a violation of the Protocol in the conduct of the vote that might have substantially affected the result of the vote).
- The Eligible Voter must identify their name, address, and telephone number.
- The objection must be sent by registered mail, email or hand-delivered to the Ratification Vote Manager. (subject to COVID-19 precautions. Please contact the Ratification Vote Manager for more information).
- The objection must be accompanied by an affidavit sworn before a notary public or duly-appointed commissioner for taking oaths, setting out grounds for the objection and any evidence in support of the objection.
- The Ratification Vote Manager must submit the objection to the Appeal Board.
- The Appeal Board must provide a written decision within 14 days after hearing the objection.
- The Anishinabek Nation and Canada will meet as soon as practicable to discuss the Appeal Board decision.
- Official vote results will be released after that time.



Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement

VOTE HERE

Ratification Vote TIMELINE



First Nation Ratification Officers must also:

- respond to requests for **Documents** by Eligible Voters within seven (7) days
- respond to requests for **Information** as soon as practicable
- facilitate a Ratification Process Information Session following the posting of the Notice of Vote

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

Glossary Term:	Glossary Description:
PROPOSED ANISHINABEK NATION GOVERNANCE AGREEMENT	The proposed <i>Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement</i> is an agreement between the Anishinabek Nation, on behalf of its member First Nations and Canada that would recognize the authority of the First Nations and the Anishinabek Nation to pass laws in areas of elections, citizenship, language and culture, and government management.
PROPOSED ANISHINABEK NATION FISCAL AGREEMENT	The proposed <i>Anishinabek Nation Fiscal Agreement</i> goes along with the proposed <i>Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement</i> . It includes a fiscal offer that proposes a significant increase in the overall amount of governance funding received by member Anishinabek First Nations that ratify the proposed <i>Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement</i> ; this global amount will be up to seven (7) times higher than the existing governance funding under the <i>Indian Act</i> .
ANISHINABEK NATION GOVERNANCE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	Supports the proposed <i>Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement</i> . It contains steps recommended to make the Governance Agreement happen that include the enacting of language and culture laws and initial governance laws such as elections, E'Dbendaagzijig (citizenship), and financial administration.
APPEAL BOARD	Comprised of three (3) individuals who are not Eligible Voters. They will have experience in elections, referendum, or administrative law. Appointed by the Ratification Committee.
BAND COUNCIL RESOLUTION (BCR)	A resolution passed by a First Nation Chief and Council that authorizes a Ratification Vote.
DEPUTY FIRST NATION RATIFICATION OFFICER	An individual who will provide assistance to the First Nation Ratification Officer in running the Ratification Vote in the First Nation.
DEPUTY RATIFICATION VOTE MANAGER	An individual who will provide assistance to the First Nation Ratification Vote Manager.
ELECTRONIC VOTE	A digital ballot available through the electronic platform: https://onefeather.ca/nations/anishinabek
ELIGIBLE VOTER	Is defined as a person: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) who is 18 years of age or over by the last day of the Ratification Vote Period; b) whose name appears on the “Band List” as defined in the <i>Indian Act</i> of a First Nation that is in a Ratification Vote or who is entitled to have their name appear on the “Band List” of that First Nation; or c) whose name appears on the voters list of a First Nation or who is entitled to have their name appear on the voters list of that First Nation.

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

Glossary Term:	Glossary Description:
FIRST NATION RATIFICATION OFFICER	An individual who will oversee the Ratification Vote in the First Nation in accordance with the Ratification Vote Process Protocol.
IN-PERSON BALLOT	A paper ballot used to cast a secret ballot at a polling station.
MAIL-IN BALLOT	A paper ballot that is not an In-person Ballot, used to cast a secret ballot delivered or mailed to the First Nation Ratification Officer or their Deputy by any Voter.
NOTICE OF VOTE	A notice that is posted/mailed that provides detail regarding the Ratification Vote taking place in a First Nation.
RATIFICATION COMMITTEE	A committee consisting of one individual appointed by the Anishinabek Nation and one individual appointed by the Government of Canada. They will oversee the conduct of the ratification process set out in the Ratification Process Protocol.
RATIFICATION PROCESS PROTOCOL	The guidelines agreed upon by the Anishinabek Nation and Canada that will support the facilitation of the Ratification Vote in First Nations.
RATIFICATION VOTE MANAGER	The person responsible for the implementation and conduct of the Ratification Process. They will supervise and provide direction to the First Nation Ratification Officers and to any appointed Deputy First Nation Ratification Officers on the conduct of the ratification process.
VOTING PERIOD	A period set by the involved Parties for the holding of the Ratification Vote.



**For More Information on the
Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement
Ratification VOTE**

Toll-free line: 1-833-297-9850

or

Contact your First Nation Ratification Officer

governancevote.ca