Assembly Of First Nations– Election Procedures 2023

The 2023 Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Election of National Chief will be conducted online or via telephone using a platform called Simply Voting. This document provides a summary of who is entitled to vote and the overall voting process.

Representatives

- Each Member Nation has only one (1) vote. This vote may only be exercised by its Representative, whether it be their Chief or duly registered proxy.
  - No First Nation Chief may carry more than one (1) proxy.
  - A proxy cannot carry an additional proxy.
- The Electoral Officer is provided a voters list by the AFN that has the names of every eligible AFN Member Nation and their respective Chief, as recorded in the AFN's records on the date of the Special Chiefs Assembly.
- To be considered a member of AFN, the Chief or Proxy must be registered for the Assembly.

Registration

- For election purposes, registration is open to Representatives until 2:00pm EST on December 6 (1 hour prior to the close of the first ballot). **Late registrations will not be accepted.**
  - **Note:** With online voting, the AFN must fulfill a number of technical requirements including adding the registrant to the voters list, verifying the registrant and sending a secure link to the online election.
  - It is for this reason that **Chiefs strongly encourage submit registration and proxy letters as soon as possible**.

Eligibility to Vote

- A Chief must be on the voters list.
- A proxy must be duly appointed in writing on the letterhead of the First Nation and signed by the Chief.

Proxies

- Should a Chief appoint a proxy, this proxy cannot be transferred, nor can it be withdrawn once registration closes (2 PM EST on December 6, 2023).
- After registration closes, a registered Chief may still appoint a proxy for future rounds of voting, prior to the start of a round of voting.
- A proxy cannot assign their proxy.

Voting

- You may cast your ballot via the internet by computer, tablet, internet enabled phone or by telephone (using telephone prompts).

- Each duly registered Chief or Proxy will receive an email with a link to the ballot when voting opens at 9:00 AM EST on December 6.
- Candidates are listed in alphabetical order (by last name) on the ballots.
- To log in for online voting, Chiefs and/or proxies will need to access the email sent by the voting platform, Simply Voting, that includes a link to the ballot and a personal PIN code. They will also need to enter their status card number (or equivalent ID number they registered for the SCA with).
  - If you cannot access the ballot using the link received, please contact the Help Desk for support (1-833-236-8324).
  - If you registered but did not receive a link to the ballot by 10 am EST on December 6, please contact the Help Desk for support (1-833-236-8324).
- After submitting your ballot, you will receive a confirmation email, confirming your vote was completed.
- For Telephone voting, each duly registered Chief or Proxy will receive an email from Simply Voting which will include their PIN code and telephone number to access voting should they not have internet access to cast their ballot online when the election takes place.
- If a Chief or Proxy is not able to access their PIN code by email, they must call the AFN help desk (1-833-236-8324) to obtain it.

Results

- The winner of the election will be the candidate that receives more than sixty (60) per cent of the votes of the Chiefs and Proxies who are registered at the Assembly.
- If no candidate receives more than sixty (60) per cent of the votes, subsequent rounds of voting take place until a candidate receives more than sixty (60) per cent.
  - A candidate who fails to gain at least fifteen (15) votes is eliminated.
  - As well, after each ballot, the candidate who receives the lowest number of votes is automatically eliminated.
- Results will be announced approximately one hour after each round of voting closes.

Support

To access support with registration or access to voting, please call the Help Desk support phone line (1-833-236-8324) or visit the Registration Desk or Election Help Desk at the Shaw Centre during the SCA.

Please contact the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer for additional information.

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