

APPENDIX "A" (1990)

ELECTORAL RULES FOR THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL CHIEF

A. Appointment of the Chief Electoral Officer

1. At least ten (10) weeks prior to the General Assembly at which the election is to occur, the Confederacy of Nations shall meet and have included on its agenda an item dealing with the appointment by resolution of the Chief Electoral Officer.
2. The Chief Electoral Officer shall assume office eight (8) weeks prior to the election and shall cease functions two (2) weeks after the election.
3. Once in office, the Chief Electoral officer is an absolutely impartial officer of the Assembly accountable directly to the General Assembly or Confederacy.
4. The Chief Electoral Officer can be removed only for cause by resolution of the General Assembly or the Confederacy.

B. Functions of the Chief Electoral Officer

1. The Chief Electoral Officer is responsible for:
 - (a) devising nomination forms and receiving nominations of candidates for the Office of National Chief and ensuring that they are in proper form including a passport-type photograph;
 - (b) mailing the names and brief particulars of the candidates to the Chiefs (using the official list of Chiefs at the National Office) at least four (4) weeks before the election;
 - (c) receiving an accounting from all candidates of all moneys raised and spent for their campaigns including the names of contributors;
 - (d) reviewing the accounts disclosed by each candidate and ensuring that spending limits are applied fairly and evenly to all candidates;
 - (e) arrangements for the All-Candidates Open Forum on the evening prior to the election (and presiding thereat);
 - (f) informing the All-Candidates Open Forum of the preliminary financial record of each candidate including the names of contributors;
 - (g) devising and making all administrative arrangements in connection with the election at the General Assembly including the destruction of the ballots upon a resolution of the Assembly,

(h) counting of the ballots (after voting has occurred) in the presence of one (1) observer each appointed by the candidates and of at least one (1) security officer;

(i) announcing the results of the ballot to the General Assembly, and

(j) submitting a written report on the election including details of results, to the Executive Committee within two (2) weeks after the election.

NOTE: The Executive Committee shall make available to the Chief Electoral Officer such staff and facilities as he might require to carry out his duties.

C. The Timing of the Election

1. The election for the Office of National Chief shall take place on the morning of the second day of the General Assembly at which the election is to occur, the first ballot commencing at 9:00 o'clock and ending at noon. (If necessary, the election procedure shall continue throughout the day.)

2. On the evening prior to the election the candidates are obliged to participate all together in an open forum (This is in addition to any meetings with caucuses as individual candidates may choose to participate in)

3. As soon as the election results have been announced, the declared winner shall take the Oath of Office as National Chief in the presence of the General Assembly and shall assume office from that time.

D. The Nomination and Endorsement of Candidates

1. Commencing eight (8) weeks prior to the election and ending at midnight on the day that is five (5) weeks prior to the election nomination papers in proper form shall be submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer at the Branch Office of the National Indian Brotherhood / Assembly of First Nations in the National Capital Region.

2. Each nomination in proper form shall be endorsed by fifteen (15) eligible electors who shall be Chiefs representing First Nations Members of the Assembly and at least eight (8) of them shall be from a province or territory other than that from which the candidate comes.

3. Each nomination in proper form shall be accompanied by a statement signed by the candidate certifying that the candidate is of the age of eighteen (18) years and upwards and is of First Nations ancestry and belongs to a specified First Nation community which is in good standing as a Member of the Assembly of First Nations.

Note: For the purpose of these Rules, the term "in good standing as a Member of the Assembly of First Nations" means that the particular community holds itself out to be a Member of the Assembly, subscribing to the Charter of the Assembly (in particular,

accepting the Role and Function of the Assembly as set out in Article 3 and the "principles as set out in Article 2) and supporting the work of the Assembly.

4. Each nomination in proper form shall be accompanied by a photograph and biographical sketch of the candidate as well as appropriate addresses and telephone numbers.

E. Campaign Expenses

1. The limit for expenditures by each candidate for election purposes shall be thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000.00).

2. On the day prior to the election, each candidate shall submit a certified preliminary statement of campaign expenses and names of contributors to the Chief Electoral Officer in sufficient time for the All-Candidates Open Forum to be informed.

NOTE: The Chief Electoral Officer may disqualify any candidate who does not participate in the All-Candidates Open Forum or does not submit a financial statement or whose financial statement appears, upon reasonable grounds, to be false.

An appeal from such disqualification may be made by the disqualified candidate to the General Assembly.

F. Conduct of the Election

1. All voter registration for the election shall cease one (1) hour before the ending of the first ballot, that is, at 11:00 a.m.

2. Each Member of the Assembly shall have one (1) vote.

3. Only accredited representatives of Members shall be allowed to vote.

4. A Member may be represented by proxy in the form of a duly executed original or facsimiled Band Council Resolution (BCR) or an original or facsimiled hand-written or typewritten letter signed by the chief representative of the Member for whom the proxy is made provided that the signature is legible.

5. No accredited representative may carry more than one (1) proxy.

6. There shall be no proxies of proxies.

7. The winner of the election shall be that person who first gains a majority of sixty (60) per cent of the votes of the representatives of Members who are registered at the Assembly.

8. A candidate who fails to gain at least fifteen (15) votes shall be automatically eliminated.

9. In addition to any candidate eliminated under clause 8, after each ballot, the candidate who gains the lowest number of votes shall be automatically eliminated.

10. Any candidate may withdraw from the election at any time.

